

**Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Labour
Market Information Statistics and Informal Economy
25 - 27 August 2015, Abidjan**

Opening Speech by
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Mr. Kouame Kouakou Lacina, Representative of State
Minister of Development and Planning

Mr. Ibrahima Ba, General Director, National Institute of
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Mr. Oumar Diop, Representative of the African Union
Commission

Dear participants Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Regional Director of the ILO Office for
Africa, Mr. Chuma, and on behalf of the Director of the ILO
Country Office, Mr. Dramane Haidara, who are both unable to be
present at today's important event, I would like to convey to you
that the ILO is extremely happy to be associated with the AUC

(Economic Affairs and Social Affairs) and other relevant partners in the meeting of the technical working group on LMI statistics and informal economy.

I would like to speak briefly on a few aspects of LMI; firstly, on the definition; then the importance of availability of labour statistics and the new framework for work statistics.

Labour market information refer to any information concerning the size and composition of the labour market or any part of the labour market, any part of it functions, its problems, the opportunities which may be available to it, and the employment-related intentions or aspirations of those who are part of it. It is used not only to measure and describe the size, structure and characteristics of various participants in the labour market, but also to inform a proper employment policy making and social economic development.

LMI can serve as a useful point of reference in the designing of appropriate policy responses to pertinent labour market issues like educational gaps between men and women, wage discrimination, youth unemployment, and so on. Therefore the

LMI are at the core of measuring the progress in achieving the ILO strategic objectives as well as progress in achieving social justice.

While there is increasing recognition of the importance of LMI as a basis for policy formulation and decision-making, the majority of African countries have lagged behind.

As you know, the international standards for labour force statistics currently in use by many countries are contained in the Resolution of statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment and related guidelines, which had been in place since 1982 when the Resolution was adopted by the 13th ICLS, and were therefore seen as not adequately capturing anymore employment measures in the current economic contexts.

In order to address these shortfalls, the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) which was held in October 2013 in Geneva, came out with new Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment, unemployment and labour underutilization that revised the existing international

standards used by countries to produce their statistics on employment and unemployment.

The new framework for work statistics is meant to contribute to strengthening the knowledge base of the world of work in order to provide policy makers with better labour market information, reflecting the current broadened labour market realities.

As the Technical Working Group deliberates in the next 3 days on what needs to be done in labour market information statistics and informal economy, I hope that the new Resolution would guide the meeting in this area.

I would like to encourage the Technical Working Group to share experiences in order to build a strong statistical foundation for employment policy in Africa, since sound policy can only be achieved on the basis of solid and empirical evidence.

I am confident that the new framework for work statistics would be of great value to the technical working group when framing programmes of action in labour statistics in Africa.

In this process, I wish to reiterate the commitment of the ILO in supporting the technical working group activities on labour statistics.

We have a long agenda for today, and so I would like to end here. In closing, I would like to reiterate that ILO is very grateful to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, to the National Institute of Statistics for this collaborative activity with the AUC and other relevant partners. I look forward to interacting with you today on the various aspects of labour statistics.

Thank you for your attention!