

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was tasked with sharing with you the Congo DRC experience in matters relating to the advantages of CSOs as leading institutions for governance assessments in the context of measuring and evaluating national development plans such as NHDR and PRSP.

Though Congo NSO hasn't much been involved in the first NHDR formulation in 2000. Nor the interim poverty reduction strategy in 2002 due to lack of recent nationally conducted surveys and thereof the availability of affordable data in the aftermath of the liberation war of May 1997 this weakness became irrelevant when the first PRSP was endorsed in 2005 using the first ever conducted informal sector and household survey called the 1-2-3.

These data was further incorporated in the main findings of this PRSP document and Also used in the world bank poverty diagnostics that was later on put on as work in progress.

The challenges facing the national statistical system are symptomatic of a post war country but it is worth noting that at whatever time NSO has been the one in charge of the conduct of any nationwide survey that was conducive to policy formulation or Implementation and the example of this is the MICS and DHS surveys.

As to the current situation in DRC one might emphasize the necessity of working through the national statistical system and mainly the for NSO two main reasons

First governance matters are centerpiece to any state building efforts like it has been acknowledged by donors recommendations such as in Cotonou mechanism. And NSOs do shape the availability of the core statistics that are geared to national planning processes the political dialogue with international partners gain real impetus and increased credibility.

Second civil society organizations are becoming more prone to recognizing the key role of statistics and the national statistics office and this is mainly thanks to the DevInfo project through which provincial statistical offices has started building stakeholders databases that are being used by UNICEF subnational field offices for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Finally I should state the leading role of some African statistics bureaus like in ECOWAS countries and Madagascar that had institutionalized governance assessments through their household survey and I have been trying to convince people to see how to become part the agreement with Afristat in order to operate the governance module in our statistics program and hopefully AfDB has also acknowledged the need of conducting the governance survey within the NSO.

Whatever the redlines of conducting governance focused surveys it is increasingly recommended that must be part of the efforts to uphold the whole settings of national statistical systems within our countries.

I think you.