

**Main conclusions of the
African Conference on *Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies*
19-21 April 2012 – Rabat, Morocco**

The text below represents the summary of the discussions held during the **African Conference on *Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies***. The final text will be the African contribution to the 4th OECD World Forum and will be reported by the Moroccan High Commissioner for Planning, Mr. Ahmed Lahlimi Alami, and the Director of the OECD Development Centre, Mr. Mario Pezzini.

Putting a strong emphasis on operational conclusions, institutional commitments and concrete follow-up actions, the proposed text is posted on the Conference website for comments until **10 June 2012**.

In the run-up to the 4th OECD World Forum to be held from **16 to 19 October 2012** in **New Delhi**, the Development Centre and the Statistics Directorate of the OECD, in partnership with the High Commission for Planning of Morocco, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (CEA), jointly organised the **African Conference on *Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies*** on 19-21 April 2012 in Rabat. The participants to the conference discussed various issues, including: ***material conditions, quality of life and sustainability, and future challenges*** in Africa.

This conference brought together around **350 participants (ministers, senior representatives from the public and private sectors, representatives of international and regional organisations, national statistical leaders, academics and civil societies)** to discuss challenges and new developments on the African continent in terms of measure of well-being and progress of societies, as well as ways to improve the analysis, implementation and evaluation of public policies, and finally to establish frameworks for future work in this area. In addition, the conference created the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by the African continent in terms of statistical production and measurement.

Indeed, several high-level roundtables composed of ministers, heads of international organisations and national statistical agencies in Africa allowed to frankly debate on important issues encountered on the continent, including: ***the Millennium Development Goals and the development agenda after 2015, the challenges of statistical production in Africa, and decision making based on evidence.***

Overall, the conference emphasized the importance of well-being for every society in the world including those in Africa. It also allowed to hear the voices and concerns of Africa about reflection and dialogue on new ways of thinking about the measurement of well-being and progress.

Finally, the conference also helped to point out the need to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems in Africa for a better production of independent and credible official statistics. Thus, better coordination at various levels, including regional, national and intra-national, and with other partners, has been advocated.