



Distr: General

E/ECA/STATCOM/3/4

August 2011

Original: English

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa
(StatCom Africa - III)

Cape Town, South Africa
18 – 23 January 2012

**Report of
African Group on Gender Statistics (AGGES)**

1. Background

1. In the lead-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, many statistical offices around the world, including regional and interregional organizations, conducted programmes that focused on compiling and disseminating sex-disaggregated statistics in a range of publication formats. Since the conference, many more countries have embarked on gender statistics programmes. While the fundamental aim of these national and international gender statistics programmes is generally the same – to facilitate the assessment of gender gaps in various aspects of development by making the relevant gender-sensitive statistical information accessible to a wide range of audiences — the programmes vary significantly in their features, i.e., structure, orientation, scope and output. Many of these national gender statistics programmes have recorded successes, but many still need some direction from the international community to attain a basic level of development in this area of statistics programming¹.

2. In recent years there has been an increased focus at the global level in promoting the production and use of gender statistics. The United Nations Statistics Division has established a Global Gender Statistics Programme with the primary objective of building capacities of countries to collect, disseminate and use quality gender statistics. The programme is intended to advance gender statistics through the promotion of synergies among the existing initiatives at the international, regional and country level. Under the programme, the Global Forum on Gender Statistics was held thrice since 2007 where knowledge and experience in the field of gender statistics at international, regional and national levels were exchanged. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Gender Statistics, comprising representatives of the gender statistics programmes of international, regional and national institutions were set up in 2007 to promote collaboration among the key stakeholders and to provide guidance to the programme on future directions. It has been actively working through its three advisory groups in the area of (a) the development of a global gender statistics and indicators database; (b) the development of training courses on gender statistics; and (c) best practices regarding statistical legislation on gender statistics.

3. Lack of gender statistics constitutes a major challenge for the socio-economic development in many African countries and persists mainly because of inadequate statistical capacity, lack of gender mainstreaming in National Statistics System (NSSs) and inadequate concepts and methods used in collecting and analyzing gender statistics (World's Women, 2005). UNECA in collaboration with other pan-African organizations have been making efforts in past few years in developing regional programmes and rallying the countries in mainstreaming gender in their statistical development programmes. Although some progress has been made in this direction a lot is yet to be achieved and continued efforts are required both at the regional and national level to

¹ Report of the Ghana Statistical Service on Gender Statistics, Statistical Commission 42nd Session February 2011

achieve accelerated improvement in gender statistics in Africa. All the regional partners and stakeholders should make concerted efforts in developing and implementing a commonly agreed programme on gender statistics at the regional level that will systematically lead the countries towards improvement of gender statistics in countries.

4. As stated earlier, in recent years the stakeholders and partners working in the area of gender statistics have had made efforts to create greater awareness among African statisticians about gender issues and concerns and the need to mainstream them in national statistical systems, programs, and activities. Several meetings and workshops were organized at regional level to discuss issues related to the development of gender statistics. These are included the high-level policy dialogue on gender statistics in Uganda in June 2008, the first regional workshop on gender statistics in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2008, the global forum on gender statistics in Accra, Ghana, in January 2009, the launching of Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics in October 2009, sub-regional workshops on gender statistics organized by UNECA. Initiatives undertaken in this area also include the development of a handbook on engendering censuses and surveys. An Expert Group Meeting was also held in Dakar, Senegal in February 2011 to validate the handbook on engendering censuses and surveys. The other initiatives included the establishment of a Gender Statistics Network (GESTNET) in order to promote the exchange of information among stakeholders in the area of gender statistics. Some of the ongoing initiatives at the regional levels include the development of Time Use Surveys, Gender Development Index, Study on Statistics on Women in Informal Cross Border Trade, Statistics on Violence against Women.

II Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)

5. Keeping in view the need of a better coordination and harmonization in addressing challenges related to the lack of gender statistics, the Statistical Commission for Africa (STACOM-Africa), in its first meeting in 2008, set up a Working Group on Gender Statistics called African Group on Gender statistics (AGGES). The UNECA is the secretariat of the AGGES. The specific objectives as articulated in the terms of reference of the group were as follows:

- i) Promote mainstreaming of gender into national statistical systems and the StatCom-Africa specialized Working groups;
- ii) Provide a forum for discussion between key users and producers of statistics;
- iii) Promote coordination of initiatives and activities on gender statistics;
- iv) Promote exchange of experiences and foster best practices on gender statistics; and
- v) Advocate for the development of a regional strategy on mainstreaming gender into national statistical system.

6. The Commission considered the report of the group and proposed the following components for the Regional Programme on Gender Statistics: a) Training; b) Awareness

Creation; c) Networking; d) Engendering gender in National Statistics Offices; e) Engendering Census, Surveys and Administrative Data Systems; and f) Research.

7. The StatCom II held in 2010 recommended the following:

- a) The preparation of an African handbook on gender statistics;
- b) The preparation of Training material on gender statistics;
- c) The speedy completion of the Compendium on gender statistics; and
- d) The formulation of a Regional strategy on gender statistics.

8. It also called for the mainstreaming of gender into the themes of all working Groups, and the identification of gender-responsive indicators to monitor Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSPs.)

III Progress made in gender statistics

Implementation of recommendations of StatCom II:

a) Handbook on Engendering of Censuses and Surveys

9. In 2010, UNECA developed a Handbook on Engendering Statistical Process, with special emphasis on engendering censuses and surveys. The objective of the handbook to review the existing processes of data collection and provide users with relevant methodologies on how to engender national statistical processes including the production of gender statistics through censuses and surveys. The handbook uses existing gender analytical frameworks with a view to translating them into practical tools for data users and producers. The handbook highlights the different steps required for engendering questionnaires in censuses and surveys.

10. The draft handbook on Engendering was presented in a workshop organized from 1st to 3rd February 2011 in Dakar, Senegal by UNECA in collaboration with the National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal (ANSD). The meeting was attended by 28 participants, representing National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Statistical Training Centres, UN Agencies, AFRISAT and several experts.

11. The overall objective of the workshop was to introduce to member states and African statistical development stakeholders the first draft of the handbook on gender statistics developed by UNECA in order to:

- (i) Raise their awareness on the importance of dialogue between statistics producers and users for a better engendering of survey, census and statistical tools in Africa; and
- (ii) Get their inputs for the improvement and the finalization of the handbook and the practical way of using it.

12. In addition to the reviewing and validating the handbook, the workshop deliberated on various challenges in collection, compilation and dissemination of gender statistics in the countries.

b) Compendium on Gender Statistics

13. This recommendation could not be implemented for lack of funds. However, the UNECA has initiated action to develop a Compendium on Gender Statistics in Africa. The purpose of the compendium is to gather and compile information about the nature and status of work on gender statistics undertaken by various institutions in Africa such as the UNECA, AfDB, AUC, the UN agencies, RECs, training and research institutions and NGOs. This comprehensive compilation will also include the status of gender statistics programme in African countries. A questionnaire has been sent to each of the countries for assessment of gender statistics in national statistical system and the extent to which it has been mainstreamed into the system. The responses obtained from the countries will be used to compile information on countries in the compendium. The compendium will be widely disseminated through workshops and meeting and through the websites of UNECA and partners.

c) Preparation of training materials on gender statistics

14. This activity could not be completed for want of resources. UNECA has now initiated development of a Gender Statistics training toolkits for trainers who will be able to provide training on the subject based on a standard set of modules and accompanying toolkits. This training toolkit will be piloted before put to use through widely across the continent, mainly through the Statistical Training Centres.

d) Regional strategy on gender statistics

15. The AGGES has prepared a draft Africa Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS), which identifies a clear set of strategies and proposes a five-year action plan for 2012 to 2016. The APGS (which is given in Annex 1) is an umbrella regional programme which encompasses all conceivable activities that needed to be undertaken at the regional level over the next five years so as to ensure that member states develop and implement an encompassing gender statistics programme in their respective countries. The APGS was presented in a meeting on gender statistics held from 13 to 17 December 2011 in Accra, Ghana which was attended by representatives of 25 countries, RECs, Statistical Training Centres, Research institutions, AFRISTAT, AfDB, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women. The members of AGGES were also part of this meeting. It was agreed that this should be considered to be a common programme that all pan-African institutions and development partners will technically and financially support. This will help eliminate duplication of effort in the continent and thus help make good use of the scarce resources. The APGS also specifies the institutional mechanism that is proposed to be adopted for implementation of the programme and also for monitoring and evaluation.

Other activities

i) Study on database on Women Informal Cross-Border Trade (WICBT)

16. In 2011, UNECA in partnership with UN Women undertook a gender assessment of database of the African Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) to identify gaps in capturing the activities of women informal cross border trade. The objective of the study is to strengthen the capacities of the statistical divisions of RECs and national statistical offices to better capture the activities of women informal cross border traders in their statistical systems.

17. The study undertaken in five African RECs, particularly their statistical unit to identify the following:

- Methodologies used by RECs to collect, compile and analyze data on activities of women in informal cross border trade; The ways and extent to which these activities of women informal cross border traders (WICBT) are captured in the regional and national statistical database;
- The gaps in capturing the economic activities of WICBT in regional and national statistics;
- Challenges and constraints related to the capturing of economic activities of WICBT in the regional and national statistical database ;
- Best practices in capturing of economic activities of WICBT in the regional and national statistical database; and
- Strategies to address the identified gaps, challenges and constraints.

18. On the basis of these analyses, the study comes up with an report that not only informs about the status of these issues and the way to address them, but also provide guidelines that explains the various processes and steps that need to be used for a better collection of economic activities of WICBT in regional and national statistics and databases. The draft report was presented in the gender statistics meeting held in Accra in December 2011. Useful suggestions and comments have been received from the participants of the workshops and which will help in improving the handbook.

ii) Review of global list of core set of indicators for gender statistics

19. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics has established a subgroup within the group on databases, to work on the development of a core set of gender indicators. The purpose of this exercise is to establish a minimum set of gender indicators that can be compiled and disseminated at the international level, in order to facilitate global comparisons of the state of gender statistics. UNECA which is the member of the IAEG was actively involved in the process and provided the African perspective. The indicators not only address relevant policy issues but also keep in view the important international commitments. The criteria used in selecting each indicator for inclusion in the minimum set as follows:

- The indicator clearly addresses a relevant policy issue related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment;
- The indicator is conceptually clear, easy to interpret, and has an agreed international definition;
- Data coverage is sufficient to represent a reasonable number of countries in each region and allow tracking progress over time; and
- Data for the indicator are already regularly produced by countries and no ad-hoc data collection is needed that place an additional burden on countries

20. After the four criteria are applied to the proposed indicators, the indicators will be categorized into three tiers as follows:

- Tier 1 includes indicators that meet all the criteria;
- Tier 2 includes indicators that meet criteria 1 and 2; and
- Tier 3 includes indicators that meet criterion 1. Regarding the tier 3, when an indicator is needed to measure and relevant from a gender perspective but for which there are data limitations, it is considered important to include these indicators, so that their inclusion could drive methodological developments.

21. Many areas are covered by this exercise and are as follow: economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources, education, health and related services, public life and decision-making and human rights of women and girl children.

iii) Time use survey

22. During the Fourth World conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and the Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 in New York, the international community agreed to make unpaid work a key area of socio-economic and political interventions of governments in order to recognize the important contribution of woman in economy and to satisfy their specific needs and priorities related to the burden of domestic activities. The recognition of unpaid work is also one of the key recommendations of the commemorative conference of the 40th anniversary of the creation of UNECA, in 1998, which recommended including gender perspective in the systems of national accounting and other systems of data collection and implementation of Time Use Surveys (TUS).

23. The achievement of these goals requires an official recognition of household economy as an integral part of the national economy and its effective integration into the system of national accounts. This requires the need to promote the implementation of time use surveys and the production of gender statistics. This change will make it possible for member States to be armed enough to elaborate strategies that will allow integration of gender perspective and domestic production into national accounts, policies and budgets.

24. The UNECA has in recent years taken major steps in promoting time use surveys in the countries. It is currently working with the two African countries namely Ghana and Djibouti in the implementation of time use survey (TUS). Ghana is the first country in which TUS was undertaken, between July and August 2009, with the technical support of the UNECA. The report of the Ghana TUS was reviewed and validated in a meeting with the Ghana National Statistics Service and other experts and will soon be finalized. The Djibouti TUS will start in February 2012. Both of these TUSs are the pilot trials that will allow testing the various TUS instrument and tools prior to using them in other countries. The objective which underlies this exercise is the reinforcement of the capacities of NSO in the integration of the gender statistics on household surveys and censuses. These data should inform macro-economic policies on the contribution of domestic economies in development processes.

iv) Preparation of National Studies on Violence against Women

25. Under the framework of the United Nations development account project on "Enhancing Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women (VAW) through Networking of Local Knowledge Communities", the UNECA undertook National Study on Violence against women in five member states in 2010-2011. The countries selected for this study were Senegal, Cameroon, Tunisia, Zambia and Uganda. This was later extended to Tanzania and Nigeria. The objective of the study is to give a picture of violence against women in the country, the scale and prevalence of different forms of violence against women, its causes and consequences. A synthesis report was prepared and presented in a meeting held in Addis Ababa in October 2011, which was attended by representatives of the National Statistics Offices and Gender Ministries. This study also helped in identifying gaps in the availability of data on violence against women.

26. In early 2011, as a part of the global programme the UNSD finalized a survey questionnaire to capture violence against women. The indicators included the questionnaire was based on the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair on in the group on violence against women. The regional commissions have been asked to test this questionnaire in their respective continents. In Africa, only South Africa has piloted the questionnaire, both as a separate stand alone survey and also as a part of another survey. The results of this pilot will provide insights as to the various issues and challenges in administering them.

v) Meeting on various aspects on gender statistics in Accra, Ghana – 13-17 December 2011

27. A major meeting covering a wide range of topics on gender statistics was held in Accra, Ghana from 13 to 17 December. The meeting that jointly organized by the UNECA and UN Women in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service was attended by gender statistics focal points from National Statistics Offices, representatives of Gender Ministries, RECs, Statistical Training Centres, pan- African Institutions and

UN agencies. The meeting orientated participants on the use of time use survey data for measuring household production and development of satellite accounts. The study on data on women cross border trade was reviewed and commented upon. The challenges and issues of collection of data on violence against women were discussed including the survey tools and instruments to be used. The proposed APGS was discussed and endorsed by the group.

vi) Regional assessment of gender statistics

28. As part of the follow-up actions requested by the 2011 United Nations Statistical Commission, the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions, is conducting a comprehensive review of national gender statistics. The United Nations Statistical Commission recommended that the Regional Commissions carried out the review at the regional level, based on a common questionnaire jointly developed by the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Regional Commissions and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics. The United Nations Statistics Division is coordinating the exercise and will review and compile the regional reports into a final global report, including a review of national experiences.

29. The main objectives of the survey are:

- 1) To conduct a review of gender statistics in national statistical systems;
- 2) To obtain information on how gender perspectives are mainstreamed into national statistical systems, including in all traditional areas of statistical production as well as emerging areas; and
- 3) To gather information to help identify good practices and challenges to integrate gender into the production and use of statistics.

The questionnaires have been sent out to the countries and it is expected that a comprehensive report on the gender statistics in Africa will be available by May 2012.

III Plan of Action

30. The Commission is invited to consider the following actions:

- a) Endorses the proposal of AGGES to develop a five-year programme of work (2012-2017), based on outline presented in Annex 1, which includes a concrete plan of action for implementation, with clear timelines, responsible agencies, and required budget. The AGGES will report to the commission at each of its sessions, on the progress in implementation based on the plan of action of the APGS;
- b) Agrees with the proposed country membership of the AGGES. In addition, all RECs and four Statistical Training Centres (by rotation) as well as various other international agencies that are actively engaged in gender statistics, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, FAO and any

- other agency interested in contributing to improvement of gender statistics in Africa should be invited to be part of the membership; and
- c) Accepts the proposal that the programme of each year's Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) include a session on gender statistics.

Annex

Outline of Africa Programme Gender Statistics (APGS)

For many years, various Pan-African institutions, international agencies and other institutions have been undertaking various activities for the development of gender statistics in the continent. Such efforts although, have contributed to achieving progress in the area of gender statistics both at the regional and country levels, were mostly project based and largely ad-hoc in nature and did not bring about sustainable improvements in the situation. There has been a long felt need for the development and implementation of a common Gender Statistics Programme for Africa. The current initiatives on development of gender statistics being undertaken and those planned for future by the regional organizations, international agencies and other organizations in the region are proposed to be brought under one umbrella programme, which hitherto will be known as the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS). This will not only help in avoiding duplication of efforts (and thus help in making best use of resources) but also expected to make significant and sustainable improvements in gender statistics in Africa. Moreover, the development and implementation of the programme is in line with ongoing efforts at the continental level to implement the Strategy on the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSHA). It therefore, will be one of the pillars of SHaSA.

The initiatives and efforts at regional level are mainly aimed at preparing the grounds for the action at the country level. The regional organizations and their partners can only play a catalytic role in development of gender statistics. The APGS will not be considered to have achieved its objectives if the countries do not act. The implementation of the APGS should lead to development and implementation of a gender statistics programmes through effective national coordination mechanism.

A set of strategies have been identified for achieving the objective of the APGS. These include, advocacy, capacity building and reporting and dissemination of gender statistics at the country and regional levels. A five year plan has also been prepared that will run from 2012 to 2016. The activities under the plan will be undertaken in different years over the five year period. Some of the activities that are already in progress and the dates by which these will be completed and the responsible agency/organization that will undertake them have been indicated.

Strategies for Improvement of Gender Statistics in Africa:

Given below are some key strategies proposed to be adopted for improvement of gender statistics in Africa:

- 1) Continue efforts in sensitization and advocacy with national statistics systems for enhancing political commitment to provide for the necessary legal, institutional, organization, financial support and development of gender statistics programmes in the countries;
- 2) Undertake a review of gender statistics programmes in national statistics office for a development of gender statistics programme in Africa;
- 3) Promote the development of gender statistics programmes in member states and help garner unified support of the various partners in implementing and monitoring of the programme;
- 4) Coordinate efforts at regional level in order to have stakeholders of gender statistics working in synergy to implement a commonly agreed work programme on gender statistics in Africa;
- 5) Build capacities of member states through training, knowledge sharing and advisory services;
- 6) Develop Monitoring and Evaluation framework for gender statistics programme ;
- 7) Create mechanisms for efficient reporting, storage and dissemination of gender statistics; and
- 8) Promote quantitative and methodological research on gender issues;

II – Plan of Action on Gender Statistics in Africa (2012-2016):

1) Regional partnership and coordination mechanism for the development of gender statistics:

- The Africa Group on Gender Statistics (AGGS) will guide and coordinate the development and implementation of APGS. The AGGS will set up a Core Group with all the development partners to monitor the implementation of the programme. This Core Group will report to the AGGS on the progress of implementation from time to time. UNECA will be the secretariat of the Core Group. *Action: The AGGES will establish the Core Group 2012*
- The United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions, is conducting a comprehensive review of national gender statistics. The United Nations Statistical Commission recommended that the Regional Commissions carry out the review at the

regional level, based on a common questionnaire jointly developed by the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Regional Commissions and the Inter-agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on gender statistics. The questionnaire has been received at the UNECA and will be soon sent out to the countries. The report based on this survey will not only serve as an instrument for the countries to review their gender statistics programme but also inform the above mentioned APGS. For the country programmes on gender statistics, these will serve as baseline information. *Action: UNECA to complete the survey and produce the report in consultation with the Core Group – 2012.*

- There is a need to review the ongoing work on gender statistics in the continent to guide the future activities of the programme. UNECA is developing a Compendium on Gender Statistics which essentially will assess the present status of gender statistics programmes and activities undertaken by various institutions in the continent. This will include Statistical Training Centres, Regional Economic Communities, research institutions working on gender all pan-African Institutions and UN agencies. This comprehensive compilation, which will include the findings of the country assessments, can also help in identifying gaps and challenges and assessing needs in the area of gender statistics and thus inform the APGS. *Action: UNECA to gather information and compile the compendium - 2012.*
- The Gender Statistics Network (GeSNet) established by the UNECA under the direction of the Statistical Commission (StatCom) for Africa needs to be revived for better exchange and sharing of information on issues gender statistics among partners and member countries. The GesNet should also be a platform for sharing research and other materials emanating from the various institutions with regard to their activities. *Action – UNECA will revive the platform – April 2012.*
- Concrete action will be taken to revive the Kampala City Group by identifying and delineating clear role for it especially on technical aspects of the plan of action in the APGS.
- The RECs are doing a fair bit of work on gender statistics. A clear linkage needs to be established to harmonize and integrate the work done by RECs in this area into the APGS.

2) **Building capacity programme and research :**

- The UNECA is in the process of finalizing a Handbook on Engendering Statistical processes including censuses and surveys. This will serve as a useful reference document for countries for engendering the tools and methodologies in statistical processes. *Action – UNECA to share the handbook with all partners- 2012.*
- The UNECA is also planning to develop a training toolkit on gender statistics that can be used as standard training material for training of statistical personnel. The toolkit will include all aspects of gender statistics including time use surveys, statistics on violence against women, engendering of statistical processes. This toolkit, which will be modular in nature, can also be used to provide training students of statistics in universities and other institutions. The training toolkit will be pilot tested before use. The toolkit will also have an on-line version. *Action – The UNECA in collaboration with other partners to produce and test this toolkit – 2012.*
- The capacity building programme on gender statistics programme will be a cascading one. One of the ways is to conduct training of trainers' programme in which the gender statistics focal points can be trained who in turn can undertake this training in their respective countries. However, to make the training more sustainable it would be appropriate to introduce this as a part of the training programme of the statistical training centres that conduct training of in-service statistical officers. Statistical training centres can be identified and trainers in these institutions be trained using the toolkit. Universities and other academic training centres can develop appropriate curricula or build in gender statistics as a part of their existing curricula on official statistics. The integration of gender statistics in the statistical training centres can be implemented through the mechanism of Africa Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST).
- Member states will be encouraged to undertake new ventures on gender statistics based on standard methodologies. This will include Time Use Surveys and development of Satellite Account on Household Production, Statistics of Violence against Women, and Development of Gender Index. Manuals and guidelines will be developed to help the countries for undertaking such endeavours. This will be disseminated through workshops and training programmes.
- There is need to develop a manual that will provide guidance to the countries to develop a national gender statistics programme. This could

even include plans, activities, coordination mechanism and monitoring and evaluation framework.

- A pool of experts on gender statistics will be identified in the continent for advising and supporting the countries on demand for development of strategies and plans on gender statistics. These pools of experts will be oriented and trained on various manuals and guidelines available at the regional level.
- Workshops and study visits to learn from best practices in different countries will be organized.
- Training and Research institutions will be encouraged to undertake thematic research on gender issues and if needed provide technical support in ensuring methodological rigour in research involving use of statistical tools. The research outputs should not only help in developing appropriate tools for collection and analysis of data but also inform the policy making and implementation of programme. The research outputs to be widely disseminated through GesNet.

3) Creation of mechanism for efficient reporting, storage and dissemination of gender statistics:

- UNECA, African Development Bank (AfDB) and African Union Commission (AUC) together produce the African Statistical Year Book (ASYB) based on data collected from the member states through a common format. Data on some core gender indicators and gender disaggregated data for some other important indicators will be collected to engender the publication. *Action – UNECA, AfDB and AUC to compile a separate section on gender in ASYB – 2012.*
- The statistical database maintained by these three institutions should also have separate sections on gender statistics. The other partner organizations will also do the same.
- The IAEG on Gender Statistics at the global level is finalizing a set of core indicators on which every country needs to produce data at regular intervals. The Core Group will work with the member states to ensure that they collect, compile and disseminate data on this minimum core set of indicators on gender as proposed by the IAEG.

- Most countries have gender statistics focal points. These focal points should function as the link between the national statistics system and regional organizations in terms of reporting on gender statistics.

4) Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:

- A monitoring and evaluation framework for the APGS will be developed. The monitoring will include the progress in implementation of the activities planned at the regional levels. The outcome or impact of the regional programme can be measured based on the aggregated response of the countries through the questionnaire which will be again administered after two years. The Core-Group will have the responsibility of monitoring with support from the Secretariat.
- The Core Group will also undertake a mid-term and end term evaluation through independent agencies or consultants.
- The AGGS will prepare its report based on the monitoring and evaluation reports of the Core-Group.
- Member States to be encouraged to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for their gender statistics programme.

5) Continued effort in advocating and sensitizing member states for development and implementation of the gender statistic programme in their countries :

- The APGS will include concrete actions to promote and advocate for development and implementation of gender statistics programmes in the countries. These programmes should be developed by the National Statistics Systems in consultation and partnership with all stakeholders and guided and monitored by a high level national coordination body. All the development partners at the country level committed to support development of gender statistics in the countries should collectively fund and support the commonly agreed country programme through this coordination mechanism rather than ad-hoc projects and pilots.
- Annual thematic evidence based dialogue on gender issues between gender experts, statisticians, economists, policy makers and academia will be organized.

- Separate advocacy materials will be produced for new statistical ventures such as time use survey and satellite accounts, data on violence against women, data on women informal cross border trade etc.
- Production and wide dissemination of advocacy materials on the importance of gender statistics for various target groups. This will include analyzing the existing data from gender perspective and highlight issues through simple messages and articles.
- Publish a Men and Women in Africa with country-wise profiles.
- Celebrate the 2012 Statistics day as Gender Statistics as the theme.