

Sixth Meeting of the Forum on African Statistical
Development (FASDev-VI)

Tunis, Tunisia
8 December 2014

Concept note

I. Background

The Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev) is an initiative of the Economic Commission for Africa, further sponsored by the African Development Bank, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank. Representatives of 12 international organizations, 4 donor institutions and 17 regional and subregional agencies attended the first FASDev meeting in May 2004, in Addis Ababa, and endorsed the establishment of the Forum, with the following functions: (i) to have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance and training in Africa; (ii) to set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; and (iii) to strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging each partner's comparative advantage.

The ultimate objective of FASDev is to render more efficient and effective the support made available to countries in the framework of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. To this end, meetings of the Forum bring together representatives from African national statistics offices, statistical training centres, international, regional and subregional institutions, bilateral agencies, international programmes and initiatives, foundations and other institutions.

The Economic Commission for Africa, together with the African Development Bank, the PARIS21 consortium, the World Bank and the Africa Union Commission, will organize the sixth meeting of FASDev. This event will comprise of a forum and a technical workshop. The meeting will take place on 8 December 2014 as a pre-event to the First Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa. The theme of FASDev-VI is **“Fostering coordination, collaboration and partnerships in support of statistical development in Africa”**.

II. Objectives

The main objectives of FASDev-VI include:

To review the status of partners' support for statistics in Africa, including new financing modalities

To share information and discuss the challenges of financing statistical development post-2015

To review the funding requirements for implementing national strategies for the development of statistics in African countries, including the level of domestic funding

To explore ways of improving the coordination and efficiency of support for countries

To explore the role of partners in fostering South-South cooperation

To explore new financing sources for statistical capacity-building in Africa

III. Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the meeting include:

Increased technical and financial assistance and training possibilities for statistics in Africa

Improved monitoring systems for statistical development and reporting mechanisms by countries

A broader spectrum of financial resources made available for statistical investment and funding agencies

More coordinated interventions in support of African countries' efforts with regard to statistical development

IV. Venue and date

The meeting is scheduled to take place in Tunis on 8 December 2014. It will be held prior to the First Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, which is taking place from 10 to 12 December 2014.

V. Format

FASDev-VI will comprise of a forum and a technical workshop.

A. Forum

The provisional agenda describes the formal meeting part of the event. This consists of a full day meeting, with the following three main sessions:

Levels and trends of support to statistical development in Africa: This session will include a presentation of overall partner support, including the Partner Reports on Support to Statistics (PRESS) and the Country Reports on Support to Statistics (CRESS), the World Bank Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity, and a comprehensive study of support levels and trends, from countries and other donor sources. There will also be presentations of specific programmes and initiatives in selected countries, with a special focus on the achievements of such programmes, instead of merely looking at the implementation processes. Both the reports and the presentations will focus on results. The Chair will also allow participants to make statements (not more than three minutes) on certain programmes.

Ongoing and new initiatives: This session will be devoted to presentations by partners and/or countries on new initiatives that have been launched since the fifth FASDev meeting. These initiatives are of a subregional and/or regional nature and are intended to improve the capacity of African countries to produce and use quality statistics in support of their development efforts.

Making partner support more effective and efficient: This session will deal with the modalities of financing statistical development, the implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics, the application of the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

in support of statistics, the architecture supporting statistical development in Africa, donor coordination under the Statistics for Results Facility, coordination of support for statistical development among international organizations, and the role of partners in fostering South-South cooperation.

B. Training workshop

Owing to a lack of awareness and high staff turnover, hands-on training will be organized to increase the capacity of countries to design strategic documents and to be able to access funding from partners, in particular the application process for the request of trust funds for national strategies for the development of statistics and the trust fund for statistical capacity-building. The African Centre for Statistics, as the secretariat of FASDev, is calling upon partners to provide information related to their presentations and background papers.

The list of presentations and booklets will be part of the meeting documentation, and will be distributed in the conference room. A report on the Forum, including lessons learned, will be prepared.

Technical and financial partners will be given the opportunity to make presentations on their new and ongoing initiatives.

VI. Target audience

The target audience is all the organizations working in the area of statistics in Africa.

VII. Secretariat and other services

As the secretariat of the Forum, the African Centre for Statistics will provide support for the meeting.

VIII. Contact information

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