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Progress report of phase I (2014-2015) of African project on implementation of the 2008 SNA

African Group on National Account (AGNA)

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ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank Group
AFRISTAT	Observatoire Economique et Statistique d’Afrique Subsaharienne
AGNA	African Group on National Accounts
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ANNA	African Network of National Accountants
ASCC	African Statistical Coordination Committee
AUC	African Union Commission
CSC	Continental Steering Committee
CoDG	Committee of Directors-General of African National Statistics Offices
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DES	Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA
DESA	Department of Economic & Social Affairs
DG	Directors General
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICP-Africa	International Comparison Program for Africa
JSSO	Joint Secretariat Support Office
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NSCC	National Statistics Coordination Committee
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical Systems
NSTC	National Statistical Technical Committee
ProDoc	Project Document
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
SACU	Southern Africa Customs Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAM	Social Accounting Matrix
SEEA	System of Economic and Environmental Accounting
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
SNA	System of National Accounts
SROs	Sub-Regional Organizations
StatCom-Africa	Statistical Commission for Africa
STC	Statistical Training Centre
SUT	Supply & User Table
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

SUMMARY

The African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) was developed by the African Group on National Accounts under the umbrella of the Statistical Commission for Africa having as main objective to improve the quality and availability of national accounts and related economic statistics, in support of good economic governance, regional integration and sustainable development in Africa. This objective is to be achieved by addressing the problems and issues faced by the African statistical system. The core problematic areas identified are: (i) limited human, financial and technical resources; (ii) weak statistical capacity and infrastructure; (iii) unharmonious national accounts systems; (iv) inconsistencies and incompleteness in covering the economy; and (v) early stages in the development of national accounts.

In order to create a common framework to address these issues and to implement the 2008 SNA in all African countries, a project was launched in 2014 having duration of 5 years. The deployment of the project was designed in two phases. The first phase had three expected accomplishments: EA1: Improved capacities in the production, analysis, and dissemination of national accounts; EA2: Increased human, financial, and technical resources for national accounts; and EA3: Timely and effective completion of Phase I to set a foundation for the implementation of Phase II.

Several activities have been carried out that focused on the six pillars of the implementation plan designed to achieve the expected accomplishments: (i) country plan and actions; (ii) technical assistance; (iii) institutional strengthening; (iv) compiling technical documents; (v) advocacy campaign; and (vi) coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

At the end of the first phase of the project, not all the countries have finalized their national action plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA; 27 countries elaborated them, other 19 started the process but it was not yet finalized. The specific timeframe for transitioning toward the 2008 SNA, decided by countries and included in their action plans, range from 2010 to 2018; 12 countries already implemented the 2008 SNA and 22 countries have as horizon the year 2018., which correspond to the finalization of the project.

Technical assistance was provided to the countries and trainings on national accounts were organized in order to improve the knowledge on methodological issues, compilation practices and use of IT tools. The survey on the “*Current Status and Needs Assessment for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa*”, carried out by ECA in the period November 2014-March 2015 provided detailed information on fields when countries request trainings, technical assistance and financial support. The technical support provided to the countries during the Phase I met a part of their expectations, mainly the training on quarterly GDP and compliance with the 2008 SNA. Concerning the improvement of the use of the IT tools for national accounts, the assistance provided through different trainings was dedicated only to ERETES. The countries which already used this software improved their knowledge and update it to the 2008 SNA methodology; only one country, Senegal has adopted ERETES for national accounts compilation during the project.

Strengthened institutional capacity represents one important pillar of the project. The 2008 implementation requests the mobilization of human and financial resources, a sustainable commitment from the top level management of the NSO and a political decision at the country level. In the first phase of the project, the activity was focused more to the elaboration of the action plans and compilation of some parts of national accounts based on the new methodological requirements. The development and strengthening of the statistical system not only at the level of the NSO, but at national level, the improvement of the coordination process concerning administrative and statistical data collection, compilation, processing, analysis and dissemination of economic statistics and national accounts are a continue process and it should represents a priority of the objectives of the next phase of the project. NSOs, with continental support should develop an active and coherent advocacy strategy addressing Heads of Government, Members of Parliament, civil society and other national and international partners in order to obtain the support for the implementation of the 2008 SNA based on the

objectives included in the action plans. Not many activities were developed during the first two years of the project, apart from the elaboration by ECA of a project brochure and a project poster.

ECA initiated the elaboration of three useful technical documents: *Guidebook on administrative data*, *Handbook on Supply and Use Tables (SUTs) compilation, application and good practices* and *Accounting for Informal Sector in National Accounts*. Expert groups meetings were organized to analyse the use of the administrative sources for national accounts estimation and the compilation issues of SUTs; a “community of good practice” to share countries experience was established for these subjects.

The component of coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting represents an important part of the project; its objective is not only to report the achievements of the project, but also to identify the problematic areas and to provide recommendations for any appropriate corrective measures. In this respect, the progresses of the project were reported and analyzed in the biannual Continental Steering Committee (CSC) meetings and in AGNA group meetings. Six newsletters issued informed the users about the progress of the project. A round table with donors will be organized by ECA in November 2015 having as objective to present the results of the first phase of the project and the objectives to be achieved during the second phase.

I. Background and justification

The implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) is an international initiative and commitment, creating the conditions to improve the quality, availability, consistency and harmonization of economic statistics and national accounts. As consequence, the implementation of the 2008 SNA is part of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) having as main goal to enable the African statistical system to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration the development of statistics in African countries. It aims to drive forward the regional integration and economic transformation agenda, which is a pivotal goal of African Heads of State and Government.

The implementation of the 2008 SNA represents one major objective of the strategy due to the actual stage of development in African countries. The UN Statistical Commission defined the six “milestones”, which represent the six phases for full implementation of the SNA. In Africa, one fifth of the countries have reached only Milestone 1 having the statistical capacity to produce economic statistical aggregates of basic indicators of GDP at current and constant prices supported by the approaches and accounts including final expenditures on GDP and GDP by industry. There are many challenges confronting the compilation of national accounts. Along the early stage of development, national accounts are not harmonized across regions even where there are monetary unions. As a result, economic statistics are generally inadequate and not fully comparable across countries. Data is not available and disseminated in a timely fashion and therefore, economic decision making is impaired by not just the accuracy of estimates but also the lack of timeliness. The problems with the implementation of SNA are not restricted to the national statistical offices alone, but the entire national statistical system.

The African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA was developed by the African Group on National Accounts under the umbrella of the Statistical Commission for Africa. The implementation of the 2008 SNA is an international initiative and commitment, and provides an opportunity to improve the quality, availability, consistency and harmonization of economic statistics and national accounts. The African Strategy was formulated in accordance with the global strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA, based on the recognition that there is a real need to strengthen human, technical and financial capacities in African countries. The African Strategy aims to overcome current statistical weaknesses through a continental project that brings together all African countries to work collectively to implement the 2008 SNA. The Strategy brings together Member States, Regional Economic

Communities, pan-African Institutions (AfDB, AUC and ECA), Afristat and regional and international organizations and development partners to address the current challenges African countries face in producing timely and quality national accounts, in support of good economic governance, regional integration, and sustainable development.

The African Strategy and Project Document was endorsed and adopted at the third meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, which was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in January 2012. As advised by the CSC, the African Project on the 2008 SNA was officially launched in January 2014, having a duration of five years and carried out in a phased approach, with phase I lasting two years and phase II three years.

II. Mid-Term-Review (MTR)

1. Purpose of the project

The African Project on the 2008 SNA was designed to address the problematic areas in order to achieve the goal of improving the quality and availability of African economic statistics and national accounts by assisting countries to take steps toward implementation of the 2008 SNA. The problematic area identified and the interventions through the project are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Problems/issues addressed by the project design and interventions

Problems / issues to be addressed	Project design and interventions
Limited Human, Financial, and Technical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continental project approach for all the countries to work together – Advocacy and NSDS to mobilize resources for national statistical system – Building human and technical capacity
Weak Statistical Capacity and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengthen the statistical institution and infrastructure
Unharmonious National Accounts Systems on the continent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The 2008 SNA provides an opportunity to upgrade and harmonize the national accounting systems in African countries
Inconsistencies and Incompleteness in Covering the Economy	Adopt and apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informal sector survey – SUT and commodity flow approach – Integrate national accounts statistics with other sectorial statistics
Early Stages in the Development of National Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Phased approach in the implementation of the 2008 SNA

The eleventh meeting of the African Group on National Accounts was organized by AfDB, AUC and ECA and took place in February 2014, in Addis Ababa when the detailed calendar of the activities of phase I of the implementation plan of the project was decided.

The project implementation plan (PIP) represents an effective coordination framework among stakeholders, clearly defining individual and collective roles and responsibilities, collaboration and cooperation. Efforts are made through a range of activities to produce a list of outputs in order to achieve the expected accomplishments. The project document defined the three main achievements to be delivered during the phase I of the project:

- EA1 :Improved capacities in the production, analysis, and dissemination of national accounts;
- EA2 : Increased human, financial, and technical resources for national accounts;
- EA3: Timely and effective completion of Phase I to set a foundation for the implementation of Phase II.

PIP outlines the project activities of phase I to be implemented in the first two years of the project, with specific timeframes, as well as leading and responsible institutions. In particular, these are:

- Member States will develop country plans and take actions for implementation;
- AfDB will lead in the area of technical assistance;
- the regional economic communities and Afristat are leading the way in the area of institutional strengthening;
- ECA will take the lead in compiling technical documents;
- AUC is directing the advocacy campaign; and
- The secretariat is in charge of coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The outcomes, activities and key players proposed for phase I are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Expected accomplishments, outcomes, activities and key payers

Expected accomplishments	Expected outcomes	Activities for phase I	Key players
1. Improved capacities in production, analysis and dissemination of national accounts in member States	Country plan and actions	1. Formulate country implementation plans for the 2008 SNA	AfDB, Afristat, member States
		2. Take follow-up actions to change over to the 2008 SNA	AfDB, Afristat, member States
		3. Collaborate with members of the African Group on National Accounts and development partners to fill in the gaps	AfDB, Afristat, member States
	Technical assistance	4. Assist and support member States to adopt and apply modern and country-adapted IT tools	AUC, Afristat, ECA
		5. Launch assistance for countries lagging behind in the implementation of the 1993 SNA	AfDB, Afristat, member States, regional economic communities
	Institutional strengthening	6. Establish or strengthen existing governance and coordination structures for national accounts statistics at the national level	AfDB, Afristat, regional economic communities
		7. Create the African Network of National Accountants	AfDB

Expected accomplishments	Expected outcomes	Activities for phase I	Key players
2. Increased human, financial and technical resources for national accounts in member States	Compiling technical documents	8. Make an inventory of administrative data sources required for national accounts compilation	Afristat, ECA, member States, regional economic communities
		9. Develop a guidebook on processing data from administrative sources in national accounts	ECA
	Advocacy campaign	10. Prepare advocacy materials and tools	Secretariat
		11. Organize advocacy campaigns at continental, subregional and national/governmental levels	AUC, member States, regional economic communities
		12. Organize round-table meetings with current and potential funding partners	AfDB, AUC, ECA
3. Timely and effective completion of phase I to set a foundation for implementation of phase II	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	13. Organize a meeting of the Continental Steering Committee	Secretariat
		14. Establish and strengthen the continental secretariat of SNA	AfDB, ECA
		15. Conduct a further, in-depth assessment on national accounts status and capacity of all African countries	AfDB, Afristat, AUC, ECA, member States, regional economic communities, secretariat
		16. Adapt and develop a framework and tools for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the 2008 SNA	Secretariat
		17. Produce and disseminate monitoring and evaluation reports	Secretariat

2. Progress and achievements

The main results of the expected achievements are presented in detail in annex 1.

2.1 EA1 - Improved capacities in production, analysis, and dissemination of national accounts in Member States

Output 1: Country plans and actions

a. Objectives

Development of national action plans and taking follow-up for the 2008 SNA implementation represents the basic step toward the identification of the scope and detail of national accounts. They permit the alignment of implementing the 2008 SNA with national and African statistical strategies and macroeconomic priorities. In

formulating country plans and actions, it is critical to consider the policy priorities at the national and regional level, so as to produce and provide the requisite national accounts data to best inform policymakers.

b. Main achievements

Formulating national action plans

In order to formulate the country plans and take actions for implementation, the countries had at their disposal various statistical tools to identify gaps, including the 2008 SNA compliance questionnaire and self-assessment diagnostic tools developed by the United Nations Statistics Division. To facilitate this process, based on AGNA recommendation, some countries established SNA task force team in order to develop a programme to operationalize actions decided. Based on the plan and actions decided in order to eliminate the gaps on SNA implementation, the countries requested technical assistance and support from the members of the African Group on National Accounts, including AfDB, AUC and ECA,

In the area of country plans and actions, the African Group on National Accounts has disseminated SNA diagnostic tools, including the Diagnostic Framework for National Accounts and Supporting Economic Statistics and the SNA compliance questionnaire, to assist member States in identifying current gaps and limitations in implementing the 2008 SNA at the national level. In addition, in accordance with the project implementation plan, pan-African institutions (AfDB, AUC and ECA) are collectively developing a strategy to hold regional workshops on country plans and actions to support member States.

In the first year of the project, 22 countries developed national action plans while an additional 19 countries are in the process of formulating national action plans for implementing the 2008 SNA, according to the replies to the survey on the “*Current Status and Needs Assessment for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa*”, carried out by ECA in the period November 2014- March 2015. In the meantime, 5 more countries elaborated their action plans.

The ECA supported countries in their activity to design their action plans by elaborating the “Minimum-Required Components of an Action Plan on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA”, which represents a useful tool, especially for National Statistical Offices (NSO) with limited human resources.

The development of action plans for the 2008 SNA implementation give the possibility to assess the current situation in the development of national accounts, to establish the main objectives for improvements and to identify the activities to be carried out and the necessary financial and human resources necessary to achieve the objectives.

The most important activities included in the countries’ plans for the 2008 SNA implementation refer to:

- adaptation and adoption of latest classifications of economic activities and products
- collection and processing of data from administrative and statistical sources;
- SNA 2008 compliance for production and assets boundaries;
- compilation of employment matrix;
- compilation of Supply and Use Table;
- calculation of GDP by expenditure approach;
- calculation of quarterly GDP;
- compilation of institutional sector accounts up to financial accounts.

The specific timeframe for transitioning toward the 2008 SNA, decided by countries, range from 2010 to 2018. Based on that, the African countries are classified into three groups. The first group, called the “already moved” group, is comprised of 12 countries; second group of 22 countries, called the “2015-2018” group, consists of

countries that plan to transition to the 2008 SNA between 2015 and 2018; the third group, called the “undecided” group, includes the rest of the countries who answered to the survey (10).

Taking follow-up actions

Countries have undertaken several follow-up actions to change over the 2008 SNA. These activities are different from one country to another, due to the existing conditions and level of national accounts development. The activities carried out can be grouped in the following main domains: (i) implementation of international classifications (activities, products, etc.) in line with the 2008 SNA; (ii) harmonization with other statistical systems such as the balance of payments, public finances, etc.; (iii) improvement of data sources including censuses, surveys, studies, etc.; (iv) improving conditions to access different data sources; (v) updating the business register; (vi) improvement of software for compilation of national accounts.

Output 2: Technical assistance

- a. Objectives
- b. In African national statistics offices there are limitations with regard to human resources, technical capacities and statistical infrastructure with big impact in the production of high-quality, timely economic statistics and national accounts data. Thus, the aim of the technical assistance component of the project implementation plan is to strengthen statistical institutions, and the capacity and infrastructure of national statistics systems. For this component, AfDB was taken the lead position in the provision of technical assistance in several important areas: (i) adopting and applying modern and country-adapted IT tools and (ii) providing technical assistance to Member States lagging behind in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. Main achievements

IT tools

Several activities have been carried out to help Member States to adopt IT tools, with a special attention paid to the ERETES implementation and improvement of its use. Trainings organized by ECA in collaboration with the Sub-regional Office for North Africa and Eurostat, by ECOWAS and Afristat have provided participants with a platform to comprehensively discuss and understand the ERETES software for compiling national accounts. A pilot project for English speaking countries started in 2015 in Ghana.

Technical assistance

Technical assistance addressed the needs of countries on particular subject areas or topics for the 2008 SNA implementation. Main stakeholders including IMF training centers in Africa (AFRITAC), AfDB, Afristat, AMU, COMESA, ECA, ECCAS and ECOWAS carried out several activities. Trainings, workshops and missions took place on specific areas or topics for the 2008 SNA implementation, such as: government accounts, macroeconomic forecasting and back-casting series, classification of activities and products, etc.

In order to identify the specific needs of each country, ECA carried out in the period November 2014- March 2015, the survey “*The current status and Needs Assessments for the implementation of the 2008 SNA*”. It provided useful information concerning the countries’ request on trainings, technical assistance and financial support for implementing the 2008 SNA. Based on their action plans, the countries identified the areas where additional support, in the form of trainings, technical assistance and financial aid is necessary, such as: quarterly GDP, institutional sector accounts, employment matrix, etc. The training -Workshop on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA (21-23 January 2014, Nouakchott, Mauritania) organized by ECA SRO-NA and ECA ACS, the

seminar on quarterly GDP organized by AFRITAC South, on 7-11 September 2015 in Mauritius and the IMF trainings on quarterly GDP met the countries expectations.

The results of the survey will be the reference basis to organize the collaboration between different partners, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations to achieve the objective of the project, means the implementation of the 2008 SNA in African countries.

Output 3: Institutional strengthening

a. Objectives

It was recognized that there are institutional weaknesses in the capacity of national statistics offices to produce and disseminate national accounts and economic statistics data. The aim of the institutional strengthening component of the project is to develop and strengthen coordination structures and systems for data collection, compilation, processing, analysis and dissemination. In this area, the regional economic communities and Afristat supported national statistics offices to establish or strengthen governance and coordination structures for national accounts statistics at the national level.

The African Group on National Accounts has identified several key actions to facilitate the process of institutional strengthening, as following:

- establishment of the African Network of National Accountants (a network of experts from various regional institutions with expertise in national accounts);
- development of calendars for regular and consistent statistical data dissemination;
- establishment of the knowledge and skills profile required for national accountants;
- organization of national workshops to bring together statistical users and producers.

b. Main achievements

The regular activity of AGNA group represents a significant contribution to the institutional strengthening by the decisions and recommendations adopted in the field of national accounts. ECA launched a “community of practice” on the compilation of supply and use tables as well as the use of administrative data in national accounts. The experience of the countries in different field was presented, the best practice identified; these will be used by other countries for their improvements.

The institutional strengthening is an ongoing process. The coordination and development of the national accounts compilation process from the collection of data until the dissemination of the results are based on the objectives established in the frame of action plans. The first phase of the project was mainly dedicated to the elaboration of the action plans and the preparation for the 2008 SNA implementation; the institutional strengthening in line with the 2008 SNA requirements will represent one of the priority objectives of the second phase of the project.

2.2 EA2: Increased human, financial, and technical resources for national accounts in Member States

Output 4: Compiling technical documents

a. Objectives

To further develop the statistical capacities of national statistics offices, a set of technical documents (guidebooks, manuals and handbooks) have been identified as important to serve as operational guides in the compilation of national accounts. Led by ECA, the technical documents, in the area of supply and use tables, administrative data and the informal sector, will lay out clear and specific procedures and methods on how to apply and implement the 2008 SNA in Member States, in line with African countries' experiences and best practices.

As outlined by the African Group on National Accounts, the following areas were identified to be subject of technical documents:

- establishing a virtual “community of practice” to gather country experts for sharing African countries' experiences and practices;
- preparing drafts of the Guidebook on use of administrative data in national accounts, the Handbook on supply and use tables: compilation, application and good practices and Accounting for Informal Sector in National Accounts;
- organizing expert group meetings for reviewing and validating the drafts of the Guidebook and Handbook.

b. Main achievements

The activities for this output were realized and the drafts of the three operational guidebooks are available. The *Guidebook on the use of administrative data in national accounts* represents an effective reference for strengthening the capacity of African countries in using already available administrative data in order to improve the quality and availability of national accounts. Currently, there is no single guidebook from the international agencies that covers all major administrative statistics and their use in national accounts. Therefore, the *Guidebook on Administrative data* is expected to fill this gap for African countries.

The main objective of the *Handbook on supply and use tables: compilation, application and good practice* is to highlight African countries' experiences and practices in compiling such tables and to provide the basic information for the derivation of detailed input-output tables, which are extremely useful for the purposes of economic analysis and projections.

The *Accounting for Informal Sector in National Accounts* was compiled. Around 20 African countries are providing case studies on informal sector surveys and methodologies to incorporate the informal sector in national accounts. An Expert Group Meeting is expected to take place early 2016, where the first draft and country experiences will be discussed.

The meetings organized for the three documents provided a platform for national accounts experts to share and discuss African countries' experiences and best practices in compiling national accounts.

Output 5: Advocacy campaign

a. Objectives

The successful implementation of the 2008 SNA depends on a consistent and effective advocacy campaign.

The statistical advocacy is a means of convincing policy-makers, media, civil society, and representatives of multi-lateral and bilateral agencies of the importance of statistics in the wider context of development and, in particular, of the necessity for developing countries to have a good statistical system which offer the conditions for the development of national accounts.

Therefore, one of the key components of the Continental Project was to prepare, provide, and disseminate advocacy materials to various policy makers on the importance and usefulness of national accounts and related economic statistics for mobilizing resources for development of national accounts and related economic statistics.

The African Group on National Accounts has identified several critical steps for organizing an effective advocacy campaign. First, high-level advocacy missions to member States and sub-regional, regional and continental organizations need to be carried out, with the aim of delivering targeted messages, providing project updates and improving resource mobilization.

Second, the country missions should target Governments, parliaments, civil society and the private sector. Third, the progress of the African Project should be reported to the relevant conferences of Heads of State and Ministers. Lastly, advocacy materials and tools, including the publication of reports, newsletters, flyers, brochures and a website, will be developed.

b. Main achievements

As the lead for preparing advocacy materials, the Secretariat has developed a project brochure, a project poster, and a webpage with the aim of raising awareness and support for the African Project on the 2008 SNA. In addition to providing information, the webpage serves as a central location where all project documents will be available for project stakeholder, development partners and potential donors.

The AGNA Account newsletter serves to inform and update project stakeholders, regional and international organizations, and development partners on national accounts activities taking place in Africa. In doing so, the AGNA Account, issued by the Secretariat, is a useful tool not only for information sharing but also for advocacy. As of August 2015, six issues of the AGNA Account have been developed and circulated on a quarterly basis.

2.3 EA3: Timely and effectively completed first phase to set a foundation for the implementation of Phase II

Output 6: Coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

a. Objectives

The coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism is critical for the successful and timely implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa. The meeting of the Continental Steering Committee is part of the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting process to examine project achievements and provide recommendations for any appropriate corrective measures to be taken based on the progress and other project reports available, this also includes a baseline assessment study to be conducted at the beginning of the project for all African countries. The baseline and regular assessment survey will be conducted through assessment questionnaires and selected country visits.

Led by the Secretariat, several detailed steps have been developed for coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the African Project. First, the project implementation plan, consolidating concrete actions and activities proposed voluntarily by project stakeholders, will be monitored closely and serves as a coordination mechanism and a useful framework for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the progress of the Project.

Second, the Continental Steering Committee is critical in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting process, in its capacity to examine project achievements and provide recommendations for appropriate corrective measures to be taken based on the progress and project reports available.

Third, the Secretariat of the Project will take the lead in producing and disseminating monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the African Project on a biannual basis by collecting information from all stakeholders. In order to produce project monitoring and evaluation reports, pan-African institutions, the regional economic communities, Afristat, member States, relevant international and regional organizations, and development partners will, on a biannual basis, provide the requisite information and progress reports to the secretariat, in line with the agreed framework of the project implementation plan. The monitoring and evaluation reports will be reviewed during meetings of the Continental Steering Committee, the African Group on National Accounts and the Joint Sessions of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa.

b. Main achievements

In the area of coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, several important milestones have been accomplished. First, the Continental Steering Committee of the African Project was established in September 2013, in Addis Ababa. Since then, the Committee has assumed its roles and functions as the governing and decision-making body of the African Project. At its inaugural meeting, the Committee: (i) reiterated the importance of the African Project; (ii) agreed and adopted the terms of reference of the Committee, the Executive Board and the secretariat; (iii) established the governing body of the Project; (iv) agreed upon the framework for collaboration and operation; and (v) scheduled the Project to launch on 1 January 2014.

Second, the secretariat of the African Project was established. In accordance with the recommendations of the special session of the African Group on National Accounts and its task force meeting, the secretariat started functioning in April 2013. The office of the secretariat is located within the ECA premises and benefits from the support of the Economic Statistics and National Accounts Section of the African Centre for Statistics. As part of its functions to monitor and report on the progress of the African Project, the secretariat regularly issues and circulates the *AGNA Account*, a newsletter designed to inform and update members and regional and international development partners on national accounts activities and events. The secretariat also organizes meetings of the Steering Committee.

Third, several meetings took place in order to review the project activities and to provide recommendations for further developments. There were three important meetings:

- the Friends of the Chair of the Continental Steering Committee for the African Project was held in Addis Ababa, in April 2014. Participants reviewed the progress made towards implementing the African Project, including the project implementation plan; discussed best practices and experiences for developing country plans and follow-up actions for implementing the 2008 SNA; and deliberated on effective mechanisms for sharing information among regional and international organizations
- the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) for the African Project on the implementation of the 2008 SNA, took place on 8-9 December 2014 in Tunis; the achievements of activities included in the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) were analyzed and the problems encountered discussed and actions to solve them identified.
- the Expert group meeting of the AGNA on the implementation of the 2008 SNA organized on 12-15 May 2015 in Addis Ababa analyzed the main results of the project and provided conclusions and recommendations for the activities to be developed during 2015, including the responsibilities of different stakeholders.

III. Conclusions

The first pillar of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa represents the implementation of the 2008 SNA. This is a complex process and its implementation face to several problems that exists in African countries such as limited human, financial and technical resources and weak statistical capacity and infrastructure. The African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA, developed by the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) under the umbrella of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) represents an important mechanism to support this process. It is important to note that this project brings together all the participants to this process namely the Member States, Regional Economic Communities, pan-African Institutions (AfDB, AUC and ECA), Afristat and regional and other international organizations with activity in Africa (IMF, World Bank, USAID, etc.).

Due to the complexity of the activities proposed and big diversity of actors involved, the project implementation faced different challenges such as; (i) coordination of the project activities;(ii) information concerning the actions planned by countries and stakeholders and main results achieved;(iii) and mobilization of financial resources to support the project implementation.

The analysis of the available documents of the project, underlines some problems encountered in the first phase of the project, such as : (i) insufficient information concerning countries plans and the ways proposed to achieve the objectives established; (ii) absence of information concerning the activities foreseen to be developed in the frame of the project by regional and continental organizations; (iii) a weak coordination of the activities developed by countries and stockholders for the 2008 SNA implementation; (iv) an insufficient mobilization and use of financial resources necessary for the project implementation. The problems were discussed during the AGNA and CSC meetings and recommendations for improvements were provided, but not all were put in practice in the first phase of the project.

For the next phase of the project the gains obtained should be consolidated and the current challenges solved. The coordination of the activities which will be developed by countries and regional and continental organizations is the essential means to achieve the project goals.

Based on the lessons learned in the first phase of the project, the main directions of actions in the next phase should be:

- At level of countries:
 - Finalizing the action plan (a comprehensive plan, with detailed actions planned and resources to be mobilized, following the frame elaborated by ECA) for the 2008 SNA implementation and its integration into NSDS. The NSDS provides countries with a strategy for strengthening their statistical capability across the entire national statistical system in response to evolving user needs and priorities and represents the basic foundation for the SNA implementation;
 - Selecting from the action plan the activities which will be developed under the project (2016-2018) and establishing the necessary resources. For the part of needs which are not covered by existing resources, an intensive advocacy company should be organized and carried out;
 - Defining the concrete support needed from regional and international organizations, informing them in an appropriate way and establishing a coordination frame of the activities which will be developed.
- At continental and regional level:
 - Providing support to the countries for the 2008 SNA implementation based on their needs and objectives included in the action plans;

- Mobilizing the financial resources and pooling them in order to support the implementation of the project;
- Establishing an operational institutional coordination framework. The coordination will avoid the duplication of activities and the danger that the activities do not meet the countries' needs.
- Establishing an efficient reporting mechanism for the project, in a timely and consistent manner, in order to have a regular exchange of information about bilateral, regional and continental activities.

Annex 1 List of documents consulted

- *Project Document*, prepared by ECA, (As of 15 August 2014)
- *PROGRESS REPORT AND PROGRAMME*, presented to Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) for the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, 8-9 December 2014, Tunis
- *Project Progress Report* of the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, March 2014
- *PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AFRICAN PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2008 SNA, PHASE I*, presented to the Meeting of the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, 12-15 May 2015, Ethiopia
- *Report to the Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts in Africa*, 8-12 December 2014, Tunis
- *Progress and Achievements* of the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in 2014, prepared by ECA , 26 December 2014
- AGNA account, newsletter, Issue No. 01 – June 2013
- AGNA account, newsletter, Issue No. 02 – January 2014
- AGNA account, newsletter, Issue No. 03 – May 2014
- AGNA account, newsletter, Issue No. 04 – November 2014
- AGNA account, newsletter, Issue No. 05 – April 2015
- AGNA account, newsletter, Issue No. 06 – August 2015
- Agenda 2063- The Africa we want, African Union Commission, 2015
- *Report on the Survey on “Assistance Provisions for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts In Africa”*, prepared by the Secretariat of the AGNA September 2015
- *Report on the Survey of “The Current Status and Needs Assessment for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa”*, prepared by the Secretariat of the AGNA March 2015
- *Conclusions and recommendations on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts* , prepared by Expert Group Meeting of the African Group on National Accounts, 12-15 May 2015

Annex 2 Results

EA1: Improved capacities in production, analysis, and dissemination of national accounts in Member States		
Output 1.	Country Plan and Actions	
Verifiable Indicators	Proposed: 10 countries compiling country plans and taking follow-up actions	
	Achieved:	
Activity 1.1: Formulate country implementation plan for the 2008 SNA		
	Key Players	MS
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of March 2015, 22 countries reported to have already formulated country plans, 19 countries are currently formulating country plans, 7 have yet to begin formulating country plans, and data is unavailable for 6 countries. As recommended by the AGNA, Member States without national action plans are encouraged to finalize their national action plans by 30 November 2015, while Member States that have compiled national action plans should take follow-up actions to change over to the 2008 SNA. The Secretariat has finalized the “Minimum-Required Components of an Action Plan on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA.” Member States are encouraged to utilize the national action plan template and technical targets to develop their national action plan. ECA conducted 6 technical assistance missions to support Member States in the preparation and finalization of national action plans for implementing the 2008 SNA: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan
Activity 1.2: Take follow-up actions to change over to the 2008 SNA		
	Key Players	MS
	Achievement	28 countries implemented part of the 2008 SNA
Activity 1.3: Collaborate with AGNA Members and Development partners to fill in the gaps		
	Key Players	MS
	Achievement	ECA conducted a needs assessment survey and report to implement the 2008 SNA among Member States between December 2014 and March 2015. ECA has completed a follow-up partner’s survey and report on the provision of technical, training and financial assistance. The combination of both surveys and reports matches the demand of countries with the supply of partners.
Output 2.	Technical Assistance	
Verifiable Indicators	Proposed: 10 countries applying modern IT tools for compiling NA	
	Achieved:	
Activity 2.1: Assist and support Member States to adopt and apply modern and country-adapted IT tools		
	Key Players	AUC, Afristat
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance on ERETES to 6 countries proposal to extend ERETES training to English speaking countries – pilot project in Ghana to be launched in 2015 Training in January 2014 and organized by ECA in collaboration with the Subregional Office for North Africa and Eurostat. Participants discussed the ERETES software used to compile national accounts statistics, key areas of the new conceptual changes in the 2008 SNA compared to the 1993 SNA, and the use of administrative data in the implementation of the 2008 SNA. Afristat hosted a training workshop on ERETES: the workshop was organized by the National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal on national accounting frameworks and computer tools for compiling national accounts. The training enabled national accounts experts of Senegal to strengthen their capacity on the use and functionality of ERETES for national accounts compilation. The training is part of the National Accounts Renovation Project of Senegal which aims to compile national accounts based on a new base year (2014) and the 2008 SNA. The training was held in Dakar, Senegal from 27-31 July 2015.
Activity 2.2: Launch assistance for countries lagging behind in the implementation of the 1993 SNA.		
	Key Players	AfDB, RECs, Afristat
	Achievement	AfDB:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA mission in March 2015 in Cameroon and Senegal to implement the 2008 SNA and prepare 2015 ICP-Africa activities. • TA mission in April 2015 in SADC to support the implementation of the 2008 SNA and support statistics. • TA mission in July 2015 for SADC, COMESA and ECOWAS to support the implementation of the 2008 SNA and support statistics. • TA mission to Seychelles in September 2015 to implement the 2015 ICP activities. • TA mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in October 2015 as part of 2015 ICP-AFRICA program. Activities included GDP breakdown into 155 basic headings and completion on mores template. • Ongoing review of national accounts in SADC and COMESA Member States since 2014. <p>Afristat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFRISTAT has its own strategy based on six pillars to implement the 2008 SNA in its Member States. The strategy has a progressive approach to consolidate knowledge and correct shortfalls. The six pillars are: (i) help Member States to migrate with success from the 1993 SNA to the 2008 SNA; (ii) reinforce institutional and organizational capacity of national accounts sections; (iii) assist countries to put in place an operational and efficient system to produce and analyze national accounts; (iv) develop an operational system for the publication of national accounts; (v) assist and monitor the implementation of the 2008 SNA; and (vi) coordinate assistance with other partners. • Afristat conducted a workshop on government accounts: the workshop provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices in government finance statistics and their application in compiling national accounts. The workshop was organized in collaboration with UEMOA and AFRITAC West, and strengthened the capacity of experts from Member States of UEMOA, Guinea, Mauritania, and member countries of AFRISTAT. The workshop was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 26-28 May 2015. • Afristat facilitated a regional workshop on macroeconomic forecasting and back-casting of national accounts: the regional workshop was organized by UEMOA on the best practices in macroeconomic forecasting and back-casting of national accounts. The workshop strengthened the capacity of experts of the National Economic Policy Committee in the area of backward projection of national accounts for macroeconomic forecasting. The workshop was held in Lomé, Togo from 6-10 July 2015. • Afristat's main activities in the past two years: support to countries in implementing the 1993 SNA; support to countries in the use of ERETES; adoption of new classifications by Afristat MSs (ISIC, Rev. 4 and CPC Ver. 2); annual Afristat seminars; support in migrating to the 2008 SNA. <p>AMU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members carried out meetings and agreed on a common classification. They are working on a common base year and conducting some survey mainly on the informal sector and employment. They are discussing how to apply balance of payment manual (BOP 6), how to allocate FISIM. • Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are implementing the 2008 SNA and using ERETES. <p>COMESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized a training on national strategies and plans held in Uganda and a training in Zambia on accounting for financial services according to the 2008 SNA. • African Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) Program financed by AfDB focusing in implementing the 2008 SNA • TA in Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, the Sudan, Uganda, +South Sudan are supported by COMESA. <p>ECA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Workshop on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA (21-23 January 2014, Nouakchott, Mauritania) organized by ECA SRO-NA and ECA ACS. 31 participants from NSOs, Ministries of Planning and Central Banks of 11 francophone African countries. • Training on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA): ECA in collaboration with GIZ and the United Nations Statistical Division organized a training program on SEEA for African countries: (i) an online training over 8 weeks and 5 modules during September-November 2014; (ii) an on-site workshop on 2-5 February
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		<p>2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. More than 20 African countries have participated and completed the online training course and on-site training workshop.</p> <p>ECCAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshop on the implementation of the 2008 SNA in November 2014. Participants discussed the different tables, rebasing. <p>ECOWAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past 2 years, activities were hindered by the Ebola virus. • Development of an ECOWAS classification of activities and product in line with ISIC rev 4. and CPC rev. 2, that the Council of Ministers adopted (available in English, French and Portuguese). Adoption of a roadmap for the implementation of the 2008 SNA • Roadmap for the implementation of the new common platform for the publication of national accounts Regional statistical program 2014-18 includes activities on national accounts in line with the 2008 SNA. <p>IMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During FY2014 and FY2015 IMF provided more than 200 TA missions and 25 trainings through 5 regional AFRITAC Centers and METAC Centre. Focus was on: implementation of the 2008 SNA with most recent base year; implementation of QNA for advanced countries; development of sector accounts and full sequence of national accounts for some countries; improving data dissemination and implement IMF standards for data dissemination. • During FY2016 IMF is conducting 108 TA missions on national accounts, 16 regional workshops and a three-week course at HQ; The topics covered include: annual national accounts in line with the 2008 SNA; sector accounts and balance sheets; quarterly national accounts; high frequency indicators; natural resources accounts. <p>INSEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance in two major fields: national accounts in line with the 2008 SNA and ERETES. • INSEE is organizing workshops on the implementation of the 2008 SNA by giving concrete examples to countries: regional workshop in Morocco for Algeria Morocco, and Tunisia on the 2008 SNA and regional accounts, as well as in Senegal. • INSEE is offering ERETES workshops at three levels such as initiation, medium and expert (in Equatorial Guinea with World Bank, Guinea-Bissau with IMF, Niger with IMF, Ghana). <p>SADEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SADEC had a training workshop in Botswana about the implementation of the 2008 SNA, including the assessment of current status, challenges, and follow up actions; the requisites including the different classifications and standards; and the importance of improving business registers. <p>UNSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of meetings organized (i.e. Kampala, SADEC, etc.) where it provides the tools for self-assessment.
Output 3.	Institutional Strengthening	
Verifiable Indicators	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 RECs with M & E framework to track SNA at MS level; - 10 NSOs received capacity development to strengthen their governance structures and M & E system; - African Network of National Accountants (ANNA) established <p>Achieved:</p>	
	<i>Activity 3.1: Establish or strengthen existing governance and coordination structures for national accounts statistics at national level</i>	
	Key Players	RECs, Afristat
	Achievement	
	<i>Activity 3.2: Create the African Network of National Accountants (ANNA).</i>	
	Key Players	AfDB, Secretariat
	Achievement	ECA launched a “community of practice” on the compilation of supply and use tables as well as the use of administrative data in national accounts. The purpose is to produce country contributions, in the form of case studies, for two upcoming guidebooks on these topics.
EA2: Increased human, financial, and technical resources for national accounts in Member States		
Output 4.	Compiling Technical Documents	
	Proposed: 10 countries with thoroughly accessible administrative data sources for the 2008 SNA	

Verifiable Indicators	Achieved:	
	<i>Activity 4.1: Make an inventory of administrative data sources required for national accounts compilation</i>	
	Key Players	ECA, MS
	Achievement	An exhaustive survey on the use of administrative data in the compilation of national accounts was carried out among African countries during December 2013-January 2014. A report is included in the upcoming Guidebook on the Use of Administrative Data in the Compilation of National Accounts. A presentation about the results was made at the AGNA Meeting in February 2014. An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Administrative Data was organized by ECA in collaboration with the Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA), 23-27 June 2014, in Kigali, Rwanda.
	<i>Activity 4.2: Develop a guidebook on processing data from administrative sources in national accounts</i>	
	Key Players	ECA, MS
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afristat Member States are validating a Methodological Guide on the Production of National Accounts in AFRISTAT Member States (According to the 2008 SNA). • Afristat is working on a Methodological Guidebook on the Retropolation of National Accounts. • ECA organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Supply and Use Tables in collaboration with the Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA), 2-6 June 2014, in Port Louis, Mauritius. The Handbook on Supply and Use Table (SUT) is being finalized. • ECA is working to develop a <i>Guidebook on the Informal Sector</i>. • ECA is working to develop a Handbook on Supply and Use Table
Output 5.	Advocacy Campaign	
Verifiable Indicators	Proposed: 10 Number of member states that have increased financial resource allocation and disbursement for national accounts activities	
	Achieved :	
	<i>Activity 5.1: Prepare advocacy materials and tools</i>	
	Key Players	Secretariat
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECA has developed a project brochure • ECA has developed a project poster • ECA is developing a webpage that incorporates all project materials • The activities developed were presented in newsletters
	<i>Activity 5.2: Organize advocacy campaigns at continental, regional, and national levels.</i>	
	Key Players	AUC, RECs, MS
	Achievement	
	<i>Activity 5.3: Organize Round Table Meetings with potential and existing funding partners.</i>	
	Key Players	AfDB, AUC, ECA
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECA is organizing a round-table donors meeting, tentatively scheduled for November 2015.
EA3: The timely and effectively completed first phase to set a foundation for the implementation of Phase II.		
Output 6.	Coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting	
Verifiable Indicators	Proposed: -Agreed Terms of Reference for the SNA Governance Structure and Secretariat Staff are in place and functioning Secretariat office fully equipped. -Assessment report on national status and capacity	
	Achieved:	
	Key Players	Secretariat
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Inaugural Meeting of the CSC in September 2013, it was decided that the CSC will meet every 6 month during Phase I, and once a year in Phase II of the Project. So far, meetings have been organized accordingly. • The 2nd CSC Meeting was initially planned by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Union Commission (AUC), and African Development Bank (AfDB). However, as a result of unexpected scheduling conflicts of key stakeholders, the meeting title was changed to the Friends of the Chair of the CSC. The meeting was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) on 2-4 April 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 3rd CSC Meeting convened on 8-9 December 2014 in Tunis, Tunisia. In the area of national action plans, the CSC requested Member States to complete the UNSD self-assessment questionnaires. In the area of technical assistance, the CSC proposed the development of milestones for technical issues. For institutional strengthening, the CSC encouraged Member States to set targets for achieving the milestones for 2008 SNA implementation. And finally, the CSC endorsed the proposed transition plan to move from Phase I to Phase II of the African Project which is expected to begin in 2016.
<i>Activity 6.2: Establish and strengthen SNA Continental Secretariat</i>		
	Key Players	Secretariat
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat was established in September 2013 The Secretariat is hosted at ECA, under the strengthened Economic Statistics and National Accounts Section A Project Seed Fund was allocated to the Secretariat by ECA (amount and date?)
<i>Activity 6.3: Conduct a further and in-depth assessment on national accounts status and capacity of all African countries.</i>		
	Key Players	Secretariat, RECs, MS
	Achievement	<p>Assessments have been undertaken in 2011 and 2012 and reported, the latest assessment has been undertaken by ECA between December 2014 and March 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Survey and Report on Needs Assessment (technical, training, and financial assistance) of Member States was completed in March 2015.
<i>Activity 6.4: Adapt and develop framework and tools for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the implementation of the 2008 SNA</i>		
	Key Players	Secretariat, RECs, MS
	Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Framework for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting was presented by the Secretariat at the February 2014 AGNA meeting. During November 2014 a survey was conducted on country plans, follow-up actions, and needs for technical assistance by the Secretariat. Results have been shared with stakeholders.
<i>Activity 6.5: Produce and disseminate monitoring and evaluation reports</i>		
	Key Players	Secretariat, RECs, MS
	Achievement	<p>A progress report template for the African Project was endorsed by the Friends of the Chair meeting. The report is updated on a biannual basis by the Secretariat and presented to both AGNA and the CSC.</p> <p>As part of the transition to Phase II of the project, an independent consultant is carrying out a consultation with stakeholders about the experience, progress and gaps observed so far. The report, once ready, will be widely circulated</p>