



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

***African Centre for Statistics***

# **Concept Note**

***Sixth Statistical Commission for Africa***

***(StatCom-Africa VI)***

***Theme: "Enhancing the Capacity of National Statistical Systems to support policies for Africa's economic diversification and industrialisation"***

***Date: 1 – 4 October 2018***

***Place: United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***

## **I. Background and rationale**

The Statistics Committee, implemented as Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), was established in 2005 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. StatCom-Africa acts within the United Nations policies and procedures and framework subject to the general supervision of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. StatCom-Africa members are composed of African countries represented by Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Regional Economic Communities, Regional Statistics Training Centers, international partners and high level experts also attend the meeting.

StatCom-Africa VI is the second meeting organized in the context of the 2030 Global Development Agenda and therefore, the importance of data for evidence – based decision become crucial. A number of statistical initiatives and programmes at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels as well are undergoing and leading to a data revolution.

On his part, ECA developed a strategic framework based on the current priorities of Member States and Regional Economic Communities, as well as emerging issues of strategic importance to the continent. The framework is articulate around five strategic areas:

1. Advancing ECA's position as a premier knowledge institution that builds on its unique position and privilege to bring global solutions to the continent;
2. Building sustainable development solutions to accelerate Africa's economic diversification and industrialization;
3. Creating innovative solutions to finance sustainable infrastructure, human, physical and social for a transforming Africa;
4. Contributing solutions to transboundary issues, with a focus on social inclusion; and
5. Developing regional solutions as a contribution to global governance issues, as well as building knowledge to advocate for and manage Africa's next-generation challenges.

StatCom-Africa VI will be conducted within the umbrella of the ECA strategic areas. under the following theme: *"Enhancing the capacity of National Statistical System to support policies for Africa's economic diversification and industrialisation"*. Therefore, StatCom VI responds to the need for diversification and industrialisation in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

This year, as per usual practice, on the margins of the StatCom-Africa VI, the following major events will also be organized: (1) The Fourth Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UNGGIM: Africa); (2) The Eighth Forum for African Statistical Development (FASDEV VIII); and (3) The Thirteenth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD). In addition, other various initiatives may be organized by partners.

## **II. Objectives**

In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Africa 2063 Development Agenda, the Sixth StatCom-Africa will provide an opportunity for the African Statistical System to take stock of the ongoing global and regional initiatives and seek how to mainstream ownership of new and/or updated methodologies aiming at enhancing Member State's statistical capacities.

## **III. Expected accomplishments**

As a subsidiary body of ECA, Statcom-Africa will endorse and provide guidance on ECA statistical programme. Further, Statcom-Africa is a forum where: i) Africa statistical system engages / discusses on how to ownership methodologies developed at global level (in particular issues discussed during the UN statistical commission) and takes a regional position on some matters; ii) partners share their respective initiatives; and iii) advice are given on statistical concepts, methods and standards to support governments and regional institutions in the production and use of quality statistics in support of development efforts.

## **IV. Date and Place**

The Sixth StatCom-Africa will be held **from 1 to 4 October 2018** at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## **V. Languages of the meeting**

StatCom-Africa meeting will be delivered in plenary sessions; simultaneous interpretation in English and French languages will be provided.

Break-out sessions may also be organised to discuss deeply some subjects but simultaneous interpretation is not granted.

## **VI. Participants**

The official country delegation to the StatCom-Africa shall normally be led by the head of the National Statistics Office.

Observers from national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations, NGOs, the academia and research institutions; the private sector and related industries are also invited to attend. Observers may attend all sessions, except those designated private, and participate in discussions, but may not vote on any issues.

## **VII. Contact Information**

For further information, please contact:

<b>Mr. Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo</b>	<b>Mr. Oumar Sarr</b>
Chief Statistical Development Section	Statistician
African Centre for Statistics	African Centre for Statistics
Economic Commission for Africa	Economic Commission for Africa
Tel: (251) - 115 445533	Tel: (251) 115 443614
<a href="mailto:ilboudo@un.org">E-mail: ilboudo@un.org</a>	<a href="mailto:sarro@un.org">E-mail: sarro@un.org</a>