



Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa
Sixth meeting

Addis Ababa, 1 – 4 October 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

New strategic areas for the Economic Commission for Africa and statutory reports

Subprogramme 4 Data and statistics

1. Substantive responsibility for implementing the subprogramme is vested in the African Centre for Statistics. This subprogramme will continue its work on improving the production, dissemination and use of high-quality and comparable data and statistics in Africa to support evidence-based policymaking, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting under the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The subprogramme has been designed in response to the data challenges emerging from recent African and global initiatives and recognizes that business as usual is no longer an option. There is a need for an African data revolution that is driven by African countries and is designed specifically to meet the special conditions and challenges of the continent. Better statistics will be an essential component if Africa is to succeed in transforming the lives of its people. The core priorities are, and will remain, meeting the needs for national data to promote the growth of the national economy, to reduce and eliminate poverty, to support the design and delivery of key social programmes, to manage and sustain natural resources and to maintain peace and stability. As countries grow and as African populations become increasingly adept at accessing and using data, it is inevitable that new demands for data, as yet largely unknown, will emerge.

2. In order to address this effectively, the ACS has devised a comprehensive programme of work to support statistics in Africa which has a four years' span. The Comprehensive Programme of Support to Statistics in Africa has been designed to strengthen and develop the capacity of the PASS, focusing especially on the fundamental building blocks of the system - the 54 national statistical systems of the member states of the African Union. It sets out a medium-term framework for action at the regional level to support and promote investment in the capacity and operations of national statistical agencies and systems. It has been designed as a response to the data challenges emerging from recent African and global initiatives and recognizes that business as usual is no longer an option. There is a need for an African data revolution that is driven by African countries and is designed specifically to meet the special conditions and challenges of the continent.

3. The Programme has been developed in line with the ECA Budget for the biennium 2018-2019. The ACS will focus on developing and strengthening sustainable capacity in countries to implement the data revolution by making use of innovative tools for data collection and by using new data sources. It will support open data initiatives, with the objective of producing high quality and timely statistics in support of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

* E/ECA/STATCOM/6/1.

Development. The Programme also directly supports the implementation of the new vision and mission of the ACS.

4. The proposed programme is made up of eight components: six focus on specific areas of statistics where ACS has elements of comparative advantage; the seventh provides support for national statistical systems to strengthen the key pillars of statistical infrastructure; and the eighth is concerned with the provision of statistical and data services to ECA and other agencies.

(a) Component 1 supports and promotes an African data revolution. Activities include support for the preparation of national strategies for the development of statistics and strengthening the strategic leadership of national statistical systems. It proposes that ACS will work closely with other agencies active in this area. Component 1 also includes support for making statistical systems more open, promotion of the use of big data sets where relevant, and improving access to and the use of statistical data sets in general.

(b) Component 2, focuses on population and demographic data. It will support the participation of all African countries in the continuation of the 2020 round of World population and Housing Census Programme, the continuation of the programme on development of improvement of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) with the aim of substantially increasing the coverage of CRVS by 2022, and undertaking research and development on the measurement of regional migration flows.

(c) Component 3 is concerned with improving the quality and use of economic statistics, including agricultural and labour market data. In particular, it will support countries to adopt and make effective use of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008. It will provide technical support and advice to help countries make use of analytical techniques to support better economic analysis and planning. It will also help to improve the quality and coverage of agricultural and labour market statistics through on-going initiatives.

(d) Component 4 focuses on environmental data with two main sub-components. The first will assist countries to prepare action plans to improve the quality and coverage of their data in this field. The second supports the development of environmental accounts in Africa so that countries can better understand the impact of climate change

(e) Component 5 is concerned with the measurement and analysis of poverty and inequality. The first sub-component will help to develop and pilot methods for measuring hard to reach and marginal population groups, while the second will support analysis to better understand the levels and drivers of inequality.

(f) In collaboration with UN Women and other agencies, Component 6 is concerned with improving the availability and quality of data on gender and will support the continued implementation of the Making Every Woman and Girl Child Count (MEWGC) project throughout the continent.

(g) In the seventh component, the focus is on two areas of statistical infrastructure: first the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and the much wider use of geo-referenced data; and, second, the use of the SDMX standard so that data transmission to and from countries can be easily automated.

(h) Component 8 of the programme focuses on strengthening the role of ACS as a provider of statistics and an advisor of their use to the other divisions of ECA and to the Sub-Regional Offices (SROs).

5. Under the auspices of this four years' comprehensive programme of work, the subprogramme will continue to play a leading role in supporting member States in designing and implementing their strategies on statistics as a part of the national sustainable development plan to meet the requirement of

data and statistics for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 with a special focus on Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will also maintain its role in the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa, which emphasizes the need for comparable statistics for regional integration.

Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To improve the production, dissemination and use of quality data and statistics in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in order to support economic and social development in Africa

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Indicators of achievement

a) Strengthened capacity of member States to produce, disseminate and use disaggregated data and statistics, with a gender dimension, to facilitate evidence-based policymaking, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting

(i) Increased number of member States that have developed a statistical strategy as part of their national sustainable development plan

(ii) Increased number of member States that are producing and reporting statistics in at least three statistical areas for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 with appropriate disaggregation

(iii) Increased number of member States that are producing vital statistics based on a civil registration system

(iv) Increased number of member States carrying out censuses by 2025 with support from ECA

(v) Increased number of member States that have adopted and applied the 2008 System of National Accounts for the compilation of economic statistics and national accounts, including environmental economic accounting

(vi) Increased number of member States enabled to adopt technology in the production and dissemination of data and statistics

(vii) Increased number of member States implementing gender statistics action plans

(viii) Increased number of member States producing migration data and statistics using new methodologies and systems

b) Improved availability of harmonized statistics in ECA databases and enhanced support for member States in their efforts to produce and disseminate comparable data and statistics

(i) Increased number of member States with at least one data point for 50 per cent of a regional set of indicators for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 that exist in the ECA databases

- (ii) Increased number of member States with enhanced capacity to produce quality and harmonized data in line with the global frameworks
 - (iii) Increased number of member States with data quality assurance framework in place
- (c) Enhanced capacity of member States to produce and use timely geospatial data, information and services for evidence-based decision-making in Africa
 - (i) Increased number of member States developing policies and strategies for the integration of statistical and geospatial information
 - (ii) Increased number of member States developing and making available to users' fundamental geospatial data sets, including national gazetteers and national administrative boundary data

External factors

6. The subprogramme is expected to fully achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member States continue to scale up resources for conducting regular statistical operations, such as censuses, surveys and the collection of administrative data; (b) regional economic communities and regional and international partners join efforts to support statistical harmonization and capacity-building; (c) members of the African Statistical Coordination Committee, namely, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the African Capacity-Building Foundation, continue to play their respective roles in improving statistical coordination in the region within the Regional Reference Strategic Framework, the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa and the African Charter on Statistics; and (d) United Nations agencies working on the continent to improve data also join the regional efforts.

Outputs

During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

- (a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):
 - (i) Substantive servicing of meetings: Sixth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (4); Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for civil registration (4);
 - (ii) Parliamentary documentation: Report on Statistical Development in Africa (1); Report on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts in Africa (1); Regional Report on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (1); Progress report on Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (1); Progress report on Population and Housing census (1);
 - (iii) Ad hoc expert groups: Review of the Report on Statistical Capacity Development in Africa (1); Review of the Report on Monitoring of Sustainable Development Indicators (1); Review of the Report on Data Dissemination and Exchange in Africa (1); Review of the Report on Data validation (1); Review of the Report on the use of Mobile devices for data collection (1); Review of the Report on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) (1); Review of the report on the capacity of member states to produce

gender related SDGs indicators (1); Review of the Report on Population and Housing census (2); Review of the Report on strengthening and harmonization of economic statistics in Africa (1); Review of the Report on Legal and Regulatory Framework on Geo special information utilization in Africa (2); Review of the report on assessing the Status of the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Africa (1);

(iv) Assistance to intergovernmental bodies: functional support to: Annual meeting of the Committee of Directors-General of National Statistics Offices of Africa Union (2); Annual meeting of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) (2); Annual meeting of the United Nations Statistical Committee (UNSC) (2); Inter-agency meeting on CRVS Core Group (2); Inter-agency meeting on the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (2); Inter-agency meeting on SDG indicators (2); African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) (2); Regional Committee meeting on Global Geospatial Information Management (2); Meeting of the Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and Geographical Names (2); Meeting of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) (2);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: Africa data report (1); African Statistical Yearbook (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: Report on the use of mobile devices for data collection in Africa (1); Report on Data Management and Exchange (1); Guidelines for the development, implementation of CRVS Strategic Plans and use of Use of Vital Statistical Data (1); Report on best practices on the production and use of gender statistics (1); Report on Legal and Regulatory Framework on Geo special information utilization in Africa (1); Report on the status of the Integration between Statistical and Geospatial Information in Africa s (1); report on the use of statistics for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (1);

(iii) Technical materials: ECA corporate Database (2); Development of Geospatial Database, online services and Geo-portals (2); African Statistical Knowledge base (2); ECA statistical database (2);

(iv) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: Africa Statistics Flash (2); African Statistics Pocketbook (2); Executive Statistics Monitor (2); Africa and major world economies (2); Facts and Figures; Advocacy material on African Statistics Day (2); Atlas of Spatial Statistics (2);

(v) Special Events: 8th Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDEV-8) (1); Celebration of African Statistics Day (2); Celebration of GIS Day (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extra budgetary):

(i) Advisory services: provision of technical assistance to member States on: the implementation of Data Document Initiative (DDI), Statistical Data and Meta Data (SDMX) standards (2); the use of mobile devise for data collection (2); statistical strategies, training in statistics and the monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 (2); the development of their CRVS systems population and housing censuses, and gender statistics (2); strengthening and harmonizing of economic statistics including SNA (2); the development of their national

spatial data infrastructure(NSDI), implementation of AFREF, SALB, integration of statistical and geospatial information and other programs related to use and management of geospatial information (2);

(ii) Workshops/seminars: cooperation with government entities, universities, non-governmental organizations and regional and sub regional bodies in support of training activities on topics related to: the Implementation of data exchange initiatives (1); Modernising Statistical Production (1); Population and Housing Censuses (1); gender statistics (1); Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) (1); measuring and monitoring of SDG indicators related to demographic and social statistics (1); economic statistics and national account (1); Geospatial Datasets for monitoring SDGs (1); the Strategy for Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information(1);

(iii) Fellowships and grants: Visiting scholars, fellows and interns to support the work of ECA on Data analytics, infographics, big data and new data frontiers (2); in statistical strategies and statistical training (2); to enhance capacity in CRVS, population and housing censuses, and gender statistics (2); in economic statistics and national accounts (2); in the use of geospatial inform (2);

(iv) Field projects: Improving data exchange in Africa (1); Improving harmonisation of statistics through common metadata framework (1); Phase II on Strengthening the capacity of African Countries in area of Agricultural and Rural Statistics (1); improving the availability of data for Africa's development (1); Support to African Countries on the implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 (1); The 2020 Africa Programme on Population and Housing Census Decade (2015- 2024) and the Work Plan for 2016 – 2020 (1); African programme on Gender Statistics (1); Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (APAI-CRVS) (1); Strengthening the capacities of member States for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Account (1); Strengthening the capacities of Member States on the implementation of the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) (1); Strengthening the capacities of Member States in the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (1)
