



Economic Commission for Africa  
Statistical Commission for Africa  
Sixth meeting

Addis Ababa, 1 – 4 October 2018  
Item 9 of the provisional agenda\*

Consideration of main conclusions and recommendations

### Follow-up to the main conclusions and recommendations of the fifth Statistical Commission for Africa

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>State of implementation and action undertaken</i>
<b>General</b>	
1. <i>Calls upon</i> pan-African institutions to submit documents ahead of time to give countries the time to read them and formulate relevant observations and recommendations.	Documents of the sixth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa will be given to member States ahead of time.
2. Regarding the conduct of the meeting, <i>recommends</i> that all proceedings of the meeting should be managed by the elected Bureau of the session.	Elected Bureau of the sixth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa will manage all proceedings of the meeting.
<b>On strengthening economic statistics to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063</b>	
3. <i>Also recommends</i> that all institutions working in statistics, including national statistics offices and ministries in charge of planning, be involved in the convergence process on the 2030 Agenda indicators and the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 in the interest of economy and efficiency in reporting.	A common reporting framework was developed by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission with the support of member States for reporting on both agendas.
4. <i>Calls upon</i> member States to streamline national	Technical assistance has been provided to some member States by ECA and the United Nations Development Programme on how to align the

\* E/ECA/STATCOM/6/1.

<p>indicators to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 indicators.</p>	<p>monitoring and evaluation framework of their national development plans with the frameworks of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In addition, the integrated regional indicator framework of both agendas will be introduced to countries once endorsed by the Statistical Commission for Africa, the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Conference of Ministers.</p>
<p><b>Status and challenge of harmonization in the collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics in Africa</b></p>	
<p>5. <i>Calls upon</i> pan-African organizations to intensify capacity-building efforts in economic statistics.</p>	<p>ECA has undertaken two capacity-building programmes, one on the compilation and application of supply-use tables in Africa and another on the compilation and application of environmentally extended supply-use tables, which began in September 2017 and March 2018, respectively. Each of the programmes consists of three phases: e-training, face-to-face seminars and national workshops and technical assistance. Supply-used tables are the key and core accounts in the System of National Accounts, while environmentally extended supply-use tables are the extension and application of supply-used tables to include and tackle environmental subjects and issues, thereby addressing and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives are to impart knowledge and skills and build up the technical capacity of member States on a large and wide scale through hands-on practical exercises and country experience to prepare, equip and enable them to compile the related tables according to international statistical standards and recommendations (i.e., the 2008 System of National Accounts and the 2012 System of Environmental-Economic Accounting).</p> <p>The African Union Commission, together with Eurostat, has developed the pan-African statistics programme, which was launched in January 2016 and covers a period of 42 months. The programme is aimed at supporting Africa's regional integration agenda by strengthening the African statistics system and improving the quality and availability of statistics for policy formulation and decision-making. The programme has identified the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts as its first pillar.</p> <p>The African Development Bank (AfDB) has organized training workshops on gross domestic product (GDP) compilation practices and statistical business registers under the framework of the 2008 System of National Accounts for the countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</p>

	(COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Technical assistance missions were organized to support the following countries with the NADABAS national accounts compilation system: Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. In addition, a generic statistical business register system has been implemented or is under implementation for Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia and Mauritius. A guideline for statistical business registers in Africa has been drafted by AfDB.
6. <i>Invites</i> pan-African organizations to take into account the current harmonized tools developed by other institutions, such as the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne.	Distributive trade statistics (Molla Hunegnaw).
<b>On the implementation of the resolutions of the ninth session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices</b>	
7. <i>Invites</i> pan-African organizations to advocate the implementation of the ministerial decision to allocate 0.15 per cent of the national budget to statistics and <i>calls upon</i> countries to ensure the implementation of the decision.	Pan-African organizations are jointly advocating resource mobilization in support of the development of statistics in member States, including advocacy for the establishment of national statistical funds as recommended in the African Charter on Statistics.
<b>Gender statistics</b>	
8. <i>Calls upon</i> member States to improve the production of gender statistics at the national level and the coordination and cooperation between national statistics offices and line ministries.	The African Centre for Statistics of ECA is organizing national training workshops with producers and users of statistics in selected African countries. The main objective of the workshops is to strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices in communicating their statistics, especially for selected Tier I gender indicators, to various user groups and to improve the literacy of data users regarding gender statistics. The workshops will also be useful for the preparation of national reports for the review of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and for national publications on the situation of women.
9. <i>Also calls upon</i> national statistics offices to build partnerships with other stakeholders, including civil society organizations that play a major role in generating gender-related data.	AfDB, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and ECA organized a joint regional workshop on gender statistics in Dakar on 29 and 30 November 2017. The workshop brought together experts in policy analysis and statistics throughout Africa to discuss national and regional priorities and Africa's capacity to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and other commitments from a gender perspective. A

	<p>key recommendation of the experts was to enhance the engagement of civil society organizations in gender statistics by bringing them into discussions on the issue at all levels, given that having a vibrant civil society will improve data production and use and will significantly strengthen advocacy efforts.</p> <p>One of the issues covered was the importance of bringing civil society organizations on board (representing both producers and users), given the high level of interest on gender data in the region and their expressed desire to engage on these issues.</p>
<p>10. <i>Further calls upon</i> national statistics offices to fill the data gaps in gender statistics using time-use survey.</p>	<p>To tackle the challenges that hinder the capacity of African countries to produce quality, timely and comparable gender-related data and statistics, the African Centre for Statistics, in collaboration with UN-Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and AfDB, organized a regional training workshop on statistics and indicators to measure violence against women and time use, especially domestic work and caring activities. The workshop was intended for staff of national statistics offices, statisticians in line ministries and other stakeholders to improve their capacity in producing gender statistics to monitor tier II gender indicators, in particular on violence against women (5.2) and time use (5.4). The workshop was aimed at improving the understanding of and adoption by national statisticians of the international methods to measure violence against women and time use.</p> <p>In addition, ECA will provide technical assistance to selected countries to support statistics on selected tier II gender indicators, in particular on violence against women or time use (in terms of data collection, data analysis or data dissemination and communication).</p>
<b>National accounts</b>	
<p>11. <i>Invites</i> partners to conduct training and provide technical support to member States on the 2008 System of National Accounts.</p>	<p>ECA conducted several technical assistance missions in 2017 and 2018 to member States to strengthen their capacities in the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and projects on GDP rebasing. The ECA capacity-building programmes on supply-use tables and environmentally extended supply-use tables began with phase I (e-training). Phase II of each programme was a face-to-face regional seminar. Phase III will be national workshops held in pilot countries.</p> <p>AfDB organized a training workshop on statistical business registers for COMESA and SADC countries, which was held in May 2018. Live demonstrations and guidance on a generic</p>

	<p>statistical business register system were carried out during the workshop.</p> <p>The Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne conducted technical assistance missions on GDP rebasing, classifications, improving the quality of national accounts, supply-use tables and tables of integrated economic accounts, and the ERETES system.</p> <p>ECOWAS organized a regional workshop on the harmonization of national accounts statistics, which was held in Abuja from 27 to 29 June 2018.</p> <p>Since 2016, the International Monetary Fund, through its regional technical centres in Africa, has conducted 235 technical assistance missions in 54 countries (55 missions are planned for the remainder of 2018) and 24 training workshops (7 additional workshops are planned for the remainder of 2018) in the areas of GDP rebasing, quarterly GDP, developing source data, compiling supply-used tables, financial accounts, concepts, definitions and the classification of the 2008 System of National Accounts.</p> <p>The Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques conducted training on the ERETES information technology tool for national accounts compilation and the technical assistance missions on the ERETES system. In December 2016, the Institut and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne helped to support that initiative by organizing a workshop to train the trainers ready to respond to future demands to set up the ERETES system. Thereafter, the Institut-Observatoires seminar on business registers and classifications was held from 3 to 11 July 2017.</p> <p>The World Bank has conducted technical assistance missions for the updating of economic accounts through its African region statistics team. In general, the activities of the World Bank have been focused on the collection of basic data with regard to its finances surveys or censuses.</p>
<p>12. <i>Calls upon</i> all partners to help to mobilize financial resources in support of economic statistics and strengthen the coordination of their activities.</p>	<p>In support of the capacity-building programmes, as mentioned in item 5 above, each of the pan-African institutions has mobilized financial resources to ensure the success of these programmes.</p>
<p><b>Specialized Technical Group on Statistical Training (African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources)</b></p>	
<p>13. <i>Calls upon</i> ECA and partner organizations to continue to focus on training</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), continued training is being provided in various</p>

<p>the human resources needed for the sustainability of the system for producing quality agricultural statistics.</p>	<p>newly developed techniques and methods in agricultural statistics. The focus is to provide training to national statistics offices and ministries of agriculture by FAO and training to specialized technical committees and universities by ECA. As a result, between 2016 and 2018, more than 450 persons have been trained in various topics in agricultural statistics.</p> <p>In the training component workplan of 2018, there are plans to train more than 300 experts from the same institutions on eight newly developed methods and techniques in the procurement and dissemination of agricultural statistics.</p>
<p>14. <i>Also calls upon</i> pan-African organizations to take measures to ensure that training schools benefit from capacity-building initiatives and activities.</p>	<p>In the implementation of the training component of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, four training centres (the Ecole nationale de la statistique et de l'administration économique–Abidjan, the Ecole nationale de la statistique et de l'administration économique–Dakar, the Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics–Yaoundé and the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre–Dar es Salam) continue to benefit from capacity-building support in terms of infrastructure upgrading and curriculum development. In the workplan of the training component of 2018, it contains an additional two training centres: the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics–Rabat and Makerere University in Kampala.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the statistics training centres, schools and institutions are the direct target beneficiaries of the training of trainers for the various topics in agricultural statistics that are being delivered.</p>
<p><b>On the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa</b></p>	
<p>15. <i>Requests</i> the pan-African organizations to organize a meeting for the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices before the next Conference of Ministers to consider and approve the revised version of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, including the action, Africa Transformative Agenda issues and funding plans.</p>	<p>ECA contributed to the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices, which approved the second phase of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, including its multi-Year action plan, financing plan and resource mobilization and financing strategies.</p>
<p><b>On ongoing, new and emerging issues</b></p>	
<p><i>Urbanization data and statistics in Africa</i></p>	

<p>16. The meeting endorsed the proposal of the establishment of the African Programme on Urbanization Data and Statistics, based on the assessment report on urbanization data and statistics in Africa, and <i>recommends</i> that the definition of the concept of urbanization be harmonized and adapted to the context of African countries.</p>	<p>Under the African Programme on Urbanization Data and Statistics, the following achievements have been made during the past two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the core working group of the African Programme, comprising 12 member States, supported the revision of the principles and recommendations of the Africa addendum for the 2020 round of the Population and Housing Census and the urban component-non-core topic and provided guidelines that would strengthen the collection of urbanization data in the census round;</li> <li>• A city-level indicator set was developed, reviewed and validated by the representatives of national statistics offices from more than 30 countries;</li> <li>• A reference guide on cities and human settlements data and statistics in Africa is under review.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Mobile technology for statistical data collection in Africa</i></p>	
<p>17. <i>Calls upon</i> African countries to allocate the resources necessary for the use of mobile technologies and to establish a cost-sharing mechanism at the continental level.</p>	<p>Distributive trade statistics (Molla Hunegnaw, African Centre for Statistics).</p>
<p>18. <i>Also calls upon</i> countries to give priority to South-South cooperation for capacity-building in data collection using mobile devices.</p>	<p>Distributive trade statistics (Molla Hunegnaw, African Centre for Statistics).</p>
<p><i>African Statistical Development Index</i></p>	
<p>19. The meeting endorsed the methodology and <i>calls upon</i> pan-African organizations and countries to put in place institutional mechanisms at the continental level in order to support the implementation of the Index developed by ECA.</p>	<p>Posters and brochures of the African Statistical Development Index were given to all national statistics offices to serve as an advocacy measure and to enhance awareness of the significance of this measuring tool.</p> <p>The Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the methodology of the Index.</p> <p>The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation expressed their willingness to partner in the implementation of the Index.</p> <p>There is ongoing formal contact with pan-African institutions, in particular the African Capacity-Building Foundation.</p>

<p>20. <i>Also calls upon</i> ECA to ensure a mechanism for periodic data collection for the computation of the Index.</p>	<p>The following two products need to be piloted before the implementation of the Index at the country, subregional and regional levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A manual for the Index to facilitate data collection and explore the strengths and weaknesses through rating each indicator, subdimension, dimension and the overall annual performance for a given national statistics system;</li> <li>• Software to transmit the manual into an automated version of the manual.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Civil registration and vital statistics</i></p>	
<p>21. <i>Invites</i> pan-African organizations and partners to reinforce the support for the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, in particular the training of experts.</p>	<p>The African Centre for Statistics of ECA, in collaboration with the regional civil registration and vital statistics core group, organized various regional training workshops on digitization, compiling and producing an annual vital statistics report, and training of trainers on an e-Learning course during the past year.</p> <p>Pan-African organizations are expected to make arrangements to support and strengthen the Africa Programme, as recommended at the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, held in Nouakchott in December 2017.</p>
<p><i>2020 round of the Population and Housing Census</i></p>	
<p>22. <i>Invites</i> all African countries to participate in the 2020 round of the Population and Housing Census (PHC).</p>	<p>Ayenika Godheart Mbiydzonyuy, Demographic and Social Statistics, African Centre for Statistics.</p> <p>In an effort to appeal to African countries to participate in the 2020 round of the Population and Housing Census, ECA organized an Expert Group Meeting, which was held in Nairobi from 19 to 22 July 2016. At that meeting, the African addendum on the third revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census was revised.</p> <p>In addition, ECA and the Statistics Division organized a regional workshop on international standards and contemporary technologies for the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, which was held in Lusaka from 20 to 23 March 2017. The same event was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 29 May to 1 June 2017.</p> <p>The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Department of Statistics of Jordan, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organized a technical meeting on the use of electronic data-collection technologies in population and housing censuses, which was</p>



	<p>held in Amman from 28 November to 1 December 2016.</p> <p>ECA, in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), organized a regional training workshop on human settlement indicators, which was held in Gaborone on 13 December 2017.</p>
<p>23. <i>Also invites</i> countries to use more mobile technologies during the 2020 round of the Population and Housing Census.</p>	<p>Ayenika Godheart Mbiydzennyuy, Demographic and Social Statistics, African Centre for Statistics.</p> <p>ECA and the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the National Statistics Bureau of Cameroon and the National Census Bureau, organized regional training workshops on the use of the Internet and electronic devices, which was held in Yaoundé from 26 to 30 March 2018. This was the fifth regional consultation meeting on the use of electronic devices and the Internet for demographic data collection in sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting was attended by more than 45 participants from Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Senegal, the Sudan and Zimbabwe and the Central Bureau of the Census and Population Studies). Representatives of the UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office, the Regional Institute for Population Studies for Francophone Africa, the Institute for Training and Demographic Research and the Reference Centre for Use of Electronic Devices for Data Collection also attended.</p> <p>The deliberations focused mainly on the main chapters of the draft Statistics Division guidelines on the use of electronic data-collection technologies in Population and Housing Censuses, and sessions were accompanied by country and institutional experiences, followed by discussions.</p>
<p>24. <i>Calls upon</i> the pan-African organizations to assist fragile countries to conduct a Population and Housing Census before 2020.</p>	<p>Ayenika Godheart Mbiydzennyuy, Demographic and Social Statistics, African Centre for Statistics.</p> <p>As a means to support the calls for pan-African organizations to assist fragile countries in conducting a Population and Housing Census before 2020, the pan-Africa organizations created the Africa Census Coordinating Committee. The Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices decided, at its ninth session, held in Libreville on 29 and 30 November 2015, that such a committee should be established at the continental level in 2016 to guide and coordinate the development and implementation of the 2020 round of the Population and Housing Census. The Committee comprises representatives of ECA, UNFPA, AfDB and the census offices of six to eight</p>

	<p>countries representing the continent's subregions. Its terms of reference were drafted by ECA, UNFPA, AfDB and the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development secretariat and circulated to partner organizations for comments.</p> <p>The representatives of ECA, UNFPA and AfDB agreed in principle to incorporate the Africa Programme on Population and Housing Census Decade and the five-year Africa census programme into their plans and to seek the resources necessary to implement it, that the activities of the Programme will be coordinated by ECA and that members of the Committee will comprise ECA, UNFPA, the African Union Commission and AfDB. In order to succeed, the Programme will require the active support of member States in a working partnership with the Statistics Division, UNFPA, the pan-African organizations, the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, regional economic communities and other international organizations.</p>
<b>On the exchange of views of statistical activities: coordination and partnerships</b>	
25. <i>Calls upon</i> all partners to continue their support for statistical development in Africa.	ECA reiterated the call to partners to continue their support for statistical development in Africa through the mobilization of development partners during missions in support of statistical development in member States.
<b>On statutory issues</b>	
<i>On the statistical programmes of ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB</i>	
26. <i>Requests</i> ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB to improve their coordination mechanisms.	<p>Coordination efforts have been made by ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB with regard to the process of revising the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. In addition, efforts have been made to appoint coordinators to deal with the implementation of the Strategy.</p> <p>The revamping of the African Statistical Coordination Committee remains to be done.</p>
27. <i>Also request</i> clear guidance from AfDB on the implementation of its statistical programme, including the administrative processes.	To be updated by AfDB during the meeting.
28. <i>Further requests</i> more support from ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB for statistical training through sponsoring	Through the implementation of the training component of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, ECA has continued to provide the scholarship programme to students studying to become specialists in

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studies and assistance in the organization of entry exams and reinforcing human resources capacity.	agricultural statistics. As a result, in addition to the 40 scholarships provided during the period 2016–2017, an additional 68 scholarships are expected to be offered.
29. <i>Requests</i> ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB to assist countries in strengthening their statistical capacity.	Several missions have been conducted by ECA on statistical capacity-building at the request of member States.