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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Statistical Commission for Africa**  
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Partners Statistical Capacity Building Programmes**

## **Report on progress made on the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is a summary of activities undertaken by the member institutions of the African Group on Gender Statistics from January 2017 to September 2018. It provides an overview of efforts undertaken by Africa statistics stakeholders in the development of gender statistics on the continent under the four strategies of the African Group, namely, regional partnership and coordination; capacity-building and research; reporting, storage and dissemination; and advocacy.

### **II. Implementation of the African programme on gender statistics**

#### **A. Regional partnerships and coordination**

##### **1. Phase two of the African programme on gender statistics**

2. As secretariat of the African Group on Gender Statistics, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has worked on the draft African programme on gender statistics for the period 2017–2021. The phase two initiative includes a five-year plan of action, and a set of strategies has been identified for achieving its objective. These include capacity-building and research; reporting, storage and dissemination; and advocacy and the dissemination of gender statistics at the country and regional levels.

3. The draft programme also specifies the institutional mechanism required for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the five-year plan of action. As recommended by the African Group on Gender Statistics, the draft document takes into account gender data and statistics requirements arising from the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regard to data and methodological requirements, as well as supporting political, legal and institutional frameworks.

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4. The draft programme serves to address the challenges identified in the first phase of the programme (2012–2016) and is intended to address gender data issues resulting from the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. It builds on ongoing methodological work under the Global Gender Statistics Programme to generate substantial knowledge on mainstreaming gender perspectives into national statistics systems. It is guided by the global work done on the standards, concepts and methodologies.

5. Moreover, the development and implementation of the draft programme is in line with ongoing efforts at the continental level to implement the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.

6. Phase two of the Africa programme was sent to the member institutions of the African Group on Gender Statistics for their review and input. It was also reviewed at a regional workshop on gender statistics organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and held in Dakar in November 2017. Lastly, it was reviewed and validated at the meeting of the Africa Group held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 24 September 2018.

## **2. Joint regional workshop on gender statistics**

7. The joint workshop on gender statistics was organized by UN-Women, ECA and AfDB and held in Dakar on 29 and 30 November 2017. The gathering, hosted by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, brought together experts in policy analysis and statistics from throughout Africa to discuss the national and regional priorities and capacities to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other commitments from a gender perspective and opportunities for collaboration and the harmonization of efforts.

8. The objectives of the workshop were to review Africa's policy commitments to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment and to present new regional initiatives to monitor the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want from a gender perspective. In particular, there was an opportunity to review and validate the joint ECA–AfDB Africa gender index and to introduce the UN-Women regional component of the Making Every Woman and Girl Count programme. The results of the workshop informed the second phase of the African programme on gender statistics.

9. The key recommendations made during the workshop were the following:

(a) Establish a minimum set of indicators and a minimum set of questions and modules throughout the continent;

(b) Achieve greater coordination and collaboration to improve the production and use of gender statistics in Africa;

(c) Strengthen the African Group on Gender Statistics to make it a more effective coordination and capacity-building mechanism, including through the creation of a technical working group (e.g., revive the Kampala group on gender statistics);

(d) Increase regular regional workshops and capacity-building activities on gender and statistics and better engage with regional economic communities, in particular owing to the unique contributions that they can make;

(e) Address the lack of resources available to support the production of and access to gender statistics by setting up a fund at the regional level to support all countries in the region, with UN-Women, ECA and AfDB taking leadership in this area;

(f) Set up a regional platform for communicating and sharing gender statistics initiatives, with suggestions including creating a data repository and regional

gender data platform to improve the sharing of information and the sharing of urgently needed technical resources;

(g) Enhancing civil society engagement by bringing them on board (representing both producers and users), in particular given the high level of interest in gender data in the region and the expressed desire of civil society to engage on these issues;

(h) UN-Women, ECA and AfDB should help member States to set up an Africa expert group on gender statistics.

### 3. Regional consultative meeting on gender statistics

10. As a follow-up to the regional workshop held in Dakar in November 2017, UN-Women, ECA and AfDB convened a technical work planning meeting in Dakar on 22 and 23 May 2018 to agree on activities and the modalities of collaboration between agencies in order to better support the implementation of gender statistics programmes and activities on the continent, including the African programme on gender statistics and the Africa component of the Making Every Woman and Girl Count initiative and improve gender statistics at the regional level more generally. The meeting brought together representatives of UN-Women, ECA, AfDB and Data2X to discuss opportunities for joint work planning in order to reduce duplication and increase collaboration and effectiveness and dialogue about how to advance recommendations made at the regional workshop in Dakar in November 2017.

11. Participants identified key areas of work and overlap among all member institutions of the African Group on Gender Statistics, as well as areas of collaboration with other institutions. They also identified the institutions' key planned interventions on gender statistics, in particular for the period 2018-2019. Gaps, opportunities and challenges that institutions were facing in undertaking their gender statistics activities were also discussed, including financial and technical challenges. The participants came up with a set of recommendations and various interventions and activities with a lead institution/agency, as well as with collaborating agencies, with a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.

12. The recommendations for the way forward included the following:

(a) Establishment of a regional gender statistics platform to be led by AfDB, while the regional knowledge-sharing and communication platform will be led by ECA;

(b) UN-Women, ECA and AfDB to help regional member countries to set up an Africa expert group on gender statistics;

(c) Reflect further on the feasibility of creating a regional fund and on the sustainability of current and proposed interventions;

(d) Revive the Kampala city group or set up another city group on gender statistics on the continent;

(e) Begin work relating to the establishment of a minimum set of gender statistics for Africa;

(f) Organize the next meeting of the Africa Group on Gender Statistics, to be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in September 2018.

### 4. Meeting of the Africa working group on gender statistics

13. A meeting of the Africa working group on gender statistics was held in Côte d'Ivoire on 28 September 2018. The meeting was attended by gender focal points from the national statistics offices of more than 25 African countries, members of the working group (i.e., from the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, South Sudan and Uganda) and representatives of training institutions. Representatives of UN-Women, ECA (i.e. the African Centre for Statistics and the African Centre for Gender) and AfDB also attended.

14. The main objectives of the meeting were the following:

(a) Review and validate the report on the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics for the 2018 meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa and decide on a way forward;

(b) Review and validate the first draft of the report on best practices regarding statistics on monitoring violence against women developed by ECA;

(c) Review and validate a new minimum set of gender indicators that takes into account the demands of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and that are in line with the revised global minimum set of gender indicators;

(d) Review and validate phase two of the African programme (2017–2021);

(e) Discuss institutional issues, including the functioning, coordination and rotation mechanism of the African Group on Gender Statistics and the revision of the terms of reference of the African Group to reflect the new demands contained in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and of the new African programme;

(f) Discuss the establishment of an Africa expert group on gender statistics, including the possibility of reviving the Kampala city group, to focus on methodological aspects in relation to gender statistics and to provide a forum in which African stakeholders and partners can discuss issues relating to the development of gender statistics.

**5. Steering committee meetings of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the African Development Bank**

15. The second and third steering committee meetings of UN-Women and AfDB were held, respectively, in Dakar on 20 and 21 April 2017 and in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 8 February 2018. The meetings were aimed at reviewing the implementation of the road map on gender statistics and assess lessons learned, highlighting notable successes, discussing the challenges and putting in place corrective measures to put the road map back on track. The two organizations produced and published two reports, namely, a country gender profile for Cabo Verde and one on the gender and poverty dimensions in the Comoros.

**6. Study visit of senior representatives from up to three national statistics offices in East and Southern Africa to the Philippines Statistics Authority**

16. Through a continuing collaboration with the Philippines Statistics Authority, UN-Women aims to arrange study visits of senior representatives from up to three national statistics offices in East and Southern African to learn more from the Authority's experiences. The main topic of interest is to learn from its established systems and mechanisms and best practices with regard to gender statistics, especially regarding the generation and use of programme and citizen-generated statistics. Key areas for South-South learning include the following:

(a) What best practices exist to advance the policy environment and statistics coordination to advance gender statistics that the national statistics offices in East and Southern Africa can learn from?

(b) How can gender budgeting advance the production/use of gender statistics to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

(c) How can the national statistics offices advance work to build systems to draw on alternative sources of data, including administrative data, programme-level data and citizen-generated data, to fill in gaps in official gender statistics?

## 7. Partnership on citizen-generated data and broader Citizens' Report initiative

17. As part of its work at the regional level, UN-Women works with national statistics offices, civil society and other actors to establish a partnership on citizen-generated data in East and Southern Africa. Working with African Monitor, a non-profit organization in South Africa, efforts in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in 2018-2019 will be part of a broader Citizens' Report initiative, namely, a 10-country programme designed to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa through citizen-generated data.

## B. Capacity-building and research

### 1. Capacity-building

#### Online training toolkit on gender statistics

18. In 2017, ECA launched an online training toolkit on gender statistics. It was developed in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College. The toolkit is a user-friendly and interactive e-training course aimed at improving knowledge of producing and using reliable gender statistics through the promotion of continued capacity-building and learning by producers and users of gender statistics; systematizing and scaling up the delivery of training in gender statistics on the continent; and increasing learning opportunities in the area of gender statistics, especially self-learning.

19. The toolkit consists of four modules covering the following areas:

- (a) Module 1: introduction to gender statistics;
- (b) Module 2: planning for gender statistics;
- (c) Module 3: producing gender statistics (two parts);
- (d) Module 4: communicating and using gender statistics as a tool for change.

20. The training on the toolkit is intended for various users, including both producers and users of official statistics at all levels, as well as trainers and trainees of statistical institutes and training centres. It can be part of a facilitated course (e.g., done as pre-work) or it can be used as self-learning tool. The modules can be taken independently. In order to obtain the certificate, all four modules must be successfully completed.

21. The toolkit is available at the following address: <http://uneca.unssc.org/>.

#### Making Every Woman and Girl Count programme in Africa

22. Making Every Woman and Girl Count, launched in September 2016, is a programme developed and implemented by UN-Women, in partnership with other actors, to support countries in their efforts to inform policies and monitor the achievement of the gender equality-related Sustainable Development Goals and other national policy priorities. The programme is generously funded by the Governments of Australia, Ireland, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

23. The overall objective of Making Every Woman and Girl Count is to affect a radical shift in the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Through this initiative, UN-Women helps countries to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) Creating an enabling environment for a gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of national and international policy commitments;

- (b) Filling gender data gaps by ensuring that quality and comparable gender statistics are produced regularly;
- (c) Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible and used to inform policy and advocacy;
- (d) Learning through monitoring and evaluation about the most cost-effective ways to support capacity-building in gender statistics.

*Country-level technical and financial support*

24. Making Every Woman and Girl Count is being implemented initially between 2016 and 2021 through pilot projects at the country level and regional technical projects, supported by global level policy and technical support, with regular monitoring of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

25. In 2017, 12 “pathfinder” countries were selected through a rigorous, independent and transparent process led by PwC. In Africa, Kenya, Morocco, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were selected for immediate implementation, beginning in January 2018, while implementation will begin in Cameroon, Senegal and Sierra Leone if additional funds become available.

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26. In 2018, national gender statistics assessments have been conducted in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

27. In Kenya, the following interventions were identified:

- (a) Disseminating the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics booklet on women and men in Kenya at the national and county levels;
- (b) Developing gender data sheets with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Council of Governors;
- (c) Organizing and facilitating a South–South learning event with Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, in particular to learn from experiences in Uganda;
- (d) Developing a concept note with the United Nations Children’s Fund and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics on a gendered analysis of the integrated household budget survey and the demographic and health survey data.

28. In Uganda, the following interventions were identified:

- (a) Training on and analysis of the 2017 time use and governance surveys;
- (b) Supporting the Uganda Bureau of Statistics to produce a status report on women and girls, a sector analysis report/profile and a policy brief aligned to national priority gender equality indicators;
- (c) Supporting the Bureau in producing thematic maps on key indicators of the national priority gender equality indicators at the subnational level using disaggregated data;
- (d) Training on gender statistics for data producers and users in partnership with Statistics Sweden, ECA and the UN-Women’s Training Centre.

29. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the following interventions were identified:

- (a) Updating the country gender profile of 2016;
- (b) Supporting the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender and Children to localize gender-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the production of gender statistics in the country’s national gender policy of 2000;

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<sup>1</sup> The other countries selected to implement the programme are Albania, Bangladesh, Colombia, Jordan and Nepal.

(c) Conducting national consultations to report on national plans for the regular monitoring of gender-related Goal indicators;

(d) Developing a national social institutions and gender index (SIGI-Tanzania) in 2018-2019 in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

### **Regional Making Every Woman and Girl Count programme**

30. In 2017, a regional assessment was conducted and a project document was finalized for the Making Every Woman and Girl Count Africa regional programme. The results were presented and validated during the first joint UN-Women–ECA–AfDB workshop on gender statistics, held in Dakar in November 2017 (see above). The regional programme, implemented in 2018, provides technical assistance to the three implementing countries (Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) and technical and financial assistance to other non-participating countries, including Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Rwanda.

31. As part of the programme, UN-Women is conducting an assessment of the quality of administrative data sources and the value of project and programme data that exist in the region to support the production of gender statistics. The aim of this work is to assess the quality of such data and establish minimum requirements for project and programme data collection, drawing on existing best practices at the global level. From 2019 onwards, activities will focus on training and capacity-building, with an emphasis on time use and violence against women, improving administrative data sources, organizing user-producer dialogues and exploring the use of alternative data sources, including citizen-generated data and programme data to complement existing sources.

### **Joint programme on data on violence against women**

32. UN-Women and the World Health Organization have developed a global joint programme on data on violence against women to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are available and collected over time to help to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. As one of the activities of the programme, long-term training for implementing violence against women prevalence surveys in alignment with agreed global standards is developed in at least one institution per region. Africa was identified as one of the regions to pilot the programme, beginning in 2018.

### **Increasing the use of non-official data sources for gender statistics**

33. Improving the production, availability and accessibility of quality gender statistics is indispensable for monitoring and generating evidence that can inform policy action and investment. Notwithstanding the existence of official sources, including censuses, regular surveys and administrative data sources, critical gender data gaps persist in many areas regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the commitment to leaving no one behind in the 2030 Agenda means that data needs to monitor specific vulnerable subgroups are growing. There is therefore an increased recognition that, if harnessed, non-official data sources, including big data, citizen-generated data and program level data, can play an important role in filling gender data gaps.

### **Regional training workshop on gender statistics**

34. ECA, in partnership with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, organized a regional training workshop, held in Kampala from 26 to 28 September 2017, to improve the use of existing data for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The overall objective of the regional training workshop was to strengthen the capacity of African countries to integrate a gender perspective into national statistics systems in order to improve the availability and use of gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels.

35. The other objectives of the training workshop were to address data availability and methodological issues relating to selected Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The workshop was aimed at improving the use of existing data for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment and at assisting member countries in improving their technical capabilities in producing, disseminating, communicating and using statistics required to monitor gender indicators.

36. The participants at the workshop came from 14 ECA member States: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Other representatives were from UN-Women and ECA. They represented multidisciplinary specialist areas, including statistics, economics, sociology, geography, criminology, demography, policy analysis, academia, the environment and gender.

37. Key recommendations that emerged from the regional workshop were the following:

(a) There is a need for further capacity-building and training regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, especially on issues relating to gender statistics at the regional level, so as to enable countries to share experiences;

(b) There is a need to promote capacity-building in gender mainstreaming at all levels of national statistics systems, including data collection, compilation, analysis, storage, presentation and dissemination;

(c) ECA should provide additional training on the online gender training toolkit at the country level, given that it is an effective and important instrument for mainstreaming gender issues into statistics and development agendas, especially the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(d) Countries need to replicate similar training workshops;

(e) ECA and its partners should support member States in the establishment of a pool of local, multisectoral teams of experts in gender statistics for improved policy and programme information.

38. The participants recognized the importance of the content of the training workshop that was organized and agreed to replicate similar ones in their countries.

#### **National training workshop with producers and users of gender statistics**

39. A national training workshop was organized by ECA in Kampala from 2 to 4 October 2017. The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices to disseminate their data, in particular for selected indicators in the following Sustainable Development Goals to various user groups and to improve the gender statistics literacy of data users. These are:

- GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and
- GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

40. The workshop was also meant to expose participants to the fundamentals of producer-user dialogue in the production of gender statistics and provide them with the basis for mainstreaming gender concerns into various aspects of their work.



41. The workshop was attended by 40 participants from Uganda, who were categorized into three broad groups: (a) producers; (b) users of statistics; and (c) research and gender activists. The participants included statisticians, economists, sociologists, geographers, criminologists, demographers, policy analysts, lecturers, environmentalists and gender experts from various institutions in Uganda. They were from government departments, civil society organizations and academia that were engaged in some aspects of data development and management on gender issues.

42. A similar workshop was undertaken in Ouagadougou from 11 to 13 September 2018. It will also be held in Egypt and Zimbabwe in October 2018.

#### **Joint workshop on measuring women's representation in local government**

43. A workshop on measuring women's representation in local government in Africa was organized by UN-Women and ECA and held in Kampala on 29 September 2017. It was hosted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The workshop provided the opportunity to consult with countries in the region on the methodology of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.5.1 ("Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments"). It had three key objectives:

(a) Discuss UN-Women-led research on local government and local government organization in the region and their implications for a standardized, global measurement of women's representation in local government;

(b) Provide input on the methodology work of measuring indicator 5.5.1, including definitions and terms relating to local government, the calculation of the indicator and data sources, and discuss the relevance of the indicator in Africa;

(c) Reflect on the mechanism for regional and global monitoring of indicator 5.5.1, including the role of key national actors in data collection and reporting, the use of standardized data request forms for regional and global reporting and the method for calculating regional and global averages of the indicator.

44. The workshop engaged national stakeholders who have a role in producing and/or using data on women's representation in local government in eight countries, namely, Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Those stakeholders included five national statistics offices, four electoral management bodies, three line ministries of local government and five women's machineries. The total number of participants from the above-mentioned institutions was 18.

45. Representatives of the following global, regional and national agencies participated as resource persons: UN-Women (including the Political Participation Unit at headquarters and the Uganda country office), the ECA Statistics Division and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

## **2. Thematic and methodological research on gender issues**

### **African Gender and Development Index**

46. The African Gender and Development Index was developed by ECA in response to the Beijing + 10 review in 2004, when a large number of African countries reporting on the status of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action had indicated a lack of adequate data to reflect achievements in gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Index is aimed at supporting member States in measuring the gap in the status of African men and women and in assessing the progress made by African Governments in implementing policies aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Index consists of two complementary parts: the Gender Status Index and the African Women's Progress Scoreboard. The former covers the aspects of gender relations that can be measured quantitatively, while the latter captures qualitative issues in relation to the performance of gender policies of African Governments on implementing regional and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

47. During the reporting period, ECA continued with the implementation of phases 3 and 4 of the African Gender and Development Index. Phase three consists of assessing Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, the Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The fourth and final phase of the implementation of the Index includes the following countries: Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mauritius, and Sao Tome and Principe. This will bring the number of countries covered by the Index to 40.<sup>2</sup> Twelve Index national reports have been drafted and three are in the process of being drafted.

48. The phase 3 (Phase 3) and phase 4 (AGDI 4) of the regional African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) was drafted in September 2017 on the basis of national reports and reviewed at an experts' meeting in October 2017. The report is structured into eight chapters, including an introductory chapter. Chapter 2, on the commitment to women's rights, and chapter 3, on the commitment to combating gender-based violence, consolidate the findings of the women's rights block of the African Women's Progress Scoreboard. Chapter 4, on the commitment to education for all, and chapter 5, on the commitment to quality health care, present the findings of the social power block of both the Gender Status Index and the Scoreboard. The results of the Index and Scoreboard for the economic power block and political power block are discussed in chapter 6, on access to economic opportunities and resources, and chapter 7, on women's agency and decision-making, respectively. Chapter 8, which contains the conclusion and policy recommendations, also presents the findings resulting from phases 3 and 4 of the Index implementation and options to reinforce strategies that African countries should put in place in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment on the continent. The regional Index report was expected to be finalized by the end of August 2018.

## **C. Reporting, storage and dissemination**

### **1. Gender data portal**

49. AfDB is developing a gender data portal that will consolidate data on key gender indicators from diverse sources such as national surveys from each African country, report data on gender indicators collected from its operations and provide an interactive forum to share challenges, achievements and lessons learned from gender operations. The portal is scheduled to be launched in 2018.

### **2. Knowledge-sharing and information-sharing platform**

50. ECA is working on the development of a regional knowledge-sharing and information-sharing platform in Africa. The platform is aimed at promoting and improving the exchange and sharing of information on gender statistics issues among partners and member countries. It will provide a platform for sharing research and other materials emanating from the various institutions at the national and regional levels with regard to their activities.

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<sup>2</sup> The African Gender and Development Index was implemented in the following 26 countries as part of phases 1 and 2: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

## **D. Advocacy and communication for the development and implementation of the African programme on gender statistics in member States**

### **1. Regional conference on gender statistics to foster dialogue between traditional and non-traditional data producers and users**

51. UN-Women and the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa organized a regional conference on gender statistics to foster dialogue between traditional and non-traditional data producers and users. The conference provided an opportunity to take stock of progress made and of emerging innovations that are aimed at providing solutions to existing data gaps. In addition, a key objective of the conference was to advance data use and data-driven advocacy by development stakeholders, within the framework of tracking progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

### **2. Side event held at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

52. A side event organized by UN-Women and the Governments of Ethiopia and Uganda was held at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It was titled “Harnessing citizen-generated data for effective monitoring and reporting of SDG Goal 5 and other gender-related SDGs indicators: challenges and opportunities”. The side event raised awareness and demonstrated the value of working with non-State actors, including non-governmental organizations, to produce, analyse and use gender statistics to inform policies, programmes and budgets and to track progress on gender equality.

### **3. African Union Commission African Gender Scorecard**

53. ECA and AfDB provided technical assistance to the African Union Commission in the production of the 2017 African Gender Scorecard. They provided support to identify the list of indicators included in the Scorecard and contributed to the review of data sets, identified the data gaps and offered solutions on how to proceed to obtain the final list of indicators of the Scorecard and made recommendations to the team on the way forward. They also contributed to the preparation of the report.

54. The findings of the 2017 African Gender Scorecard informed the awards given at the July Summit of African Heads of State and Government whose countries had performed well in that regard.

## **III. Conclusion**

55. Since its inception in 2012, the African Group on Gender Statistics has constituted the main framework for the collaboration and harmonization of efforts among various stakeholders working on gender statistics at the global, regional and national levels. Various consultations between members, under the leadership of UN-Women, ECA and AfDB, have enabled them to increase their support for the improvement of gender statistics on the continent. African member States have been provided with valuable support in the form of technical assistance, including methodological work, training materials, training, funding, advocacy and logistics.

56. These initiatives have contributed to enhancing the capacity of experts in member States in various areas of gender statistics. Notwithstanding these advances, significant challenges remain, both at the regional and the national levels, in the production, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics. An assessment of gender statistics in Africa conducted by UN-Women in 2017 showed that challenges remained. They included the lack of an enabling environment, including poor legal frameworks, a lack of harmonization and poor technical capacities. In addition, data

accessibility, including poor open data policies and programmes, were widespread and constituted a clear impediment for gender statistics.

57. The UN-Women assessment also revealed other challenges: a lack of appreciation of gender statistics; the lack of clear and harmonized concepts, definitions and methodologies; poor technical capacity and the lack of specialized staff; a weak policy environment; inadequate funding; the lack of gender-specific surveys and the poor integration of gender statistics into ongoing statistics work; poor administrative records; and ineffective and outdated dissemination approaches.

#### **IV. Points for discussion**

58. The following are some areas to be discussed for further action:

(a) Endorsement of the revised terms of reference of the African Group on Gender Statistics in order to align it to the new data demands of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and to improve its functioning, including the coordination of activities;

(b) Endorsement of phase two of the African programme on gender statistics that was reviewed and adopted by African Group on Gender Statistics members at the Abidjan meeting;

(c) Agreement on a minimum set of gender indicators and recommendations on the development of a minimum set of questions and modules for the entire continent;

(d) Agreement on the establishment of a regional database and a regional platform for knowledge-sharing and communication on gender statistics;

(e) Reflection on setting up a fund for gender statistics at the regional level to support all countries;

(f) Agreement on the establishment of an Africa experts group on gender statistics under the African Group on Gender Statistics.

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