

Eighth Meeting of the Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDev-VIII)

Date: 2 October 2018

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

Theme: " Innovative financial solutions to improve data quality and credibility to support Africa development agenda".

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Concept note

A. Background

1. The Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev) is an initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank. Representatives of 12 international organizations, 4 donor institutions and 17 regional and subregional agencies attended the first FASDev meeting in Addis Ababa in May 2004, and endorsed the establishment of the Forum, with the following main functions: (a) to have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance and training in Africa; (b) to set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; and (c) to strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging each partner's comparative advantage.
2. The ultimate objective of the Forum is to render more efficient and effective the support made available to countries in the framework of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. To this end, meetings of the Forum bring together representatives from African national statistical offices, statistical training centres, international, regional and subregional institutions, bilateral agencies, international programmes and initiatives, foundations and other institutions.

3. In addition to the Agenda 2063 for Regional Integration, the African Development Bank's Ten-Year Strategy 2013-2022 and the global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development count on African countries socioeconomic development priorities and therefore place a strong need for harmonized and high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data in all the statistical domains. The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) is elaborated to the view of ensuring harmonized and standardized definitions and concepts, adapting international norms to African realities and specificities and using common methodologies for the production, management and dissemination of statistics by all African countries. Further, the African Charter on Statistics aims at serving as policy framework for statistics development in Africa, especially the production, management and dissemination of statistical data and information at national, regional and continental levels. The Charter also includes provisions for advocacy for statistical development, promotion of the fundamental principles of production, storage, management, dissemination and use of statistical information in the African continent, data quality and coordination of statistical activities and statistics institutions in Africa, including coordination of partners' interventions at national, regional and continental levels.
4. It is in this context that ECA, jointly with AfDB, the PARIS21 Consortium, and the World Bank, will organize the eighth meeting of FASDev (FASDev-VIII). The meeting will take place on 2 October 2018 as a pre-event to the sixth session of the ECA Statistical Commission for Africa. The theme of FASDev-VIII is: *"Innovative financial solutions to improve data quality and credibility to support Africa development agenda"*.

B. Objectives

5. The main objectives of FASDev-VIII include:
 - To review the status of pan-African and partners' support for statistics in Africa;
 - To share information and discuss the challenges of financing statistical development for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

- To explore ways of improving the coordination and efficiency of support for countries;
- To explore new financing sources for statistical capacity-building in Africa, in line with the commitment of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

C. Expected outcomes

6. The expected outcomes of the meeting include:
 - Increased technical and financial assistance and training possibilities for statistics in Africa;
 - A broader spectrum of financial resources made available for statistical investment and funding agencies for statistical activities in Africa;
 - More coordinated interventions in support of African countries' efforts with regard to statistical development.

D. Venue and date

7. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the United Nations Conference Centre, in **the afternoon of 2 October 2018**. It will be held prior to the sixth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, planned from 3 to 4 October 2018.

E. Format

8. The Forum will include presentations and panel discussions.
9. The proceedings will take the form of the following two substantive sessions:
 - On Session II: Levels and trends of support to statistical development in Africa: key partners will present the status of the support given to Member States with regard to statistical capacity-building. The first panel composed of five panellists will discuss how partners provided statistical support to member States. The second panel of two Member States will assess the technical support received from

partners to the view of highlighting successes, challenges and needs as well.

- In the Session III: A panel of four partners will present their respective statistical programmes to the view of ensuring that their support is more effective, efficient and synergized.

F. Target audience

10. The target audience is all the organizations working in the area of statistics in Africa.

G. Secretariat and other services

11. As the secretariat of the forum, ECA will provide support for the meeting.

H. Contact information

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