



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**Annual meeting for the monitoring of the Training Component of the
Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics /
Meeting of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human
Resources (AGROST)**

Concept Note

28 - 30 November 2016, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

I. Purpose and Justification

The projects and programmes aiming at improving statistical capacity in Africa face a wide variety of challenges, which include the human resources availability, the availability of adequate courses and curricula in place and the low capacity of training centres.

The African Group on Training and Human Resources Development/AGROST was established in 2009 under the aegis of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) to coordinate various initiatives on statistical training in Africa. It is a group formed in response to the multiplication of groups and initiatives on statistical training in Africa that was leading to an inefficient use of scarce resources and duplication of efforts. The primary objective of AGROST is to ensure the coordination of activities and initiatives in support of statistical training and human resources development in Africa. AGROST do this through centralizing information on initiatives and programmes in support of statistical training and ensure their monitoring and ensuring a permanent forum for the exchange of information and best practices on statistical training and human resources development in African NSSs. In doing so, AGROST also promotes the development and dissemination of statistical training curricula and courses to support the training portfolios of all statistical training centers in Africa. According to its statutes, AGROST is supposed to meet every year for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the activities, deciding on the strategic orientation of the activities of the group, and preparing the reports to the Statistical Commission for Africa.

On a similar note, in response to the many challenges of meeting user needs for agricultural statistics in developing countries, a Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics was produced and endorsed in February 2010 by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). The purpose of the Global Strategy is to provide a framework and methodology that will help improve the availability and quality of national and international food and agricultural statistics, to guide policy analysis and decision-making in the 21st century. Based on this the Action Plan for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development in Africa was prepared jointly by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the African Union Commission (AUC). The action plan has three components; namely technical assistance, research and training. The training component of the action plan is to be spearheaded by the UNECA African Center for Statistics/ ACS in collaboration with the African Group for Statistical Training AGROST.

The training component of the global strategy conducts a monitoring and evaluation meeting every year.

Given the synergy between the activities of the training component of the global strategy for improving agricultural and rural statistics and those of AGROST, and in order to avoid duplication of activities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as secretariat of both programmes, is organizing a joint meeting that will serve as first monitoring and evaluation meeting for the training component of the global strategy and as annual meeting of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources. The meeting will take place from 28 to 30 November 2016 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

II. Objectives of the meeting

The main objectives of the meeting are:

- To review the activities implemented so far in the framework of the training component of the Global Strategy.
- To report on the activities of AGROST since the previous meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa.
- To agree on a draft report of AGROST and to prepare AGROST participation to the meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

III. Methodology

The meeting will be conducted in three days divided into sessions. The final agenda will be communicated in due time.

V. Partnership Arrangements

The meeting is funded by the Training Component of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural statistics with technical input from the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources. All institutions that are member of AGROST and those that are technical and financial partners (National Statistical Offices, Statistical Training Centres, Regional Economic Communities, African Capacity Building Foundation, AFRISTAT, African Development Bank, World Bank, African Union Commission, French Cooperation, European Commission/EUROSTAT, PARIS21, UK Department for International Development, Islamic Development Bank, InWent, Statistics Norway.) will be invited to provide technical input.

VI. Outcomes and Impact

The main expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- Recommendations on the implementation of the training component of the global strategy and its objectives by all partners.
- Recommendation on the activities of AGROST.
- A draft report of AGROST from the joint CoDG/StatCom meeting.