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Seventh Meeting of the Forum on African Statistical  
Development (FASDev VII)

Abidjan, 28 November 2016

## 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. With the adoption of Agenda 2063 at the continental level and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, the compilation of high-quality, timely, reliable disaggregated data is imperative in the African continent at all levels of the development process to inform decisions, enable all stakeholders to track progress and make the necessary adjustments to ensure transparency and mutual accountability.

4. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13–16 July 2015) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, recognized the need for high-quality disaggregated data as an essential input for smart and transparent decision-making, including in support of the post-2015 agenda and its means of implementation, and can improve policymaking at all levels. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda committed enhanced capacity-building support for this purpose to developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and international cooperation, including technical and financial support, to further strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities.

5. It is in this context that ECA, jointly with AfDB, the PARIS21 Consortium, the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC), will organize the seventh meeting of FASDev (FASDev-VII). The meeting will take place on 28 November 2016 as a pre-event to the tenth session of the

African Union's Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the fifth session of the ECA Statistical Commission for Africa. The theme of FASDev-VII is "Support to national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063".

## **B. Objectives**

6. The main objectives of FASDev-VII 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**

7. 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**

8. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 28 November 2016. It will be held prior to the tenth session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the fifth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, to be held from 28 November to 2 December 2016.

## **E. Format**

9. The Forum will include presentations and panel discussions.
10. The proceedings will take the form of the following three main sessions:
  - Discussion on the contribution of pan-African institutions to statistical capacity-building in African countries: This session will include presentations of the statistical programmes of pan-African institutions (AUC, AfDB and ECA) focusing on statistical capacity-building support to African countries to help them implement Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Contributions of not more than three minutes from the floor will be invited on some programmes.

- First panel discussion: How to support the efforts of pan-African institutions with regard to statistical capacity-building in African countries. Five panellists will discuss how partners can support the delivery of capacity-building programmes by pan-African institutions to increase synergies and effectiveness in national statistical systems.
- Second panel discussion: The role of development partners in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: Five panellists will discuss how development partners will deliver their support to national statistical systems in practice, in pursuance of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commitment to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries and to provide international cooperation, including through technical and financial support.

## **F. Target audience**

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

## **G. Secretariat and other services**

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

## **H. Contact information**

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