



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Report on the first Joint Session of the African Union Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Economic Commission for Africa Statistical Commission for Africa

Tunis, 8-12 December 2014



United Nations

African Union



**Economic and
Social Council**



African Union

E/ECA/STATCOM/4/18

Distr.: General

29 April 2015

Original: English

**First Joint Session of the Committee of Directors
General of National Statistics Offices and the
Statistical Commission for Africa**
Tunis, 8-12 December 2014

Report on the first Joint Session of the African Union
Committee of Directors General of National Statistics
Offices and the Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGNA	African Group on National Accounts
AFREF	African Geodetic Reference Frame
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASSD	Africa Symposium on Statistical Development
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRESS	Country report on support to statistics
CRVS	Civil registration and vital statistics
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FASDev	Forum on African Statistical Development
GDP	Gross domestic product
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
ICP	International Comparison Program
MDMS	Mobile Data Management System
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National statistics office
NSS	National statistics system
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PRESS	Partners' report on support to statistics
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
REC	Regional economic community
RRSF	Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa
RSSD	Regional Strategy for Statistical Development
SNA	System of National Accounts
STG	Specialized technical group
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN-GGIM	United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management
UN-GGIM Africa	United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WFP	World Food Programme

I. Introduction

1. The first Joint Session of the African Union Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Economic Commission for Africa Statistical Commission for Africa was held in Tunis from 10 to 12 December 2014. The theme of the meeting was “Strengthening the production of agricultural statistics in Africa for better monitoring and evaluation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme”. The theme was chosen to highlight the role of statistics in the ongoing efforts being made to bring about economic, monetary and social integration in Africa. The meeting also reviewed the progress made in ongoing efforts to build the capacity of African countries to produce and use quality statistics in support of their development efforts. In addition, it reviewed the status of implementation of resolutions adopted during previous meetings.
2. The session proper, held from 10 to 12 December 2014, included the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (see the conclusions in annex II).
3. On 8 and 9 December 2014, the following pre-session events were held:
 - (a) Sixth Forum on African Statistical Development (see the communiqué in annex III);
 - (b) Media Workshop on the effective use of statistics in reporting development issues, organized by ECA (see the conclusions in annex IV);
 - (c) Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee for the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, organized by ECA (see the conclusions in annex V);
 - (d) African Geodetic Reference Frame (see the conclusions in annex VI);
 - (e) Use of Mobile Devices for Data Collection, organized by ECA (see the conclusions in annex VII);
 - (f) Review of the current draft of the African Methodology on Trade in Services Statistics and discussion on organizing an expert group on the drafting process, organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) and by the Statistics Division;
 - (g) Regional Integration Index, organized by AUC and ECA;
 - (h) Labour Market Information System and Migration Statistics, organized by AUC;
 - (i) Training on the new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) guidelines and survey planning tool for East African countries, organized by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21);
 - (j) Capacity-building Needs for Renewable Energy Statistics in Africa, organized by ECA and the International Renewable Energy Agency;
 - (k) Support for Statistics Development in Africa, organized by Sweden;
 - (l) Information Session, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
 - (m) Africa Information Highway, organized by the African Development Bank; and
 - (n) Subregional Statistical Activities, organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

II. Attendance

4. The meeting was attended by 225 participants, who included representatives of member States, regional economic communities, statistical training centres, pan-African institutions, agencies of the United Nations system, and international organizations and partners, as well as a number of resource persons.

5. Delegates attended from the following member States of ECA: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. Delegates attended from the following member States of the African Union: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

7. The meeting was also attended by a number of observers from non-African States and from international, regional, subregional and national organizations and institutions, as listed in the following paragraphs.

8. Regional and subregional organizations: African Union Commission, African Capacity-Building Foundation, African Development Bank, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, New Partnership for Africa's Development, Southern African Development Community, West African Economic and Monetary Union.

9. Training institutions: College of Business and Management Sciences at Makerere University (Kampala), Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (Dar es Salaam), Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d'Analyse Economique (Dakar), Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (Abidjan), Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (Yaoundé).

10. Non-African States: Canada, Italy, Sweden.

11. Non-African institutions: Development Initiatives (United Kingdom), Environmental Systems Research Institute (Portugal), Environmental Systems Research Institute (United States), Pacific Koku Sokuryo Company/PASCO Corporation (Japan).

12. International organizations and institutes: Association for the Development of Education in Africa, Canadian International Development Agency, Eurostat, International Renewable Energy Agency, League of Arab States, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Statistics Division (of the United Nations).

13. Agencies of the United Nations system: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, United Nations Population Fund, UN-Women, World Food Programme.

14. Other regional and international statistics consultants, and other prominent personalities.

III. Objectives of the meeting

15. As a statutory meeting, the main objective was to provide an opportunity for the African statistics community to exchange views on statistical issues pertaining to data collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination, as well as on statistical organization, coordination, systems and methodologies.

16. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- (a) Take stock of the progress made towards the development and improvement of statistics in Africa, through the reports of the specialized technical groups;
- (b) Facilitate exchanges of experiences on best practices and challenges;
- (c) Strengthen coordination and partnership between member States and subregional, regional and international organizations and institutions.

IV. Proceedings

A. Opening

17. After brief welcoming remarks by Saidi Hedi, Director General, National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia, the meeting was formally opened by Nouredine Ben Zekri, Secretary of State in charge of Development and International Cooperation, on behalf of Hakim Ben Hammouda, Minister of Economy and Finance. Mr. Nouredine appealed to national statistics offices to provide users with quality statistical information in support of Africa's development agenda.

18. Opening remarks were then made by Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, representing the African Centre for Statistics and ECA, Oliver Chinganya, of the African Development Bank, Pali Lehohla, South African Statistician General and Chair of the African Symposium on Statistical Development, and Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission.

19. In his statement, Mr. Ezigbalike stressed the importance of the joint meeting and described activities being carried out by ECA to contribute to improved statistical production on the continent. He highlighted the importance of agricultural statistics for the development of the continent.

20. Mr. Chinganya outlined the support being given to African countries by the African Development Bank and the programmes that the Bank was planning for the coming years.

21. Mr. Lehohla focused on the role played by the Symposium in facilitating exchanges of experiences, particularly in population and housing censuses and civil registration and vital statistics over the last decade.

22. Mr. Maruping thanked the Tunisian authorities for hosting the meeting and spoke of the long history of Tunisia. He stressed the fact that Africa was rising and that efforts needed to be made in order to benefit from the strong economic growth. He highlighted the importance of the theme of the meeting. He also briefed the meeting about the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda and about the African Union's Agenda 2063. Finally, he informed the meeting about the establishment of the African Union Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre.

B. Procedural issues

(i) Adoption of the terms of reference and the rules of procedure of the Joint Session

23. The proposed terms of reference and the rules of procedure for the Joint Session were submitted to the participants for discussion and adoption. The Joint Session proposed merging the two documents into one. It established a working group to review the rules of procedure, which were to be presented at the next Joint Session.

Documentation

- Draft terms of reference for the first Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/13)
- Draft rules of procedure for the first Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/14)

(ii) Election of the Bureau

24. Participants approved the proposed bureau of the Joint Session, which is as follows:

- (a) Chair: Tunisia
- (b) First Vice-Chair: Nigeria
- (c) Second Vice-Chair: Mozambique
- (d) First Rapporteur: Gabon
- (e) Second Rapporteur: South Sudan

(iii) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Documentation

- Draft agenda (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/1)
- Draft programme of work (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/Inf.1)
- Draft annotated agenda (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/1/Add.1)

25. The draft agenda and draft programme of work of the first Joint Session were submitted for discussions and adopted.

26. The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

- (1) Registration
- (2) Opening ceremony
- (3) Procedural issues
- (4) Support for agriculture and food security in Africa
- (5) Reports of the specialized technical groups
- (6) Ongoing and new or emerging issues
- (7) Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices, the Statistical Commission for Africa, and the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, on population and housing censuses
- (8) Coordination of statistical activities
- (9) Partnerships and side events
- (10) Statutory issues
- (11) Main conclusions and recommendations

C. Support for agriculture and food security in Africa

Documentation

- Report on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
- Report on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

(i) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

27. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is an African framework within which African Union member States plan and implement agriculture-led investment plans and programmes to enhance food and nutrition security, eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and accelerate economic growth.

28. The presentation described Africa's paradox and its outlook, and spoke of the years of agriculture milestones as well as the 2025 vision and goals for African agricultural growth and transformation. It then outlined the results framework and the CAADP implementation strategy and road map.

(ii) Report on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

29. The report covered the status of implementation of the African action plan. Also outlined were the achievements under the governance mechanism, the resource mobilization efforts, and the technical assistance activities and activities on capacity-building, particularly on training and challenges faced.

D. Reports of the specialized technical groups

Documentation

- Forthcoming EU support to African capacity-building for statistical production
- Specialized technical group on governance, peace and security
- Specialized technical group on the external sector (external trade and balance of payments)
- Specialized technical group on national accounts and price statistics (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/4)
- Specialized technical group on public finance, the private sector and investments
- Specialized technical group on science, technology and education (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/10)
- Specialized technical group on demography, migration, health, human development, social protection and gender (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/3)
- Specialized technical group on agriculture, environment and natural resources
- Specialized technical group on statistical training (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/5)
- Specialized technical group on the labour market and the informal sector (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/6)
- Specialized technical group on civil registration and vital statistics (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/7)
- Specialized technical group on statistical data management (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/8)
- Report on the International Comparison Program

(i) Forthcoming EU support to African capacity-building for statistical production

30. The report first laid out the context and conveyed the European Union's interest in supporting the African Union's work on statistics. It then outlined how the European Union is responding on this matter, its statistical experience, specific areas of its support, and the timing of the support and next steps.

(ii) Specialized technical groups

31. Eleven specialized technical groups reported on their respective areas of work. The remaining groups were asked to report at the next Joint Session.

(iii) International Comparison Program

32. The report, with the title "Comparing the real size of African economies", outlined the rationale behind producing comparative figures for gross domestic product (GDP) and thereby also the reason for the International Comparison Program. A comprehensive comparison of real GDP across

African countries was then presented, followed by the main lessons learned, key recommendations, and comments on the way forward.

E. Ongoing and new or emerging issues

Documentation

- Progress report on the African Charter on Statistics
- Business plan of the African Union Institute for Statistics in Tunis
- Business plan of the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in Yamoussoukro

(i) Progress report on the African Charter on Statistics

33. The report provided an update on the adoption of the African Charter on Statistics and highlighted the signing and ratification status of the Charter. The Charter had entered into force in May 2014. Since that day, 16 member States had ratified the Charter and 32 member States had signed it. Twenty-two countries had not taken any action to sign or ratify the Charter. The report also highlighted the signature and ratification processes in member States and gave information about the implications of the entry into force of the Charter at the national, regional and continental levels. Furthermore, the report underscored the work of the AUC on implementing the Charter. This included strengthening its institutional capacity by establishing the African Union Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre to coordinate, regulate and build the capacity of the African statistical system. It also included the institutionalization of a data quality assessment framework, across Africa, including a “snapshot of national statistical systems”, as a tool to establish a baseline for statistical development in a country in order to assess the compliance of member States with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics (self-assessment, peer review mechanism, periodic reporting mechanism etc.) and to conduct activities such as training sessions on leadership and on marketing statistics products.

(ii) Road map for the African Union Institute for Statistics

34. The road map for the institute comprised three phases:

Phase 1: Preparations, from December 2014 to March 2015. Produce the technical document, submit the technical document to the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and to the Assembly of the African Union to adopt the technical document of the institute and launch the institute, sign the hosting agreement with Tunisia, set up infrastructure, prepare a progress report for the Conference of Ministers, hold a donors’ round table to mobilize resources.

Phase 2: Take-off, from April to December 2015. Transfer all AUC statisticians to Tunisia, recruit local and professional staff, ensure the support of the European Union to the Pan-African Programme, implement the 2015 African Union Statistics Programme, review the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa and prepare the strategic plan for 2016–2020.

Phase 3: Full implementation, from January 2016 to December 2020. Implement the strategic plan of the institute, develop the annual work programme, recruit staff step by step, and monitoring and evaluation of 2016-2020 Strategic Plan and Annual Work Pro-

gramme.

35. At the end of the presentation of the report, the scope of the institute and the institutional arrangements were highlighted, as were the factors influencing its positioning within AUC and the guiding principles for that positioning.

(iii) Road map for the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre

36. The road map for the training centre comprised three phases:

Phase 1: Preparation for the training centre, from November 2014 to December 2015. Produce and submit technical documents on the training centre, discuss the setting-up of the centre with the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, submit the technical document for the centre to the Assembly of the African Union for adoption, launch the centre, sign the hosting agreement, set up infrastructure, hold a donors' round table to mobilize resources, set up an advocacy strategy for resource mobilization, prepare a progress report for the Conference of Ministers.

Phase 2: Take-off, from April to December 2015. Recruit local and professional staff, develop the training programme and admission requirements, develop a strategic plan for 2015–2020, inform the international community of the opening of the centre.

Phase 3: Open the centre for training, from June 2015 to June 2019. Admit trainees, commence training, review the training programme, evaluate the strategic plan.

37. At the end of the presentation of the report, the scope of the institute and the institutional arrangements were highlighted, as were the factors influencing its positioning within AUC and the guiding principles for that positioning.

F. Joint meeting of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices, the Statistical Commission for Africa and the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, on population and housing censuses

Documentation

- Keynote address on population and housing censuses
- Assessment report on the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/9)
- Report on geoinformation and statistics integration

(i) Population and housing censuses: between the rounds (keynote address)

38. In his introduction, the keynote speaker made some observations on the specificity of the population and housing census as a statistical activity, on the role that it has played in the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, and on the collaboration between statistics and geography in the family of censuses.

39. He then presented the main findings of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, which showed a count of 6,387,147,943 people on the planet (93 per cent of the world population) in 216 countries or territories. He mentioned that 21 countries and territories had not conducted their censuses.

40. Major successes had been achieved via the use of new methodologies (administrative registers, rolling surveys, mixed sources, use of multi-mode data collection) and advanced technologies (GIS mapping, GPS, satellite imagery, use of scanning technology or personal digital assistants for data capture). Also, there had been improved political support, via increased domestic financing, improved dissemination of census findings and better South–South cooperation.

41. However, countries still face challenges, such as the postponement of censuses for political and funding reasons, human resources capacity constraints, the lack of a data quality assurance framework, dissemination of census findings that is still largely paper-based, and static web pages.

42. The speaker revisited, for the audience, best practices and requirements for the 2020 population and housing censuses. He explained how geospatial technology could add more value to census activities. He concluded his address by looking at the preparations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses – specifically, the organization of expert group meetings to revise the principles and recommendations, and the production of a handbook on census management.

(ii) Assessment report on the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

43. In the 1990, 2000 and 2010 rounds, 44, 38 and 48 African countries, respectively, conducted their population censuses. The assessment report focused on the following recommendations: (a) to develop a five-year regional programme on population and housing censuses; (b) to establish centres of excellence that will provide training and promote research based on census data; (c) to promote South–South cooperation and sharing of experiences; and (d) for the African Symposium on Statistical Development to resume its focus on population and housing censuses.

(iii) Geoinformation and statistics integration

44. The report emphasized the need for integration of statistical and geospatial information, with a focus on its contribution to population and housing censuses. It also highlighted the need for integration of the two communities (national statistics offices and national geospatial information authorities), which operate with different analytical schemes and data structures, in order to minimize any divergence and overlaps. The report then provided information on trends in technology, and on the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

G. Coordination of statistical activities

Documentation

- Report on statistical programmes and activities coordination with United Nations agencies and international organizations
- Report on the evaluation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

(i) Report on statistical programmes and activities coordination with United Nations agencies and international organizations

45. The report illustrated the official statistics architecture whereby data flows from countries, as the primary data source, to international organizations, and expressed the need for clearly defined coordination in that regard.

46. The following proposed steps were then outlined, for the consideration of the Joint Session: (a) active participation by agencies of the United Nations system, at the continental level, in statistics activities; (b) active participation by United Nations country offices in NSDS processes and in-country coordination; (c) joint efforts on capacity development (e.g. training and technical assistance) at the regional level (in collaboration with global and regional agencies of the United Nations system); (d) the need for a technical-level statistical coordination body at the country level; and (e) encouragement for countries to use statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX).

(ii) Report on the evaluation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

47. The report emphasized the collaboration and coordination between pan-African institutions on the NSDS evaluation with a view to having better synergy and more impact and no conflict with major stakeholders. A number of joint missions had been conducted to review progress in implementing the NSDS, to learn from that implementation, and to propose adjustments to the originally developed NSDS in order to achieve its objectives and results.

48. The report concluded with an indicative work programme for 2015 after the following key recommendations had been formulated: (a) countries should send their requests well in advance, since the NSDS evaluation is done on a “first come, first served” basis; and (b) national statistics offices should work closely with the Ministry of Planning of their country in order to secure funding.

H. Partnerships and side events

Documentation

- Report of the sixth Forum on African Statistical Development
- Report of the Continental Steering Committee for the African project on the 2008 System of National Accounts
- Report of the meeting on the Africa Regional Integration Index
- African Geodetic Reference Frame
- Report of the expert group meeting on the use of mobile devices for data collection
- Report on the survey planning and budgeting tool
- Report on Tunisia’s data portal
- Report on the new guidelines for national strategies for the development of statistics
- Report on the data revolution for Africa
- Automation of paper based processes using digital pen and paper technology (data collection tool)
- Report on the data quality assessment framework
- Report on the Praia City Group on Governance
- Revenue Statistics in Africa project

(i) Report on Tunisia's data portal

49. The report described the data flow from surveys and censuses and administrative and other national data sources to the data centre and for further dissemination (via publications and website). The Tunisian national statistics institute is processing and analysing data. A new approach that is under way is to build data warehouses (a) for applications and services; (b) on multiple platforms; (c) for international access; and (d) for cooperation. In the future, the dissemination platform will be developed by means of (a) collaborative work; (b) more and more data; (c) communication; (d) a "help" feature; and (e) a mobile version.

(ii) Report on the new guidelines for national strategies for the development of statistics

50. Multi-annual planning is a necessity for all countries. The reasons for this are that (a) development programmes are changing over time; (b) the demands of users are becoming more complex; (c) comparability over time needs to be assured; (d) census and survey programmes are spread over several years; and (e) building the capacity to respond to demand is a slow, steady process that is constrained by the availability of resources.

51. Therefore, the new guidelines respond to the fact that the structure of the current document is not always easy to handle, since it is mainly theoretical and is not always illustrated by concrete examples or good practices.

(iii) Report on the data quality assessment framework

52. The speakers reported on the high-level seminar entitled "Quality matters in statistics" that had been held in April 2014, to which all countries that had signed the African Charter on Statistics had been invited. The main aim of the seminar was to contribute to the ongoing evolution of a culture of quality in national statistics offices in Africa by creating space for discussion among the African offices and sharing relevant experience from the European Union.

53. Eurostat had developed a light assessment tool composed of two modules. The first module was for assessment of the national statistics office, and the second module was for assessment of specific statistical sectors (health and education, in particular).

(iv) Report on the Praia City Group on Governance

54. The report stressed that governance was a basis for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also presented the historical milestones in the creation of the Praia City Group on Governance, whose overall objective was to encourage countries to produce governance statistics on the basis of sound and documented methodologies. More specifically, the Group aimed to achieve the following: (a) to serve as a forum, among national and international statistics organizations, international agencies, academia, research groups and civil society organizations, for sharing and developing expertise in governance statistics; (b) to review, propose and promote the definition and harmonization of governance indicators; (c) to assist the United Nations Statistical Commission's Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress; (d) to assess the demand for governance statistics among potential user constituencies; and (e) to advise on ways to enhance processes and standards for the public dissemination of governance statistics.

55. The Praia City Group on Governance would focus its efforts on the development, by the end of the process, of a handbook on governance statistics for national statistics offices, which would cover the conceptualization, measurement methodology and dissemination of governance statistics, and would draw on the various manuals and guidelines on specific aspects of the statistical monitoring of governance that have been developed by various members of the Group.

(v) Automation of paper-based processes using digital pen and paper technology (data collection tool)

56. The report focused on the evolution of mobile communication networks, which had provided a platform for rapid data collection and had led to time savings and increased efficiency. However, technology needed to embrace the challenges being faced on the ground, which included (a) technology's reliance on electricity; (b) technical support in remote parts of countries; (c) data transmission costs and reliability; and (d) data storage and backup.

57. The report also looked at how data mobile could be used and where the technology had started.

(vi) Project for revenue for statistics in Africa

58. The OECD Development Centre presented its revenue project for Africa. The project has several components, which include:

59. The OECD tax revenue statistics project;

60. The project for revenue for statistics in Africa;

61. A fiscal policy tool useful to all stakeholders and essential for administrative leaders.

62. The Committee of Directors General made amendments and recommendations regarding the effective and efficient implementation of the project. It was noted that the project would be implemented under the auspices of the African Union Commission. The project was already being implemented in some African countries, namely Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia.

I. Statutory issues

Documentation

- Report on ECA statistical activities (E/ECA/STATCOM/4/17)
- Report on AUC statistical activities
- Report on the African Development Bank strategy to improve statistics in Africa
- Draft provisional agenda of the second Joint Session (including provisional dates and venue)

63. AUC and ECA reported on their respective statistical activities, while the African Development Bank presented its strategy on improving statistics in Africa.

64. Information was then provided about the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission and about the preparation of Africa's statistical development report.

65. It was announced that a decision had been taken to hold the 2015 Joint Session in Libreville, back to back with the African Symposium on Statistical Development. The exact date would be fixed in due course.

J. Conclusions and recommendations

66. The closing session was conducted jointly with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa.

67. The conclusions and recommendations of the first Joint Session can be found in annex I.

68. Hakim Ben Hammouda, Minister of Economy and Finance of Tunisia, recalled, in his closing statement, the history of Tunisia and its commitment to African integration. He stressed the importance of statistics in policy and economic decisions and the need for technical support from partners to assist the continent in producing its own statistics.

69. He also welcomed the African Union Institute for Statistics (Statafric) to Tunisia and commended the work done during the meeting.

Annex I

Joint Sessions of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa: First Joint Session (Tunis, 8–12 December 2014)

Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction

The first Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa was held in Tunis from 8 to 12 December 2014 under the theme “Strengthening the production of agricultural statistics in Africa for better monitoring and evaluation of CAADP”.

Preamble

We, the Directors General of National Statistical Offices,

Acknowledge that the theme of this first Joint Session, “Strengthening the production of agricultural statistics in Africa for better monitoring and evaluation of CAADP”, is timely and pertinent to the achievement of food security, as decided by African Heads of State and Government;

Have examined the draft rules of procedure and draft terms of reference of the Joint Session proposed by the secretariat, and the report produced by a working group set up by the Joint Session to review them;

Have considered the conclusions of the sixth Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev), and the reports of the specialized technical groups of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa that focus on different statistical domains, as well as the reports of the following pre-session events: Expert group meeting on the computation of the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF); Review of the current draft of the African Methodology on Trade in Services Statistics and discussion on organizing an expert group on the drafting process; Regional Integration Index; Expert group meeting on the use of mobile devices for data collection; Expert group meeting on Labour Market Information System and migration statistics; Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee for the regional project on SNA; Training session on the new NSDS guidelines and survey planning tool for East African countries; Media workshop on the effective use of statistics in reporting development issues; Open consultation meeting on capacity-building needs for renewable energy statistics in Africa; Information session on support from Sweden in the area of statistics development in Africa; Information session by UNCTAD; Information session on the Africa Information Highway; Meeting on

COMESA subregional statistical activities;

Have also considered other ongoing and emerging issues, namely: (a) the 2010 round of population and housing censuses; (b) the International Comparison Program (ICP); (c) Africa's implementation plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, (d) the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); (e) civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS); (f) the data revolution; and (g) the City Group on Governance;

Have examined the report on the African Charter on Statistics and the draft reports on the business plans of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre;

Take cognizance of (a) the reports of ECA and AUC on their statistical activities and work programmes; (b) the AfDB strategy to improve statistics in Africa.

A. General

The Joint Session

1. *Endorses* the reports of the specialized technical groups and pre-events, and the recommendations, work programmes and action plans contained therein, and urges each group to work with the secretariat, member States, partners and stakeholders, as appropriate, to implement all the emerging activities pertaining to the recommendations, work programmes and action plans;
2. *Also endorses* the reports of ECA and AUC on their statistical activities, and the recommendations of the work programme elaborated by AUC, ECA and AfDB and requests them to ensure implementation;
3. *Further endorses* the report of FASDev VI and the conclusions contained in its communiqué, and tasks the secretariat with ensuring their implementation;
4. *Also endorses* the report of UN-GGIM Africa and its conclusions and recommendations, and tasks the secretariat with ensuring their implementation;
5. *Tasks* the secretariat, in close collaboration with the working group set up to review the rules of procedure and terms of reference, with consolidating the two documents into one rules of procedure and revising the document to deal with the issues raised during the closed session between the directors general and the secretariat;
6. *Urges* the secretariat to review, rationalize and firm up the composition of the specialized technical groups, keeping in view the relevance and scope of each group.

B. Support for agriculture and food security in Africa

The Joint Session

7. *Requests* AUC, ECA, AfDB and other relevant institutions such as WFP and FAO to strengthen their collaboration on improving agricultural statistics in the African Union member States, in order to supply quality data and inform the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and the learning on agricultural transformation;
8. *Urges* the national statistics offices to use the final set of indicators of the CAADP results framework to measure progress towards achieving the Malabo Declaration Goals as the core set of indicators to collect data in African Union member States.

Reports of specialized technical groups

A. Governance, peace and security statistics

The Joint Session

9. *Notes* the progress made in developing governance, peace and security statistics and calls upon the STG on governance, peace and security statistics to develop a clear strategy for the dissemination of its report;
10. *Urges* the STG to set up a coordination mechanism that takes into account the sensitive nature of the data while including departments such as Police and Justice, among others;
11. *Also urges* the STG to present its report on governance, peace and security statistics to the conference of ministers in charge of planning and finance;
12. *Calls upon* the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to support the Governance, Peace and Security Statistics Initiative in Africa as well as to support the Praia City Group at the United Nations Statistical Commission meeting;
13. *Urges African countries to give their full support for the creation of the Praia City Group during the United Nations Statistical Commission meeting;*
14. *Also urges African countries to develop and use data quality frameworks.*

B. Trade statistics and balance of payments

The Joint Session

15. *Recommends* AUC to finalize and present the African methodologies on trade of services, on informal trade and on trade indices to the next meeting of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa;

16. *Also recommends* AUC, ECA and AfDB, in collaboration with the African Association of Central Banks, UNSD and other partners, to work on the harmonization of the production of balance of payments in Africa.

C. National accounts and price statistics

The Joint Session

17. *Requests* the pan-African institutions to include the committed activities in the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and resources to support implementation into their work programmes, especially incorporating the capacity-building component into the ICP programme;

18. *Calls* upon the regional economic communities (RECs) to include the committed activities in the PIP into their Regional Strategy for Statistical Development (RSSD), to lead their member States to set targets for achieving the milestones for the adoption of the 2008 SNA;

19. *Urges* countries to (a) include SNA 2008 implementation plans into the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); (b) submit completed UNSD self-assessment questionnaires to the secretariat, as a tool for developing the country implementation plans; (c) request technical assistance.

D. Public finance, the private sector and investments; agriculture, environment and natural resources; and money and finance

The Joint Session

20. *Calls upon* the three working groups to immediately initiate action to operationalize the functioning of the groups.

E. Science, technology and education

The Joint Session calls upon

21. The three pan-African institutions to establish a joint committee comprised of ministries of education and national statistics offices that will be mandated to carry out planning as well as statistical activities;

22. The STG on education statistics to conduct advocacy campaigns for administrative investigations on education, including the statistical coverage of all subsectors of education and training to enable decision makers to assess the quality of education provided with respect to labour market requirements;

23. AUC, AfDB, ECA and other partners to assist the ministries of education and training as well as to conduct a sample survey every three years on private provision of technical and vocational education and training, including by non-formal providers;

24. AUC to promote the idea of introducing an identification number for each student, in order to improve statistics on abandonment, transfers and survival to higher education. This will make it possible for governments to disaggregate statistics on students by gender, age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics as proposed by the post-2015 agenda;
25. AUC, AfDB, ECA and other partners to include the NEPAD Agency as a member of the STG on Science, Technology and Education, so that the working group can benefit from the work that is under way in the African Union member States in the field of science, technology and innovation;
26. The pan-African organizations to improve the implementation and impact of existing hemispheric mechanisms such as the peer review mechanism (APRM), NEPAD and African governance architecture;
27. AUC, AfDB, ECA and other partners to elaborate a few clear indicators for science, technology and innovation that must be developed, defined and standardized among the member States;
28. AUC and ECA to encourage mobile technology in the member States.

F. Forum on African Statistical Development

The Joint Session

29. *Requests* the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), in collaboration with AUC, ECA and AfDB, to improve the methodology and reporting of the partners' report on support to statistics (PRESS) and the country report on support to statistics (CRESS) in African countries in order to provide accurate figures for financing statistics, in particular with detailed information separating statistical funding from various projects on improved economic management or public finance, among others.

G. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

The Joint Session

30. *Calls upon* the pan-African organizations to support countries in the designing, monitoring and evaluation of their NSDS and to ensure its integration into the national development plan.

H. Regional integration

The Joint Session

31. *Commends* the efforts of AUC, ECA and AfDB in developing the Africa Regional Integration Index and calls upon the three institutions to streamline the indicators with the support of the RECs and partners.

I. Gender

The Joint Session

32. *Recommends* member States to develop a clear strategy for mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems through the development of specific programmes on gender statistics;

33. *Also recommends* the African Group on Gender Statistics to share information on the progress of implementation of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics, including efforts made by countries, RECs and other institutions.

J. Civil registration and vital statistics

The Joint Session

34. *Expresses concern* that the current staffing in the ECA secretariat may not be adequate for managing the fast-expanding programme on CRVS in Africa, and thus requests ECA to explore how to allocate more human resources to the secretariat and calls upon development partners to support the secretariat in this regard;

35. *Tasks* the secretariat with developing a clear set of strategies for sustainable capacity development in Africa;

36. *Recommends* that the pool of CVRS experts be expanded, with the aim of providing specialized technical support to countries during the implementation of their plan.

K. African Group on Statistical Training

The Joint Session

37. *Calls upon* the Group to devise a strategy that will foster more active participation by its members and more collaboration with other groups;

38. *Tasks* the three pan-African institutions (AUC, ECA and AfDB) with mobilizing more resources for scholarships for students and further extending the special training programme on agricultural statistics to Young African Statisticians members.

L. Labour market

The Joint Session urges

39. Each African country to conduct a labour force survey every year;

40. AUC, in collaboration with AfDB, ECA, UNIDO and the Pan-African Productivity Association, to develop migration statistics, as well as a system of measuring productivity and competitiveness;

41. AUC to reconcile the instruments of the harmonization framework of AUC with resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians;

42. African countries to facilitate the extension of social protection to informal and rural workers by statistical surveys as well as support towards the definition of national plans of extension with a multidisciplinary approach.

M. International Comparison Programme

The Joint Session

43. Requests AfDB to present the ICP report to the next conference of ministers in charge of finance, planning and development, to inform industrialization policy in Africa.

N. African Charter on Statistics

The Joint Session

44. *Commends* the countries that have ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon the remaining countries to sign and ratify the Charter;

45. *Calls upon* member States, RECs, pan-African organizations and other statistical bodies to implement the principles of the Charter;

46. *Recommends* that support be provided to all African countries for the quality assessment framework.

(i) African Union Institute for Statistics and Pan-African Statistical Training Centre

The Joint Session

47. *Commends* AUC for the progress made on the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistics Training Institute, and

48. *Recommends* AUC to thoroughly review and finalize the content of the documents, on the basis of the comments received;

49. *Calls upon* AUC to submit the revised documents to the next conference of ministers of economy, finance and planning;

50. *Recommends* that the head of the Institute be at Commissioner-level position with regard to the development of statistics in Africa.

O. Censuses

The Joint Session

51. *Reaffirms* the continuing importance of population and housing censuses as sources of demographic and social statistics and therefore requests the secretariat of the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) to resume its focus on population and housing censuses to keep up the momentum in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses;

52. *Recommends* ECA and AUC to develop a regional African programme on population and housing censuses for the next five years that will include sustainable capacity development, technical support and South–South cooperation;

53. *Calls upon* countries to develop an integrated approach in cartographic work in population and housing censuses by combining their efforts with those of the national mapping agencies and cadastres;

54. *Requests* the ASSD secretariat to work with AfDB, AUC, ECA and partners towards the establishment of a task force to support post-conflict countries in the production of statistics and specifically in censuses.

P. Statistical activities coordination

The Joint Session

55. *Urges* the leaders of the continental institutions in Africa, particularly AUC, ECA and AfDB, through the African Statistical Coordination Committee, to strengthen their partnership and create synergies so as to continue to work together and coordinate different initiatives for the common purpose of developing statistics in Africa;

56. *Requests* the United Nations agencies to work in partnership with AUC, ECA and AfDB at the continental level in the delivery of the various statistical programmes/activities and to participate in the NSDS process as well as in-country coordination of statistical projects.

Next Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa

The meeting agreed that

57. The second Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa will be held back to back with the eleventh African Symposium on Statistical Development, in 2015, in Libreville, Gabon;

58. The third Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa will be held back to back with the twelfth African Symposium on Statistical Development, in 2016, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Done in Tunis, 12 December 2014.

Annex II

United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, hereinafter referred to as UN-GGIM: Africa

Resolution on the establishment of UN-GGIM Africa

Acknowledging that geospatial information science and technology and related disciplines are now commonly found as the driving force of many applications and services in industrial and socioeconomic development, offering a radically different way in which we produce and use information required to manage our communities and economic activities,

Acknowledging the key role of ECA in providing a regional focus and leadership for geospatial information activities in Africa,

Noting decades of ECA and members States' efforts and progress in building spatial data infrastructures in Africa,

Taking cognizance of the global initiative to bring statistics and geospatial information together through the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management,

Taking into account the specificities of legal frameworks existing in each participating country,

Realizing the need for the African voice to continue to be heard in the global arena of geospatial information management,

The participants at the inception meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa:

1. *Express support* for mainstreaming geospatial information infrastructure into national statistics offices' activities in Africa and for the linkages with national statistical development strategies (NSDS) in line with the GGIM initiative and the recommendation of the Statistical Commission for Africa;
2. *Declare* the creation of the African caucus of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, the so-called UN-GGIM Africa, with ECA as the secretariat of the entity;
3. *Recommend* that UN-GGIM Africa take over the functions of Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology–Geographic Information, in line with the resolution of the former geoinformation subcommittee of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (ECA/CODIST/1/INF/3);

4. *Reiterate* their request to ECA to retain specific programmatic activities in the field of geoinformation, particularly the advance of holistic geospatial information management and governance, the promotion of national spatial data infrastructures, the development of partnerships and international and regional cooperation on space science and technology, the promotion of geographical names standardization and a common geodetic reference frame (i.e. AFREF), the fostering of streamlined online applications, the development of core and fundamental datasets in support of regional initiatives, the promotion of geospatial standards and interoperable common tools, and the building of a comprehensive, holistic, vision-driven, long-term transformative development of capacities;
5. *Encourage* member States to participate in and contribute to the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management;
6. *Request* Statistical Commission for Africa to bring these recommendations to the consideration of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for adoption and endorsement.

Recommendations

Recommendation to UN-GGIM for co-optation of UN-GGIM Africa

We, delegates from member States, representatives of regional organizations, partners and observers, met, agreed and resolved:

1. To create the African caucus of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, hereinafter referred to as UN-GGIM Africa;
2. To establish the Economic Commission for Africa as the caucus secretariat;
3. To request the formal endorsement of the African cluster of UN-GGIM during the fifth session of United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Recommendations on other matters

The participants at the inception meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa:

1. *Recommend* ECA to draft light terms of reference for each working group and distribute them to member States for review, expressions of interest and willingness to participate.
2. *Recommend* ECA to send a letter requesting that countries support the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

Annex III

Sixth meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev VI)

Tunis, 8 December 2014

Communiqué

Representatives of African countries, bilateral and international institutions, the United Nations Secretariat and agencies of the United Nations system, African statistical training centres, and regional and subregional organizations attended the sixth meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev VI) on 8 December 2014 in Tunis. The meeting preceded the first Joint Session of the African Union Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Economic Commission for Africa Statistical Commission for Africa, which was held from 10 to 12 December 2014.

Recalling the endorsement of the report of FASDev V by all stakeholders in statistical development in Africa,

Also recalling the main objectives of FASDev: (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 on each partner's comparative advantage,

The meeting

1. *Appreciates* the efforts made by ECA, in collaboration with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) secretariat, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to organize this sixth meeting of FASDev;
2. *Notes* the progress in the reporting mechanism for partners (PRESS) and for countries (CRESS), but expresses concern about the methodology and the quality of responses from countries;
3. *Reiterates* its expression of concern at the inadequate domestic funding for NSDS and the absence of an adequate reporting mechanism on the implementation of RRSF;
4. *Welcomes* the sharing of experiences and the best practices of some African countries on NSDS implementation and funding;
5. *Discussed* issues relating to statistical development in Africa, specifically:
 - (a) Level of and trends in support for statistical development in Africa;
 - (b) New initiatives by donors;

- (c) Making partner support more efficient and effective.

The participants

6. *Call upon* countries to mainstream NSDS in the national development planning/poverty reduction strategy programme, and in particular in the national budget, to ensure sustainable funding for statistics, beyond the traditional role of statistics as monitoring and evaluating tools for the national development planning/poverty reduction strategy programme;
7. *Request* PARIS21, in collaboration with ECA and AfDB, to improve the methodology and reporting of PRESS from partners and African countries, in order to provide quality information on the level of funding statistics, in particular with accurate information from portfolio or multi-projects, very limited stand alone project on statistics;
8. *Call upon* countries to scale up the revenue of statistical offices through statistical taxes and contributions and through innovative funding, including data revolution, open data and other donors such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;
9. *Request* ECA, AfDB and PARIS21 to advocate and to scale up the funding of data needs, required for the post-2015 development goals (SDGs) and for the data revolution programme for Africa;
10. *Commend* ECA and PARIS21 on organizing the high-level conference on the data revolution to be organized in Addis Ababa towards the end of March 2015, at the Conference of Ministers;
11. *Call upon* financial and technical partners to use NSDS as a framework for coordinating and streamlining financial support and technical assistance, and to provide institutional and budget support instead of operational funding for statistical activities;
12. *Ask* ECA, in close collaboration with AfDB, the PARIS21 secretariat and the World Bank, to convene the seventh FASDev meeting, preferably in 2016;
13. *Request* ECA, in collaboration with PARIS21 and AfDB, to provide a summary of country reports, based on NSDS reports and the country report on support to statistics (CRESS), in order to provide an overview of the level of and trends in domestic financing for statistics during the next session of FASDev;
14. *Call upon* all stakeholders to support FASDev and to implement the above recommendations.

Annex IV

Media activities

A. Media workshop

The media workshop was held on 9 December 2014 on the theme “Statistics and storytelling for meaningful change” and was facilitated by Jenerali Ulimwengu, a media thought leader, who has worked in the area.

Present at the workshop were representatives of 22 institutions, including civil society and local and sponsored media.

In her remarks, Habiba Mejri, Director of the Communications Department at the African Union Commission, posited a number of key issues for the consideration of the workshop, including the sensitivity and seriousness of credible statistics and the need for Africa to build its capacity for verification of statistics. She also noted that the role of partners in financing collection of data is important, while Africa seeks to build its own resources for this process. She emphasized the need for training of journalists and building a core group of specialized media in this regard.

Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, Acting Director of the African Centre for Statistics, ECA, provided an overview of the theme “Why statistics matter in storytelling”, in relation to the theme of the Joint Session. He emphasized the need for statisticians not to isolate themselves, but to work closely with the media in interpreting data into meaningful development information that lends credibility to policy.

A third session, with the theme “Data, stories and impact”, consisted of presentations on two key initiatives. The first of these was the Cost of Hunger in Africa study, a joint ECA, AUC and World Food Programme (WFP) initiative, as an example of data-driven decision-making; the presentation was made by Kalkidan Assefa and Sophia Nesri of WFP. It focused on the genesis of the study and the impact that it had had on the pilot countries. The presentation was aimed at showcasing the value of statistical analysis based on existing data in countries, to shape policy. A second example of the impact of statistical data on key policy issues was reflected in the presentation given by William Davis of ECA, which was entitled “Can the Africa Regional Integration Index, a joint initiative of ECA, AfDB and AUC, contribute to advancing regional integration?”. The index – the first systematic, quantitative, continent-wide monitoring system for regional integration in Africa – is designed to track African countries’ and RECs’ progress towards their shared regional integration goals, and the impacts of regional integration in Africa. The index will help countries and RECs to identify gaps and make informed policy decisions on how best to meet their regional integration aspirations. The three institutions were to present their ongoing work on the index on the margins of the first Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, in Tunis.

Response from media actors: The session, with the theme “Issues for the media emerging from two-and-a-half years of participation in statistics-related events”, showcased Emmanuel Dogbevi (Ghana Business News) and Omer Redi (IPS/Spanish news agency) as two beneficiaries of the work of ECA in the area of statistics. Having followed statistics events and sessions over the course of two-and-a-half years, they called for more investment in the training of journalists. Their engagement with statistical data, as indicated in the examples of stories they had written, had changed the way they approached stories and analysis.

Summary of issues, and discussions: The session underscored the need for more media and decried the lack of attention paid to investments in media participation or training in statistics. PARIS21 offered to conduct joint training for interested journalists, in collaboration with the German agency for international cooperation, GIZ. Discussions also critiqued the Cost of Hunger in Africa study, raising issues about the variables on hunger that did not feature in the study. The editor of Africa Governance, an initiative that works on country investment profiles and carries out related research, also offered to assist with media training initiatives.

B. Media debate on the data revolution

A media debate on the data revolution was held on 10 December 2014.

Panellists: Bill Anderson, Director, Development Initiative; Nnenna Nwakanma, Africa Regional Coordinator, World Wide Web Foundation; Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division; Clare Melamed, Director, Growth, Poverty and Inequality, Overseas Development Institute; Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General of South Africa and member of the “Data Revolution Group”; and Zacharia Chiliswa, Programmes Manager, Jesuit Hakimani Centre.

Is the data revolution a fact or a myth?

The meeting was informed, by way of introduction, that in recent years it has become increasingly important for countries to pay a large premium for data in order to make informed decisions. The term “data revolution” is a loaded one. It requires an understanding of and a reinterpretation for different data communities of interest.

The community of statisticians gathered in Tunis aimed to rationalize statistical development on the continent and to provide a more holistic and strategic direction in this regard to two important pan-African institutions, ECA and AUC. They also aimed to contribute to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities, and to consider issues of concern in national and continental statistical development, methodological issues, coordination and integration of the African statistical system, support for technical cooperation activities in statistics, and organizational matters. Africa is already on the data revolution path. The global spotlight has been focused on statistics through the call for a data revolution, as a prerequisite for the next development agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, we must question ourselves in order to find a meaningful way of engaging with statistics through the realm of data.

Annex V

Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee for the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts

Tunis, 8–9 December 2014

Conclusions and recommendations

A. Background and introduction

The meeting of the Continental Steering Committee was convened by ECA, with AUC and AfDB. The meeting was held as a pre-event to the first Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, from 8 to 9 December 2014 in Tunis. The objectives of the meeting were (a) to review the progress made and discuss and propose solutions to issues and challenges in the implementation of the project; (b) to further clarify the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders; (c) to identify measures for strengthening institutional coordination and reporting mechanisms; and (d) to discuss how to further support countries in the formulation of country action plans and in taking follow-up actions.

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Continental Steering Committee: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa. The following regional economic communities (RECs) were represented: Economic Community of Central African States, Southern African Development Community. The following bilateral, regional and international organizations were represented: AfDB, AUC, ECA, International Monetary Fund, Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques. The following research and training institutions were represented: College of Business and Management Sciences (Makerere University, Uganda), Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (Côte d'Ivoire).

Representatives of Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and Tunisia were in attendance.

B. Conclusions and recommendations

The participants in the Continental Steering Committee meeting

1. *Adopt* the conclusions and recommendations of the “Friends of the Chair of the Continental Steering Committee Meeting”, held from 2 to 4 April 2014 in Addis Ababa;
2. *Reaffirm* the importance and contribution of the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts to progress and development in the area of national accounts in Africa by bringing countries and development partners to work together;

3. *Also reaffirm* that the Project Implementation Plan, by listing and detailing the six pillars with the leading agencies and the related time frame, serves as a good coordinating framework. Accordingly, the Continental Steering Committee requests that:
 - (a) Pan-African institutions include the committed activities and resources to support implementation into their work programmes.
 - (b) RECs include the committed activities into their Regional Strategy for Statistical Development.
 - (c) Countries include SNA 2008 implementation plans into the National Strategy for Development of Statistics.

4. *Request* the African Group on National Accounts to develop milestones for specific technical issues for the implementation of the 2008 SNA;

5. *Request* RECs and the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRI-STAT), as part of institutional strengthening, to lead their member States to set targets for achieving the milestones for the adoption of the 2008 SNA, to meet the statistical requirements for regional integration and convergence, as well as to encourage countries to speed up the process;

6. *Request* AfDB to continue with the funding of the peer review and encourage countries to apply for a peer review of the national accounts within 12 months of implementing the 2008 SNA;

7. *Endorse* the transition plan proposed by the secretariat to move from Phase I to Phase II of the Project, which is to start from 2016, and task the secretariat with proceeding with the implementation of the plan by taking the following into account:
 - (a) Take stock of the experience and lessons learned from Phase I of the Project, including revisiting the governance structure and signing memorandums of understanding between key partners to revise and finalize the project document.
 - (b) Ensure that the African Project is aligned with the global programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

8. *Request* RECs to regularly submit progress reports of activities at both the REC and country levels to the secretariat for consolidation;

9. *Request* the RECs to mobilize technical and financial resources at national and subregional levels to support the 2008 SNA;

10. Regarding the results of the survey on the “Status of implementation of the 2008 SNA and the needs assessment”, *request* the secretariat:
 - (a) To urge countries to submit the filled questionnaire by resending the questionnaire to the directors general of the national statistics offices;
 - (b) To circulate the summary report among the development partners and to share detailed information in an annex.

11. *Agree* with the three-step procedure and modality proposed in the “Concept note on the sub-project on pilot countries to improve national accounts in Africa” by the World Bank and ECA;
12. *Urge* countries to submit completed UNSD self-assessment questionnaires to the secretariat, as a tool for developing the country implementation plans as well as to request technical assistance;
13. *Suggest* maintaining the current country representation on the Continental Steering Committee until the end of Phase I of the Project.

Annex VI

African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF)

Recommendations

Domains	Responsibility	Recommendations
Management structure	International Steering Committee	Translate the management of AFREF into a mini-International GNSS System, with data centres, analysis centres and a combination centre.
Network of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) stations	Member States	Reinforce the commitment of member States to continue to establish more network stations. Local institution to support the hosting of the stations for maintenance and distribution of the data.
	International Steering Committee	Provide countries with the optimum location and number of sites to be considered. Make a call of participation for countries to select a subset of reference stations from their national networks to be part of the AFREF network.
Data	International Steering Committee	Issue calls for the participation of data centres, analysis centres and combination centres. The calls should include the terms of reference and requirements for the centres. Develop guidelines for computation strategies by analysis centres.
	International Steering Committee	A call for participation for the establishment of at least one additional operational data centre.
	Member States	All African countries to release data freely and openly – if not for all national reference stations then at least a subset of those reference stations for AFREF and other global users.
Computations	Member States	Accept and adopt the combination of the results of the four computations made by the AFREF analysis centres.
	ECA	Publish the coordinates on the ECA website.
	ISC	Publicize that the coordinates are publicly available.
		Develop a conceptual document defining the AFREF reference frame. Prepare a comparative table between static and kinematic, outlining their comparative advantages and disadvantages.
	Scientific teams	Develop a formal academic paper to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.
Global Geodetic Reference Frame	Member States	Recommendation to member States to support the UN-GGIM GGRF.
	UN-GGIM Africa	Resolution requesting member States to fully support and participate in the GGRF.

The workshop drafted one resolution for consideration by UN-GGIM Africa. The resolution is as follows:

The Expert Group Meeting,

Recognizing the great progress made in establishing the AFREF geodetic framework,

Noting that there are several GNSS-based projects relevant to AFREF,

Considering the need to develop strategies for incorporating additional permanent stations in the AFREF network,

Also considering the need to process openly available and free-of-charge GNSS data to publish a set of coordinates fully consistent with the International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

Acknowledging the draft General Assembly resolution on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame,

1. *Recommends to the African Union Commission* to facilitate the political buy-in translated into policy and financial support to the implementation of the AFREF programme.
2. *Recommends to the Economic Commission for Africa:*
 - (a) To continue assisting in the promotion, establishment and realization of the African Reference Frame (AFREF);
 - (b) To assist in the elaboration of a data policy which will enable member States to provide GNSS data for use by the geospatial information community at large.
3. *Recommends to member States (to the national mapping agency or any other mandated agency)* to commit to putting national geodetic datums together, so that all spatial information from individual countries can be readily assembled into a unified regional geodetic reference frame.
4. *Recommends to the AFREF Steering Committee* to publish calls for participation in order to establish data centres, analysis centres, a combination centre and the position of a network coordinator.
5. *Recommends to UN-GGIM Africa:*
 - (a) To consider AFREF as one of the key pillars of UN-GGIM Africa;
 - (b) To ensure that AFREF is fully linked to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame;
 - (c) To encourage member States to support the draft General Assembly resolution on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

Annex VII

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Mobile Devices for Data Collection

Recommendations

The Expert Group Meeting, fully convinced of the utility of mobile devices, recommended national statistics offices in Africa to scale up the existing data collection survey, to transform from paper-based systems to the use of electronic devices, and to bridge the digital divide by encouraging the use of mobile devices in data collection with an emphasis on georeferenced data (to ensure higher-quality data, in terms of coverage, reliability and timely data).

The following recommendations will help the pilot studies to be carried out successfully and will improve the background document:

1. Work with experienced countries that have used mobile devices in data collection.
2. Create an African community of experts for technical support.
3. Countries should integrate the new tool into the structure of their NSS and NSDS, with a view to complementing traditional data collection methods in the short and medium terms.
4. Apply the Mobile Data Management System (MDMS) for data collection.
5. Diversify communication media for advocacy and dissemination.
6. Countries are advised to use CSPro software for data capturing and processing.
7. National statistics offices should put in place a policy, that is managed efficiently, with regard to the usage of mobile devices.
8. Integrate the use of mobile devices into the statistical production process using an interoperability approach, taking into account the national data infrastructure.
9. Countries need to adopt buy-back options for enumerators to buy the mobile devices after some time at lower prices.
10. If the device gets lost, wipe the data on the device, lock the hardware, and remove applications such as gaming.
11. Disable non-essentials, for example USB ports.
12. It is advisable to link the SIM card to a virtual private network (VPN) or an access point network (APN).
13. Use solar chargers or power banks.
14. Use shatterproof, waterproof and shockproof glass for the screens of the mobile devices.
15. If device cost is not an issue, go for the best, otherwise check what software and hardware the mobile devices will need to have for data collection, and preferably go for open source and free operating systems.
16. Data on the device must be synchronized as soon as possible.
17. The application must have automatic checks for completeness of data transferral.
18. An external storage device is needed, given that the work is carried out in an offline environment.
19. When sending information from one device to another, the data should be encrypted.
20. Continuous training for IT personnel to cope with data-capturing application development.

21. Develop web applications to capture GPS information.

The programmers or IT specialists who will develop the applications for data capturing need to work closely with subject-matter specialists.

