



Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa
 Sixth meeting
 Addis Ababa, 1 – 4 October 2018

Report on the fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa

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I. Introduction

1. The fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, from 30 November to 2 December 2016, in conjunction with the meeting of the tenth Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices, which comes under the auspices of the African Union.¹ The theme of the meeting was "Strengthening economic statistics to support Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The theme was chosen to highlight the role of economic statistics in the ongoing efforts to implement the measurement framework, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In addition, the implementation status of the various specialized working groups under the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa was reviewed.

2. In parallel, the second session of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa was also held at the same venue.

3. The fifth meeting was preceded by the following pre-events that were held on 28 and 29 November 2016:

- (a) Forum on African Statistical Development (28 November);
- (b) African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (29 November);
- (c) Governance, peace and security statistics (28 and 29 November);
- (d) Expert Group Meeting on land policy in Africa (29 November);
- (e) Health statistics and the campaign to end child marriage (29 November);
- (f) Advisory Group Meeting: solution exchange, African statistics community (29 November);
- (g) Data-sharing by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank (AfDB);
- (h) Integration of geospatial and statistical information;
- (i) African Gender and Development Index and the regional flagship programme of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

II. Attendance

4. The fifth meeting was attended by 154 participants consisting of representatives of African Heads of national statistics offices, regional economic communities, statistics training centres, pan-African organizations and development partners, including experts from international organizations supporting African statistical development.

5. The African member States represented included delegates from the following 38 countries: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, the Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone,

¹ An earlier version of the report on the fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa appeared under symbols E/ECA/COE/36/9-AU/STC/IMEPI/EXP/9(III).

South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland,² Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

6. In attendance were representatives from ECA, the African Union Commission, AfDB, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

7. The fifth meeting was also attended by observers from training institutions, including the Institut de formation et de recherche, the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, the Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée, the Institut de statistique sociale et d'économie appliquée, the école nationale de la statistique et d'économie appliquée, the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques and the European Union. There were also observers from international organizations and institutions including the Statistics Division of the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN-Women, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Eurostat, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Expertise France, Ministry of Budget and Planning (Government of Nigeria), Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (Government of Nigeria), Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (Government of South Africa), Institut de recherche pour le développement/DIAL, Agence française de développement and FDI360 (Family Health International 360).

8. Other regional and international statistics consultants and prominent personalities were in attendance, as were media representatives.

III. Election of the Bureau [agenda item 2]

9. Participants approved the proposed Bureau of the meeting:

- (a) Chair: Côte d'Ivoire;
- (b) First Vice-Chair: Chad;
- (c) Second Vice-Chair: Kenya;
- (d) First Rapporteur: Tunisia;
- (e) Second Rapporteur: Malawi.

IV. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 3]

10. The draft agenda and programme of work of the fifth meeting were submitted for discussion and were adopted.

11. The main objectives were to discuss the status of and challenges in the production of economic statistics in Africa and to take stock of the various efforts being made to modernize official statistics (i.e. harmonization, comparability and production processes, new data ecosystems, locational management of information, coordination efforts and new technologies) to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

12. Specifically, the mandate of the fifth meeting was to discuss the following:

² Now known as Eswatini.

- (a) Status of and the challenge in harmonization in the collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics in Africa;
- (b) Improvement in economic statistics through the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts;
- (c) Integrated monitoring framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 as part of the implementation process;
- (d) Status of the operationalization of the Pan-African Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre and presentation of the activities undertaken under the pan-African statistics programme;
- (e) Country-level land monitoring, in line with the ECA/AfDB/African Union Commission Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring frameworks;
- (f) Production of the *African Statistical Yearbook* and the recommendations for the way forward following the meeting held in Arusha in 2016 to validate the *Yearbook*;
- (g) Reports of the working groups set up under the System for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;
- (h) Review and validation of the revised System for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;
- (i) Collection and harmonization of revenue statistics in Africa;
- (j) Status of the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics;
- (k) Engagement of member States in a dialogue, with a view to embracing spatially enabled data ecosystems as an essential element of far-reaching innovation for sustaining national statistics systems and facilitating spatial analytics and the locational management of information;
- (l) Preparations for the next session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations;
- (m) Future of the African Symposium on Statistical Development;
- (n) Role of Africa in the global partnership for data;
- (o) Statutory issues specific to the Committee of Directors General and the Statistical Commission for Africa.

V. Account of proceedings [agenda item 4]

Opening of the fifth meeting [agenda item 1]

13. The fifth meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Planning and Development of Côte d'Ivoire, Niale Kaba. In her remarks, she highlighted the importance of data on economic statistics for the continent's integration agenda. She indicated that economic statistics were in the early stage of development in many African countries and that the lack of adequate human resources in the area had been one of the challenges. She stressed that the revision of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa was a timely response to the data demand of both the continental and global development agenda. Lastly, she called upon participants to engage in the active exchange of information and views in order to ensure the effective transformation and integration of the economy of the continent. She wished the participants a fruitful deliberation.

14. The opening remarks by Ms. Kaba were preceded by remarks by the Mayor of Grand Bassam, who welcomed all the participants and informed them that the city was a World Heritage Site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. He also highlighted the importance of statistics to inform better decision-making in Africa, especially in countries most affected by poverty, unemployment, income inequality and access to social services. Other speakers were the Director General of the Institut national de la statistique of Côte d'Ivoire, Doffou N'guessan Innocent; the Director of the Statistics Department of AfDB, Charles Leyeka Lufumpa; the Director of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission, Rene Kouassi N'guettia; and the Director of the African Centre for Statistics of ECA, Oliver Chinganya.

15. Mr. Chinganya stressed that the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 had imposed a greater need and demand for broader and more detailed economic statistics. He pointed out that economic statistics were critical for capturing production, expenditure, consumption and many other variables affecting various economic actors. He stressed that quality, timeliness and comparable economic statistics were critical for the continent's agenda on regional integration, structural economic transformation and sustainable development. He reminded the participants that increased data demand required additional efforts from all stakeholders to scale up the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of economic statistics.

Session I: Strengthening economic statistics to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

16. The keynote speech was delivered by the former acting Vice-President and Chief Economist at AfDB, Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa. His message was directed to the statistics fraternity, policymakers and other stakeholders. He addressed the issue of the "era of high expectations", in which the majority of African countries were seeking to become middle-income economies and at a time when the continent was on the cusp of economic transformation. Efforts at the national level, however, varied throughout the continent. He said that there had been improvements in most African countries, with the exception of those in conflict or post-conflict situations. He called attention to the data needs raised by the new initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and pointed out the challenges and opportunities ahead.

17. In reply to the criticism made about African statistics, Mr. Kayizzi-Mugerwa rebutted some of those arguments, mentioning the evidence of progress made in recent decades in improving data collection and in creating dissemination platforms in various African countries.

18. Mr. Kayizzi-Mugerwa asked whether the supply-driven entities of Africa's statistics agencies were trapped in decades-old routines or whether they were becoming demand-driven and innovative institutions that listened to the needs of their clients. He put that forward as a question for participants to ponder. He also said that Africa's statisticians should be making efforts to align themselves with the high expectations of Africa's transformation. Referring to the African transformative agenda and its demand for statistical evidence, he said that, ultimately, the value of the contributions made to it would be assessed by the effectiveness of the efforts to raise domestic productivity and enhance post-conflict situations. He also called attention to the data needs raised by the new initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and pointed out both the challenges and opportunities ahead in this key sector for Africa's transformation.

19. In emphasizing the need for competitiveness and the challenge in reducing poverty and regional disparities, Mr. Kayizzi-Mugerwa said that those were areas in which a strong statistical base was required to determine whether

progress was being made. In concluding his remarks, he underlined that the challenge for statisticians was to rise to the occasion and be innovative in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data. He raised issues for policymakers, questioning whether statistics offices were well supported in terms of technical, financial and human resources. He also asked whether statistics were seen merely as a “sidekick” of the line ministries to keep external agencies such as donors happy or whether they were functioning for the benefit of Africa.

Status of and the challenge in harmonization in the collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics in Africa

20. The presentation included a brief overview of challenges faced by African countries in the collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics. Some of the challenges identified included different versions of the System of National Accounts and classification used by African countries, the use of various base years and the increase in demand for economic statistics occasioned by the Sustainable Development Goals. It was emphasized that there was a great need to build the capacity of national statistics offices, and the training, technical assistance and financial assistance needs of countries were summarized. The presentation also included a brief overview of the African common project on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, the progress made in that regard and the challenges and issues identified during the implementation.

Report on the measurement framework for Agenda 2063

21. The presentation included an overview of the development of Agenda 2063 and fast-track programmes and initiatives. The participants were informed of the mapping exercise for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the goal, target and indicator levels and the process of developing a minimum list (i.e., core group) of indicators to guide reporting by member States. The presentation also served to outline the ongoing work on a resource mobilization strategy and the development of an accountability framework. The next step was the development of metadata and the finalization and validation of the minimum list of indicators and of the accountability framework by the African Union policy organs.

22. The following issues were raised during the discussion:

- (a) Need to take into account other components of economic statistics such as price statistics and international trade;
- (b) Need to address the challenges in financing of the production of economic statistics at national level and reducing high staff turnover;
- (c) Need to promote statistics using the media and new technologies;
- (d) Need for more emphasis on funding training and research needs in the production of quality statistics;
- (e) Need to streamline the indicators for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the national level;
- (f) Need for clear links between statistics and economic development.

Session II: Report on the implementation of the resolutions of the ninth session of the Committee of Directors General

23. The presentation included a brief status report on the implementation of the recommendations made at the ninth annual session of the Committee of

Directors General of the National Statistics Offices, which was held in Libreville from 26 to 28 November 2015.

24. The following issues were raised during the discussion:

(a) Support for the separation of the organization of the sessions of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa from the African Symposium on Statistical Development;

(b) Need to look at all the recommendations that had been made before and document the status of their implementation;

(c) Need to build the capacity of countries in conflict or post-conflict situations;

(d) Use of new technology tools in updating the progress made in implementing previous recommendations.

Session III: Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa – Reports of the Specialized Technical working Groups

25. The reports of the specialized technical working groups were presented on labour migration and the informal sector; governance, peace and security statistics; gender statistics; national accounts; trade statistics; and statistical training and human resources. The representative of the African Union Commission presented updates on the progress made regarding the status of migration statistics, trade statistics and governance, peace and security statistics.

Labour migration and informal sector statistics

26. The key achievements under the working group on migration statistics were the compilation of labour migration statistics in Africa and the work on harmonizing the concepts and definitions of migration data in Africa. The next steps were to publish the first labour migration statistics report, finalize the harmonization of concepts and definitions and launch the second edition of data collection on labour migration in Africa.

Governance, peace and security statistics

27. It was indicated that Africa was taking the lead on governance and peace and security statistics at the global level and must capitalize on the success of the pilot phase in order to share the experience of the continent at the international level. It was noted that the pilot phase, in 10 countries, had demonstrated the applicability of Global Positioning System (GPS) instruments through a wide range of national contexts. The next steps were to review the methodology to take into account the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, include the GPS module in surveys and build the capacity of producers and users of GPS statistics.

Trade statistics

28. The main activities undertaken by the working group were the collection of foreign trade data using a well-structured methodology and the training of regional economic communities and member States on Euro trace software. The next steps were to finalize the data-collection process, publish the African Statistical Yearbook and finalize development of the module on trade price indices.

Gender statistics

29. The following issues were discussed: (a) implementation of the African Programme on Gender Statistics; (b) the outcomes of the meeting of the African Working Group on Gender Statistics; (c) the development of the African

Programme on Gender Statistics (2017–2021); (d) the signed memorandum of understanding between AfDB and UN–Women; (e) the online training toolkit on gender statistics; (f) the gender statistics toolkit on women in informal cross-border trade in Africa; (g) the manual for countries to conduct an assessment and develop national gender statistics; (h) the UN–Women flagship programme, “Making Every Woman and Girl Count”; and (i) the African Gender and Development Index.

30. The following points were presented for endorsement:

(a) Note the achievements made to date by members of the African Programme on Gender Statistics in capacity development and awareness-raising in member States in the production, use and dissemination of gender statistics;

(b) Endorse proposals made in the report and recommend them to member States to implement, in particular those relating to the Improvement in the production of gender statistics at the country level, the improvement in coordination and cooperation between national statistics offices and line ministries, the need for high-level support for gender statistics, improvement in the coordination of activities and efforts between members of the Programme and the development of the new action plan of the Programme for the period 2017–2021.

National accounts

31. The report on the Africa Working Group on National Accounts was presented and included updates regarding the following achievements:

(a) The goal of the African project on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts was to improve the quality, timeliness, consistency and harmonization of economic statistics and national accounts in Africa to support sound macroeconomic policy formulation and evidence-based decision-making. The African project was officially launched in January 2014, with phase I occurring in 2014-2015, followed by phase II in 2016-2018;

(b) One of the significant outcomes of the annual meeting of the Africa Working Group on National Accounts, held in April 2016, was to come up with the supply and demand matrix of technical assistance for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts in Africa, to effectively address the training and technical assistance needs of countries and to better coordinate the delivery of technical assistance. The matrix served as the first “port of call” that member States could utilize to request technical assistance when encountering difficulties and challenges during the course of the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts;

(c) During the meeting of the continental steering committee for the project, held on 31 October and 1 November 2016 in Tunis, a project implementation plan for phase II was developed for collaboratively carrying out the project by all key stakeholders in 2017. The plan was developed on the basis of six expected accomplishments contained in the project document for phase II.

32. The following issues were raised and endorsed by the Statistical Commission for Africa:

(a) Good progress had been made in the area of economic statistics and national accounts;

(b) Technical documents developed on supply-use tables, the use of administrative data and incorporating the informal sector into national accounts should be finalized and circulated to support countries in dealing with the related issues in those areas;

(c) Countries needed training and capacity-building, including training and technical assistance for the adoption and application of the System of Economic-Environmental Accounting in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Countries had to finalize national action plans for implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts by April 2017 and send those plans to the central depository at ECA for review and the sharing of experiences and best practices;

(e) Countries had to follow-up on the implementation of the national action plans, once they were formulated, by approaching supporting agencies for technical and training assistance needed for implementing the 2008 System of National Accounts, as outlined in the matrix of technical assistance, by sending a formal letter to the relevant agencies; attaching the final national action plan for implementing the 2008 System of National Accounts to the formal request for assistance; and actively participating in the next Africa Working Group on National Accounts meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held in April 2017, by contributing to the presentation and discussion of technical issues and by completing pre-meeting survey questionnaires to identify the areas of technical and capacity needs.

African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources

33. The presentation on the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources covered the support of the Group to the training component of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The presenter mentioned the finalization of the curriculums for a specialization programme in agricultural statistics, the requirements for the increased availability of statisticians, the need to improve data quality, the identification and prioritization of needs in human resources management in African statistics systems and the strategy for reinforcing the capacity of statistics training centres.

34. The following questions were raised:

(a) What composition of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources was needed to take into account the new institutional developments?

(b) What was the nature of the Group's support to statistics training centres for the implementation of the curriculums developed by the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics?

(c) What was the strategy for obtaining funding for statistics training in Africa?

(d) What was the Group's role in the governance of statistics training centres?

35. The following issues were raised during the discussion:

(a) Concern was expressed about the previous resolution to allocate 0.15 per cent of national budgets to statistics, especially during the conduct of population and housing censuses. That was seen as inadequate, given that far more resources would be required. It was explained that reversing the decision was not feasible because the decision had been already endorsed by the ministers of finance and planning and would be submitted for adoption by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2017;

(b) Need to prioritize statistics and align them with national development plans to secure adequate financing;

- (c) Need to convince policymakers to support statistical activities to minimize the reliance on donors;
- (d) The commendable progress made on governance, peace and security statistics on the continent;
- (e) Need to address the capacity gap caused mainly by differences in language;
- (f) Need to document the contribution of women to gross domestic product;
- (g) Need for pan-African institutions to streamline their activities, given that it was not clear who was doing what;
- (h) Need to make use of the concept of big data.

Draft revised version of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

36. The presentation included a brief overview of the status of implementation of the existing Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa and its limitations in terms of awareness, the absence of monitoring and evaluation and low political commitment. The presenter also highlighted the governance structure of revised version of the Strategy and its proposed revised outline.

37. The following issues were raised during the discussion:

- (a) Need to ensure professional independence and transparency. Member States expressed concern about the fact that the document was being revised by the same experts who worked on the first version of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, which was a clear conflict of interest. There was a need to expand the team working on the revised Strategy by looking at experience and technical expertise. It was proposed that the heads of national statistics offices and other experts in the area should be included;
- (b) Participants thought the document did not have clear substantive changes and that the revised Strategy should indicate what was new in terms of substance and concepts;
- (c) Some indicators did not make sense, for example, those for a common health policy. Pan-African institutions should not focus on trivialities, and the governance structure was very heavy;
- (d) Portuguese-speaking countries were not visited for consultation, and arrangements for such visits should be made to remedy that omission;
- (e) The revised Strategy needed to provide a clear communication strategy that addressed awareness-creation among member States, who needed adequate time to analyse and review the document;
- (f) Pan-African institutions should review the governance structure. The role of the regional economic communities was very weak regarding the document, and that concern should be looked at thoroughly and amended;
- (g) The Strategy matrix must be clearly set out using a comparative advantage approach;
- (h) Participants called on ECA, AfDB and the African Union Commission to formulate the action plan and the road map for that exercise regarding the revised Strategy;
- (i) Accommodation of the current development agenda, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 was missing.

38. Member States needed to take ownership of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa for its successful implementation, and pan-African institutions should organize regular meetings to discuss and finalize the document.

Session IV: Ongoing, new and emerging issues

Report on revenue statistics

39. The report provided a general overview of the revenue statistics tool. It was noted that revenue statistics were harmonized data based on international concepts established in 1965. It was a tool that provided consistent and detailed data for African countries. There was an annual forum in which outcomes of data collected were discussed and revised by regional partners and participating countries. Data were comparable and useful for transparency purposes. They could be accessed online, and countries were encouraged to contact the relevant offices to request participation.

Road map for the development of the labour market information system

40. The representative of Family Health International provided a brief background on labour market information systems. It was noted that, notwithstanding significant investment, those systems had not managed to answer the questions to which employers, jobseekers, students and decision makers were asking. The methodology used for studies on those systems comprised a systems approach versus a system landscape review of them. The construction of a typology is needed to analyse the systems as a function of their ability to improve the workings of labour markets and identify targeted and sequential interventions to improve those systems

Report on urbanization data and statistics

41. The report on urbanization data and statistics included the following topics:

(a) The summary findings from the assessment of urbanization data and statistics in Africa that was initially done to understand the relevant indicators of urbanization that African countries had produced in recent years; assess the quality of those indicators; identify gaps in indicators that were not currently produced yet desirable, especially in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (sustainable cities and communities); assess the extent to which the indicators produced in Africa could monitor progress in incorporating urban statistics in overall national development planning; and evaluate Africa's experience of producing relevant indicators in the recommendations of the 2020 population census round for the collection, processing and analysis of urban dynamics;

(b) The strategy for the African Programme on Urbanization Data and Statistics that was aimed at advancing comprehensive, comparable and reliable information for evidence-based policies and strategies to promote sustainable cities and human settlements as factors behind inclusive growth and transformation. It was intended to strengthen the capacity of national statistics systems to collect, compile and analyse urban statistics through a coordinated regional approach;

(c) The need for urban development statistics in Africa was informed by national development plans, strategies and visions, including the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

42. The Statistical Commission for Africa was therefore invited to consider the following actions:

(a) Endorse the proposal of the establishment of the African Programme on Urbanization Data and Statistics based on the assessment report on urbanization data and statistics in Africa;

(b) Agree with the proposed country membership of the Programme. Additional organizations and institutions would be invited to be part of the membership;

(c) Accept the proposal that the proposed Programme would report on its strategic direction and implementation of activities to the Commission;

(d) Endorse the ECA proposal to further establish coordination mechanisms at the national level on the role of the national statistics offices in the production and analysis of urbanization development data.

Report on statistical development in Africa

43. The report covered selected areas of focus for statistical development in Africa, highlighting the progress made in statistical activities conducted by ECA with the support of partners. The report also contained an examination of the major challenges and constraints to progress in the selected areas. Key areas of focus identified in the report were national strategies for the development of statistics, national accounts, the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, gender statistics, sustainable development indicators, country profiles, the data revolution, the integration of statistical and geospatial information and the Africa action plan of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

44. The participants were requested to endorse the report and agree on the following actions points:

(a) Need to strengthen national capacities in designing and implementing national strategies for statistical development in the context of the national and international agendas for sustainable development;

(b) Need to strengthen capacities to implement ongoing activities relating to the 2008 System of National Accounts, gender statistics, civil registration and vital statistics and geographic information systems;

(c) Need to secure effective participation by African countries in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

Report on the African Statistical Development Index

45. The report provided a brief overview of the structure, strengths and weaknesses of the existing African statistical development indicators and potential areas for the revision of the Index, including the monitoring and evaluation of statistical development in Africa. The report also provided a comparison of indicators with other statistical capacity indicators at three levels: the selection of variables, data collection and methodology of calculation for monitoring and evaluation. The participants were requested to endorse the methodology that had been subjected to an extensive discussion at the Expert Group Meeting in October 2016, at which it had been agreed that each member State should have an efficient, comparable and effective tool for measuring their progress in statistical development in the short term. The participants also requested ECA to follow-up on the subsequent steps needed to implement the methodology, including the development of software for data collection, compilation and computation of the proposed indicators.

Report on the use of mobile technology in Africa

46. The report provided a brief background on the ECA project on the use of mobile technologies to collect data. The main objectives of the pilot project

were to strengthen the capacity of countries to collect data with mobile technology, experiment with self-enumeration using mobile devices to collect data and determine the suitability of such data for the production of statistics and for strengthening working relationships between national statistics offices and national training and research institutes. Some of the activities undertaken by the project included an Expert Group Meeting, training, missions to countries, national workshops, the upgrading of facilities, field data collection and a regional conference and mid-term evaluation. It was recommended in the report that member States should adopt the use of mobile technology in statistical process and it included calls for governments to make a budget available to help to develop the use of mobile technology in statistical processes.

Report on the Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

47. The report provided a brief background on the Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The report contained a summary of the key achievements and progress made in the area of civil registration and vital statistics including institutionalization of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, the formation of the regional core group, the promotion of collaboration among the key stakeholders in national civil registration and vital statistics systems, capacity-building activities and a comprehensive assessment of civil registration and vital statistics systems for the development of strategic improvement plans. The report also highlighted some of the challenges faced, including funding for the Programme. Lastly, the report included proposed items for discussion, such as the organization of the fourth Conference of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, resource mobilization for civil registration and vital statistics and the monitoring and evaluation of civil registration and vital statistics systems.

Report on the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

48. The report provided a brief overview of the preparations for the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and the revision of the African addendum to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. The report's authors reviewed the 2020 census-taking activities in Africa and summarized the expected census periods by year and country. They also looked at the 2020 African Programme on Population and the Housing Census Decade (2015-2024) and the workplan for the period 2016-2020. Furthermore, the authors proposed some items for discussion during the meeting, including, but not limited to, the 2020 census-taking activities in Africa, the Sustainable Development Goals, the regional census-coordinating committee and the establishment of a regional centre of excellence.

49. Issues raised during the discussion included the following:

- (a) Outcomes of peer review reports should be shared among all stakeholders;
- (b) ECA work on revamping the work on civil registration and vital statistics was commendable, and presenting the progress made to date was proposed, as well as the way forward, at the Conference of Ministers responsible for civil registration and vital statistics;
- (c) Need to expand the civil registration and vital statistics secretariat at ECA within the African Centre for Statistics.

Session V: Reports on side events

Forum on Statistical Development in Africa

50. The representatives of African countries, the African Union, bilateral and international institutions, the United Nations Secretariat and agencies, African statistics training centres and regional and subregional organizations attended the seventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire on 28 November, 2016. The draft agenda and programme of work of the meeting were submitted for discussion and adopted.

51. This meeting preceded the joint meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices. In the communiqué from the meeting, the participants agreed to the following:

(a) Recalling that the first Forum on Statistical Development in Africa was endorsed by all the stakeholders of statistical development in Africa on 13 May 2004;

(b) Recalling the main objectives of the Forum to gain an overview of statistical activities, including assistance and training in Africa, set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa and strengthen modalities for cooperation, with a view to leveraging each partner's comparative advantage;

(c) Appreciated the efforts made by AfDB, the African Union Commission and ECA to organize this seventh meeting of the Forum;

(d) Discussed issues relating to statistical development in Africa:

(i) Statistical capacity-building programmes of pan-African institutions and international organizations and bilateral partners;

(ii) Coordination among all institutions active in capacity-building in statistics;

(iii) Role of the Pan-African Institute for Statistics in the African statistics system;

(iv) South-South cooperation in statistical capacity-building.

52. As outlined in the communiqué, the participants agreed to the following:

(a) Appreciated the creation of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre as important components of the African statistics system;

(b) Commended AfDB for its efforts in statistical capacity-building and statistical production, and requested it to continue and increase its support;

(c) Acknowledged the commitment of the African Union to implement its statistical mandate with the creation of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, the follow-up of the ratification by member States of the African Charter on Statistics and the implementation of the Pan-African Statistics Programme;

(d) Appreciated the commitment of ECA to strengthen the statistical capacity of its member States, the regional economic communities and the pan-African institutions in the areas of policy, research and knowledge delivery;

(e) Commended the secretariat of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century for its capacity-building in the areas of coordination and monitoring, statistical advocacy, technical support and technology awareness, and encouraged the secretariat to continue its activities;

(f) Also commended the World Bank for its statistical capacity-building efforts, and invited it to continue its support, including ongoing projects with countries and pan-African institutions;

(g) Further commended all partners, including the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, the Department for International Development and the Institut de recherche pour le développement of France (referred to as IRD) for their continuous support for statistical development in Africa, including assistance provided to statistics training institutions;

(h) Urged pan-African institutions to implement better coordination of statistical capacity-building activities on the continent, under the leadership of countries and giving priority to South-South cooperation;

(i) Encouraged countries that had not yet ratified and submitted the African Charter on Statistics to do so as soon as possible;

(j) Encouraged all partners to align statistical capacity-building efforts to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 frameworks;

(k) Called upon the African Union, in collaboration with other pan-African institutions, to clarify the role and the position of the African Union Institute for Statistics in the African statistics system;

(l) Asked ECA, in close collaboration with AfDB, the secretariat of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank, to convene the next meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, in 2017;

(m) Called upon all stakeholders to support the Forum on African Statistical Development and implement the above recommendations.

Governance, peace and security statistics

53. The side event on GPS was organized on 28 and 29 November 2016 as a pre-event for the joint Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa session. It was attended by representatives of member States, the African Union Commission, the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne and the Institut de recherche pour le développement/DIAL. The report was presented by the African Union Commission representative. It was noted that the continent was playing a pioneering role at the global level in that new domain of statistics. The report highlighted that solid results were produced by the specialized technical groups on governance, peace and security by ensuring broad-based ownership and political buy-in in GPS statistical production. It was also noted that there was urgency in revising the instrument, given that several countries had indicated their readiness to run the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa GPS surveys in early 2017. The meeting was informed that there was strong interest in GPS and high demand for it.

Health statistics and the campaign to end child marriage in Africa

54. A presentation was made by the representative of Mozambique. The presentation included a brief overview of the status of health statistics in Africa. It was noted that the health indicators were within the context of the African Health Strategy 2016-2030 and were aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. A draft reference manual of indicators had been prepared. It was indicated that the African Health Statistics online data platform had been developed under African Union leadership and was launched in 2014. The meeting was informed of the establishment of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2015. The report also contained a summary of the status of child marriage in Africa and the African Union campaign to end child marriage that had been launched on

the continent in 2014. The participants were called upon to endorse the composition of the health subgroup of the specialized technical group, note the progress made in establishing the subgroup, consider the indicator piloting tool and support the piloting of the proposed health indicators.

Data-sharing by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission, in particular with regard to the African Union data portal

55. The report outlined the data-sharing initiatives by ECA, AfDB and the African Union Commission. The three pan-African institutions had organized a knowledge-sharing week in Addis Ababa from 13 to 17 June 2016. The objective of the initiative was to learn from statistical production processes in the three institutions. The gathering allowed all participants to propose means of avoiding duplication in data-collection efforts by capitalizing on the capabilities and expertise of each institution. This initiative would result in reducing not only the cost of data collection, but also the reporting burden, which weighed heavily on national statistics offices. The ultimate goal of the initiative was to establish a unique data repository at the continental level available to organizations wanting to gain access to data on Africa.

56. The Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa were requested to deliberate on the following issues:

(a) Allow access to any and all data provided to the International Monetary Fund, including private data to the three pan-African institutions;

(b) Establish one-stop, data-sharing mechanisms in the national statistics system for development partners to avoid the duplication of efforts and reduce the response burden;

(c) Support the implementation of open data platforms (ODP) for data-sharing for the *African Statistical Yearbook*;

(d) Support for the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for future data-sharing activities.

Challenge in land monitoring in the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

57. The side event on the challenge in land monitoring in the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals was organized on 29 November 2016 and was aimed at raising awareness of the data demand for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 among the national and regional statistics data communities and among partners, linking country, regional and global efforts; promoting the application and use of harmonized and globally comparable methodology, tools and data protocols and innovative technologies for land data collection, analysis and reporting; and strengthening and encouraging synergies with key land partners, including United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and donors, in support of national capacity-strengthening and the establishment of regional coordination mechanisms for data generation and reporting.

58. At the meeting, ECA was called upon to establish a technical working group on land data and statistics in Africa to provide guidance on the mechanisms to strengthen land data generation, analysis and reporting, in line with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, Agenda 2063, and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, and provide an annual progress report to the Statistical Commission for Africa. In addition, member States were called upon to intensify the production of land data and statistics for decision-making and to fast-track the reporting of land indicators in the 2030 Agenda, the New

Urban Agenda and Agenda 2063. Member States were also encouraged to commit resources and, with facilitation from the Land Policy Initiative, the African Centre for Statistics, UN-Habitat and other partners, conduct regular capacity assessments and implement capacity-strengthening initiatives in data and statistics at the country level for timely, quality and sex-disaggregated land data generation, analysis and reporting.

59. At the meeting, the need to ensure coordination of land governance and data communities, facilitate access to technical support and update appropriate technologies and tools for land data generation, analysis and reporting were reaffirmed. The establishment of the land data repository, which the Land Policy Initiative, the African Centre for Statistics and UN-Habitat, through the Global Land Indicators Initiatives, had committed to support, was also reaffirmed.

Report on Solution Exchange for the African statistics community

60. Solution Exchange for the African statistics community was launched in August 2015 as a knowledge-sharing platform offered by the African Centre for Statistics as a service to African statistical professionals and others providing statistical information for effectively planning, managing, monitoring and assessing national and interregional statistical development efforts in Africa. It has been led by an advisory group that sets Solution Exchange performance targets, reviews progress and provides support for the community's thematic priorities.

61. By the time the present report was prepared, the community had more than 500 members who contributed and shared experiences from 50 countries on various topics on statistical activities. Solution Exchange has been tracking the following six performance indicators: (a) community growth; (b) community vibrancy; (c) organizational and regional balance; (d) number of consolidated replies; (e) turnaround time; and (f) user satisfaction. Those indicators were measured against targets set by the advisory group. In this regard, the performance over five quarters, ending in September 2016, gave the impression that the service had filled a gap in the need for a knowledge-sharing platform and that its performance would be improved. The African Centre for Statistics and the advisory group should endeavour to improve the levels of participation, promote gender equality and regional balance in the membership and ensure financial viability for the sustainability of that important tool.

62. The participants were requested to undertake the following:

(a) Note the guidance provided by the advisory group of the Solution Exchange for the African statistics community in the meeting that had been held earlier in the week with respect to its future performance, priorities and suggestions to increase the value of the service to the community;

(b) Recommend that Statistical Commission for Africa members promote and take full advantage of this knowledge-sharing service for African statistical professionals and encourage all professionals (i.e., producers and users of statistics) to subscribe and actively participate in network consultations and activities;

(c) Express its appreciation to ECA for making the Solution Exchange service available to the African statistics community, and request that ECA continue to provide the support necessary for its continuation, including advisory group meetings and other events designed to promote the visibility and value of the statistical profession to Africa's development efforts.

African Gender and Development Index and the UN–Women regional flagship programme

63. A presentation was made by a representative of UN–Women on the joint ECA/AfDB gender index and the UN–Women regional flagship programme on gender statistics for the period 2016–2020. AfDB and ECA had been developing

a joint gender index that would replace the ECA African Gender and Development Index and the AfDB African Gender Index. The new index was expected to be launched in 2017. The UN–Women programme, on the theme “making every woman and girl count”, involved the implementation of gender statistics activities at the national, regional and global levels using three main pillars: improved policy environment, increased data production and improving data availability and use.

64. The presentation included the following recommendations for participants:

(a) Take note with appreciation of the report on gender statistics by the Africa Group on Gender Statistics;

(b) Request the Africa Group on Gender Statistics to begin to prepare for the next Africa Programme on Gender Statistics, paying specific attention to the production of time-use data and to improved coordination between national statistics offices and line ministries in the collection and use of gender statistics;

(c) Express support to ECA, UN-Women, AfDB and the African Union Commission to develop the joint gender index and 2016-2020 UN–Women regional programme on gender statistics.

Strategy for the integration of geospatial and statistical information

65. A side event on the integration of geospatial and statistical information was organized on 28 and 29 November 2016. The meeting was attended by nearly 30 participants, including delegates from 10 African countries, as well as observers from international organizations, including ECA, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management secretariat, academia, industry and the private sector. The meeting report was presented by the ECA representative. The report’s authors outlined the overarching principles for the integration of geospatial information and statistical information in Africa. Those principles were drawn from the global statistical geospatial framework being developed at the international level. For the integration to happen, a paradigm shift was needed to retool the production and use of foundational, authoritative and up-to-date spatially enabled statistical information. That information should be consistently available, accessible and usable over time for informed decision-making at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

66. The participants further took cognizance of the national development information infrastructure as the new paradigm of a basic information infrastructure that would ensure that appropriate data, information products and resources were used in policymaking for sustainable development. The participants called upon national statistics offices and national mapping agencies to encourage the integration of geospatial and statistical information and improve institutional coordination between the two communities in the context of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

Session VI: Exchange of views on statistical activities: coordination and partnerships

African Symposium on Statistical Development

67. A representative of the African Symposium on Statistical Development presented the report. The report outlined a brief historical overview of the Symposium and contained a summary of the main outcomes of the twelfth session of the Symposium, which was held from 2 to 4 November 2016 on the theme, “Strengthening basic economic statistics for the compilation of national

accounts". The participants were informed that the next session of the Symposium would continue to focus on economic statistics and national accounts until 2020. The representative called upon the participants to endorse the resolutions of the twelfth session and to provide guidance on its implementation. A five-year national action plan was also proposed for strengthening basic economic statistics for national accounts compilation, to be finalized by January 2017, sending the national action plan to the central depository at ECA for review and the sharing of experiences and best practices. Participants also agreed to take effective follow-up action to implement the national action plans once they had been formulated.

Global partnerships (Statistics Division, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, DIAL and the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques)

68. Representatives from OECD, DIAL and the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques shared their contributions to the partnership for statistical capacity-building in Africa, including their relevant statistical cooperation programmes. ECA delivered a message to participants from the Director of the Statistics Division, who could not attend the meeting.

Forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations

69. A presentation was made by the representative of ECA on the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission that had been scheduled to be held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017. The agenda items for discussion were presented and the participants were informed that documents would be available on the website of the Statistics Division. As a way forward, member States were invited to express their views and provide guidance on their contributions to the forty-eighth session and to indicate the agenda item that they wanted to lead in preparing the interventions, including from Africa. With regard to the renewal of African representatives to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, a decision was made to keep the same representatives for the coming two years.

Session VII: Statutory issues

Economic Commission for Africa statistical programme for the biennium 2018-2019

70. ECA presented an overview of planned statistical activities for the period 2018-2019. The activities would focus on statistical development, geoinformation, national accounts, demographic and social statistics, databases and publications and data technology. The presentation also covered the action plan for the African transformative agenda for official statistics. During the biennium 2018-2019, the focus of the African Centre for Statistics would remain the improvement of the production, dissemination and use of quality data and statistics in Africa for evidence-based policymaking, planning and programme implementation. Specific attention would also be given to the data and statistics needs for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

71. The areas of focus included the following:

- (a) Methodological work, such as the production of handbooks and guidelines;
- (b) Implementation of field projects;
- (c) Training;

- (d) Dissemination of information and best practices;
- (e) Open data initiatives;
- (f) Provision of technical assistance.

72. The 2030 Agenda had introduced a new development paradigm that contained an emphasis on inclusiveness, namely, to leave no one behind. Doing so required statistics disaggregated by gender, geographical location, income and other social and economic dimensions. It also required that statistics be combined with data from other sources and be made available to a wider audience. The ECA work would therefore include a focused advocacy campaign on institutional issues, including how to align strategies on statistics with national development plans. The data revolution had emerged, and the continent needed to deal with the new data concepts and challenges and seize the new opportunities.

73. The participants were requested to provide views and recommendations on the following issues:

- (a) Importance of the five thematic areas of the African transformative agenda of official statistics;
- (b) Alignment of national strategies for the development of statistics to national development plans, including the effective and efficient use of administrative data for the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Status of the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics

74. The African Union Commission representative made a presentation on the status of the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics. The participants were informed that 32 countries had signed the Charter and that 22 countries had ratified it, of which 17 had already submitted the ratification tools to African Union headquarters. The presenter concluded by making a solemn appeal to countries that had not yet signed or ratified the charter to do so as urgently as possible.

Status of the operationalization of the Pan-African Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre and presentation of the activities undertaken under the Pan-African Statistics Programme

75. The participants were informed that the process of operationalizing the African Union Institute for Statistics in Tunisia was under way and that the Institute would be launched in 2017. With respect to the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, it was noted that the host agreement had been discussed with Côte d'Ivoire authorities and would be signed in the near future. The African Union Commission was identifying the training needs of member States. With regard to the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, it was noted that, of the 14 specialized technical groups, only 11 were operational in full or in part. Currently, the Commission, in collaboration with ECA and AfDB and with the support of consultants, was reviewing the Strategy, to take emerging issues into account, including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, pinpointing targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the demands of the data revolution.

Proposed date, venue and theme for the eleventh session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices

76. It was agreed that the Sudan would host the eleventh session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices, in 2017, and that Zambia would host the third joint session of it and the Statistical Commission for Africa, in 2018.

Session VIII: Adoption of the main conclusions and recommendations

77. The recommendations adopted are found in the annex to this report.

VI. Closing session

78. The closing remarks for the fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, held jointly with the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices, were made by the African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs on behalf of the three pan-African institutions, namely, ECA, AfDB and the African Union Commission. He extended his sincere thanks to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for their warm welcome, excellent support throughout the meeting and the excellent facilities provided. He also thanked the staff of the national statistics office of Côte d'Ivoire for its support. Furthermore, he thanked all the directors general of national statistics offices of Africa for accepting the invitation and for their ongoing support. He also extended his gratitude to Eurostat, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, the Statistics Division, UNFPA, and all other partners for their continuous support for the development of statistics on the continent. He congratulated all for their active participation and the high quality of the discussions. Lastly, he thanked the ushers, interpreters, caterers and all present for their contribution to the successful deliberations and wished all participants safe journeys back to their countries.

79. The closing remarks of the Commissioner were followed by those of the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, who expressed his satisfaction with the overall proceedings. He highlighted the quality and the importance of the topics discussed and called upon all present to continue to strive for the development of statistics on the continent. He thanked all the collaborating partners for their contributions and wished all a safe return to their countries.

Annex

Main conclusions and recommendations of the tenth annual session of the African Union Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the fifth Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa

Introduction

The tenth Annual Session of the African Union Committee of Directors General (CoDG) of National Statistics Offices and the fifth Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (Stat-Com Africa) was held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, from 30 November to 2 December 2016 under the theme "Strengthening economic statistics to support Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Preamble

Acknowledging that the theme was chosen to highlight the role of economic statistics in the ongoing efforts towards the measurement framework and monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063,

Considering the report on the implementation of the resolutions of the ninth session of the Committee of Directors General,

Considering from the Reports of Specialized Technical Groups on labour, migration and the informal sector; on science, technology and education statistics; on governance, peace and security statistics; on gender statistics; on national accounts; on trade statistics; and on statistical training and human resources and the draft revised version of SHaSA,

Further considering ongoing, new and emerging issues including : (a) revenue statistics; (b) roadmap for the development of labour market information systems; (c) urbanization data and statistics; (d) call for expressions of interest in 18 Peer Reviews to be conducted in Africa under the Pan-African Statistics Programme; (e) call for expression of interest from NSOs in the E-Learning Programme on Implementing Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; (f) Statistical development in Africa; (g) African Statistical Development Index; (h) Use of mobile technology in Africa : (i) Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS), and (j) the 2020 round of Population and; Housing Censuses in Africa,

Having taken note of the reports on the following side events and their subsequent recommendations: (Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDEV); (b) Governance, Peace and Security Statistics; (c) Health statistics and the campaign to end child marriage in Africa; (d) Data Sharing by the African Union Commission/ECA/AfDB and in particular the African Union Data Portal; (e) Integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa, and establishment of data centres and data analysis centres for the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF); (f) Challenge of land monitoring in the framework and guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and within the targets set for Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals; (g) Labour migration statistics; (h) Solution Exchange for the African Statistical Community; (i) The African Gender and Development Index and the UN-Women Regional Flagship Programme,

Having exchanged views on coordination and partnership on statistical activities related to: (a) The African Symposium for Statistical Development, (b) partnership with development partners and (c) The forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission,

Having deliberated on statutory issues related to: (a) The AfDB statistical programme, (b) The ECA statistical programme for the biennium 2018-2019; (c) the African Union Commission statistical programme; (d) Status of the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics; (e) implementation status of the Pan-African Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, and presentation of the activities undertaken under the Pan-African Statistics Programme.

General

Call upon pan-African institutions to submit documents ahead of time to give countries the time to read them and formulate relevant observations and recommendations;

Recommend regarding the conduct of the meeting, that all proceedings of the meeting should be managed by the elected bureau of the session;

On strengthening economic statistics to support Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Agenda 2063 and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Recommend that all institutions working in statistics including National Statistics Offices, and Ministries in charge of Planning be involved in the convergence process on Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan and Agenda 2030 on SDG Indicators in the interest of economy and efficiency in reporting;

Further call upon member States to streamline national indicators for Agenda 2063 and for Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals.

Status and challenge of harmonization in the collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics in Africa

Call upon pan-African organizations to intensify the capacity-building efforts in economic statistics;

Invite pan-African organizations to take into account the existing harmonized tools developed by other institutions such as AFRISTAT;

Implementation of the resolutions of the ninth session of the Committee of Directors General

Mandate the pan African organizations in collaboration with the African Statistical System to follow up the implementation of the various CoDG resolutions;

Invite pan-African organizations to advocate for implementation of the ministerial decision to allocate 0.15 per cent of the national budget to statistics and call upon countries to ensure implementation of the decision;

Commend ECA for appointment of the Director of the African Centre for Statistics;

Migration and informal sector

Request the African Union Commission in collaboration with AfDB, ECA, Eurostat and other partners, to finalize the first report on labour migration statistics and to finalize the harmonization of tools, modules, concepts, definitions and classifications on labour migration statistics;

Request the African Union Commission, in collaboration with AfDB, ECA, Eurostat and other partners, to work on the second report on labour migration statistics in Africa and to train countries on labour migration;

Governance, peace and security

Call upon countries to include Governance, Peace and Security modules in household surveys conducted by NSOs and to use GPS statistics in policy formulation;

Gender statistics

Calls upon member States to improve the production of gender statistics at national level and also the coordination and cooperation between NSOs and line ministries;

Call upon NSOs to build partnerships with other stakeholders including civil society organizations which play a major role in generating gender-related data;

Call upon NSOs to fill the data gaps in gender statistics using time use surveys;

National Accounts

Invite partners to conduct training and provide technical support to member States on SNA 2008;

Call upon all partners to help mobilize financial resources in support of economic statistics and to strengthen coordination of their activities;

Statistical Training

Call upon ECA and partner organizations to continue to focus on training the human resources needed for sustainability of the system for producing quality agricultural statistics;

Call upon pan-African organizations to take measures to ensure that the training schools benefit from capacity-building initiatives and activities;

Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)

Call upon the African Union Commission in collaboration with AfDB and ECA to create a group of expert representatives of all African regions, including the two consultants, to work with Directors General to come up with a revised strategy that responds to African aspirations, and that articulate issues of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, the data revolution, big data, and other emerging issues as per the terms of reference (TORs). This strategy should be validated by the Directors General of statistics before submission to Ministers;

Call upon the technical team in charge of the SHaSA revision to develop an action plan to implement the revised SHaSA, a funding plan, the monitoring framework with a core set of indicators, and to look also at the governance structure;

Call upon the African Union Commission to make the revised SHaSA available in all AUC working languages;

Call upon the African Union Commission in collaboration with AfDB and ECA to develop an abridged version of the SHaSA;

Request the Pan African organizations to arrange a meeting for the CoDGs before the next Conference of Ministers to consider and approve the revised version of SHaSA, including the action plan, Africa Transformative Agenda issues and funding plans;

Ongoing, new and emerging issues

Revenue statistics

Call upon countries to consider the production of harmonized statistics on public finances;

Call upon the African Union Commission and OECD to involve International Monetary Fund technical assistance in the process of coordination in order to avoid duplication and inconsistencies;

Call upon NSOs to work closely with central banks and revenue offices to create synergy to ensure better production of revenue statistics;

Roadmap for the implementation of the labour market information system (LMIS)

Call upon countries to improve the LMIS by taking into account the informal sector and the constraints of organizing labour market surveys and by strengthening the registration and monitoring system of enterprises;

Urbanization data and statistics in Africa

Endorse the proposal for establishment of the African Programme on Urbanization Data and Statistics, based on the assessment report on urbanization data and statistics in Africa, and recommend that the definition of the concept of urbanization be harmonized and adapted to the context of African countries;

Peer review

Call upon the African Union Commission to compile the outcomes of the peer reviews reports and share the reports with high-level decision makers such as the Ministers, for further recommendations;

Call upon the African Union Commission to conduct peer reviews regularly and for all countries;

Call upon member States to take part in the peer review exercises in order to share best practices and make necessary amendments if need be;

Mobile technology for statistical data collection in Africa

Call upon African countries to allocate the necessary resources for the use of mobile technologies and to establish a cost-sharing mechanism at the continental level;

Call upon countries to give priority to south/south cooperation for capacity-building in data collection using mobile devices;

African Statistical Development Index

Endorse the methodology and call upon countries and pan-African organizations to put institutional mechanisms in place at continental level, in order to support implementation of the Index developed by ECA;

Call upon ECA to ensure a mechanism for periodic data collection for computation of the index.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Invite pan African organizations and partners to reinforce support to the APAI-CRVS programme, in particular the training of experts;

2020 round of the Population and Housing Census (PHC)

Invite all African countries to participate in the 2020 round of PHC;

Invite UNFPA to increase support for the 2020 round of PHC;

Invite countries to use more mobile technologies during the 2020 round of PHC;

Call upon the pan-African organizations to assist fragile countries to participate in the 2020 round of PHC;

Reports on side events

Endorse all the recommendations of all the side events as presented;

Exchange of views on the statistical activities: coordination and partnerships

Call upon all partners to continue their support to statistical development in Africa.

Statistical programmes of the African Union Commission, AfDB and ECA

Request the African Union Commission, AfDB and ECA to improve their coordination mechanisms;

Request clear guidance from AfDB on implementation of its statistical programme including the administrative process;

Endorse the ECA 2018-2019 biennium statistical work programme and the 5 thematic areas of the Africa Transformative Agenda and request the African Union Commission to officially remind countries to ratify the African Charter on Statistics;

Request more support for statistical training from AfDB, the African Union Commission and ECA through sponsoring studies and assisting with the organization of entry exams, and with reinforcing the human resources capacity;

Recommend that the African Union Commission invite a CoDG representative to ministerial meetings to strengthen advocacy;

Request AfDB, African Union Commission and ECA to assist countries in strengthening their statistical capacity.

Status of operationalization of the Pan-African Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, and presentation of the activities undertaken under the Pan-African Statistics Programme

Call upon the African Union Commission to ensure that the Pan-African Training Centre fills the missing gaps and avoids competing with the existing training centres;

Call upon the African Union Commission to draw on the experiences of other regions in defining the position and the role of the new Pan-African Institute of Statistics;

Recommend that the next CoDG meeting should focus on SHaSA, the Pan-African Institute of Statistics and the Pan African Statistical Training Centre;

Proposed date, venue and theme for the eleventh CoDG

Decide that the Sudan will host the 2017 CoDG and that Zambia will host the joint StatCom-CoDG in 2018.