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**Regional training workshop to improve use of existing data for monitoring
Gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa.**

Concept Note

Draft

**26-29 September 2017
Kampala, Uganda**

I. Purpose and Justification

Gender statistics play a crucial role in measuring gender equality and informing policy and decision makers on progress and gaps. Without gender-sensitive statistics, the data collection process is often gender-biased, having been designed without taking gender concerns into account. Introducing a gender perspective in statistics involves removing gender bias from existing collections, developing new collections to inform on gender issues (e.g. time use and asset ownership), conducting gender-focused analysis of data and disseminating information.

This importance of gender statistics in evidence based decision and the achievement of sustainable development is increasingly being recognized by all development agendas adopted these last decades, including the Beijing Platform for Action, SDGs and agenda 2063. They recognised gender statistics as fundamental tools for achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment and have identified the lack gender statistics as a significant data gap in statistical systems and a big challenge to evidence-based policy information and awareness for a better planning and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

In this regard, the outcome document of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development calls for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist. It commits to address gap in data collection so as to better inform the measurement of progress, in particular for those targets under which there is not clear numerical targets¹. Moreover, it sets the principle of disaggregation of relevant SDG indicators according to the following dimensions: income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location or other characteristics.

The monitoring requirement of gender related goal and targets in SDGs has increased the need for accurate and timely gender statistics and the interest and demand for gender statistics in Africa. As, the agenda 2030 for sustainable development has adopted a specific goal to gender equality (SDG5), and mainstreamed gender perceptive in targets and indicators of most other Sustainable Development Goals. This increasing demand for statistics under SDGs put much pressure on countries, particularly African countries, to produce these statistics at much more frequent intervals now than ever before. However, it is an important opportunity for the region to improve statistical capacity across all domains.

The production of timely, accurate and user-oriented gender statistics is instrumental in the effective mainstreaming of gender dimensions into national planning systems. The effective implementation of the African integration agenda and to ensure that its objectives are achieved, there is great need for reliable and harmonized statistics and information in all areas, including gender statistics. However, despite various initiatives taken by Africa gender statistics stakeholders for the advancement of issue in the continent, member states are still facing challenges to mainstream gender issues into their policies for improving their effectiveness and efficiency. As, African National Statistics Offices have not made sufficient progress in designing systems and operations to generate gender sensitive data that are needed to support the advances that have been made in raising awareness of the social and economic implications of gender imbalances. Consequently, many countries have difficulty in generating gender statistics for tracking their gender policies and programmes. This situation is worsening with challenges relating to monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective. Of the 14 proposed indicators to monitor SDG 5, there are only three for which internationally accepted standards for measurement exist and for which data are regularly collected by most countries. Of the remaining 11 indicators, five have internationally accepted standards but data collection by most countries is largely irregular. And for the remaining six, international standards do not yet exist

¹ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. September 2015 (Para. 57)

and most countries do not regularly collect the data. Similarly, many of the gender-related indicators in the other Goals – such as on gender and poverty, gender pay gaps, women’s representation in local governments, violence and abuse, access to justice and indicators related to gender and the environment – currently lack comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring. Lack of statistics in these areas arises both from a failure to prioritize gender equality in data collection and from a lack of resources².

To address these challenges, ECA, UNSD, UNWomen and other United Nations Agencies have developed many tools and methodologies aiming to mainstream gender perspectives into national statistical systems as a way of improving their capacity to produce, analyse, and disseminate gender disaggregated data and statistics.

One of the products of these initiatives is the Handbook for Gender Mainstreaming in African Official Statistics developed by ECA. The tool aims to provide users with relevant methodologies on how to engender national statistical processes including the production of gender statistics through censuses and surveys. It provides data producers and users across Africa with a common understanding of gender statistics and how to produce them. It outlines issues, challenges and solutions aimed at helping statisticians integrate gender concerns in all phases of the statistical production process, from collection to dissemination. It is also a useful reference for users of gender statistics to improve their understanding of how data are produced. Other initiatives taken by ECA include:

An on-line training toolkit on gender statistics: This toolkit is expected to go a long way in enhancing knowledge of users on production and use of gender statistics. A variety of users are going to benefit from the toolkit such as policy makers, gender specialists, statisticians.

The African Gender The African Gender Index Framework: The African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), a composite index whose primary objective is to provide African countries with an accurate gender-accountability tool to implement and assess their progress against their commitment. In 2015, AfDB launched the Africa Gender Equality Index, whose aim is similar to the one of AGDI.

At the request of member States, the two organizations have engaged themselves in a process of developing a joint Gender Index, taking stock of the comparative advantages of both indices. Having one African Gender Equality Index will create a strategic synergy, in that it will help avoid the duplication of efforts and resources, while promoting collective focused interventions. In this respect, the two institutions have started working together on producing the joint Africa index on gender equality. The first publication of the joint index is expected in 2017.

These tools are developed under the regional programme on gender statistics known as the African Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS) by Working Group on Gender Statistics. The APGS is an umbrella regional programme on gender statistics which encompasses all conceivable activities that need to be undertaken by regional organizations, international agencies and other institutions at the regional level. Its objective is to improve the availability of accurate gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels in Africa. It was endorsed by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its third session, which asked the Working Group on Gender Statistics to coordinate the implementation of the Programme and to report on progress made. In this respect, two successive five-year plan of action (2012–2016) and (2017–2021) were developed so far.

² Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics. UN Women May 2016

Considering the above initiatives and the need to strengthen capacity of member states in integrating a gender perspective into national statistics for a better production on Tier I SDGs indicators. In this regards, UNECA, in partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UN Women and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), is organizing three workshops back to back from 26 to 29 September 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. These are the following:

- a) A regional training workshop to improve use of existing data for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa
- b) A regional training workshop on the online gender statistics toolkit developed by ECA ; and
- c) A regional workshop on methodology of SDG indicator 5.5.1b on women's representation in local government.

The regional training workshop to improve use of existing data for monitoring, gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa is part of activities undertaken within the United Nations Development account programme on statistics and data. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been in charge of carrying out the project activities in your African region. It will be a two and half-day training that aims to provide member states with tools and methodologies developed at regional and international level in order to strengthen their capacity in integrating a gender perspective into national statistics for an improved availability and use of gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels for better evidence-based gender policies. The workshop will cover topics such as:

- Integrating a gender perspective into official statistics;
- Presenting, disseminating and communicating gender statistics; and
- improving gender statistics literacy among data users.

It will strengthen capacity of member states and consequently enable them to revitalize the availability and improvement of gender indicators in Africa for evidence-based decision making and effective monitoring of progress towards gender equality and women empowerment.

The training workshop on the online gender statistics toolkit will be a half day workshop. The workshop on the online toolkit aims to demonstrate and introduce the on-line training toolkit on Gender statistics developed by ECA and United Nations System Staff College to the Group members. A training session will follow these processes.

The third workshop will be organized by UN Women, in collaboration with ECA. It is focused on the methodology of the SDG indicator 5.5.1b, "proportion of seats held by women in local governments", and it will bring together representatives from national statistical offices/systems, line ministries overseeing local government, women's affairs/gender equality ministries and electoral bodies.

II – Objective

The main objective of this Regional training workshops is to provide member states with tools and methodologies developed at regional and international level in order to improve their technical capabilities in producing gender statistics to monitor SDG Tier I gender indicators and in disseminating, communicating and using statistics and indicators.

The workshops will cover topics such as: integrating a gender perspective into official statistics; presenting, disseminating and communicating gender statistics; and improving gender statistics literacy among data users.

Outcome: These workshops will assist countries in their efforts to mainstream gender into their national statistical systems, which will result in improved availability and use of gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels for better evidence-based gender policies.

The specific objectives of the workshop include:

Improving the use of existing data for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment

Improving the capacity of national statistical system in view of the 2020 round of population and housing census through dissemination of tools developed by ECA and UNSD

Improving the technical capabilities of member states in producing gender statistics to monitor SDG Tier I gender indicators and in disseminating, communicating and using statistics and indicators.

Providing input to the methodology of the Tier 3 SDG indicator 5.5.1b on women's representation in local government.

Providing a platform for sharing experience and Experience among member states for better addressing the challenges relating to the production and use of gender statistics in African countries.

III. Methodology

The meeting will be organized in plenary and breakout sessions as following:

- a) Plenary sessions will be devoted to the presentation and tools and methodologies developed by ECA, UNSD and Unwoven on the different Topics that will be addressed by the meeting
- b) The breakaway sessions will be devoted to Group work approaches and methodologies demonstrated, particularly their applicability of the tools in different settings
- c) The last sessions will be on recommendation and way forward.

IV - Expected outcomes

- Enhanced capacity of member states in mainstreaming gender perspective into national statistical systems and in the production of gender statistics;
- Better understanding by key actors in gender analysis and gender statistics of the importance of gender statistics on evidence-based development policy and programs information and formulation as well as on the effective achievement of the these policies and
- Improved availability and use of gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels for better evidence-based gender policies.
- Shared experience and information among participants on required tools and methodologies on production and use of gender statistics in the African context;

V – Organization of the Workshops

The Workshops are organized by the African Centre for Statistics of ECA (ACS) in collaboration with in partnership with UNSD, UN Women and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). It will be held from 26 to 29 September in Kampala, Uganda.

VI – Participants and Funding of the meeting

The regional workshops are organized for staff of national statistical offices, statisticians in line ministries and other stakeholders including women’s advocates and NGOs, to improve their technical capabilities in producing gender statistics to monitor SDG gender indicators and in disseminating, communicating and using statistics and indicators.

They will also include staff from local governance entities as well as other international agencies that are actively engaged in gender statistics.

Participants from member states will be provided with a round trip ticket for the most economic and direct route from their country to the meeting venue. They will also be provided a daily subsistence allowance for the period covered by the meeting.

VI – Logistical details

The meeting will take place in Kampala, Uganda from 26 to 29 September 2017.

The organizers will provide substantive and technical support to the organization of the meeting including interpretation in French and English