

Conference of Ministers 2018

Side event

Addressing data gaps for Sustainable Development Goal economic indicators in Africa

Organized by the African Centre for Statistics of the
Economic Commission for Africa

To be held at the United Nations Conference Centre on 13 May 2018

Background

1. Ensuring the capacity of countries to generate statistics that adequately inform and measure Sustainable Development Goals is a cornerstone of sound policymaking. The present side event of the Conference of Ministers 2018 aims to sensitize high-level decision makers from African countries to the lasting benefits of investing in and using high-quality statistics in policymaking and development planning. It also aims to provide information on the risks of not doing so. Aligning means and resources with the efforts required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promotes the importance of evidence-based policy analysis and decision-making. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the essential role of statistics, and calls for intensified efforts to strengthen statistical capacities, especially in developing countries. Recent surveys and discussions with national statisticians have revealed the large gaps in economic statistics provided by African countries, and highlighted the urgent need for further intervention and action to improve the situation. There is global consensus that investment in the generation and gathering of statistics is fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Processes are under way at the national level to support the generation of statistics that are timely and of high quality.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the side event include:
- Raise awareness of the state of Sustainable Development Goal economic indicators in Africa
 - Engage officials at the national level to share their practices and experiences with statistics and indicators relating to the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Invite discussion on steps towards building statistical systems that are more responsive to current needs and on support for national efforts to continue to improve the generation of statistical data that are timely and of high quality.

Expected outcomes

- Follow-up actions to develop and plan for more integrated economics statistics in Member States
- Improved status of national official statistics because of more human, technical and financial resources allocated to statistics.

Target audience

- High-ranking officials of the ministries of finance, economic planning, and industry
- National and regional planners
- Policymakers and analysts
- Development practitioners.

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