



**Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Statistics**

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Statistical Commission for Africa

First session

(STATCOM-AFRICA –I)

“Scaling up Statistical Development in Africa”

Addis Ababa, 20-24 January 2008

Provisional Agenda and annotations

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1. Registration and consultation with the heads of delegations
2. Opening ceremony
 - a. Welcoming Address by the Executive Secretary;
 - b. Statements of two Ministers of Finance and the Chief Economist of AfDB
 - c. Keynote address on “Global Statistical System and Role of the Statistical Commissions”;
3. “Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the ECA”
 - a. Award Ceremony
 - b. Statements on “Lessons learnt from some of the best initiatives in statistical development on the continent” by the Award Winners;
 - c. Launching of the Document entitled :Mainstreaming Sectoral Statistical Systems in Africa: A Guide to planning a Coordinated National Statistical System”, the RRSF Website and the African Gender Statistics Network
4. Election of Officers;
5. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters;
6. Goals and Objectives of the STATCOM-Africa;
7. Video on “Visualizing World Development”
8. Reports on:
 - a. African Statistical Coordinating Committee
 - b. Population and housing census
 - c. National Statistical Associations
 - d. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monitoring
 - e. International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa)
 - f. Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF) implementation
 - g. Basic economic statistics and national accounts
 - h. Environmental statistics
 - i. Employment statistics
 - j. Gender statistics
 - k. Statistical training
9. Breakaway sessions on:
 - a. MDG monitoring
 - b. National accounts
 - c. Informal sector
 - d. Data management
 - e. Statistical training
 - f. Household surveys
10. Report from the working groups
11. Upcoming major events
12. Programmatic issues
13. Provisional agenda and dates for the second session of STATCOM-Africa
14. Main conclusions and recommendations of the first session of STATCOM-Africa
15. Closing ceremony

Annotations

1. Registration and consultation with heads of delegates

Participants will be invited to register. Registration will start on Saturday 19 January 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC). On Sunday 20 January and Monday 21 January, consultations with heads of delegations will be made in order to agree on officers for the first session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa).

2. Opening Ceremony

- a. The Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will call the meeting to order and made welcoming remarks.
- b. Then two African Ministers of Finance and the Chief Economist of the African Development Bank (AfDB) will make statements.
- c. Finally, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) will deliver a keynote address on “Global Statistical System and the Role of Statistical Commissions”.

Documentation: Keynote address on “Global Statistical system and the Role of Statistical Commissions”. (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**) – The statements which will be under embargo prior to Monday 21 January 2007 will be made available after the opening ceremony.

3. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the UNECA

- a. An Award Ceremony will be organized consisting of:
 - The African Centre for Statistics (ACS) awarding Prizes, on behalf of the African statistical community to five statisticians who have done outstanding work on statistics in Africa;
 - The Minister of Finance of South Africa, on behalf the “Friends of ECA” ((Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, and Uganda), handing over an award of appreciation to the Executive Secretary of ECA for reviving statistics at ECA and advocating for statistics in different fora; and
 - The ACS handing over mementos to: (i) the Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) for his support to statistical capacity building in Africa; (ii) the Director of the UNSD for focusing attention on statistics in Africa; (iii) the President of INEGI and also current Chairperson of the United Nations Statistical Commission; and (iv) the Secretary General of the National Statistical Coordination Board of Philippines for their support to STATCOM-Africa.
- b. Then, Statements will be made by the Award winners on the following theme: “Lessons learnt from some of the best initiatives in statistical development in Africa”. This will give

the audience the opportunity to share the Award winners' experiences in statistical development in Africa.

- c. Finally, there will be the launching of: (i) the website of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Development in Africa (RRSF); and the portal of the African Gender Statistics Network (GESNET). These advocacy and knowledge sharing tools are expected to contribute to the promotion of statistics including gender-responsive statistics in Africa.

Documentation: The interventions of the Prize winners during the panel discussion will be recorded and transcribed and later published.

4. Election of Officers

The outgoing chairperson of CODI-V will conduct the election of officers for the new Bureau of the first session of STATCOM-Africa. The Bureau will comprise a Chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, two rapporteurs. The Bureau will serve for two years in accordance with the terms of reference of the STATCOM-Africa.

5. Adoption of the Agenda and organizational matters

Under this item, the provisional agenda and the draft provisional programme of work will be discussed, amended if needed and adopted. The Secretariat will address pertinent administrative matters and make announcements, if any.

Documentation: Draft Provisional Agenda and Programme of Work for the first meeting of STATCOM-Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /***)

6. Goals and Objectives of the STATCOM-Africa

Under this item, a presentation will be made on the goals and objectives of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa), which was put in place following the establishment of the ACS with division status. Therefore, STATCOM-Africa is the new subsidiary body specifically devoted to statistics, and will act as the apex entity in statistical development on the continent.

Documentation: Goals and Objectives of the STATCOM-Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /***)

7. Visualizing World Development

A video on “Visualizing World Development” will be presented by the Director of Gapminder. The video is a unique presentation of the outcomes of decades of development of countries from all regions of the world that make understandable some acute development issues.

8. Reports on various topics

Under this item of the agenda, several reports will be submitted for consideration to the STATCOM-Africa.

a. African Statistical Coordinating Committee

The secretariat of the African Statistical Coordinating Committee (AFCC) will present a report informing the participants on the mandate of such a body and what it has achieved so far. The AFCC comprises the four regional African organizations working, among others, in the area of statistics, namely: the AfDB, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the ECA. The Commission may wish to express its views on future activities of the AFCC.

Documentation: Fostering Statistical Coordination in Africa: The African Statistical Coordinating Committee (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I/**)

b. Population and Housing Census

- **Status of the 2010 Round of the Population and Housing Censuses**

The secretariat of the ASSD, here after called the ASSD Secretariat, will present a report on the status of the 2010 Round of the Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs) in Africa. The ASSD is a country-led initiative of the nine African countries called “Friends of ECA” aiming at supporting ECA in the promotion of statistics in Africa. The last two sessions of the ASSD have focused on PHCs to encourage all African countries undertake a census during the 2010 World Programme on PHCs and as so doing, enable countries to get the required data for the design, monitoring and evaluation of their development agenda including the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Commission may wish to express its views on the report and the way forward.

Documentation: Status of the 2010 Round of the Population and Housing Censuses in Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I/**)

- **Taking Stock of the ASSD Deliberations on PHCs**

The STATCOM-Africa will have before it the report of the African Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD) on PHCs. The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

Documentation: ASSD Deliberations on Population and Housing Censuses (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I/**)

c. National Statistical Associations

A report on national statistical associations (NSAs) will be presented to the STATCOM-Africa. This presentation will provide as far as possible a comprehensive assessment of the existing NSAs. The STATCOM-Africa may wish to consider a strong appeal to each national statistical community to establish a NSA which will stand as an advocacy tool, a forum for knowledge sharing and even more. The ultimate goal of this appeal is to use NSAs as building blocks to re-establish the Statistical Association for the whole continent.

Documentation: National Statistical Associations in Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

d. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Monitoring

A UN report on its data collection system with respect to MDGs will be presented to STATCOM-Africa. It will describe the system that involve several UN agencies and countries, and highlight its strengths and weakness, and propose recommendations to improve it. A second report will focus on the challenges faced by African countries in this MDGs monitoring exercise. The Commission may wish to express its views on the process and make recommendations to African countries and other actors in order to make available the required data for the 2010 and 2015 reporting years.

Documentation: The United Nations MDGs Data Collection System (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**) and Challenges Faced by African Countries in MDGs Monitoring (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

e. International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa)

The International Comparison Program (ICP) aimed at generating purchasing power parity (PPP) estimates that facilitate cross-country comparisons of price levels, and economic aggregates in real terms. The AfDB is the institution that has coordinated the current ICP round for Africa region (ICP-Africa). ICP-Africa has expanded its mandate to include other objectives including the strengthening of national statistical capacity; and support to AfDB regional member countries to fully implement the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA93).

Documentation: International Comparison Programme for Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**).

f. Reference Regional Strategic Framework

The Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF) is the framework agreed by all stakeholders in statistical development in Africa during the second meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) and adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa in April 2007. A reporting mechanism about the implementation of the RRSF was also agreed upon and ACS and AfDB were given the responsibility of reporting to STATCOM-Africa and the governing bodies of the two institutions.

Documentation: Implementation of the RRSF (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

g. Improving Basic Economic Statistics and National Accounts

Under this item, the STATCOM-Africa will have before it three reports on: (i) the lessons learnt from the UNSD workshops on economic statistics, (ii) administrative data sources in order to promote their use in a more systematic way, and (iii) database of company balance sheets as an example to illustrate what will be said in the previous reports.

Documentation: Lessons Learnt from the UNSD Workshops on Economic Statistics (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Revisiting Administrative Data Sources (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); and Database of Company Balance Sheets (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**).

h. Environmental statistics

An overview of challenges related to environment statistics production will be presented to the STATCOM-Africa. The STATCOM may wish to discuss difficulties countries are facing in collecting environmental statistics and propose ways to make improvements.

Documentation: Environmental Statistics*** (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

i. Employment statistics

Under this item, a document will be presented on labor statistics as a follow-up to the concern of the **th session of the Conference of Ministers held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 10 to 15 May 2006 on the following theme “The Challenge of Employment and Poverty in Africa”. Indeed, it was stressed not only the need for evidence-based policy, decision-making but also the lack of data, in particular data relating to employment (employment generation is considered as a key element of poverty reduction in African countries), which was seen as a serious impediment to properly inform national macroeconomic frameworks based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs).

Documentation: Labor Force Statistics (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

j. Various Initiatives on Gender statistics

While a lot has been done on gender issues, statisticians are lagging behind in providing gender-responsive Statistics for policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. The STATCOM-Africa will have before it a document that provides information on the various initiatives taken with respect to gender statistics. It may wish to make recommendations on the way forward.

Documentation: Various Initiatives on Gender Statistics (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

9. Working Groups

Six working groups will be set up in order to consider the following topics: MDG monitoring, national accounts, informal sector, data management, statistical training and household surveys. During the session, the following organizations will respectively lead the work of the groups: ECA, AfDB, AFRISTAT, ECOWAS, ACBF and ECA. The groups will prepare and make presentations on the various topics. Then country examples will be presented.

Documentation: Measuring the MDGs indicators: methodological issues (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Implementation of the SNA 1993 (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Measurement of the Informal Sector (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Data Archiving Methods (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Database: Still a Challenge? (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Report on Statistical Training in Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Report on the PALOP Project (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); and country examples which will be made available during the session.

10. Report from the working groups

The rapporteurs of the working groups will report in a plenary session. The STATCOM-Africa may wish to decide whether a country or organization will take the lead to carry on with the reflection within the framework of a city group or a standing or temporary working group.

Documentation: Reports of the six Working Groups to be made available, if possible, in the conference room.

11. Upcoming Major African Events

a. The 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute

The representatives of Statistics South Africa will make a presentation on the 57th session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to be held in Durban, South Africa. This will be the first time in its history that ISI organizes a session in Sub-Saharan Africa. The ISI is an international scientific association formally established in 1885 and its first congresses go back to 1853. Its aim is to develop and improve statistical methods and their application through the promotion of international cooperation. A video will be presented inviting all the statistical community to join their South African colleagues at this landmark event in Africa.

Documentation: Brochures and DVDs will be distributed.

b. The 6th Session of the Coordinating Committee on Statistical Activities

The Inter-agency Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) will organize its 12th session in Africa for the first time. The AfDB will host the meeting on behalf of AFCC. The CCSA was established in 2002 by the Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination of Statistical Activities. Its overall objective is, through coordination, Integration and complementary among statistical programmes, to achieve an integrated global statistical system. It comprises the UN

entities and programmes, the UN specialized agencies and related organizations, and other international and non-governmental organizations.

Documentation: Brochures will be distributed.

12. Programmatic issues

The ACS will report on its activities during the biennium 2006-2007 and present its business plan for the biennium 2008-2009. A report on the follow-up of CODI-V will be made available and the STATCOM-Africa may wish to comment on that document during the discussions on the ACS report of activities.

Documentation: Implementation of the ACS Work programme 2006-2007 (E/ECA/ACS/STATCOM-Africa-I /**); ACS Business Plan 2008-2009 (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**); Follow-up of CODI-V (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**).

13. Provisional agenda and dates for the second session of STATCOM-Africa

The STATCOM may wish to discuss the zero draft of a provisional agenda for the second session of STATCOM-Africa.

Documentation: Draft Provisional Agenda for the second session of STATCOM-Africa (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

14. Main conclusions and recommendations of STATCOM-Africa-I

The draft of the main conclusions and recommendations of the first session will be presented and discussed.

Documentation: Main conclusions and recommendations of the first session of STATCOM-Africa-I (E/ECA/ACS/ STATCOM-Africa-I /**)

16. Closing ceremony

The main conclusions and recommendations of the first session of STATCOM-Africa-I will be presented for formal adoption by the STATCOM-Africa. The STATCOM-Africa may wish to mandate the Secretariat to draft the report to be presented to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and also to the UN Statistical Commission.

The ECA Executive Secretary and the Chairperson of STATCOM-Africa will make some concluding remarks before closing the session.