

StatCom-Africa

STATISTICAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

“Scaling up statistical development in Africa”

Following the establishment of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with Division status, a new subsidiary body specifically devoted to statistics and statistical development on the continent has been put in place. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa in April 2007 endorsed the creation of the subsidiary body in charge of statistics: the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), as the apex entity in statistical development on the continent.

StatCom-Africa will hold its 1st meeting from 20 to 24 January 2008 at the UN Conference Centre in Addis, Ethiopia under the theme, “Scaling up statistical development in Africa”. It will be launched at a high level opening session to be presided over by the Executive Secretary of the UNECA. Two Ministers of Finance (one from West Africa and one from Southern Africa), the Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the current Chairperson of the UN Statistical Commission have been invited to witness the launch. Dr. Paul Cheung, the Director of the UN Statistics Division, will give the keynote address. We will take advantage of this seminal event to honour, on behalf of the African statistical community, those sons and daughters of Africa who have contributed most to statistical development on the continent. We also plan to use the event to officially launch the “Mainstreaming Sectoral Statistical Systems in Africa: A Guide to Planning a Coordinated National Statistical System” which has been prepared by the African Development Bank, Intersect and PARIS21, and two web sites developed by the African Centre for Statistics, namely the African Gender Statistics Network (GESNET) portal and RRSF web site.

A pre-StatCom-Africa high-level seminar on leadership and management of National Statistical Systems (NSS) is planned for 20 January. The seminar, which is expected to be officially opened by the Executive Secretary of the ACBF, will bring together Heads of National Statistics Offices, Chairpersons of National Statistics Councils/Boards and Managers of national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Units/entities. It will address issues related to leadership and management of statistical systems. The Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV), which brings together main development partners involved in statistical development in Africa, will be held on 24 January. New statistical initiatives as well as scaling up support for statistics will be the main business for FASDEV.

StatCom-Africa: 20-24 January 2008

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia