United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

StatsTalk-Africa: Machine Learning for Economic Research
Thursday, 14 September 2023

Concept Note

Background

The African Centre for Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa convenes monthly StatsTalk-Africa Webinar Series that serve as a knowledge-sharing and exchange platform. This upcoming webinar specifically aims to explain machine learning and its usefulness in econometrics to promote greater understanding of key concepts and alternative data sources and methods that can be harnessed in the African context.

Objective

This StatsTalk-Africa webinar series is curated for economists interested in using Machine Learning for their research and applications. It will be focused on four questions:

1.   How to define Machine Learning?

2.   What are the main differences /similarities between Machine Learning and econometrics?

3.   When is Machine Learning useful in economics?

4.   Which are the Machine Learning models generally used in economics?

Date and Time

The Webinar is scheduled for Thursday, 14th September 2023, from 11:00 to 12:30hr EAT.

Language

English will be the official form of communication for this webinar series.

Registration link

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0eae73a4-b713-4263-aab0-5674265e1228@0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70

Agenda

Time	Item
11:00 – 11:10	**About the webinar, introduction of speaker, and welcome remarks.** Moderator: *Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Director,* African Centre for Statistics – United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
11:10 – 11:50	**Presentation title: Machine Learning for Economic Research** Presenter: *Christophe Hurlin, Professor, University of Orléans and Insitut Universitaire de France*
11:50 – 12:20	**Q& A Session**
12:20 – 12:30	**Wrap up/summary of discussion/announcements.** *Moderator*

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