



Eighth Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa-VIII)

“Modernizing data ecosystem in Africa to support regional integration”

24-26 October 2022

Macroeconomic and Governance Division (MGD) side event on:

“The urgent needs to ensure high-quality data supply: experience sharing and the way forward”

1. Background

Africa needs to build its statistical capacity to produce accurate, high quality and timely data to inform policies that will support the full implementation of the sustainable development goals and the continent’s Agenda 2063. Timely, accurate and high-quality data and statistics to inform policy remains a significant challenge across Africa especially under the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the recent Ukraine crisis. There is an urgent need to have a high-quality data supply not only to support the work that are currently undertaken in Member States but also to support monitoring and evaluation of key regional initiatives. However, there still remains a mismatch between high-quality data supply and demand which has massively slowed down the activities and projects targeted to support Member States to accelerate efforts to transform African economies to achieve a prosperous Africa by 2030. Further, the lack of quality-data hinders the ability of Member States to design, implement policies and monitor progress towards country’s development plans.

UNECA and its partners are working tirelessly with Member States to try and plug the data gap. StatCom-Africa was established in 2005 and supervised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and acts within the United Nations policies and procedures framework. The 8th Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom Africa) will be held under the theme “Modernizing data ecosystem in Africa to support regional integration”.

This session serves as a side event of the 8th StatCom Africa and will showcase the mismatch of data availability and its consequences based on the Macroeconomic and Governance Division (MGD)'s experiences. This session will also invite country representatives to share their views and methodologies on obtaining and utilizing high quality data to achieve structural transformation and inclusive growth through strengthened and effective development planning, macroeconomic policy analysis, and enhanced public sector finance management and governance towards Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 "The Africa We Want".

2. Objectives

This side event is a platform for MGD and its partners to share experiences and discuss their needs related to high-quality data supply to support day-to-day work. The event is a potential platform to show case practical examples of how gaps in quality-data do affect the divisional work on supporting member states. It provides an opportunity to bring awareness of the struggles that have been faced by the division and partners. It also provides an occasion to discuss and brainstorm on how to address the issue and finding a way forward in ensuring the availability of data. It will ignite the engagement of its participants on methodologies that support availability of data on key initiatives, such as regional and sub-regional integration, implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), tracking progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063 in the context of the African Sustainable Development Report, tracking and reporting on Illicit Financial Flows per SDG indicator 16.4.1, and strengthening capacities for the design, implementation and monitoring National Development Plans and Frameworks.

3. Expected outcome

This programme will come up with:

- Shared knowledge on gaps in quality-data and its effects on the divisional work on supporting member states
- Raised awareness on the struggles faced by the division and partners
- Stronger collaboration between partners/stakeholders on providing high-quality data supply
- Shared methodologies on how to ensure the availability of data in key regional initiatives
- A roadmap for improving data quality and availability in Africas

4. Format of the Side Event

The event will be held both physically and virtually depending on the availability and preference of the participants. Presentations will be made by MDG members and country representatives, followed by a session of discussions and exchanges on different aspects of the topic.

5. Date and Place

The event will take place on 23 October 2022 (14.00 – 16.00 UTC +03.00), in-person, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) room number CR3, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

6. Target Audiences

The participant of the event includes:

- a. The official country delegation to the StatCom-Africa led by the head of the National Statistics Office;
- b. Representatives of other national statistical system actors, in particular, Geospatial and Civil registration experts;
- c. Observers from national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations, Inter-governmental Organizations, NGOs, the academia and research institutions, the private sector and related industries; and
- d. African statisticians.

7. Contact Information

For further information, please contact Ms. Atkeyelsh Persson (email: persson1@un.org) and Mr. Douglas Kigabo Bitonda (email: douglas.kigabobitonda@un.org).