



**Statistical Commission for Africa**  
Fifth session  
Abidjan, 28 November-2 December 2016

**Committee of Directors General of National  
Statistics Offices**  
Tenth session

## Concept Note

### I. Background

1. The year 2016 marks the fifty-third anniversary of the creation of our continental organization, the Organization of African Unity / African Union. Despite having one of the highest economic growth rates over the last decade, Africa remains the region most affected by poverty, unemployment and inequalities in income and access to social services. In response to these concerns, African leaders adopted Agenda 2063 in January 2015 and a 10-year implementation plan in June 2015. This agenda will enable Africa to break out of underdevelopment and place the continent on the path of emerging economic, social and cultural well-being for its people.
2. With the adoption of Agenda 2063 at the continental level and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, the compilation of high-quality, timely, reliable disaggregated data is needed in the African continent at all levels of the development process to inform decisions, enable all stakeholders to track progress and make the necessary adjustments to ensure transparency and mutual accountability.
3. At their ninth Joint Annual Meetings held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016, the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa's Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development acknowledged that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, containing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), offer a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development with equity. They underscored the importance for Africa to adopt a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, and agreed on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both agendas, and a common reporting framework that will produce a single periodic performance report.
4. For the effective implementation of the African integration agenda and the transformation agenda articulated in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, the collection and production of timely and reliable statistics is imperative. The continent's integration and economic transformation agenda requires an improved understanding of the economic activities taking place in the region. Specifically, statistics are needed to measure the pace of regional integration and economic transformation in Africa and to inform policymaking in order to accelerate the process.
5. However, economic statistics is still in the early stages of development in a number of African countries, where quality and availability depend on individual countries' statistical infrastructure. Lack of coordination among different stakeholders,

duplication of efforts, inadequate resources allocated to statistical activities and shortages of skilled manpower are some of the challenges arising in the production of statistics in Africa.

6. In view of the above, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), are planning to organize the tenth session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and fifth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (Stat-Com Africa) from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

## **II. Theme**

7. To highlight the critical role of economic statistics in ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, the session, while deliberating on statutory matters, will focus its attention on economic statistics in Africa under the theme "Strengthening economic statistics to support Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

## **III. Objective of the meeting**

### **Ultimate objective**

8. The main objective of the joint session is to discuss the status of and challenges in the production of economic statistics in Africa and to take stock of the various efforts made towards the modernization of official statistics (i.e. harmonization, comparability and production processes, new data ecosystems, locational management of information, coordination efforts and new technologies) in the continent to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

### **Specific objectives are to:**

- Discuss the status of and the challenge of harmonization in the collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics in Africa
- Discuss the improvement of economic statistics through the implementation of SNA 2008
- Discuss the status of the operationalization of the Pan-African Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, and presentation of the activities undertaken under the Pan-African Statistics programme
- Discuss country-level land monitoring in line with the AUC/AfDB/ECA Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and the SDG monitoring frameworks
- Discuss the production of the African Statistical Yearbook, and make recommendations for a way forward following the 2016 Arusha meeting held to validate the Yearbook
- Review the reports of the working groups set up under the System for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)
- Review and validate the revised SHaSA
- Discuss the collection and harmonization of revenue statistics in Africa
- Discuss subnational statistics in Africa
- Discuss the status of the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics

- Engage member States in a dialogue with a view to embracing spatially enabled data ecosystems as an essential element of far-reaching innovation for sustaining national statistics systems and facilitating spatial analytics and the locational management of information
- Discuss preparations for the next session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
- Discuss the future of the Africa Symposium on Statistics Development
- Discuss the role of Africa in the global partnership for data
- Discuss statutory issues specific to the Committee of Directors General and StatCom-Africa.

#### **IV. Side events**

9. A series of meetings are planned to take place in conjunction with the joint session. They will include:
- Forum on African Statistical Development in Africa
  - Expert group meeting on a strategy for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa
  - Expert group meeting on the establishment of data centres and data analysis centres for the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF)
  - Side event on the challenge of land monitoring in the context of the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals – to be organized by the Land Policy Initiative and UN-Habitat
  - Expert group meeting on labour migration statistics
  - Expert group meeting on health statistics and the campaign to end child marriage in Africa.
  - Data-sharing by AUC/ECA/AfDB
  - Advisory Group Meeting - Solution Exchange African Statistical Community
  - African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST)
  - Governance, Peace and Security Statistics
  - The African Gender Index and the UNWomen's Regional Flagship Programme

#### **V. Date and venue**

10. The tenth session of the Committee of Directors General and the fifth session of StatCom-Africa will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

#### **VI. Participants**

11. The meeting will bring together the Directors General of national statistics offices, heads of departments or statistical units of the regional economic communities, schools and institutes of statistics training, AFRISTAT, pan-African institutions and development partners, heads of national authorities in charge of mapping, cartography, surveying and high-level geospatial science and technology experts selected from non-governmental organizations, academia, research institutions and the private sector. Strategic

partners and agencies responsible for land monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals will also be invited.

### **Format of the meeting**

12. The deliberations of the joint session will be organized in plenary meetings.

### **Working languages**

13. English and French will be the working languages of the joint session.

### **Communication**

14. Information related to the meeting will be available on the website of the session, <http://www.uneca.org/statcom-codg-2016>

The reports and all technical documents, including presentations, will be posted on the website.

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