



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa
Seventh meeting
Addis Ababa (online), 13–15 October 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

Documentation

- Provisional agenda (E/ECA/STATCOM/1)
- Draft programme of work (E/ECA/STATCOM/2)
- Provisional annotated agenda (E/ECA/STATCOM/3)

The seventh meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa will begin at 1:00 p.m. (Addis Ababa time (GMT+3)) on Tuesday, 13 October 2020. It will be held on a video conferencing platform. The Director of the African Centre for Statistics will give welcoming remarks in his capacity as secretary of the meeting. Owing to the unique circumstances of the meeting, the Director will provide information on meeting logistics; invite the delegates to consider and adopt the agenda and the programme of work; and make a proposal on the composition of the Bureau.

Then, following a statement providing a global perspective by the Director of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, the incoming Chair of the Statistical Commission for Africa will preside over the rest of the proceedings, with technical support from the secretariat of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

Official opening remarks will be delivered by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), followed by H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

2. Statutory issues

Documentation

- Report on the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (E/ECA/STATCOM/7/5)
- Report on statistical capacity development in Africa 2019–2020 (E/ECA/STATCOM/7/6)
- Report on the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management: (E/ECA/STATCOM/7/7)
- Report on civil registration and vital statistics and the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda (E/ECA/STATCOM/7/8)

- Regional report on Sustainable Development Goal indicators (E/ECA/STATCOM/7/9)
- Report on the 2020 round of population and housing censuses (E/ECA/STATCOM/7/10)
- Report on the implementation of the African Gender Statistics Programme 2017–2021
- Report on the 2008 System of National Accounts
- Report on the ECA Statistical Programme for the period 2021–2022

Under this agenda item, the secretariat of the Statistical Commission for Africa will present statutory reports covering the following subjects: statistical capacity development in Africa; Sustainable Development Goal indicators; the 2020 round of population and housing censuses; civil registration and vital statistics and the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda; implementation of the African Gender Statistics Programme; the 2008 System of National Accounts; regional activities in Africa under the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management; and the ECA Statistical Programme for the period 2021–2022.

Each report will: (a) highlight activities implemented by the African Centre for Statistics to address recommendations made at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa or to tackle the challenges facing African national statistical systems; (b) announce plans for activities to address anticipated future challenges; and (c) conclude with points of discussion that may serve to orient the ECA Statistical Programme in the future.

3. Statistical activities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: the experiences of member States

Documentation

- Population and housing census programme
- Ongoing household surveys
- Data collection for the Consumer Price Index
- Civil registration and vital statistics
- Health statistics

Under this agenda item, there will be a session devoted to the exchange of experiences in the management of statistical activities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following subjects will be addressed: population and housing censuses; household surveys; collection of data for the Consumer Price Index; civil registration and vital statistics; and health statistics.

Selected member States will highlight the challenges they have faced and the solutions they have identified to mitigate those challenges. The discussion of the reports will conclude with the sharing of methodologies and practices.

4. Strategies to strengthen the data ecosystem in the context of United Nations reforms: African perspectives

Documentation

- Statistical coordination among United Nations agencies
- Private-sector experience with big data

- United Nations global platform and regional hub on big data for official statistics

Under this agenda item, United Nations system representatives will present an initiative to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems. In particular, information will be shared on the opportunity to use big data to complement traditional data sources and to create synergies with the statistical support provided to countries by partners.

Information will be provided on implemented programmes and initiatives and on plans for activities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance will be sought from member States on their key priorities and on the forms of statistical support they would like to receive.

5. Initiatives on emerging issues

Documentation

- Open data
- Data science
- Urban data
- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic of the African Development Bank

Under this agenda item, panellists will indicate how initiatives on emerging issues are contributing to statistical development and seek advice on what adjustments should be made to adapt those initiatives to the African context.

6. Statistical capacity-building programmes of ECA partners

Documentation

- Capacity-building programmes of the African Union Commission
- Capacity-building programmes of the African Development Bank
- Statistical capacity-building of the United Nations Statistics Division
- Other international partners
- Other regional commissions of the United Nations
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- Partnership coordination and cost-effectiveness
- Country experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic

Under this agenda item, reports will be shared by a number of entities, including member States, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations regional commissions, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and Statistics Canada.

Partners will provide a summary of implemented or planned statistical capacity-building programmes and initiatives as a basis for discussions of their potential benefits for member States and their relevance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Partners will then seek guidance from member States on their key priorities and their preferences with respect to the provision of statistical support.

7. Consideration of recommendations and conclusions

Documentation

- Proposed conclusions and recommendations

8. Closing of the meeting
