



Africa Union Commission



African Development Bank



UN Economic Commission  
for Africa

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***10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Office  
(CoDGs)  
and 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-AFRICA)***

**Concept Note**

**28 November to 2 December 2016**

## **I. Background**

The year 2016 marks the fifty-three years of the creation of our continental organization, the Organization of African Unity / African Union. Despite being one of the regions with the highest economic growth rate over the last decade, Africa remains as the most affected by poverty, unemployment, inequalities in income and access to social services. In response to these concerns, African leaders adopted Africa Agenda 2063 in January 2015 and the ten year implementation plan in June 2015. This agenda will enable Africa to get out of underdevelopment and place the continent on the trails of the emerging economic, social and cultural well-being for its people.

With the adoption of Africa Agenda 2063 at the continental level and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at global level, the compilation of quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data is necessarily 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.

The Ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa, on 4 and 5 April 2016, acknowledged that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development with equity. The Conference underscored the importance for Africa to adopt a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the Conference agreed on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both agendas, and a common reporting framework that will produce a single periodic performance report.

For the effective implementation of the African integration agenda and the transformation agenda as articulated in Africa Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 on SDGs, 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 policy-making to accelerate the process.

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 shortage of skilled man power are some of the challenges in the production of statistics in Africa.

In view of the above, the AUC and ECA in collaboration with the African Development Bank are planning to organize the 10th Session of the Committee of Director General of National Statistics Offices (CoDGs) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (Stat-Com Africa) from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

## **II. Theme**

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 meeting while deliberating on statutory issues of CoDG and StatCom-Africa, will focus its attention on economic statistics in Africa through the theme: ***"strengthening economic statistics to support Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"***.

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

### **Ultimate Objective**

The main objective of the joint meeting is to discuss the status and challenges on 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 agendas 2030 and 2063 respectively.

### **Specific Objectives are to:**

- Discuss the status and the challenge of harmonization in collection, production and dissemination of economic statistics in Africa;
- Discuss the Improvement of economic statistics through implementation of SNA 2008;
- Discuss the integrated monitoring framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 as part of the domestication process;
- Discuss the status of the operationalization of the Pan-African "Nelson Mandela" institute of statistics and the Pan African Statistical Training Center, and presentation of the activities undertaken by the PAS;

- Discuss country level land monitoring in line with Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy Initiative, and the SDGs monitoring frameworks;
- Discuss the production of ASYB: Recommendation and way forward of 2016 Arusha meeting;
- Review the reports of the working groups under SHaSA
- Review and validate the revised SHaSA;
- Discuss on revenue statistics in Africa : collection and harmonization
- Discuss on the subnational statistics in Africa
- Discuss the status of the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics;
- Engage member States in the dialogue for embracing spatially-enabled data ecosystems as a necessary and essential element of far reaching innovation for sustaining the national statistics systems and facilitating spatial analytics and the locational management of information.
- Discuss the preparation of the next meeting of the UN Statistical Commission;
- Discuss the future of African Symposium on Statistics Development (ASSD);
- Discuss the role of Africa on the global partnership for data; and
- Discuss statutory issues specific to CoDG and StatCom-Africa.

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

A series of meetings are planned to take place in conjunction with the combined Session including:

- (i) The Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDEV);
- (ii) Side event on Data sharing by AUC/ECA/AfDB in particular the Africa Data Portal;
- (iii) Expert group meeting on the strategy for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa;
- (iv) Expert Group Meeting on the establishment of data Centres and data analysis Centres for the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF);
- (v) Side event on the Challenge of Land Monitoring in the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and the SDGs - by LPI/UNECA/UN Habitat;
- (vi) Labour migration statistics;
- (vii) Integrated result frameworks of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda; and
- (viii) Health Statistics and the campaign to End Child marriage in Africa.

#### **V. Date and Venue**

The joint meeting of CoDGs and StatCom-Africa will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

#### **VI. Participants**

The joint meeting will bring together the Directors General of national statistics offices, Heads of departments or Statistical units of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Schools and Institutes of statistics training, AFRISTAT, Panafrican institutions and Development Partners, Heads of national authorities in charge of mapping, cartography, surveying, high-level geospatial science and technology experts selected from non-government organizations, academia, research institutions, private sector, partners. Strategic partners and agencies responsible for land monitoring and reporting on SDGs will also be invited.

### **Format of the meeting**

Deliberations of the joint meeting will be in plenary sessions.

### **Working Languages**

English and French will be the working languages of the combined meeting.

### **Communication**

Information related to the meeting will be available on the website of the meeting: <http://www.au.int/en/CoDG-StatCom-2016>. The reports and all technical documents including presentations will be posted on the website.

### **For additional Information please contact**

#### **CoDGs**

#### **M. Jose Awong Alene**

Statistician

Statistics Division (AUC)

Tel:251-115182674

Email : [Alenej@africa-union.org](mailto:Alenej@africa-union.org)

#### **Ms. Selamawit Mussie**

Policy Officer, SDG

Statistics Division (AUC)

Tel:251-115182672

Email : [selamawitmu@africa-union.org](mailto:selamawitmu@africa-union.org)

#### **StatCom-Africa**

#### **Mr Tinfissi Joseph ILBOUDO**

Chief Statistical Development Section

African Centre for Statistics

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Tel: +251-11-544-5533

E-mail: [jilboudo@uneca.org](mailto:jilboudo@uneca.org)

AfDB

Mr. Fessou Lawson  
Principle Statistician and OIC  
Statistical Capacity Building Divison  
Statistics Department  
African Development Bank

E-mail.F.LAWSON@AFDB.ORG