

***First Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Office (CoDG) and the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)***

*Theme: "Agriculture and food security in Africa"*

***Inaugural Africa Meeting of the Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM-Africa)***

*Theme: "Making Statistics and maps count"*

*Date: 8 – 12 December 2014*

*Place: Tunis, Tunisia*

## **I. Background and rationale**

1. The Committee of Directors-General of African National Statistical Offices (CoDG) was established in 2006 by African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF). As mandated, the CoDG meets every year under the aegis of the African Union Commission (AUC) to discuss statistical development issues in Africa, including progress made in the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) and reported to CAMEF. Members of CoDG are constituted by Directors General of National Statistics Offices (NSOs). Heads of Statistics Training Centers, Regional and Panafrican Statistics Organizations and partners also attend the meeting. Since 2008, the CoDG has been reporting to the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of ECA (hereafter referred to as Joint Annual Meetings of AU-ECA Ministers).

2. The Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) was established in 2005 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development<sup>1</sup>. StatCom-Africa acts within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Members of StatCom-Africa are constituted by African countries represented by heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). It is also a forum where the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), the Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDEV), and other initiatives report on their work progress. StatCom-Africa meets on a biennial basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Since its inception, ECA had set up subsidiary bodies as part of the machinery to fulfill its mandate in different thematic areas, including Statistics. In this connection, the Conference of African Statisticians was established in 1959; the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, and Demographers including a Committee on Statistics resulting from a merger of the Conference of African Statisticians, the Conference of African Planners, and the Conference of African Demographers in 1980; the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists in 1994 when Information specialists joined the previous body; and it was renamed as the Committee on Development Information in 1997. It became known as StatCom-Africa in 2005.

3. The delegates to CoDG and the StatCom-Africa comprise, to a large extent, the same constituency, namely Directors-General of NSOs. The main difference between these two intergovernmental bodies is in the reporting mechanism of the AUC and ECA to their governing bodies. While CoDG reports to the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and subsequently to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, StatCom-Africa reports to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of ECA. As the constituencies of the two Conferences are almost the same, from 2008, they have started convening in joint sessions as Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of ECA (hereafter referred to as Joint Annual Meetings of AU-ECA Ministers).

4. The Joint Annual Meetings of AU-ECA Ministers would have continued to receive two separate reports from the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Office (CoDG) and the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), composed of the same group of heads of NSOs. In order to reduce the number of statistical fora at continental level and to streamline the work of the two intergovernmental statistical processes, the Joint Annual Meetings of AU-ECA Ministers had suggested that the CoDG and StatCom-Africa should merge and form a single forum, at a par with the United Nations Statistical Commission, to meet every year. In response to this request, the Seventh meeting of CoDG, held from 5 to 7 December 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa, made a recommendation that it will hold joint session with StatCom-Africa, starting in 2014. The session was named the Joint Session of the AU Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices (CoDG) and ECA Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) – hereafter referred to as Joint Session.

## **II. Objectives**

5. The Joint Session of CoDG and StatCom-Africa contributes to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities in Africa, as each body had done hitherto, in a more integrated manner. The Joint Session considers issues of concern in national and continental statistical development, methodological issues, coordination and integration of the African Statistical System, support of technical cooperation activities in statistics and organizational matters. It shall provide strategic direction to the work of ECA and AUC on statistics and statistical development in Africa, covering all the relevant areas of statistics.

### III. First Joint Session CoDG and StatCom-Africa

6. The First Joint Session is being prepared by the Statistics Division of AUC and the African Centre for Statistics of the ECA in collaboration with the Statistics Department of the African Development Bank. It will be held from **8 to 12 December 2014** in Tunis, Tunisia. The theme of the meeting is: ***“Agriculture and Food Security in Africa”***.

### IV. Format of the Joint Session

7. For operational reasons, and so as to enable the Joint Session to discharge its responsibilities in an effective, coordinated and focused manner, the meeting is organized in plenary and Break-out sessions. To that effect, technical working groups have been instituted on a number of domains.

8. The Joint Session will also include the inaugural meeting of the Global Geospatial Information Management in Africa (GGIM-Africa). The United Nations Secretariat has established the Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) initiative with the aim of setting up a formal mechanism under the UN auspices to discuss and coordinate GGIM activities and by involving Member States as the key players. More details at: <http://ggim.un.org>. GGIM-Africa is proposed to be a regional subset of that body and to coordinate GGIM activities in Africa. The correlation between geospatial information and statistics is very strong and the former is now acknowledged as needed (and should be incorporated) in all stages of statistical processes (e.g. in Population and Housing Census). The GGIM-Africa will discuss challenges and issues pertaining to the mainstreaming of geospatial technology into the national statistical offices. The objectives, format, and expected outcomes of the GGIM-Africa meeting can be downloaded [here](http://www.au.int/...../.....pdf): [<http://www.au.int/...../.....pdf>] and [[http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/document\\_files/2014.ggim-africa\\_inaugural\\_meeting\\_-\\_concept\\_note\\_rev.05.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/document_files/2014.ggim-africa_inaugural_meeting_-_concept_note_rev.05.pdf)]

9. Apart from the plenary and the working Groups sessions, a series of meetings are planned to take place in conjunction with the meeting including: the Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDEV), An Africa Regional Integration Index Meeting, the African Reference Frame (AfRef) Meeting and An Expert Consultation Meeting on the Renewable Energy Statistics.

## V. Who can participate?

10. The official country delegation to the Joint Session of CoDG-ComStat-Africa shall normally be led by the head of the National Statistics office.

11. Similarly, the official country delegation to GGIM Africa shall normally be led by the head of the national mapping agency or other appropriate agency responsible for the production and custody of geographic data and information, such as national cadastral, cartographic and land survey services.

12. Observers from national, regional and international organization, IGOs, NGOs, the academia and research institutions, the private sector and related industries will also be invited to attend. Except for sessions designated as private, observers attend all the sessions and participate in the discussions during the meeting, but may not vote in the rare event of an issue requiring a vote.

## VI. How to participate?

**Note:** *Formal invitations will be sent through the usual channels: The invitations to member States will be channeled through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and existing embassies in Addis Ababa, Copies of the invitations to the governments will be sent to the national agencies and other focal points responsible for statistics. Observers will be invited directly by SD/AUC and ACS/ECA.*

13. Participation can be made in various ways:

- ❑ Contact the relevant government agency in your country to be included in the country delegation;
- ❑ Contact the Secretariat at the address below to be considered for invitation as an observer.

14. Proposals from parties interested in organizing workshops on relevant themes, and/or in sponsoring participants to the workshops, are welcome.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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