AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

The 3ʳᵈ Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration
Experts Meeting
4-6 March 2019
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Progress Report on Statistical Development in Africa

Statistics Division (AUSTAT)

January 2019

I.   Introduction :

Over the past years, there has been commendable steps taken by African Union Member States with the support of international, continental and regional organizations to track progress of development indicators on the continent. Despite the progress, a number of challenges persist relating to the production of statistics in Africa including inadequate resources allocated to statistical activates, lack of institutional capacity and poor coordination of statistical activities at all levels. In response to these challenges a number of initiatives, frameworks and strategies have been developed and introduced by African Union Commission (AUC) with the support of partners in the past decade to improve development of statistics in the continent. These include: The African Charter on Statistics, the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), the Panafrican Statistics Program (PAS) and the Africa Programme on Accelerated Implementation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS).

II.   The African Charter on Statistics:

The African Charter on Statistics, as a policy framework on statistics development for coordination of statistical activities in Africa, was adopted on 4 February 2009 by the AU Heads of State and Government and entered into force on 8 February 2015.

As of today, thirty-three (33) AU Member States have signed the charter, twenty-four (24) Member States have ratified it and twenty-two (22) have submitted the ratification tool to AUC.

III. The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2):

The SHaSA 2 aims to address the challenges of producing quality statistics, coordinating the African Statistical System, enhancing institutional capacities and developing statistics culture across the continent.

The main activities and actions taken on the roll up of SHaSA 2 are as follow:
- Finalization of an abridged version of SHaSA 2;
- Official launching of SHaSA 2 in Addis Ababa on 11th July 2018;
- National launching of SHaSA 2 in Madagascar in June and Tunisia in November 2018;
- Preparation of the Guideline to mainstream SHaSA 2 into NSDS & RSDS;
- Appointment and training of the continental, regional and national coordinators SHaSA 2;
- Technical support to Member States to review or/and prepare NSDS (Djibouti)
- 1st session of the Executive Committee of SHaSA2 (November 2018)
- ASCC, Statcom, ASSD, CoDG meetings;
- Dissemination and communication workshops for statisticians (December 2018)

IV. Establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC):
- The AUC and the Government of Tunisia had signed the Host Agreement on January 2018.

- The Government of Tunisia had handover to AUC the Premises of STATAFRIC on 2nd November 2018 and launched the SHASA 2 at national level. AUC had also organized a workshop on National Account for AU Member States;
- A draft Strategic Plan of the Institute is being developed;
- The structure and the statute of the Institute has been developed and will be submitted for consideration and approval by the policy organs.

V. Trade statistics and Business Registers:
- Data collection for the period 2005-2017 for 55 Member States of African Union finalized;
- 2018 Yearbook on Trade Statistics is produced and disseminated;
- **AFRICATRADE** Database is developed and available;
- AUC organized the Regional Workshop on Trade and Balance of payments for 28 AU Members States and RECs (ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADC). The outcomes of the Workshop are the improvement of data sharing between AU Member States and AU Commission;
- AUC has provided Technical Assistance to ten (10) Member States namely Namibia, Congo, Algeria, Seychelles, Niger, Cabo Verde, Guinea, Botswana, Lesotho and Kingdom of Eswatini on Eurotrace Software.
- AUC, in collaboration with UNSD, had organized the first Regional Workshop on Trade SDMX, 10-14 September 2018, in Tunis, Tunisia.

VI. National Account:
- AUC organized the meeting on Progress and Need Assessment on the implementation of the System of National Account (2008 SNA) and the document is available;
- AUC has provided technical assistance on the implementation of 2008 SNA to selected AU Member States (Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Lesotho and Ethiopia).

VII. Labour Market Information System:
- The AU-Statistics Division (AUSTAT) has conducted technical assistance for 20 AU Member States to have an update data on Labour Market Information System. Through this TA, many AU Member States have updated their system on data for the baseline on Ouaga+10 and the baseline on labour for Agenda 2063.
- The Meeting of STG working group on Informal Sector and Labour Market Information System was organized in Abidjan, from 29th to 31st October 2018. The main objective of the meeting was to validate the Second Edition of Labour Migration Statistics Report for Africa and also to come up with clear proposal to strengthen the capacities of AU Member States to have an updated Labour Market Information System (LMIS).
- The Second Edition of Labour Migration Statistics Report is available;

VIII. Irregular Migration data:
- The Commission had developed a methodology on Measuring Irregular Migration and Associated Protection Risks; 15 Member States had been trained on it;
- The Commission has mobilized a grand of $ 6 Million USD from Kingdom of Sweden to support AU Member and RECs to produce timely and quality data on Migration.

IX. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems

The Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System (APAI-CRVS) is implemented based on the policy and programmatic guidance, and mandate given by African Ministers responsible for civil registration through biennial conferences. A lot of achievements have been registered in the implementation of the APAI-CRVS.

The main activities undertaken in 2018 were:
- The first CRVS day was commemorated both at continental and National level on August 2018 further to the Assembly decision in January 2018 declaring August 10 as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day and called upon African Union Member States to commemorate the day;
- A capacity building and experience sharing workshop has been organized from 5-6 December, 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania with an aim to articulate on the importance of promoting innovative universal Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System for good governance and better lives and to share experiences at national level.

X. Governance and Peace and Security Statistics
- Updated and disseminated data collection tools on governance, peace and security (GP&S) statistics taking into account Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for new rounds of data collection;
- Produced brochures and factsheets to raise awareness on the use of GP&S statistical information for decision making

XI. African Statistical Training Center:
- An action plan on statistical training in Africa was developed;
- The host agreement is still under negotiation;
- The structure and the statute has been finalized and will be submitted for approval;

XII. AUSTAT website and Data Base:
- AUSTAT website was developed and accessible on line *(www.austat.org)*
- Assessment conducted regarding requirements to develop a database

XIII.   African Statistical Publications
a) African Statistical Yearbook:

- Since 2009, AUC, AfDB and ECA jointly publish the African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB) with the objectives to have a common database and avoid duplication in producing statistical data taking into account that countries who provide the necessary data;
- The last edition was produced in 2018 and was published and disseminated to the member states;
- A training was developed also for the three organizations and AU Members States on Data Exchange tool (SDMX) for data collection.

b) Key Statistics on African Integration
- Since 2008, AUC in collaboration with RECs is publishing Key Stats;
- AUSTAT, through PAS, has developed a methodology for the Africa aggregated data;
- The last edition of the KeyStats was published in 2017 and was disseminated to the Commission, RECs and Member States.

c) Statistics Portrait (AU-EU Publication)
- Since 2009, AU and EU have been jointly publishing the statistics portrait;
- The last edition was published in 2018 and it was disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders including the Commission and Member States.

d) Revenue Statistics in Africa
- Since 2005, AUC, OECD and ATAF are working on the revenue statistics in Africa;
- The last edition on Revenue Statistics was published in 2018;
- The actors of revenue statistics have sent a call for interest to the countries for the next edition;
- AU member states have started submitting the revenue statistics data for the next edition;
- Some countries have expressed their interest to be part for the next edition;
- The 2018 edition is in process to be disseminated to member states.

XIV. Education Statistics:
- A meeting was held in Abuja in 2018, to align the indicators manual to the SDGs and Agenda 2063 to ease reporting and ensure coherence for Member States;
- Finalized the methodology and reporting mechanism for newly proposed indicators; and
- Reviewed the Draft Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) Indicators Manual and ensure synergy with the Agenda 2063 and SDGs.

XV. Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030 Indicators and Statistics:
a) Annual Progress Report on Tracking Progress on Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
- As part of the implementation of the joint AU-UN framework, AUC in collaboration with UNECA, AfDB and UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa had prepared the 2018

Africa Agenda 2063/SDGs Report. The report provides an integrated assessment of the continent's progress towards implementation of the FTYIP AU Agenda 2063.

- The *Africa Sustainable Development Report 2018* reviews Africa's performance on five goals, related targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda, considering their correspondence with Agenda 2063. The report used the latest data from international sources to track performance and highlight lessons learned in the implementation of the two agendas. The report is aligned with the 2018 Theme of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies" and Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and corresponding goals of Agenda 2063. The report also examines trends in science, technology and innovation (STI) in Africa and its role in advancing implementation of Africa Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the continent. The report has been published and launched and disseminated to stakeholders.

b) Capacity Building of Member States
- Capacity building and experience sharing workshop has been organized by AUC in collaboration with ECA and UNDP in Port Louis, Mauritius from 11-13 December, 2018 with the objective to build upon the momentum generated from the initial domestication support missions to Member States, provide updated toolkits for alignment and integration, as well as to facilitate the sharing of experiences amongst Member States to ensure that the process of alignment into national development plans is done effectively;

c) Sustainable Development Statistical Booklet "A Guide for African Citizens":
- The booklet is prepared by AUC within the framework of PAS Programme. The objective of the statistical booklet is to examine statistics on sustainable development issues in a manner that is understandable by ordinary African citizens. The booklet presents statistical data with several daily-life scenes. The stories refer to everyday life of different people and link them to selected Agenda 2063 and SDGs corresponding indicators to better understand their meaning in the context of Africa. The booklet covered eight sustainable development goals and corresponding Agenda 2063 goals namely SDG2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15.

XVI. Health Statistics:
- The STG Sub working group had developed since March 2015 Health Indicators and Data Platform Development, Health Statistics for the African Union Health Statistics Platform and APRM socio-economic development assessments instrument, drafted the report on Harmonization of Africa's Health Statistics and established available health data sources for the selected health indicators for alignment and harmonisation, to propose a reliable and sustainable process for data collection, analysis and utilisation at national, regional and continental levels;
- Developed the Indicator Reference Manual (List of health indicators, definitions and metrics) and Piloting Tools (List of potential sources for data on health).

XVII. Peer Review of National Statistics System:
- Harmonized peer review methodology and necessary documents designed;
- A series of trainings conducted on Snapshot tools for self-assessment tool of National Statistical Systems;
- Thirteen (13) Peer review missions conducted in order to assess and strengthen capabilities of the national statistical systems;

XVIII. Meeting of the Directors-General of NSOs/NSIs
The 12th meeting of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) was organized in Khartoum, Sudan, from 27th to 29 November 2018. The main recommendations of the 12th session of CoDGs as follows:

> **On the Report of the first meeting of the Executive Committee of SHaSA 2 (EC):**

R.1. **Urges** AUC to work closely with AfDB, ACBF and UNECA to revitalize all STGs to ensure the participation of all Member States with regional, and linguistic representation.

R.2. **Adopts** the terms of reference and the recommendations of the EC and request Member States and RECs to mainstream SHaSA 2 into NSDS and RSDS.

R.3. **Requests** AUC to monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly of the Union to ensure that countries comply with the decision to allocate 0.15% of the national budget to statistics.

R.4. **Calls upon** Member States to improve coordination within the national statistical system to ensure the unicity of official data and disseminate them in an effective manner using various communication tools to reach all users.

R.5. **Recalls** the decision of the Assembly of the Union requesting AfDB and AUC to mobilize resources for the implementation of SHaSA 2.

R.6. **Requests** AUC, AfDB, UNECA and ACBF to provide necessary support to Member states and RECs to develop/update NSDS and RSDS in line with SHaSA 2.

R.7. **Further requests** AfDB, UNECA and ACBF to continue providing support for the operationalization of STATAFRIC and PANSTAT.

On National Accounts:
R.8. **Requests** AUC to work closely with UNECA and AfDB to continue their support to Member States in implementing the 2008 SNA as well as promote South-South cooperation.

R.9. **Urges** Member states to secure internal and external funding to conduct surveys needed for the re-basing and implementation of the 2008 SNA.

> **On Peer review:**

R.10. **Requests** AUC to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework on peer review mechanism including improving the Snapshot questionnaire, and organize periodic meetings to discuss outcomes of the peer reviews M&E systems.

R.11. **Calls upon** Member States to translate peer review recommendations into a roadmap and actions plans for improvements of the national statistical systems.

➢ **On Health Statistics:**

R.12. **Endorses** the composition of the Health Sub-Group of the STG 8 on Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender and the proposed regional representation.

R.13. **Approves** the proposed manual and health indicators developed by the Sub-group of STG on Demography, migration, health, human development, social protection and gender, and **invites** NSOs to work closely with Health Ministries to implement them.

R.14. **Urges** the African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency and APRM in collaboration with partners to provide technical support to AU Member States in strengthening harmonization of health statistics on the continent.

R.15. **Call upon** Member States, with the support of AUC, WHO and Pan African Institutions to address data gaps related to risk factors, health status, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and health expenditure.

R.16. **Urges** NSOs and Ministries of Health to use the proposed sources of data on health statistics for planning, monitoring and evaluation.

➢ **On Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030**

R.17. **Requests** AUC, AfDB and ECA to provide technical support to Member States on updated toolkits for alignment and integration of Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030 into national development plans.

R.18. **Also requests** AUC to work closely with UNECA to conduct a baseline assessment survey to identify gaps in data for monitoring Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030.

➢ **On Revenue statistics**

R.19. **Encourages** Member states to participate in the compilation of the revenue statistics yearbook by providing necessary data in order to improve domestic resources mobilization.

R.20. **Requests** AUC in cooperation with partners to take into account revenue statistics in the relevant SHaSA 2 Specialized Technical Group (STG).

➢ **On Labour Migration Statistics**

R.21. **Requests** AUC in collaboration with Member States, IOM and ILO to finalize the second report on Labour Migration and disseminate it to all Member states for decision making.

R.22. **Calls upon** Member States to implement the guidelines developed by the AUC and ILO for the collection and production of labour migration statistics.

➢ **On Trade statistics**

R.23. **Calls upon** Member States to modernize their trade statistics compilation tools and take necessary actions to improve the coverage of trade statistics including informal cross-border trade and trade in services.

R.24. **Requests** AUC to develop templates and common methodologies for Member States to produce harmonized trade on goods and services statistics.

➢ **On SDMX/Big data**

R.25. **Calls upon** Member States to promote the use of mobile technology for data collection and dissemination;

R.26. **Requests** AUC in collaboration with UNSD, UNECA and AfDB to support Member states in implementing SDMX-IMTS by conducting mapping exercise between national databases and SDMX-IMTS.

➢ **On Reaching out to the Users of Statistics**

R.27. **Requests** AUC to take stock of the outcomes of the two dissemination workshops planned in Pretoria and Abidjan in December 2018 in order to build action plans to assist Member States in developing and implementing dissemination and communication plans.

➢ **On Statistical Program from African Partners**

R.28. **Requests** RECs to align their Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) with SHaSA 2.

R.29. **Further requests** RECs to coordinate and harmonize their programs and work in synergy to avoid duplication and ensure effective implementation of programs.

R.30. **Urges** AUC, AfDB, ECA, ACBF and RECs to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration.

R.31. **Requests** AUC, AfDB, ECA, ACBF and development partners to provide technical and financial support to Statistics Schools and Training Centers.

R.32. **Invites** Statistics Schools and Training Centers to take into accounts in their statistical training programs and curricula Member States' needs, regional and continental development agendas and emerging statistical issues.

➢ **On Partnership Statistical Programs**

R.33. **Invites** the European Union to continue its support through the Pan African Statistics (PAS) programme and the PAS phase 2.

R.34. **Invites also** Statistics Sweden to continue its financial and technical support in strengthening migration statistics in Africa.

R.35. **Requests** WHO to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration with AUC to ensure countries led sustainable systems to generate timely and quality data on health including health-related SDG.

R.36. **Requests also** AUC and ILO to provide support to Member States to develop a transition plan for the implementation of the new resolutions and Guidelines adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) and support them in setting up a communication plan for the dissemination of the new series of data.

➢ **On Statutory issues**

R.37. **Mandates** AUC to work closely with all stakeholders to agree on a strategy allowing Africa to speak with one voice and **ensures** the Africa's positions are taken into account in the deliberations.

R.38. **Requests** AfDB and UNECA to align their statistical programs to SHaSA 2 and provide technical and financial support to Member States for its implementation.

R.39. **Urges** that the African Statistics Coordination Committee include representatives from Member States (one representative from each region) and RECs.

> ➤ **On Date and venue:**

R.40. **Decides** that the 13th session of the CoDGs will be held end of November 2019 in Tunisia.

XIX. Challenges and recommendations
A) Challenges
- Lack of adequate and sustainable financial resources;
- Lack of human resources in quality and quantity;
- Lack of technical, logistical and technological capabilities;
- lack of political will;
- Low coordination among stakeholders;
- Low South-South cooperation in the field;
- Difficult integration and application of international concepts at national and regional level (tourism, informality, etc.);
- Diversity of methodologies adopted at national and regional level.

B) Recommendations
- Establishment of an effective coordination mechanism at national, regional, continental and international level with definition of roles and responsibilities;
- Development of a comprehensive strategic plan on statistical development in Africa with concrete and realistic activities;
- Alignment and adherence to new areas of statistical development (Big Data, Data Revolution, SDMX, ...);
- Establishment of monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism;
- Mobilization of adequate and sustainable resources;
- Development of a strategy for dissemination, communication and visibility of statistical data;
- Development of a strategy to inculcate statistical culture.

XX. Future Activities:
- Resources mobilization (internal and external) for the implementation of ShaSA2;
- Technical support and capacity building of Member States and RECs in the development of statistics, as foreseen in STATAFRIC's strategic plan (Migration, SNA 2008, Health, Education, Agenda2063 / Agenda 2030, CRVS, Trade, GP & S, ...) to integrate SHaSA 2 with the NSDS and the SRDS;
- Effective operationalization of Specialized Technical Groups (STG);
- Capacity building of statisticians to produce data that meets the needs of users and market statistical products.
- Comprehensive operationalization of STATAFRIC;
- Development of methodologies to ensure the production of harmonized, quality and timely statistics;

- Publication of statistical reports on trade, statistical yearbook, keyStat, labor migration, irregular migration, revenue statistics, agenda2063 / agenda2030, statistical portrait, ...;
- Organization of the 5th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 14 to 18 October 2019;
- Signature of the host agreement of PANASTAT by both parties (AUC and the host country);
- Development of database and dashboard to increase AUSTAT's data dissemination capabilities;
- Conduct other peer reviews to improve data quality and support evidence-based decision-making;
- Update the peer review methodology and develop a framework for monitoring the implementation of the peer review recommendations.