



**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Statistical Commission for Africa**  
Eighth meeting

Addis Ababa, 24–26 October 2022

## Concept note

### I. Introduction and rationale

1. The African Centre for Statistics is responsible for the Statistical Commission for Africa, an intergovernmental entity established in 2005 and supervised by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The Commission operates within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations. African countries are represented in the Commission by the heads of national statistical offices, the heads of the statistical units of the regional economic communities, heads of statistical training centres, geoinformation system experts, information and communications technology experts, and regional and international development partners.

2. The eighth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa will be held under the theme “Modernizing data ecosystems in Africa to support regional integration”.

3. The Statistical Commission for Africa is also a platform through which representatives of the Forum on African Statistical Development, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa and other initiatives may report on their progress. The following events are scheduled to be held alongside the eighth meeting include:

(a) Two pre-events:

(i) The tenth meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development;

(ii) A meeting of young African statisticians (the Takwimu Programme);

(b) Two events held in parallel with the eighth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, with joint sessions to highlight the strong connections between their respective subjects and statistics:

(i) The eighth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, under the theme: “A strategic pathway for modernizing geospatial information in Africa and linking geographies to statistics”;

(ii) The expert segment of the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, under the theme: “A decade into the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Reflecting on progress and accelerating efforts towards the 2030



Agenda for Sustainable Development through transformed systems”.

4. The meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the two parallel events will precede the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration (COM6), which is scheduled to be held on 27 and 28 October 2022 at the headquarters of the African Union, in Addis Ababa.

## **II. Objectives**

5. The Statistical Commission for Africa is the regional equivalent of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, which is the highest body in the global statistical system. The Statistical Commission for Africa is the highest decision-making body in Africa responsible for setting statistical standards, developing concepts and methods and implementing them at the national, subregional and continental levels. The meeting provides an opportunity for participants to discuss the link between African and global statistical systems to ensure that Africa is not left behind in global statistical initiatives. Participants will also be able to discuss progress and statistical development in African statistical systems. Furthermore, the meeting will serve as a platform for international partners to meet representatives of member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to discuss the needs of those member States.

6. In the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the meeting will provide Member States with an opportunity to take stock of ongoing global initiatives and to seek ways to mainstream and take ownership of new and updated methodologies to enhance their statistical capacity. Particular emphasis will be placed on how to modernize and transform national statistical systems in Africa to ensure that the data needed for subregional and continental integration and the global agendas are available.

## **III. Expected accomplishments**

7. The expected accomplishments of the blended programme are as follows:

- (a) Shared methodologies on how to modernize statistical systems;
- (b) Stronger collaboration between statisticians and geospatial and civil registration experts;
- (c) Shared knowledge of opportunities for statistical support from partners.

## **IV. Role of the Economic Commission for Africa**

8. As the secretariat of the Statistical Commission for Africa, ECA will organize and service the event under the guidance of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

9. ECA, through the African Centre for Statistics, will provide the necessary support for the following:

- (a) Drafting of parliamentary reports;
- (b) Preparation of all related technical documents;
- (c) Identification of the presenters, facilitators and chairs of the sessions;

(d) Mobilization of regional and international partners to attend and contribute to the event;

(e) Mobilization of resources to cover the expenses of the meeting, which include travel and subsistence costs for national experts, along with costs relating to advocacy and communication, support staff services, venue and hospitality services, and printing and interpreting services;

(f) Preparation of the meeting outcome documents, which will include the recommendations and the final report on the meeting.

## V. Venue and date

10. Subject to the ongoing evaluation of the situation in relation to COVID-19, the meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, the meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa and the expert segment of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration will be held from 24 to 26 October 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa.

11. All pre-events will be held on 22 and 23 October 2022. The pre-events will comprise expert group meetings, partner gatherings such as the Forum on African Statistical Development and other related events.<sup>1</sup>

## VI. Languages

12. The meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa will be held in plenary sessions; simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided.

13. For side events and break-out sessions that may be organized for more in-depth discussions, no simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

## VII. Participants

14. The official country delegation to the Statistical Commission for Africa shall normally be led by the head of the national statistical office. Given the objectives of the meetings, other national statistical system representatives, in particular geospatial and civil registration experts, will also attend the events.

15. Observers from intergovernmental organizations; non-governmental organizations; other national, subregional, continental and international organizations; academia; research institutions; the private sector; and related industries are also invited to attend, as are African statisticians who have played a notable role in promoting statistics in the region. Observers may attend all sessions except those designated as closed-door sessions and may participate in discussions, but they may not vote on any issues.

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<sup>1</sup> The blended programme listing all the events will be shared in due course.

### VIII. Contact information

16. For more information, please contact:

<b>Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo</b>	<b>Oumar Sarr</b>
Chief, Statistical Development, Data Innovation and Outreach Section	Statistician
African Centre for Statistics	African Centre for Statistics
Economic Commission for Africa	Economic Commission for Africa
Tel: 251 11 544 5533 WhatsApp: 251 92 416 3430	Tel: 251 11 544 3614 WhatsApp: 251 91 155 0021
Email: <a href="mailto:ilboudo@un.org">ilboudo@un.org</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:sarro@un.org">sarro@un.org</a>

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