
African Centre for Statistics
Forum on African Statistical Development
Tenth meeting

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 22 October 2022

Concept note

A. Background

1. The Forum on African Statistical Development is an initiative of the Economic Commission for Africa, with support from the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank. The Forum was endorsed at the first meeting, held in 2004, by representatives of 12 international organizations, 4 donor institutions and 17 regional and subregional institutions. It was given the following main functions:

- (a) To review statistical activities in Africa, including assistance and training;
- (b) To set up a permanent system for monitoring statistical development in Africa;
- (c) To strengthen modalities for cooperation, with a view to leveraging each partner's comparative advantage.

2. The Forum brings together representatives of African national statistical offices; statistical training centres; international, regional and subregional institutions; bilateral agencies; international programmes and initiatives; foundations; and other institutions, with the ultimate objective of making the support provided to countries more efficient and effective.

3. This support is needed more than ever because national statistical systems in Africa have begun to transform and modernize to adequately respond to the data demands of various development agendas and to users' needs. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic accelerated this transformation and modernization process by revealing the vulnerability of national statistical systems in Africa. Since the beginning of the pandemic, national statistical offices, national statistical systems and partners have demonstrated their capacity to adapt to new demands for data. These efforts need to be strengthened to accelerate the transformation and modernization of official statistics throughout the continent.

4. It is in this context that the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank, in collaboration with [additional partners], have organized the tenth meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, to be held in Addis Ababa on 22 October 2022 under the theme "Strengthening and coordinating efforts and support to accelerate the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa".

B. Objectives

5. The overall objective of the tenth meeting is to establish and strengthen connections among countries, partners and institutions that support statistical capacity-building to leverage



existing opportunities to accelerate the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems.

6. The specific objectives of the meeting are as follows:

a) To take stock of the needs of national statistical systems with a view to their transformation and modernization;

b) To take stock of the opportunities and mechanisms offered by pan-African institutions, partners and organizations to support countries in the development of national statistical capacity;

c) To increase coordination and collaboration among partners and countries.

C. Expected outcomes

7. The expected outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

a) Countries will increase their awareness of the opportunities and mechanisms offered by pan-African institutions and partners to support the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems and the development of statistical capacity;

b) Pan-African institutions and partners will gain a deeper understanding of the needs of African countries;

c) Interventions to support statistical development efforts in Africa will become more common and better coordinated.

D. Venue and date

8. The tenth meeting of the Forum is scheduled to be held on 22 October 2022 in hybrid format from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Addis Ababa (GMT+3). The recommendations issued by the Forum will be submitted for endorsement by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its eighth meeting, which is scheduled to be held from 24 to 26 October 2022.

E. Format

9. The meeting will include presentations and discussions on the following topics:

(a) Countries' needs to support the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems: This topic will include a presentation on demands expressed by countries and captured from the results and conclusions of ongoing initiatives and a dedicated needs assessment survey;

(b) Opportunities and offers from partners: This topic will be devoted to a presentation on offers, plans, strategies, opportunities and initiatives of pan-African institutions and partners to support statistical development in Africa;

(c) Efficiency of partner support: This topic will deal with coordination and reporting in respect of the statistical support provided to African countries in a medium-term (two-year) programme;

(d) Perspectives on the Forum on African Statistical Development: This topic will allow participants to reflect on a plan to reform the Forum within two years to make it the cornerstone of the modernization of national statistical systems.

F. Target audience

10. The target audience comprises countries in Africa and organizations, institutions and partners working in the field of statistics on the continent.

G. Secretariat and other services

11. As the secretariat of the Forum, the Economic Commission for Africa will provide administrative and logistical support for the meeting.

H. Contact information

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