
African Centre for Statistics
Forum on African Statistical Development
Tenth meeting

Addis Ababa, 23 October 2022

Draft communiqué

1. Representatives of African countries, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional and subregional organizations, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, the World Bank and bilateral and international institutions attended the tenth meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, held in Addis Ababa on 23 October 2022.
2. The meeting was held under the theme “Strengthening and coordinating efforts and support to accelerate the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa”.
3. The overall objective of the tenth meeting was 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.
4. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:
 - (a) Take stock of the needs of national statistical systems with a view to their transformation and modernization;
 - (b) 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) Increase coordination and collaboration among partners and countries.
5. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank were commended for having organized the tenth meeting.
6. The meeting helped to capture the specific needs and priority areas of demand of national statistical systems. It also provided an opportunity to share information on offers, opportunities and areas of support (both technical and financial) and interest of partner entities.
7. Meeting participants reflected on the need to efficiently coordinate assistance and to create synergy among partner entities to make the Forum on African Statistical Development



the cornerstone of the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa.

8. Discussions took place on country experiences and practices in integrating national strategies for the development of statistics, national development plans and the financing of statistical programmes.

9. Pan-African and partner entities were commended for their plans to build statistical capacity and to support the modernization of national statistical systems in Africa.

10. Pan-African institutions, governments and partner entities encouraged all partners to provide in the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data¹ information on the financing opportunities that they offered. They also encouraged countries to fill in the Cape Town Global Action Plan questionnaire in order to inform partners about their financing needs in respect of development data.

11. Noting that international financing for statistics was shifting from grants to borrowing, countries were urged to develop strategies to convince policymakers to mobilize national resources for statistical activities. Partners were requested to support this initiative through advocacy.

12. Meeting participants appreciated the efforts by the Economic Commission for Africa to determine countries' needs and to highlight opportunities in areas in which partners could provide support. They requested the Economic Commission for Africa, with support from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, to use that information to identify domains of collaboration and areas in which there were gaps.

13. Countries were requested to strengthen links between national strategies for the development of statistics and national development plans, including through more and better advocacy and the adoption of a demand-driven approach, which would also support resource mobilization.

14. Pursuant to the African Charter on Statistics, the African Union Commission was requested to set up, in collaboration with development partners, an African statistics development fund to ensure the funding of activities with national statistical systems.

15. The African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and partner entities were requested to support the implementation of the road map for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa.

16. The African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century were requested to continue to make the membership of the Forum on African Statistical Development more inclusive. They were also requested to continue to modernize mechanisms for collaboration and coordination, such as online matching mechanisms and annual monitoring of progress.

¹ The clearinghouse is hosted by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and is available at <https://smartdatafinance.org/>.

17. Stakeholders in national statistical systems were called upon to engage, under the coordination of their respective national statistical offices, with United Nations country teams and the processes established under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to elevate statistical development requirements and financing to the highest level of cooperation.
 18. African countries were requested to actively participate in the work of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council and to raise the voice of Africa therein with a view to better aligning global statistical priorities and methodological developments with African regional and national priorities.
 19. Pan-African institutions, governments and partners were urged to strengthen their collaboration and to enhance coordination through a platform that maps and shares information on technical assistance provided to African countries.
 20. Building on the changes introduced during the tenth meeting and with a view to making the dialogue during the meeting as efficient as possible, meeting participants requested that meeting organizers identify ex-ante the emerging needs of countries along with any “overlaps”, and, most important, any “orphans” when it came to supporting African countries in the development of statistical capacity.
 21. Meeting participants requested the Economic Commission for Africa to organize the eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, in 2024, in close collaboration with the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, the World Bank and other partner entities.
 22. Partners entities and countries were requested to reflect the above-mentioned recommendations in their work programmes.
 23. All relevant stakeholders were invited to endorse the present communiqué.
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