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Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts of the Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Forty-first meeting

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 15–17 March 2023

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Statutory issues

Report of the Statistical Commission for Africa on the work of its eighth session

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa has the honour to transmit to the members of the Commission the report of the Statistical Commission for Africa on the work of its eighth session.

* E/ECA/COE/41/1.



Report of the Statistical Commission for Africa on the work of its eighth session

I. Introduction

1. The eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held from 24 to 26 October 2022 under the theme “Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa to support regional integration”. The aim of the session was to review current trends and discuss new and innovative statistical solutions to strengthen national statistical systems in Africa in the context of the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

II. Attendance

Member States

2. The eighth session was attended by delegates from the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers

3. The session was attended by the observers from the following:

(a) Non-African States: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) International, regional and subregional organizations and institutions: African Development Bank, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa, Maghreb Arab Union, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century;

(c) Training institutions: Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, University of Sheffield, National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (Côte d’Ivoire), National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (Senegal), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Addis Ababa University, Haramaya University, North-West University (South Africa);

(d) Specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Statistics Division of the United Nations, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Entity

for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, International Organization for Migration;

(e) United Nations country teams in the following countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Zimbabwe.

III. Joint opening of the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, the eighth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and the expert segment of the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration [agenda item 1]

4. The meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Demeke Mekonnen. In his welcome address, he stressed that change management, project management and business re-engineering skills were required at various levels to allow for effective and agile transformation and modernization of African statistical systems.

5. Welcome remarks were given on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) by Oliver Chinganya, who reminded delegates of the challenging environment for statistics and stressed the importance of the work that was being done in this area.

6. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Zambia, Peter Moyo, noted that the series of meetings would be crucial in providing countries a platform to identify priority actions and strategies.

7. The Chair of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, Oumar Ka, spoke about the importance of geospatial data in decision-making and the constant efforts made by his organization to promote the use of such tools on the continent. He commended the recent adoption of the geospatial framework.

8. The Chair of the Statistical Commission for Africa, Albina Chuwa, expressed satisfaction with the progress made in statistical development in Africa but recognized that more remained to be done. She called for the allocation of more resources for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems.

9. The Acting Director of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division of ECA, Edlam Yemeru, welcomed participants and noted that the meeting would provide information on how to modernize and transform national statistical and civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.

10. The Manager of the Statistical Capacity Building Division at the African Development Bank, Ben Paul Mungyereza, highlighted the Bank's continued support for capacity development on the continent.

11. The Interregional Adviser to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, from the Statistics Division of the United Nations, Gregory Scott, reminded delegates that the stress put on the statistical systems by the COVID-19 pandemic required adaptive and agile responses.

12. The Minister for Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance of Uganda, Chris Baryomunsi, in his keynote address, emphasized the need for improving administrative data and civil registration systems. He also congratulated ECA for its leadership in the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

13. Finally, members of a panel of senior statisticians commented on the keynote address and, among other things, urged that the civil registration and vital statistics agenda be restored to its initial design.

IV. Organizational matters [agenda item 2]

14. The following countries were unanimously elected by the delegates to form the new Bureau:

Chair:	Ethiopia
First Vice-Chair:	Chad
Second Vice-Chair:	Egypt
First Rapporteur:	United Republic of Tanzania
Second Rapporteur:	Cabo Verde

15. The following agenda was adopted by the delegates:

1. Joint opening of the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, the eighth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and the expert segment of the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues.
4. Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa.
5. Other initiatives to modernize and transform statistical systems.
6. Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa.
7. Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the group of experts of the sixth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.
8. Reports on pre-events.
9. Statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities.
10. Preparation for the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council.
11. Joint closing of the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, the eighth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and the expert segment of the sixth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.

V. Statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues [agenda item 3]

16. Representatives of ECA introduced seven statutory reports (summarized in paragraphs 17 to 23 below), during which they highlighted the work accomplished and proposed points for discussion and action. The Statistical Commission for Africa was invited to consider the guidance and recommendations provided in each report.

Statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: programme of work on data and statistics for the period 2023–2024

17. The report (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/5) presents the proposed programme of work on data and statistics by ECA. It provides a summary of the key achievements of ECA during the period 2021–2022, and sets out the objective of the subprogramme on data and statistics for the coming two years.

Progress report on implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and related statistical systems in Africa

18. The report (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/10) sets out the progress in Africa's implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting from October 2020 to June 2022. It also discusses key initiatives planned for the next period.

Report on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

19. The report (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/7) examines the key challenges encountered, ongoing initiatives, opportunities, lessons learned and efforts to track progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa over the past two years, and reviews the current status and the likelihood of Africa achieving the Goals by 2030.

Report on progress made in the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics

20. The report (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/9) provides a summary of activities undertaken by the member institutions of the African group on gender statistics of the Statistical Commission for Africa between October 2020 and October 2022.

Statistical capacity development in Africa: progress report for 2020–2022

21. The report (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/6) highlights the statistical capacity development initiatives from 2020 to 2022, including the Young African Statisticians Programme, and concludes with proposals for a set of recommendations and points for decisions to be taken by the Statistical Commission for Africa.

Status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

22. The report (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/8) presents the status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa. It concludes with a discussion and recommendations.

Status of integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa

23. The report (E/ECA/GGIM-A/8/5) contains a discussion of the rationale for the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, guidelines for developing national statistical geospatial frameworks, a framework for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa, the principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and the strategies for enhancing its implementation at the national level.

Discussion and recommendations

24. Participants noted that South-South cooperation was a good way for countries with experience with censuses to share their knowledge and experience with other countries. Country representatives expressed their need for support from ECA on census technologies, the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and surveys to rebase gross domestic product. ECA was asked to share the strategy of the Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme with statistical training centers on the continent.

25. The Statistical Commission for Africa endorsed all seven statutory reports and the related recommendations.

VI. Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa [agenda item 4]

26. A representative of ECA presented a summary of the road map for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/8/2022/12). The road map takes stock of the challenges and opportunities faced by the African statistical system to set out principles and priorities for transformation and modernization. It provides guidance on ways in which countries can develop and implement national strategies for the development of statistics and annual workplans to optimize transformation and modernization.

Discussion and recommendations

27. During the discussion, participants highlighted the need to consult other stakeholders in addition to statisticians, including those in the private sector, civil society and academia, during the design of a national road map, the need to adopt a strategy to sufficiently finance for statistical work and to incorporate change-management principles. The Statistical Commission for Africa endorsed the road map and provided guidance on its implementation.

VII. Other initiatives to modernize and transform statistical systems [agenda item 5]

Presentation

28. Representatives of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, statistical training centres and other development partners presented their initiatives on the transformation and modernization of official statistics.

Discussions and recommendations

29. The Commission welcomed partners' contributions and formulated further recommendations.

VIII. Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the Regional Committee of United Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa [agenda item 6]

30. At the plenary gathering, representatives of member States (e.g. Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe) discussed the Global Geospatial and Statistical Framework and how they had been able to integrate statistics and geospatial information into their various activities, which included, but were not limited to, governance, data, policies, statistical legislation and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

31. The Commission welcomed the experiences shared by member States representatives and made further recommendations.

IX. Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the group of experts of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration [agenda item 7]

Presentation

32. ECA representatives presented a report on the activities of the group of experts of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.

Discussion and recommendations

33. In the light of the discussions, the Statistical Commission for Africa and the group of experts of the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration issued a series of recommendations (see annex).

X. Reports on pre-events [agenda item 8]

Presentation

34. Under this agenda item, oral reports were given on the events that were held on 22 and 23 October on the following topics:

- (a) The Forum on African Statistical Development;
- (b) Statistical development indicators;
- (c) Regional hub on big data and data science for Africa;
- (d) Young African statisticians;
- (e) Strengthening data-exchange mechanisms to promote the open data concept for official data and statistics;
- (f) Administrative data initiatives and resources for Africa;
- (g) Using computer-assisted in-person interviewing and computer-assisted telephone interviewing in collecting data for consumer price indices;
- (h) Increasing the availability and accessibility of data on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (i) Subnational gross domestic product;
- (j) Supply and uses tables and trade in value added;
- (k) Statistical leadership training to assist in the transformation and modernization of official statistics.

Discussion and recommendations

35. The Commission discussed and endorsed these reports and related recommendations.

XI. Statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities [agenda item 9]

Presentation

36. Capacity-building programmes of the following partners were presented: Statistics Division of the United Nations, African Development Bank, Offices of the United Nations Resident Coordinators for Comoros and Zimbabwe, COMESA,

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France).

Discussion and recommendations

37. The Commission welcomed partners' capacity development programmes and made recommendations thereon (see annex).

XII. Preparation for the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council [agenda item 10]

Presentation

38. A representative of ECA gave a presentation on the preparations for the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, to be held from 28 February to 3 March 2023.

Discussions and recommendations

39. The Commission agreed on modalities of the preparation and presentation of African common positions.

XIII. Closing of the session [agenda item 11]

Date, venue and theme of the ninth session of the Commission

40. The Commission requested ECA to make the necessary arrangements for the convening of its ninth session, tentatively to be held in Addis Ababa in October 2024.

Conclusions and recommendations

41. The draft conclusions and recommendations of the eighth session were presented by a representative of ECA. The conclusions and recommendations were adopted with few amendments and are annexed to the present report.

42. The meeting was closed by the Chair of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

Annex

Draft conclusions and recommendations of the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa

The Statistical Commission for Africa,

Acknowledging that the theme of its eighth session, “Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa to support regional integration” comes at the right time, as the evolution of technology is greatly changing the practice of statistics both in the public and in the private domains,

Having considered the reports presented by the groups working on various aspects of statistical development,

Cognizant of programmatic issues, including those relating to the statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and other statutory issues,

Noting with satisfaction the work done on statistical modernization by the Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering that the availability of reliable and accurate geographic information is one of the most important enabling factors for the expansion of national economies, with decision-making in the many areas of socioeconomic development being better informed and improved by mapping the relevant socioeconomic indicators,

I. Statistics programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and other statutory issues

A. Programme of work on data and statistics for the period 2023–2024

1. *Commends* the work done by the Economic Commission for Africa to support the modernization of statistics on the continent;

2. *Endorses* the programme of work for the period 2023–2024 and further requests the Economic Commission for Africa to mobilize adequate resources for its implementation, in collaboration with pan-African organizations and development partners;

3. *Appeals* to member States to allocate domestic resources to implement a roadmap to transform and modernize their national statistical systems;

4. *Also appeals* to member States to use South-South cooperation to exchange experiences in terms of census technologies;

B. Statistical capacity development in Africa

5. *Approves* the creation of the Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme, with the Economic Commission for Africa, through the African Centre for Statistics, as its secretariat, along with the Programme’s strategy for the period 2022–2025, and further recommends the creation of national associations of young statisticians;

6. *Calls upon* development partners to scale up their support for the African statistical system to ensure its transformation and modernization in response to the growing needs of users;

C. Regional report on Sustainable Development Goals indicators

7. *Calls upon* all member States to support the overall system of statistics in Africa, by strengthening coordination of the continent's national statistical systems, and to ensure that policymaking in Africa is more evidence-based;

8. *Calls upon* African countries to continue aligning their national development plans and budgeting processes with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other regional frameworks, such as Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, and international frameworks, and to put more emphasis on a whole-of-society approach in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to conduct an assessment of what countries have done with regard to monitoring of and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals;

D. The 2020 round of population and housing censuses

10. *Commends* the strengthening of innovative approaches by countries during the 2020 round of censuses, with a view to the 2030 census round;

11. *Calls upon* member States to continue sharing experiences from the 2020 round of censuses and to continue working with the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to build collective knowledge that can be used as a resource during the 2030 round;

12. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Population Fund and other development partners to continue providing support to countries in the implementation of the 2020 round of censuses and in preparation for the 2030 round;

E. Civil registration and vital statistics and United Nations legal identity agenda

13. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa and partners to strengthen their support for countries in building holistic civil registration and vital statistics identity systems, including population registers;

14. *Encourages* countries to take advantage of the resource opportunities available to modernize civil registration and vital statistics identity systems to ensure that countries are not left behind;

15. *Encourages* national statistical offices to engage in initiatives to develop civil registration and vital statistics identity systems and explore potential opportunities to leverage such efforts to derive robust population data;

F. Gender statistics

16. *Endorses* the third phase of the African programme on gender statistics and the metadata for the initiative on the minimum set of gender indicators for Africa;

17. *Calls upon* member States to support improvements to the production and use of gender-related administrative data;

18. *Calls upon* the African group on gender statistics to renew its membership, given that the current members were elected in September 2018;

G. Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and related statistics

19. *Requests* pan-African institutions and development partners to support efforts by the remaining countries to transition to the 2008 System of National Accounts, in preparation for the next update;

20. *Encourages* African countries to participate in the testing and experimental implementation of the global update to the 2008 System of National Accounts;

21. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa and pan-African institutions to increase support to capacity-building on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, with a focus on the regional dimensions;

22. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa and international organizations to support countries in conducting the surveys required for the rebasing of national accounts;

H. Integration of geospatial and statistical information

23. *Requests* member States to ensure that geospatial information obtained for locations that integrate statistical and administrative data (geocoding) is based on relevant and authoritative data, with standardized and agreed formats, coordinated reference systems, metadata elements, data models, and exchange services such as discovery, view and download services;

24. *Urges* member States to collect, extract, upgrade and distribute georeferenced data that are needed for geocoding statistical information through the National Spatial Data Infrastructure or the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;

25. *Also urges* member States to clearly identify the roles and duties of various agencies engaged in geospatial information creation by constructing and using a custodianship and stewardship model;

26. *Further urges* member States to consider the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as encompassing the guiding principles for a point-based foundation for statistics and authoritative information on physical address locations, structures and/or cadastral parcels;

27. *Calls upon* each member State to build a single, national, authoritative and universal address register that is available to public institutions and that is included in their respective business processes;

II. Modernizing the data ecosystem in Africa

28. *Endorses* the principles and priorities proposed in the draft roadmap for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa and requests stakeholders to support its implementation;

29. *Calls upon* African statistical system stakeholders to integrate the roadmap's principles and priorities into national and regional planning relating to the development of official statistics;

30. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to organize, with the support of partners, a side event at the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in March 2023, on key initiatives and the transformation and modernization occurring in the African region;

III. Initiatives to modernize and transform statistical systems

31. *Encourages* countries to take ownership of the outputs of the collaboration with the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom on statistical modernization so as to improve the strategic management of their human resources to support the modernization programme;

32. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to further reflect on the need for capacity-building of African national statistical offices;

33. *Encourages* the Economic Commission for Africa and other international organizations and development partners to include coordination and spillover effects in their support for statistical development in Africa;

IV. Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa

34. *Encourages* member States to enhance the use of novel census-taking methodologies and increasingly embrace the use of geospatial information systems, global satellite navigation systems, and other geospatial tools and technologies for national censuses, especially their application in the 2020 and 2030 rounds of censuses as well as in the management of natural resources;

35. *Also encourages* member States, international organizations and other development partners to ensure – at the national, subregional and continental levels – the continuous execution of well-designed geospatial information policies in areas including, but not limited to, data, standards, governance and institutions, policy and legal affairs, finance, innovation, partnership, capacity-building and education, as well as communications and engagement;

36. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to conduct a cost and benefit analysis of the usefulness of linking geography and statistics, aimed at creating awareness among countries in support of the construction of statistical-geospatial information infrastructure for the 2020 census round, natural resources management and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

37. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a stepwise roadmap for the implementation of the African spatial and statistical framework at the national level, while encouraging the use of the already developed frameworks on the integration of geography and statistics;

38. *Encourages* geospatial training institutions to partner with statistics training institutions in Africa to organize training activities for their respective students and alumni;

V. Joint session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the group of experts of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration

39. *Encourages* countries to produce vital statistics reports based on civil registration data and calls upon the United Nations Population Fund, the Economic Commission for Africa, the World Health Organization and other partners to strengthen the capacity of countries in producing vital statistics reports, including on marriages, divorces and causes of death, in line with existing regional and international recommendations on vital statistics;

40. *Acknowledges* the decision of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session, held in 2022, to encourage national statistical authorities to consider the establishment of national statistical population registers on the basis of the census master files produced in the 2020 round of censuses, in full compliance with the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and called on the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Population Fund and other partners to build regional capacity to establish population registers and produce statistics from the registers;

VI. Reports on pre-events

A. Forum on African Statistical Development

41. *Adopts* the communiqué and subsequent recommendations;

B. Statistical development indicators tool

42. *Calls upon* member States to re-embrace the use of the statistical development indicators tool for assessing statistical development in national statistical systems and to consider changing the frequency of assessment of statistical development to once every two years instead of annually;

43. *Also calls upon* member States to endorse consideration of a separate component that allows for assessment of statistical development by external peers;

44. *Further calls upon* member States to send the results of the assessment of the statistical development of national statistical systems to the ministries to which the national statistical offices report;

C. Regional hub on big data and data science for Africa

45. *Commends* the work done by the Economic Commission for Africa, the National Statistical Office of Rwanda, the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom and the Statistics Division of the United Nations to operationalize the regional hub on big data and data science for Africa, and endorses its establishment, agenda and governance structure;

46. *Recognizes* the work done by some African countries in the use of big data and data science in official statistics, and encourages all countries to strengthen their capacity in the use of big data and data science and to develop data science applications locally;

47. *Encourages* member States to actively work with the regional hub to strengthen States' capacity in the use of big data and data science;

48. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa and the regional hub to use their convening power to mobilize from local governments, pan-African institutions and development partners the resources that are needed to build the data-science capacity of national statistical offices;

D. Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme

49. *Calls upon* member States to support the implementation of the Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme at the country level, including by funding and facilitating the establishment and operationalization of national associations for young statisticians;

50. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to share the strategy of the Programme with statistical training centres and universities with statistical programmes in member States, and to ensure synergy with similar initiatives for young African statisticians at subregional levels;

E. Strengthening data-exchange mechanisms to promote the use of open data in official data and statistics

51. *Calls upon* member States to engage and consult data users prior to data dissemination to better respond to various data needs and to disseminate data in both human and machine-readable formats, with a view to enhancing data interoperability and comparability;

52. *Also calls upon* member States to support the setting of standards for the sharing and exchange of open data in Africa;

53. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to support statisticians in building the skills required to raise the awareness of data users in respect of data and statistics;

F. Administrative-data initiatives and resources for Africa

54. *Encourages* countries to make use of the resources that have been developed, including the administrative data maturity model developed by the United Nations Children's Fund and the administrative data quality tools prepared by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to improve the quality and use of administrative data sources in statistical production, and to take note of and make use of those resources;

55. *Also encourages* countries to build consensus on the importance of administrative data in data systems and the need for collaboration at the national, subregional, continental and global levels;

G. Using computer-assisted in-person interviewing and computer-assisted telephone interviewing in collecting data for consumer price indices

56. *Encourages* member States to integrate computer-aided telephone interviewing and computer-assisted in-person interviewing into their toolboxes to modernize their data-production processes and develop resilience to crises such as the coronavirus disease pandemic;

57. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa and other development partners to support countries technically and financially in their efforts to modernize their statistical processes using computer-assisted data

collection, compilation and analysis methods, and to use big data and data science in the curricula of statistical training centres on the continent;

H. Increasing the availability and accessibility of data on the Sustainable Development Goals

58. *Encourages* member States to endorse a resolution on increasing the timely availability and accessibility of all data, including microdata produced by national statistical offices, and to endorse a resolution on data dissemination standards and the exchange of data, with a view to the open and free sharing of all available data in Africa;

59. *Also encourages* member States to note and make use of, as appropriate, the resources developed by through the project of the Statistics Division of the United Nations and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom on monitoring statistical development in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals;

60. *Encourages* national statistical offices and regional partners to continue collaboration with a view to increasing the availability of inclusive national data relating to the Sustainable Development Goals;

I. Subnational gross domestic product

61. *Encourages* member States to take note of the critical importance of compiling data on subnational gross domestic product to inform investment decisions, revenue mobilization and spatial economic development initiatives as well as the growing wave of decentralization and devolution of administration in many African countries;

62. *Also encourages* member States to strengthen estimation of and reporting on subnational gross domestic product in their systems of national accounts; *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue supporting African countries in scaling up the initiative through the development of common African guidelines on the calculation of subnational gross domestic product;

J. Supply and use tables and trade in value added

63. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, pan-African institutions and partners to expand the coverage of trade in value added and global value chain databases to as many African economies as possible to better understand the economic potential of African countries;

64. *Encourages* member States to take advantage of the tools available for their trade policy analyses, to endeavour to produce or update their supply and use tables, and to take advantage of the ensuing benefits in terms of better informing trade and industrialization policies on the continent and supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area;

65. *Also encourages* member States to advertise their data and analytical tools among researchers and policy analysts with a view to their widespread use;

K. On statistical leadership training to assist in the transformation and modernization of official statistics:

66. *Endorses* the joint statistical leadership programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, along with the leadership programmes of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, which will be crucial in the implementation of the roadmap for the transformation and modernization of African statistical systems, and encourages member States to include leadership development as an activity for further development;

67. *Encourages* member States to continue to support the joint statistical leadership programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, and calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa and partners to do more to make the leadership training more widely available;

68. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom to facilitate access for people in French-speaking countries to the leadership programme's activities;

69. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to convene a round-table discussion among donor partners to explore how to better coordinate leadership training;

VII. Statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities

70. *Encourages* member States to support the training of trainers through statistical training centres;

71. *Also encourages* member States to build an information infrastructure for vital statistics and to link all possible sources of vital statistics;

72. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to support statistical training centres in providing training to trainers;

73. *Encourages* pan-African institutions and partner entities to coordinate their collection of data regarding capacity-building needs;

74. *Encourages* African schools of statistics to integrate modules on big data and data science into their curricula and to ensure that trained statisticians are equipped and fit to meet the rising demand for skills in the area of data science for statistics;

75. *Commends* the African Development Bank for its sustained statistical capacity-building programmes and urges it to continue providing technical assistance to member States, regional economic communities, subregional offices and statistical training centres;

76. *Encourages* member States to integrate data collection for the International Comparison Programme with regular data collection for national consumer price indices to ensure the sustainability of the International Comparison Programme in the region;

77. *Commends* the work done by development partners and urges them to continue their support for statistical capacity-building in Africa;

78. *Encourages* United Nations agencies, private sector stakeholders, academia and civil society groups to reinforce partnerships and coordination to efficiently use scarce resources, strengthen coordination within national

statistical systems, achieve holistic and coordinated implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics, and foster the timely availability of disaggregated data;

VIII. Preparation for the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council

79. *Encourages* members States to continue their active involvement in the preparation and presentation of African common positions at the fifty-fourth session.
