



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa
Ninth session
Addis Ababa, 30 October to 1 November 2024

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Preparation for the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations

I. Introduction

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations will be held from 4 to 7 March 2025.
2. Before the end of 2024, the Statistics Division will publish items for the Statistical Commission to discuss and decide upon at its fifty-sixth session. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will send out a table and request that its members volunteer to prepare and present the African common positions on those items (see the template). ECA will schedule a meeting to review the African common positions, which will be held in January 2025, before the deadline set by the Statistics Division for submitting positions. ECA will organize a meeting of the Bureau and members of the Statistical Commission for Africa on 3 March 2025, in New York.

II. Template for the contribution of Africa (regional positions on key subjects)

3. Document reference and title:
Statement provided by: [Name of the country]
4. Statement:
[Country X], on behalf of the Group of African States, would like to express its contribution to the subject matter
Numbers of pages: 1 page maximum
5. Introduction: [Focus on the topic of the session and explain briefly why it is important for Africa, what impact it will have and what is being done. Also explain the main challenges and consider presenting best practices and lessons learned.]

* E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/1/Rev.1.



6. African common position: Based on experience of the topic in Africa, state your opinion on the recommendations put forward in the document and on the discussion points.
7. Submitted on: [Date]

III. Update on the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission

8. ECA sent the following note to all heads of national statistical offices in Africa on Economic and Social Council resolution 2024/2 on an inclusive and representative Statistical Commission to leave no one behind:

You may recall that during the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, organized at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (23 February to 1 March 2024), the Commission adopted a draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council on “An inclusive and representative Statistical Commission to leave no one behind”. Under the coordination of ECA, through its African Centre for Statistics, the contribution of Africa during the negotiation of the resolution on the size of the Statistical Commission yielded results, as the resolution was adopted by the Commission with very minor updates to the zero draft. The leadership of ECA is thankful for the role you played in mobilizing your respective permanent missions to the United Nations in New York in support of the resolution during the different phases of negotiation.

We are glad to report that the Economic and Social Council made the following decisions:

- (a) The number of members of the Statistical Commission will increase from 24 to 54 members, to be elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution;
- (b) The enlargement shall take effect progressively, in three steps, from the beginning of the fifty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission in 2026 until the fifty-ninth session in 2028;
- (c) The enlargement shall take effect according to the following pattern of membership in the Statistical Commission:
 - (i) 8 members from African States, 6 members from Asia-Pacific States, 6 members from Latin American and Caribbean States, 5 members from Eastern European States and 9 members from Western European and other States in 2026 at the fifty-seventh session;
 - (ii) 11 members from African States, 9 members from Asia-Pacific States, 8 members from Latin American and Caribbean States, 5 members from Eastern European States and 11 members from Western European and other States in 2027 at the fifty-eighth session;
 - (iii) 14 members from African States, 11 members from Asia-Pacific States, 10 members from Latin American and Caribbean States, 6 members from Eastern European States and 13 members from Western European and other States starting in 2028 at the fifty-ninth session.

9. Now that the Statistical Commission of the United Nations will have 14 members from Africa, the region will be able to increase its influence and broaden its contribution of knowledge to the global statistical system and other global agendas. The voice of Africa will only be heard if its representatives speak up on behalf of all Africans. It is therefore essential that all 14 members show a strong commitment.

IV. Conclusion, discussion points and decisions

10. As was done for previous sessions of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, ECA members are invited to be actively involved in preparing the African common positions.

11. The Statistical Commission for Africa is invited to express its views and provide guidance on ensuring the successful preparation of Africa for the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.
