United Nations E/ECA/STATCOM/10/2026/7*

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2026

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa
Tenth session
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 21–23 October 2026

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
Statistical programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues

Report on gender mainstreaming and social development statistics

Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of statistical activities concerning gender, migration, health and other social development topics undertaken by the member institutions of the African statistical system between October 2024 and October 2026. It concludes with a set of recommendations and points for consideration by the Statistical Commission for Africa.

I. Africa Programme on Gender Statistics

2. The Africa Programme on Gender Statistics is an umbrella regional programme that brings together various initiatives designed to develop and strengthen gender statistics in Africa and is being implemented by regional and international organizations, regional economic communities and civil society organizations on the continent. The core implementers include the African Union Institute for Statistics, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Open Data Watch, Data2X, and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which serves as the Programme secretariat.

3. The Programme is currently in its third phase, which ends in 2026, and by the end of that phase, the expectation is that African countries would have developed their national capacities to collect, compile and disseminate gender statistics in support of national, regional and international gender equality and women's empowerment targets and indicators. They would do so by implementing activities of the Programme in the following thematic areas: regional partnerships and coordination; capacity-building and research; reporting, storage and dissemination; and advocacy.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 21 September 2026.
** E/ECA/STATCOM/10/2026/1.

A.26-00620 (E)

A. Regional partnerships and coordination

4. Significant progress was achieved between October 2024 and October 2026 in strengthening regional coordination and partnerships under the Programme. The African Development Bank, the African Union Institute for Statistics, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, Open Data Watch, ECA, UN-Women, regional economic communities, national statistics offices and ministries responsible for gender collaborated to strengthen governance, coordination and implementation of gender statistics initiatives across the continent.

5. At the continental level, the Africa Gender Statistics Forum was further institutionalized in 2025 as the principal platform for user-producer engagement, technical exchange and coordination of gender statistics initiatives to reduce duplication and increase collaboration and effectiveness. The Forum is convened annually to coordinate all gender statistics activities in Africa. Over the period, partners together with, the Governments of Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire jointly organized the sixth and seventh editions of the Forum. The events were held in Gaborone from 8 to 12 July 2024, and Abidjan from 30 June to 4 July 2025. Each meeting brought together about 150 gender experts, statisticians and economists from 54 African countries as well as development partners. The annual meetings provide a platform for harmonizing and strengthening the collection, dissemination and use of gender statistics in the region along thematic lines. In 2026, child statistics were included for the first time as an area of focus for the meeting and the first Africa Gender and Child Statistics Forum was held in Yaoundé from 6 to 10 July 2026.

6. At the subregional level, coordination was strengthened through the development and adoption of gender statistics strategies by regional economic communities. During the reporting period, the Southern African Development Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the East African Community developed or operationalized dedicated gender statistics strategies, providing harmonized frameworks for data production, reporting and resource mobilization across their member States. The subregional bodies are working to align their efforts with continental and international frameworks while addressing specific subregional needs. However, there is need to improve coordination, enhance data quality and availability and promote the use of gender statistics for policymaking and decision-making across the continent.

7. At the national level, countries strengthened their coordination mechanisms for gender statistics. Botswana strengthened its institutional arrangements for gender statistics; Cameroon strengthened its inter-ministerial committee on gender statistics and its permanent technical group; Chad and Mauritania established a multi-stakeholder gender committee after holding their first user–producer dialogue on gender statistics; Kenya strengthened its inter-agency gender statistics technical committee; Morocco expanded its participatory coordination mechanisms involving government, civil society, academic and statistical institutions; Senegal enhanced its multipartite gender committee; Uganda institutionalized multiple gender statistics and Sustainable Development Goal technical working groups; and the United Republic of Tanzania reinforced the inter-agency coordination mechanism of Zanzibar.

B. Capacity-building and research

1. Strengthened normative frameworks and policies

8. Gender statistics, normative frameworks and policies were strengthened in line with internationally agreed standards. The Nairobi Action Plan for Time

Use Data and Public Policy was developed in January 2026 to strengthen the production and use of time-use statistics as a core input for economic policy and decision-making in Africa. The Action Plan emphasizes aligning data collection with priority policy questions, integrating time-use data into macroeconomic and fiscal analyses, and strengthening the links between data producers and policymakers.

9. The organization Time for Growth Collaborative was established in early 2026 to support country-led analysis, facilitate regional knowledge-sharing through the resource portal of ECA, and help African countries translate time-use statistics into policy action. The Collaborative is a multi-stakeholder initiative to foster dialogue among Governments, national statistics offices, researchers, civil society and development partners.

10. The capacity of African national statistics systems was enhanced to strengthen their legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms governing the production of gender statistics, to ensure that better use is made of the gender-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Women and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century produced a global study on legal frameworks for gender data across countries analysing statistical legislation and opportunities for mainstreaming gender in statistical laws and policies. The study revealed that the current statistical legislation in Africa fails to support gender data capacity, with only 30 per cent of statistical laws in Africa stipulating the disaggregation of data by sex or gender. Most of these laws focus only on gender data production and leave out the other aspects of the data value chain, such as data use, to inform policy.

11. Countries significantly expanded their institutional and policy frameworks for gender statistics. The mainstreaming of gender statistics into national policies and sector strategies, combined with the development of a dedicated gender data and statistics strategy helped to strengthen the enabling environment for evidence-based gender policymaking. This helped to improve the availability, quality, coordination and use of gender data, resulting in more responsive policies, better resource allocation and stronger accountability for gender equality outcomes.

12. Gender statistics were integrated into national development plans, gender sector-specific strategies and statistical development strategies in 13 countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. New strategies and plans on gender statistics were developed that were aimed at strengthening sustainability and domestic ownership. In Nigeria, an integrated system of administrative statistics is being implemented.

13. In Tunisia, the National Statistics Office developed the country’s first comprehensive action plan for gender-sensitive statistics with support from the Women Count programme. The plan identifies gender data gaps across development sectors, outlines the surveys and censuses needed to fill them, sets timelines and assigns institutional responsibilities. The plan was developed to address the lack of gender mainstreaming in the 2024–2026 national strategy for the development of statistics in Tunisia; create a structured approach to the institutionalization of gender statistics; and strengthen monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. It directly enabled the production of a brief based on indicators in the action plan, supporting more evidence-based, gender-responsive decision-making.

2. Strengthening of technical capacity

14. Substantial progress was made in strengthening the technical capacity of national statistical systems to collect, compile and analyse gender-related

indicators to support monitoring and evaluation of gender equality commitments at national and regional levels, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

15. In June 2026, a hybrid regional training workshop was held marking the formal launch of the 2027 Africa Gender Index process, bringing together national statistics offices, ministries of gender, development partners and technical experts across Africa to align on the methodology, timeline, pilot data collection phase and data collection tools for the third edition of the Africa Gender Index. The Index highlights the progress made in reducing gender disparities in key areas such as education, health, employment, income, political participation and leadership. It also reveals significant regional disparities, underscoring the close relationship between gender equality, stability and economic prosperity.

16. Across the continent, more than 2,800 producers and users of gender statistics received UN-Women-supported training through regional and national initiatives designed for statisticians, gender machinery officials, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, media professionals, researchers and policymakers. The training was focused on the priority thematic areas presented below, with the number of participants indicated in parenthesis:

(a) Gender-based violence surveys: Cameroon (66), Southern African Development Community (30), Zanzibar (25);

(b) Gender indicators management information systems: Chad (64), North Africa (17), United Republic of Tanzania (68);

(c) Gender-based violence administrative data: Southern African Development Community (168), Zanzibar (85), Zimbabwe (249);

(d) Gender and migration statistics: South Africa (133);

(e) Gender-responsive budgeting: South Africa (162), Uganda (36);

(f) Citizen-generated data and civil society organizations: Ethiopia (25), West Africa (39);

(g) Gender data production and use: Chad (61), Gabon (30), Kenya (87), Mauritania (39), Rwanda (30), Somalia (19), Senegal (360), Uganda (47);

(h) Integration of gender perspectives in statistical and planning processes: Ethiopia (161), Kenya (356), Morocco (119);

(i) Multiple indicator survey of technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Zimbabwe (125);

(j) Time-use survey data collection: Zimbabwe (188);

(k) Time use survey: Mozambique (30);

(l) Data linking: South Africa (20);

(m) Evidence-based policymaking: Democratic Republic of the Congo (60);

(n) Communication and gender data uptake and use: UN-Women staff (50) and an international non-profit organization (15).

17. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics provided a series of training sessions on the use of official statistics – with a focus on gender statistics – for parliamentary research staff, civil society organizations and ministerial staff.

18. Research and data production advanced significantly through 32 gender data collection, analysis and reporting initiatives supported by Women Count,

generating critical evidence on previously under-measured and emerging gender issues, thereby strengthening the foundation for evidence-based policymaking, improving monitoring of gender equality outcomes, and heightening the visibility of issues that were previously absent from national statistical systems.

19. New evidence was generated on previously under-measured topics such as violence against women; unpaid care and domestic work; time use; gender and climate change; environmental vulnerability; financial inclusion; femicide; governance and security; migration and displacement; and women's economic empowerment. The first national surveys in Africa measuring environmental risks and gender vulnerability were conducted in Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania. They significantly strengthened the evidence base of the nexus between gender and the environment.

20. ECA supported the implementation of the African Gender and Development Index in Eswatini, Lesotho and South Sudan through a series of national technical training workshops conducted in 2026 and aimed at strengthening institutional and technical capacity and enhancing understanding of the methodologies underpinning the Gender Status Index and the African Women's Progress Scoreboard. Following those workshops, three countries produced their national gender and development index reports and gender monitoring and reporting frameworks, which will serve as powerful instruments for measuring gender disparities.

21. In 2025, a multinational capacity-building project was conducted on gender statistics and monitoring systems, with the participation of Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. In Burundi and South Sudan, a comprehensive assessment of the integration of gender in civil registration and vital statistics systems was undertaken, and in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, statisticians were trained on the methodology for conducting time-use surveys to be integrated into larger household surveys.

3. Harmonization of methodologies

22. The following steps were taken to reduce discrepancies and increase harmonization of the methodologies for data collection on gender statistics indicators in African countries from national, regional and international sources and to institutionalize evidence-based tools:

(a) Open Data Watch and Data2X updated the Building Responsive Investments in Data for Gender Equality (BRIDGE) tool in December 2024 to increase its clarity and applicability. BRIDGE is an easy-to-use and intuitive tool for managers and planners in low- and middle-income countries to identify and communicate their gender statistics investment priorities;

(b) A toolkit for mainstreaming child rights into strategic planning for official statistics was introduced at the Africa Gender Statistics Forum held in July 2025 and implemented in 40 African countries;

(c) A survey instrument to measure gender statistics in migration was developed to collect gender data on migration, and was implemented in Ethiopia and the Niger;

(d) UN-Women launched a toolkit entitled Bridging Gaps: Essential Gender data Toolkit for Humanitarian Action at the World Data Forum in 2024. The toolkit helped to improve access to important gender data and statistical resources for use in humanitarian settings. It has already been used in the Sudan;

(e) The Global Guidance on Gender and Financial Inclusion Statistics, based on the Gender Statistics in Financial Inclusion toolkit developed by UN-Women and the Southern African Development Community, was published in 2026;

(f) UN-Women supported the production of supply-side gender-disaggregated data guidelines and piloted the collection of advanced indicators to address financial inclusion gender gaps through FinScope surveys in Botswana and South Africa;

(g) The UN-Women/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Femicide Statistical Framework was piloted and tested in Ethiopia, Kenya and Senegal. The testing generated critical evidence to standardize and strengthen femicide data collection, classification and reporting, enabling more accurate measurement and monitoring of femicide. Lesotho used the findings of the test that they conducted in 2024 to inform changes in police administrative data systems linked to the reporting of intentional homicide;

(h) Advanced methodologies were applied to measure and value the economic contribution of women's unpaid care and domestic work through Women Count to support the establishment of household satellite accounts in Kenya and Morocco;

(i) A rapid assessment methodology for monitoring gender data use in resource-constrained environments was developed and made available in English, French and Spanish with the support of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century;

(j) Work continued on the drafting of guidance documents on, among other topics, the formation of national citizen data partnerships and the development of a national toolkit on citizen data by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and the International Civil Society Centre.

C. Reporting, storage and dissemination

23. Major advancements were recorded in gender data dissemination, reporting and accessibility.

1. Reporting and dissemination

24. Countries and regional institutions produced a wide range of gender-focused publications, including Gender Snapshot reports, gender equality profiles, policy briefs, Sustainable Development Goals reports, statistical yearbooks and thematic research reports. These products expanded the evidence base for national planning and monitoring of commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

25. Countries strengthened their administrative data systems to improve routine production and dissemination of gender statistics. Significant progress was observed in data systems on gender-based violence, civil registration and vital statistics, justice and police actions, and local government and social sector information.

26. User-producer dialogues became increasingly institutionalized. Regular forums were established in various countries, including Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mauritania and Uganda, improving communication between data producers, researchers, policymakers and civil society organizations.

2. Knowledge management platforms

27. Digital knowledge management platforms for gender statistics and information systems as well as gender data management and dissemination systems were significantly expanded and improved. The Africa Gender Index

webpage https://agi.afdb.org/ was updated with the 2023 Africa Gender Index Analytical Report, a major continental research and analytical output developed by the African Development Bank and ECA in November 2024 and designed for continental policy use to provide Governments with comparative evidence on the economic, social and political status of women across the 54 African countries. It was further disseminated at the continental level to participants from 40 countries across Africa and at national-level workshops in Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

28. The Gender Data Portal, a powerful web-based system, was developed to provide direct and easy online access to a wide range of accurate and reliable gender data managed by the African Development Bank and is accessible at https://dataportal.opendataforafrica.org/.

29. The Gender Data Channel of the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Date, an online platform that tracks how data and statistics are funded and pairs financing flows with impact stories, was updated. Open Data Watch reworked its analysis of the Channel to highlight diminishing support for gender data and provide concrete country examples.

30. The availability of gender-related Sustainable Development Goals data increased from 31 per cent in 2019 to approximately 63 per cent by 2025, reflecting considerable improvements in national capacities to produce gender-sensitive indicators. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals was critically analysed and published for West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, Ethiopia, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Technical inputs were provided towards the voluntary national review reporting of Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

31. Gender data innovation was promoted, a gender data chatbot was tested and responsible artificial intelligence use for gender statistics was strengthened. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century helped to scale up the Gender Data Laboratory of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda.

32. The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data Gender Data Channel was further updated with country profiles and gender data success stories were generated and shared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century.

33. Other key achievements included updates on the national gender information system of Ethiopia; the justice sector gender-based violence data platform of Zimbabwe; the web-based gender statistics and Sustainable Development Goals dissemination platform of Senegal; the gender statistics portal of Morocco; the gender data portals and country data products of Kenya; and the centralized gender statistics databases and local-level information systems of the United Republic of Tanzania.

34. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century assessed the effectiveness of national statistics offices and other institutions in producing and integrating gender statistics. In Kenya, it assessed the use of gender data in policymaking, in partnership with the country's National Bureau of Statistics. In Burkina Faso, it worked with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography to assess the country's gender-responsive budgeting and national care policies.

3. Evidence-based decision-making

35. Regarding evidence-based decision-making, countries and partners presented findings on gender statistics at regional and international expert meetings to promote knowledge exchange and peer learning and support the generation and dissemination of evidence on various topics.

36. Research briefs were produced on external and domestic financing for gender data and the requirements for the establishment of an enabling environment for gender data use. An enabling environment is a framework that allows data to be generated and put to genuine use across the dimensions of usability, policy, capacity and financing, and it draws upon the Gender Data Compass of Open Data Watch, a tool for measuring the availability and transparency of gender data.

37. The Gender Data Outlook for Africa was launched in 2025, based on a methodology developed jointly by UN-Women and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century. It represented a major continental milestone containing an assessment of the enabling environment for and the production, dissemination and use of gender data across 33 African countries. The tool provides a framework for monitoring progress and identifying areas requiring additional investment. It showed that, overall, the African region has achieved about 51.6 per cent of its potential capacity to produce and use gender data.

38. A cross-country study on access to and interpretation and use of gender data in policymaking, entitled “Data-driven policymaking? The politics, people and practices behind gender data use”, was published by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century and featured the cases of Kenya and Rwanda.

39. Many other achievements were recorded in evidence-based decision-making, including on the topic of gender data communication.

D. Advocacy

40. Advocacy and communication efforts helped significantly to increase the visibility and use of gender statistics across the continent.

41. Communication strategies were developed and implemented at regional and national levels to support the dissemination of major statistical products, surveys and policy messages with a view to strengthening engagement with Governments, development partners, media organizations, academic institutions and civil society actors.

42. Media engagement expanded substantially, with journalists and communication professionals across multiple countries receiving training in the interpretation and communication of gender statistics. Networks of gender data journalists were strengthened, including in Cameroon and Senegal, helping to translate complex statistical findings into accessible information for policymakers and the public.

43. Cross regional and international platforms were created. A working group on gender and citizen data was established in 2025 as part of the Collaborative on Citizen Data, a global multi-stakeholder initiative that promotes responsible use of citizen data in official statistics and sustainable development. It is co-chaired by Open Data Watch and UN-Women and focuses on strengthening gender statistics by exploring how citizen data can complement official data sources to address persistent gender data gaps.

44. The Gender Data Network, a cross-regional and international platform created to advance knowledge exchange, sharing of good practices and peer learning on emerging issues in gender data, was expanded and strengthened. It was coordinated by Open Data Watch in partnership with Data2X, the Partnership for Statistics in the Twenty-first Century, ECA, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

45. Regular webinars and community meetings were held on topics identified by members of the Network, including gender-responsive civil registration and vital statistics, financing gender data, open data, artificial intelligence and gender data, gender-intentional survey design, and innovative approaches to measuring women's empowerment and agency. These activities strengthened the technical capacity of national statistics offices, promoted South-South collaboration, and facilitated the sharing of practical experiences to improve the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.

46. Members of the Gender Data Network actively participated in international forums, including the United Nations World Data Forum 2024, held in Colombia, and the Global Data Festival 2026, held in Kenya, where they shared experiences from African countries and contributed to global discussions on strengthening gender data systems. These efforts have helped to reinforce collaboration among regional and international partners and to assist African countries in advancing gender-responsive data ecosystems.

47. On 19 March 2026 in New York, ECA and the Governments of Eswatini and Lesotho hosted a high-level side event entitled "Leveraging the African Gender and Development Index to monitor and report on gender equality commitments" at the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The event aimed to highlight and enhance awareness of the strategic value of the Index as a comprehensive framework for tracking and reporting on gender equality outcomes among African countries on their international and regional commitments. The side event helped to strengthen institutional engagement among representatives of the Governments of Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa, along with participants from ECA, the Southern African Development Community, other regional economic commissions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

II. Migration statistics

48. The Making Migration Safe for Women programme has strengthened gender-responsive migration governance by generating evidence, influencing policies and international norms, and amplifying migrant women's voices to ensure safer, more rights-based migration pathways for women and girls across Africa. As part of that project, UN-Women held a training session for 133 government officials in South Africa on gender and migration statistics and plans to hold a similar session in Senegal towards the end of 2026. The content of that training session has been used as the basis for the development of other generic gender and migration statistics training courses in partnership with the International Organization for Migration. By improving migration data, supporting policy reform and strengthening the capacity of migrant women and their organizations to defend their rights, the programme has laid a stronger foundation for migration systems that protect women's rights, reduce vulnerabilities and promote gender equality throughout the migration cycle.

49. Development partners are currently developing a set of generic training materials on gender in migration statistics and gender in humanitarian statistics.

50. ECA and the African Union Commission implemented a joint project entitled "International migration in Africa – shaping a positive narrative and removing barriers to mobility", designed to fulfil a number of tasks, including improving migration statistics and strengthening the legal identity of migrants in the East and Horn of Africa, and a good legal identity toolkit and road map for implementing legal identity programmes were developed.

III. Health statistics

51. ECA, with support from the Susan Thomspon Buffett Foundation, initiated a project in 2026 on transforming health financing, unlocking fiscal space, driving innovation and building resilient and equitable systems in Africa. The aim of the project is to catalyse sustainable health financing reform across four African countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Togo) over a three-year period (2026–2028). It is grounded in the recognition that health financing is not only a social imperative but also a macro-critical driver of economic resilience, equity and sovereignty.

IV. Social development statistics

52. ECA has made efforts to produce policy-ready statistical products that explain why the numbers matter, not just what they are. The “Beyond the Numbers” series provides a new orientation for tackling the data and statistical gaps that inhibit development actions in Africa by assessing a variety of emerging data sources to recommend the most suitable and address any observed gaps. The overarching goal is to promote the culture of producing and disseminating country-led data stories for development in many domains, including well-being, unemployment, migration and health.

V. Conclusion

53. Overall, implementation of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics during the period 2024–2026 resulted in stronger coordination mechanisms, expanded partnerships, increased technical capacity, improved production of gender statistics, enhanced dissemination systems and greater use of gender evidence in policymaking. The Programme has demonstrably strengthened the continent’s capacity to monitor the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and regional commitments to gender equality, while laying the foundation for a more sustainable, coordinated and innovative gender data ecosystem across Africa. The annual sessions of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum have provided a platform for publicizing, discussing and assessing progress in the implementation of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics.

54. The existing work on gender data use in policymaking, gender-responsive statistical planning, gender data capacity measurement and financing for gender statistics has shifted the regional conversation beyond data production towards ensuring that gender data effectively informs policies and investments for gender equality.

55. Support for the integration of gender priorities into national and regional statistics development strategies has reinforced efforts to institutionalize gender statistics within national statistical systems with a view to reducing persistent gender data gaps, addressing the decline in financing for gender statistics, and building more inclusive, responsive and evidence-driven statistical systems.

56. The criterion for a methodology for measuring gender data use is needed to inform action in that area. This remains a persistent challenge in many national statistical systems. The Gender Data Outlook framework can be used as a tool to identify context-specific barriers to gender data use by addressing critical interconnected issues, such as gender data availability, data accessibility, data openness, data quality, data end-use and user satisfaction.

VI. Recommendations for consideration by the Statistical Commission for Africa

57. It is recommended that the Commission:

(1) Urge the Africa Group on Gender Statistics, the Africa expert group on child-related statistics and regional economic community platforms to promote a coordinated approach to household surveys on women and children, and to reaffirm their dedication to using survey findings to advance evidence-based policies that uphold the rights of women and children and accelerate the implementation of the “leave no one behind” agenda;

(2) Encourage partners to support national statistics offices to strengthen partnerships and continuous engagement between statistics and decision-making by ensuring that gender data are translated into actions, that they respond to policy priorities, and that they are used effectively; invest in understanding how gender statistics are accessed, communicated and used in policymaking, budgeting and programme implementation; and develop mechanisms to systematically monitor the uptake and impact of gender data in decision-making;

(3) Recommend that national statistics offices, civil society and other data producers strengthen their collaboration to identify opportunities for responsible use of citizen-generated data, use clear governance principles to assess citizen-generated data, and engage with the Collaborative on Citizen Data;

(4) Encourage African countries to prioritize financial investments in statistical capacity-building and data disaggregation and foster technical interoperability between sectoral digital data systems; consider expanding phase II of the Capacity-Building for Gender Statistics and Monitoring Systems Project to include additional countries beyond Burundi, Mozambique, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, and to further improve the availability of gender statistics in transition countries, which would provide a foundation for inclusive national development planning;

(5) Recommend that the Africa Group on Gender Statistics expedite the evaluation of the strategy for the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics Phase III (2022–2026) and develop a strategy for the period 2027–2031; and call upon all partners to mobilize financial resources to facilitate the annual and sustainable holding of the Africa Gender and Child Statistics Forum;

(6) Recommend that the African Development Bank, the African Union Institute for Statistics, ECA and UN-Women, as a subgroup of partners of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics, jointly support annual data collection, produce a publication on a minimum set of gender indicators for Africa, support countries in upgrading the African Union Gender Observatory, and implement Guidelines for gender Statistics in Africa.