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

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 August 2026

Original: English

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

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters

Follow-up report on the main conclusions and recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present document is to report on progress made on the main conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the reports presented at the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, which was held in Addis Ababa from 30 October to 1 November 2024 under the theme "Unleashing the potential of African innovation in statistical development".

2. The present report drew on the results of a survey of members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), conducted in June and July 2026, and a questionnaire on partner accountability. Responses to the survey were received from 32 members of ECA, while responses to the questionnaire were received from 12 institutions, including ECA, 5 development partners and 6 regional and subregional institutions. Unless otherwise indicated, the figures presented below are drawn from the responses provided by the 32 participating members of ECA.

II. National accounts and the System of National Accounts

A. Status and progress

3. The 2008 System of National Accounts remains the predominant standard across the region: 27 members (84 per cent) use it to compile their accounts, 4 (13 per cent) continue to rely on the 1993 System or an earlier version, and 1 is transitioning to the 2025 System. Progress in completing the surveys that are a prerequisite for migrating to an updated System has been uneven: 8 members (25 per cent) have completed the surveys, 9 (28 per cent) have partially completed them, 11 (34 per cent) are at the planning stage and 4 (13 per cent) have not yet begun.

4. Most respondents have participated in regional and ECA-led training on supply and use tables and value chains, but few report using these methods regularly: 18 members (56 per cent) have attended training only, 8 (25 per cent) apply the methods in practice, 2 (6 per cent) have fully integrated them into

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their production processes and 4 (13 per cent) report no benefit from the training.

5. Responses from partner entities provide additional context. ECA reported that it had held regional workshops with the African Development Bank on the rebasing of gross domestic product and joint webinars with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the African Union Institute for Statistics on the updates to be made as part of the 2025 System of National Accounts. ECA also reported that work to develop the African continental input-output table had begun in late 2022. The African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Development Bank reported that they had provided technical or financial assistance related to the System of National Accounts to 19 and 17 countries, respectively. Despite the number of countries reportedly receiving such assistance, four member States still use the 1993 System.

6. Testing of the 2025 System remains at an early stage: only 3 members (9 per cent) are actively participating, 2 (6 per cent) are monitoring developments, 6 (19 per cent) intend to participate and 21 (66 per cent) are yet to engage in the process. The institutionalization of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting is also at an early stage: 4 members (13 per cent) have a fully operational framework, 7 (22 per cent) have a partially established one, 9 (28 per cent) are at the planning stage and 12 (38 per cent) have not yet started.

7. The use of artificial intelligence to support training in the System of National Accounts was limited among the members surveyed: 1 member is piloting its use, 10 (31 per cent) are exploring its use and 21 (66 per cent) reported no use.

8. Several members identified financing as a major constraint on national accounts systems. Cameroon reported limited financing for the periodic rebasing exercises recommended under the System as the principal challenge. Mali plans to rebase to a more recent base year and to begin migrating to the 2025 System, while Côte d’Ivoire plans to transition to the 2025 System over the medium term and to change its base year as a national priority. The Comoros and the United Republic of Tanzania have completed their migration from the 1993 to the 2008 System, with dissemination of the new base year and results yet to be finalized.

B. Recommendations

9. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that regional institutions and international organizations should continue to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the 2008 System and the updates to be made as part of the 2025 System; that ECA and other regional institutions should intensify their training efforts and increase the technical support that they offer, in particular making use of artificial intelligence; and that members of ECA that are still using the 1993 System should mobilize national resources to conduct the surveys that are a prerequisite for migrating to the 2008 System.

III. Sustainable Development Goals and data systems

A. Status and progress

10. A total of 16 members (50 per cent) reported that their national development plans and budgeting processes were fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union; 11 (34 per cent) reported partial alignment, 4 (13 per cent)

reported that alignment was in progress and 1 reported no alignment. Progress in tracking Sustainable Development Goal indicators has been much more limited: 6 members (19 per cent) track more than 80 per cent of indicators, 11 (34 per cent) track between 60 and 80 per cent and 15 (47 per cent) track between 30 and 60 per cent.

11. As many as 19 members (59 per cent) reported that they had fully institutionalized a whole-of-society approach to monitoring the Goals, involving all relevant ministries and stakeholders. A further 10 members (31 per cent) reported that the approach had been partially institutionalized and involved only key ministries; 2 reported that it was under development and 1 reported that no such approach was in place. Sixteen members (50 per cent) reported significant improvements in data-sharing practices supporting the principle of leaving no one behind, while 15 (47 per cent) reported some improvement and 1 reported minimal change.

12. In all, 25 members (78 per cent) identified persistent gaps in data on the informal sector and in environment data. Of those, 18 (56 per cent) identified gaps in data on migrants and displaced populations, 16 (50 per cent) in subnational data and 10 (31 per cent) in disability data. A smaller number of members pointed to gaps in other areas, including in data disaggregated by specific Goals. Mozambique identified gaps relating to Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production, Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, as well as in data on climate change, the digital economy and emerging technologies.

13. ECA responded to these gaps by implementing an Africa Sustainable Development Goals monitoring dashboard, funded by the European Union through a Eurostat grant, in five pilot countries: Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Given the number of members reporting incomplete coverage of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the five-country pilot covered only a small proportion of the members affected.

B. Recommendations

14. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should continue to align their national development plans and budgeting processes with the 2030 Agenda, with regional frameworks, such as Agenda 2063, and with international frameworks; embrace a whole-of-society approach in their efforts to achieve the Goals; and enhance data-sharing practices and prioritize data systems that support the universal value of leaving no one behind. It recommended that ECA and other international organizations should assist States in addressing data gaps and challenges relating to the disaggregation of data.

IV. Statistical capacity development and financing

A. Status and progress

15. Financing of national strategies for the development of statistics remains uneven. Of the 32 respondents, 29 (91 per cent) reported having an active strategy. Of those, 9 members (28 per cent of all respondents) reported that the strategy was fully funded from domestic sources, 9 (28 per cent) that it was partially funded, 5 (16 per cent) that it was funded mainly by donors and 6 (19 per cent) that it was severely underfunded; 3 members (9 per cent) reported having no current strategy.

16. ECA reported providing support for the national strategies of five members, including the design of the second strategy of South Sudan, a

midterm review of the strategy of Seychelles, and expert reviews of draft strategies for the Comoros and Ghana. It also provided support for the regional strategy of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Twenty members reported that their national strategy was partially funded, mainly funded by donors or severely underfunded.

17. A total of 18 members (56 per cent) reported that their national statistical offices were formally involved in budgetary planning through the submission of detailed funding proposals to policymakers. Four members (13 per cent) reported informal involvement, 3 (9 per cent) occasional involvement and 7 (22 per cent) no involvement. The use of innovative financing mechanisms, such as trust funds, public-private partnerships and earmarked levies, remained at an exploratory stage: 7 members (22 per cent) reported having an operational mechanism, 7 (22 per cent) were piloting or exploring such mechanisms, a further 7 (22 per cent) had discussed them at a senior level but had not adopted them and 11 (34 per cent) reported that they had not been discussed. A similarly exploratory approach was described by development partners. Of the 5 that responded, 3 reported that they were exploring innovative financing mechanisms and 2 reported that they were not using any such mechanisms.

18. Development of an integrated geostatistical framework with support from ECA remains at an early stage among respondents. Only 4 members (13 per cent) reported having an operational framework, 4 (13 per cent) a framework under development, 4 (13 per cent) a framework at the planning stage and 20 (63 per cent) no framework. ECA reported that it had supported 8 members in developing such frameworks: Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Eswatini, Mali, Mozambique and Togo. Of the members themselves, 8 reported having received ECA support, indicating consistency between the information provided by ECA and that provided by members.

19. Funding levels varied across core statistical activities. Censuses were fully funded in 23 members (72 per cent), while national accounts and household surveys were each fully funded in 17 (53 per cent). In all, 9 members (28 per cent) reported no funding for administrative data systems and a further 5 (16 per cent) reporting underfunding; monitoring of the Goals was fully funded in only 7 members (22 per cent) and partially funded in 15 (47 per cent).

20. In 2022, $337 million in development-partner funding for data and statistics, representing 39 per cent of the global total and the largest share of any region. At that time, fewer than half of African States had fully funded their national strategy for the development of statistics. In the present survey, 9 of the 32 respondents (28 per cent) reported that their strategy was fully funded from domestic sources. The gap between the scale of external support and the level of domestic financing therefore remains substantial.

21. Budgetary trends over the reporting period varied by component. A total of 13 members (41 per cent) reported stable core operational budgets and 10 (31 per cent) reported increases. Increases in census and survey budgets were reported by 11 members (34 per cent), while 8 (25 per cent) reported decreases. Budgets for staff training decreased in 14 members (44 per cent) and increased in 4 (13 per cent), representing the largest reported decline among the budget categories covered by the survey. This is a matter that merits the attention of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

B. Recommendations

22. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that ECA should continue to provide comprehensive technical support to States that are developing integrated geostatistical frameworks; that ECA and other regional institutions and their partners should continue to support the establishment and strengthening of national strategies for the development of statistics; that

development partners should scale up their support for the African Statistical System and explore innovative financing mechanisms; and that members of ECA should directly involve their national statistical offices in budgetary planning.

V. Civil registration and vital statistics

A. Status and progress

23. As many as 28 members (88 per cent) reported having a comprehensive legal framework requiring universal birth and death registration, while the remaining 4 (13 per cent) reported having only some of the necessary legal provisions in place. Birth registration coverage varied considerably among members, however: 6 (19 per cent) reported coverage above 90 per cent, 10 (31 per cent) coverage of between 75 and 90 per cent, 9 (28 per cent) coverage of between 50 and 75 per cent and 7 (22 per cent) coverage below 50 per cent.

24. Among the areas of digital transformation covered by the survey, the use of artificial intelligence and big data within civil registration systems was the least advanced. Only 1 member reported use of a pilot application, 6 (19 per cent) reported plans to introduce such applications and 25 (78 per cent) reported no use of either technology. Information provided by ECA was consistent with those responses. ECA reported that artificial intelligence applications were limited to identifying areas with low registration coverage and processing legacy documents. It also reported that no case studies or knowledge products had yet been produced and that a shortage of staff trained in artificial intelligence was the principal constraint.

25. A total of 12 members (38 per cent) reported using civil registration data regularly to monitor the Goals or inform policymaking, while 9 (28 per cent) reported occasional use, 8 (25 per cent) rare use and 3 (9 per cent) no use.

26. Members reported several common challenges, including: incomplete registration coverage, in particular in rural and remote areas and areas affected by insecurity; limited interoperability and inter-institutional coordination; limited institutional, technical and human capacity, including inadequate information technology equipment; and constraints relating to security, digitalization and energy supply that affect efforts to fully digitalize civil registration systems.

B. Recommendations

27. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure universal birth and death registration nationwide; that ECA and its members should document and share examples of successful applications of artificial intelligence and big data statistical systems, including use cases in civil registration; and that ECA should expand capacity-building initiatives to improve the use of data pertaining to civil registration and vital statistics in policymaking.

VI. Population and housing censuses

A. Status and progress

28. Substantial progress was reported in completing the 2020 round of African censuses. In all, 23 members (72 per cent) reported having completed

a census and published the data, while 2 (6 per cent) reported having completed a census but not yet published the data and 7 members (22 per cent) reported that they had not yet conducted a census. Digital data collection has become the norm among respondents: 27 members (84 per cent) reported having fully adopted it, 3 (9 per cent) reported using a combination of digital and paper-based methods and 2 (6 per cent) reported piloting digital collection. The use of geospatial technology or artificial intelligence is more uneven: 12 members (38 per cent) reported comprehensive use, 8 (25 per cent) reported partial use, 3 (9 per cent) plan to introduce such technology for the 2030 round and 9 (28 per cent) reported no use.

29. Preparations for the 2030 round, including longer-term plans for censuses based on administrative data in 2040, were under way in 15 members (47 per cent). A further 4 members (13 per cent) reported that preparations were being discussed, while 12 (38 per cent) considered it too early to begin and 1 reported having no plans. These responses indicate that preparations among members remain partial, in contrast to the more advanced status reported by ECA for the 2030 Africa Programme on Population and Housing Censuses Decade (2025–2034), which ECA described as launched and operational.

30. Malawi reported that it will conduct its next population and housing census in 2028 and is undertaking a mapping exercise using artificial intelligence, building footprint extraction and land-cover analysis to delineate enumeration areas, together with administrative records and smartphone-based collection. The approach could be considered for wider application in other countries.

B. Recommendations

31. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should ensure the incorporation of geospatial technology and artificial intelligence into census operations and transition fully from manual to digital systems; that ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Population Fund should jointly develop a programme for African population and housing censuses during the decade 2025–2034, that regional institutions and their development partners should establish an African census coordinating committee for the 2030 round; and that development partners should support all States in using the 2030 round to prepare for the transition to censuses based on administrative data for the 2040 round.

VII. Gender statistics

A. Status and progress

32. Significant improvements in the collection of gender-disaggregated data since the ninth session were reported by 20 members (63 per cent), while a further 10 (31 per cent) reported some improvement and 2 reported no improvement. The most frequently identified priority areas were gender-based violence and health and education, each cited by 27 members (84 per cent), followed by women’s economic empowerment, cited by 26 members (81 per cent), political participation, by 18 members (56 per cent), land and property rights, by 17 members (53 per cent), time-use surveys, by 16 members (50 per cent), and informal trade, by 14 members (44 per cent). A small number of members identified additional priorities, including poverty, the gender dimensions of external trade and unpaid domestic work.

33. A total of 15 members (47 per cent) reported using innovative tools for collecting and disseminating gender statistics, 8 (25 per cent) reported that the use of such tools was at the planning stage and 4 (13 per cent) that they were being piloted; 5 members (16 per cent) reported that they did not use them. This is broadly consistent with the level of progress reported by development partners. Open Data Watch and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) reported that such tools were used in several countries, while Statistics Norway reported a single-country pilot covering mobile data collection, administrative data linkage and geospatial gender mapping, which may have contributed to the progress reported by nearly half of member States in this area.

B. Recommendations

34. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should strengthen their collection of gender-disaggregated data, in particular in relation to informal trade and gender-based violence, and that development partners should facilitate the use of innovative tools for the collection and dissemination of gender data at the national level.

VIII. Geospatial and statistical integration

A. Status and progress

35. Implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework remains at an early stage among respondents: 7 members (22 per cent) reported full implementation, 10 (31 per cent) partial implementation, 2 (6 per cent) completion of an assessment and 13 (41 per cent) had not yet begun. The integration of geospatial data into national statistical systems for census and monitoring and reporting on indicators under the Goals was more widespread: 18 members (56 per cent) reported comprehensive integration, 8 (25 per cent) integration for census purposes only, 3 (9 per cent) integration for monitoring the Goals only and 3 (9 per cent) no integration. These responses suggest that geospatial capabilities may be developing more rapidly than the governance arrangements needed to sustain and coordinate their use.

36. ECA reported that it had established an Executive Working Group on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, within the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. It also identified limited awareness of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, weak institutional capacity and fragmented mandates as obstacles to implementation faced by 41 per cent of members.

37. Contribution to or adoption of the African Geodetic Reference Frame remains limited: 6 members (19 per cent) reported that they were actively contributing, 7 (22 per cent) that they were contributing partially, 4 (13 per cent) that they planned to contribute and 15 (47 per cent) that they were not engaged. Five members (16 per cent) reported that disaster-related statistics were fully integrated into national systems, 13 (41 per cent) that they were partially integrated, 8 (25 per cent) that integration was planned and 6 (19 per cent) that they were not integrated.

B. Recommendations

38. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should incorporate geospatial technology and artificial intelligence into their census operations more comprehensively, that development partners

should support initiatives to build the capacity of States to train statisticians and geospatial experts in the use of data integration techniques, and that ECA should continue to help the statistical and geospatial communities to enhance their collaboration for the effective implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the African Geodetic Reference Frame.

IX. Transformation and modernization of national statistical systems

A. Status and progress

39. Awareness and use of the strategic toolkit for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa remain limited. Only 8 members (25 per cent) reported that the toolkit had been fully mainstreamed into their national strategy, 5 (16 per cent) had used or referred to it without mainstreaming it, 8 (25 per cent), including Ghana, were aware of it but had not yet used it and 11 (34 per cent) were not yet aware of it.

40. Similar gaps were reported at the regional and subregional levels. Of the six regional and subregional institutions surveyed, only two reported any engagement with the toolkit, while the other four reported that they had not used it. ECA reported only partial implementation of efforts to expand the toolkit and promote peer-to-peer learning, citing resource constraints that had limited engagement with the task teams established for that purpose. This pattern suggests the dissemination and use of the toolkit pipeline are constrained by limited resources at several levels, rather than by insufficient communication alone.

41. The adoption of innovative technologies was more widespread for field-level applications than for advanced analytics. All 32 respondents reported using mobile or computer-assisted personal interview methods for data collection, and 24 (75 per cent) reported integrating administrative data. As many as 23 (72 per cent) reported using geospatial and geographic information system tools, 22 (69 per cent) open data portals, 15 (47 per cent) big-data analytics, 13 (41 per cent) artificial intelligence and 11 (34 per cent) electronic civil-registration systems. Between 6 and 8 members (19–25 per cent) reported using machine learning, real-time data systems, remote sensing and digital public registers.

42. When asked to rate the overall pace of modernization of their statistical system over the preceding 12 months, 4 members (13 per cent) reported rapid progress, 19 (59 per cent) moderate progress and 9 (28 per cent) slow progress. Most respondents therefore assessed the pace of modernization as moderate.

43. At its ninth session, the Statistical Committee for Africa endorsed the proposed medium-term statistics plan of the African Centre for Statistics for the period 2025–2027. According to ECA, 30–60 per cent of the resources required to implement the plan had been mobilized. ECA also reported that the road map[1] had been used to guide the provision of technical assistance but had not yet been promoted among all members. The forthcoming reporting cycle could track progress in mobilizing resources, alongside the funding gap for administrative data systems noted in section IV.

44. Members rated their digital maturity across five dimensions on a five-point scale ranging from very low to very high. Data collection infrastructure and data processing and analysis capacity received the highest ratings, followed

[1] E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/16.

by dissemination platforms and the digital skills of staff members. Information technology governance and cybersecurity received the lowest ratings.

B. Recommendations

45. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should use the strategic toolkit in support of the transformation and modernization of their national statistical systems, harness opportunities derived from new technologies and re-establish the mechanisms initiated through the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development to support conflict-affected States and those that are recovering from conflict. It further recommended that ECA should expand the toolkit by incorporating best practices and promote peer-to-peer learning platforms that facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from national initiatives to modernize and transform statistical systems.

X. Partnerships, coordination and South-South cooperation

A. Status and progress

46. A total of 21 members (66 per cent) reported formal partnerships with universities or research institutions, 6 (19 per cent) reported informal collaboration, 3 (9 per cent) reported ongoing negotiations and 2 members reported no such partnerships or collaboration. Engagement with the private sector for data, funding, technology or statistical innovation was less developed: 12 members (38 per cent) reported having a formal partnership or agreement, 7 (22 per cent) were exploring opportunities, 5 (16 per cent) reported informal engagement and 8 (25 per cent) reported no engagement. Where such engagement existed, it was concentrated in data-sharing agreements (25 members, 78 per cent) and research collaboration (15 members, 47 per cent). Direct financial contributions were reported by 9 members (28 per cent) and 2 reported projects funded through corporate social responsibility. These responses indicate that direct private financing of statistical activities is limited among respondents.

47. Partner institutions likewise reported limited engagement with the private sector. Across the 12 partner entities surveyed, engagement with the private sector averaged 1.91 on the same five-point scale; 4 reported no action and only 3 reported partial, substantial or full implementation. At the eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, partners were encouraged to help in developing private-sector financing channels. The responses to the survey indicate limited engagement among members of ECA and partner entities.

48. In all, 16 members (50 per cent) reported full integration of activities under the International Comparison Programme with regular operations concerning the consumer price index. A further 12 members (38 per cent) reported partial integration, 2 reported that integration was under discussion and 2 reported no integration. A total of 15 members (47 per cent) reported that a dedicated budget line for essential surveys and censuses was allocated regularly, while 10 (31 per cent) reported that such a budget line was allocated inconsistently, 4 (13 per cent) reported no such line and 3 (9 per cent) reported seeking to establish one.

49. Participation in South-South cooperation was widespread among respondents. Among them, 11 (34 per cent) reported leading an initiative, 14 (44 per cent) participating in one and a further 5 (16 per cent) having plans to

participate; only 2 members reported no participation. This is consistent with examples of South-South cooperation described in the "Follow-up report on the main conclusions and recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its eighth session", (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/13) including the sharing of census-related knowledge between Senegal and the Gambia and between Malawi and Sierra Leone. Partner responses were similar, with 9 of the 12 institutions describing themselves as leading a South-South initiative. South-South cooperation is one of the few areas covered by the survey described in the present report in which responses from members of ECA and partner entities were wholly consistent.

B. Recommendations

50. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that: members of ECA should foster partnerships at the national level among statistical offices, universities and private sector organizations to support the implementation of modern data-collection techniques and tools; coordinate the collection of data by regional institutions and partner entities regarding capacity-building needs; provide coordinated technical assistance to States; integrate activities under the International Comparison Programme with regular operations concerning the consumer price index; and allocate dedicated budget lines for surveys and censuses.

XI. Preparations for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations

A. Status and progress

51. In all, 16 members (50 per cent) reported full participation in pre-consultation meetings for the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, while 5 (16 per cent) reported partial participation. As few as 3 members (9 per cent) had not participated but intended to do so for the forthcoming session and 8 (25 per cent) reported no participation. Participation in preparations for the fifty-seventh session was somewhat lower: 13 members (41 per cent) reported full participation, 6 (19 per cent) partial participation, 3 (9 per cent) an intention to participate in future sessions and 10 (31 per cent) no participation.

52. Only 8 members (25 per cent) described their contribution to shaping the common African position for the fifty-sixth session as significant, while 9 (28 per cent) said the same of the contribution to the fifty-seventh session. At the same time, 10 members (31 per cent) and 11 members (34 per cent) reported making no contribution for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions, respectively. Increasing the number of members who make a substantial contribution to shaping the common African position, rather than relying on a consistent subset of members, could strengthen the voice of the region in the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

B. Recommendations

53. The Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should ensure the active participation of representatives of their national statistical offices in the consultations and technical meetings that would be held prior to the fifty-sixth session, in order that they might contribute effectively to

the strategic positions of Africa and strengthen the influence of the region in the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

XII. Barriers to implementation

54. Members reported mixed progress overall in implementing the recommendations, only 4 members (13 per cent) reported implementation of more than 80 per cent of recommendations, 12 (38 per cent) implementation of 60 to 80 per cent and 9 (28 per cent) implementation of 30–60 per cent, while for 7 (22 per cent) implementation was still at an early stage. Partner entities gave a somewhat more cautious assessment of their combined implementation of the recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session and of the eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development with an average rating of 2.17 on a four-point scale; 2 of the 12 institutions reported being at an early stage and none reported full implementation.

55. Members were asked to rank, in order of significance, the top three barriers to implementing the recommendations of Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session and the eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, since the two follow-up processes draw on the same pool of national resources and capacity. Insufficient domestic statistical funding was ranked as the single most significant barrier by 19 members (59 per cent) and was among the three most frequently cited barriers for 24 members (75 per cent), making it the most frequently identified constraint by a considerable margin.

56. Weighting the barriers identified by each member according to rank – three points for the barrier ranked first, two for the second and one for the third – produced the following order: insufficient domestic statistical funding (weighted score of 64); dependence on donors and fragmented external funding (32); inadequate human capacity and technical skills (28); weak political commitment to statistical development and poor inter-agency and interministerial coordination, which were tied at 21; technology and digital infrastructure gaps (13); low prioritization of statistics in government planning (9); and the absence or weakness of legal or institutional frameworks (4). Insufficient domestic statistical funding was therefore the highest-ranked constraint overall.

57. The 12 partner entities surveyed were asked the same question and identified a more even distribution of barriers. Insufficient institutional funding received the highest weighted score (16), followed by competing institutional priorities (14), weak coordination among partners (11), ambiguity in the scope of the recommendation addressed to the institution (10) and staff and capacity constraints (9). Whereas responses from members of ECA were dominated by financing constraints, partner entities identified a broader range of constraints relating to funding, coordination and clarity of roles. This suggests that financing alone would not address all of the barriers reported by partner entities.

XIII. Practices reported by members

58. Cameroon reported having intensified the use of administrative data and strengthened coordination among data producers following the recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session. It also reported improved availability indicators for monitoring the Goals, stronger collaboration and increased use of statistical data in national planning and budgeting.

59. The United Republic of Tanzania reported the successful implementation of its 2022 population and housing census, the first fully digital census conducted in the country. It reported increased use of digital technologies, geospatial tools and integrated statistical systems, together with improvements in the quality, timeliness and availability of disaggregated statistics.

60. Mali reported that regular preparation and implementation of successive national strategies for the development of statistics had supported continuity and progress, while Burundi reported the creation of a national team dedicated to producing indicators for the Goals and Agenda 2063.

61. Ghana reported significant progress in modernizing its national statistical system through greater use of digital technologies, administrative data and geospatial information, consistent with the recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session and the Forum on African Statistical Development at its eleventh meeting. The Ghana Statistical Service highlighted stronger institutional collaboration among ministries, departments and agencies to improve data sharing for monitoring the Goals and evidence-based policymaking; expanded digital data collection platforms; and greater use of geospatial technologies in census mapping.

62. Among partner entities, the African Union Institute for Statistics reported supporting more than 20 members of ECAs, including fragile and island States, through more than 12 high-level training sessions since 2024; the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported having organized at least 139 activities across 16 countries, reaching 6,433 people; and the African Development Bank reported having supported 53 countries and having mobilized approximately $21.71 million. Given the overlap in country coverage among these entities, these figures should not be added together to derive a continent-wide total.

XIV. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission for Africa

63. The Statistical Commission for Africa is invited:

(a) To take note of the progress made in implementing the conclusions and recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session;

(b) To express its views on the extent to which those recommendations have informed the plans and programmes of national statistical systems and helped to ensure the sustainability of their financing;

(c) To consider prioritizing, in the intersessional programme of work, support for domestic resource mobilization and innovative statistical financing mechanisms;

(d) To encourage wider dissemination and use of the strategic toolkit for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa;

(e) To encourage members to accelerate preparations for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses, given that close to 40 per cent of reporting members had not yet begun such preparations;

(f) To encourage wider and more substantive participation of members in the pre-consultation process for future sessions of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, including in shaping the common African position.