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

Proposed programme plan for 2027 under subprogramme 4, Data and statistics**

I. Objective

1. The objective of the African Centre for Statistics of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), under subprogramme 4, Data and statistics, is to strengthen the production, governance, dissemination and use of credible, timely, integrated and disaggregated data, statistics and geospatial information at the national, regional and continental levels for evidence-based policymaking and decision-making and for monitoring progress towards the goals, targets and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

II. Strategy

2. To contribute to the attainment of that objective, the African Centre for Statistics will:

(a) Support African national statistical systems in transforming their data governance and management methods by digitalizing processes for the collection, compilation, analysis, dissemination and use of data in statistical areas, including censuses and civil registration systems, and provide technical assistance and training in the design and implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics, national spatial data infrastructure and related integrated geospatial information frameworks;

* E/ECA/STATCOM/10/2026/1.

** The proposed text reflects the agreement reached with the Programme Planning and Budget Division in New York concerning ECA subprogramme 4. The ECA proposed programme budget process begins with the preparation by sections of programme narratives, deliverables, performance measures and resource requirements in accordance with approved mandates and planning guidance. The submissions are reviewed and consolidated by the respective divisions and the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division of ECA before being cleared by ECA management and submitted to the Secretariat for further review and incorporation into the proposed programme budget of the Secretary-General.



(b) Maintain and regularly update publicly accessible databases containing harmonized data, statistics and geospatial information disaggregated by location on African economies, demographics, social indicators, the environment and other topics relevant to monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(c) Provide training and platforms for the exchange of best practices among members of ECA and their respective statistical agencies;

(d) Provide integrated policy advice and sustained capacity-building on data, statistics and geospatial information to support members of ECA in enhancing monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(e) Strengthen communication with and advocacy among members of ECA on the use of statistics and geospatial information;

(f) Strengthen collaboration with policymakers and major users of data to co-create innovative, user-oriented and digitally enabled statistical products that improve accessibility and increase the use of those products in evidence-based policymaking.

3. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Strengthened capacity, resilience and efficiency of national statistical systems, including increased use of innovative tools and technologies to collect comparable statistics at various levels of disaggregation; improved statistical operations, including censuses, surveys and the processing and analysis of administrative data; and more timely dissemination of data;

(b) Greater use of geospatial information management, closer collaboration among the components and stakeholders of national spatial data infrastructures and better integrated geospatial information frameworks;

(c) Enhanced monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(d) Greater availability and use of innovative, user-oriented and digitally enabled statistical products, resulting in improved accessibility and more effective use of official statistics in evidence-based policymaking.

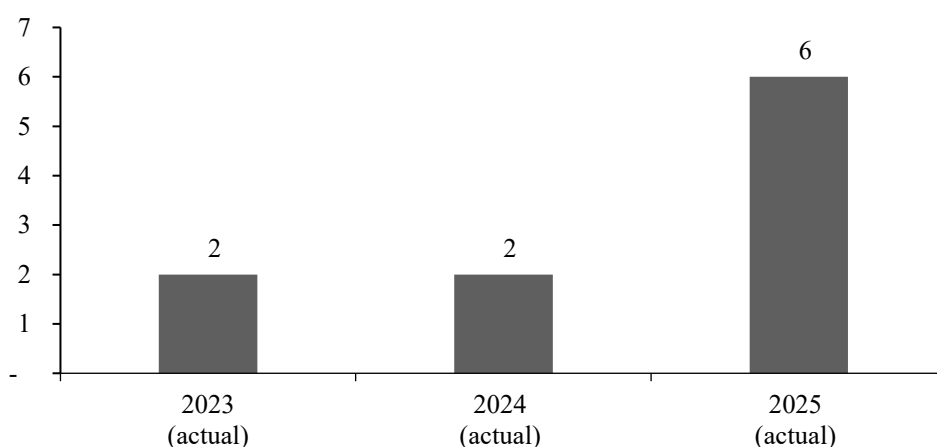
III. Programme performance in 2025

4. Over the course of 2025, members of ECA produced and used improved economic statistics to support regional integration policies. The resulting enhanced integration and consistency among key economic data sets covering production statistics, supply and use frameworks, input-output structures and trade data enabled the more robust measurement of production structures and trade flows. The Centre strengthened the capacity of members of ECA and regional institutions to produce and analyse core economic statistics relevant to trade and regional integration, including by developing semi-automated routines to integrate and generate supply and use tables, input-output tables and trade-in-value-added indicators. Together, those products provide a structured framework for analysing economic interconnectedness. Data from 10 African countries have now been integrated into the African continental input-output table and trade-in-value-added indicators have been generated, thereby strengthening their capacity to formulate more accurate regional integration policies.

Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below.

Figure I

Performance measure: number of members of ECA producing data integrated into the continental input-output table and trade-in-value-added framework (annual)



Source: Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics, Programme Performance Report 2025.

IV. Planned results for 2027

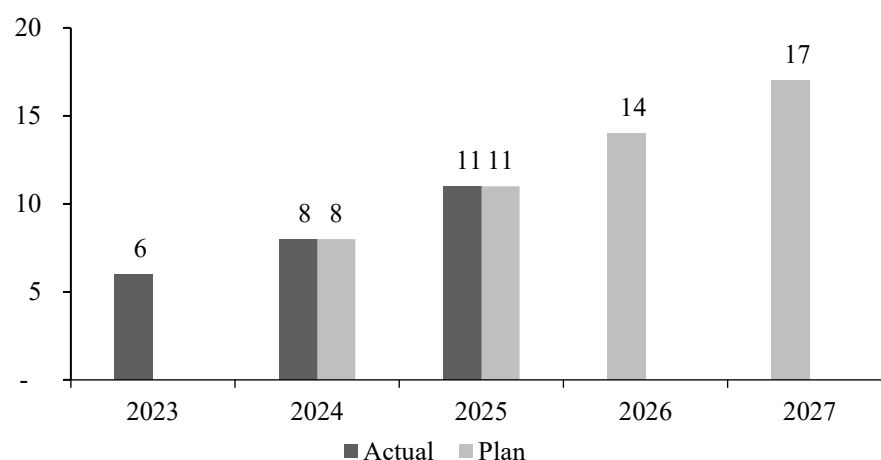
A. Result 1: progress towards integrated statistical and geospatial information frameworks

5. The Centre supported the application of the strategic pathways of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework by three additional members of ECA (Eritrea, Ghana and Namibia), thereby meeting the planned target.

6. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2027 is presented in the performance measure in figure II below.

Figure II

Performance measure: number of members of ECA applying at least one of the strategic pathways of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (cumulative)



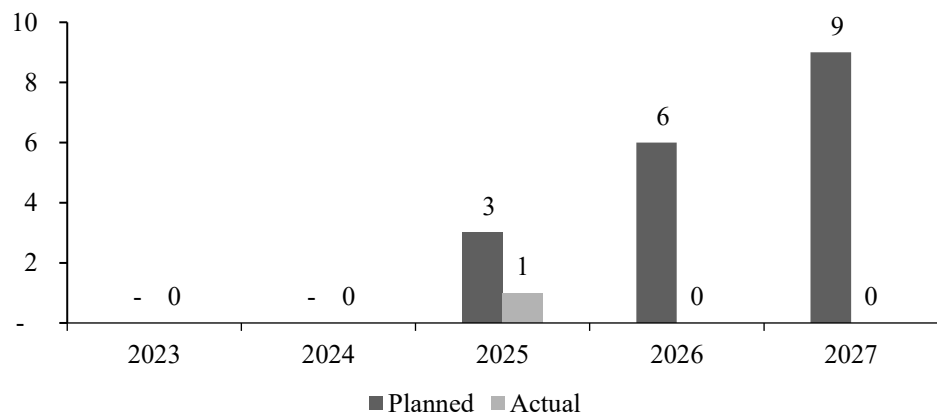
Source: Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics, Programme Performance Report 2025.

B. Result 2: improved civil registration and vital statistics systems

7. The Centre helped to strengthen the capacity of four members of ECA (Burundi, Kenya, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania) to use civil registration and vital statistics pipeline applications. The planned target of three members adopting innovative technology applications was not met because further training was required before the applications could be adopted.

8. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2027 is presented in the performance measure in figure III.

Figure III
Performance measure: number of members of ECA adopting innovative technology applications in civil registration and vital statistics systems (cumulative)



Source: Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics, *Programme Performance Report 2025*.

C. Result 3: strengthened national statistical systems enabling the regular production and policy use of innovative statistical products for evidence-based decision-making

9. Innovative, user-centred statistical products are essential for strengthening evidence-based policymaking, monitoring national development plans and advancing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. Despite improvements in statistical production, many members of ECA continue to face challenges in transforming existing data into timely, accessible and policy-relevant products that meet the needs of decision makers. The Centre has supported progress by helping countries improve data dissemination, strengthen engagement between producers and users and develop digital platforms for accessing official statistics, including census and survey results trackers, monitoring dashboards and communication and project management toolkits.

D. Lessons learned and planned change

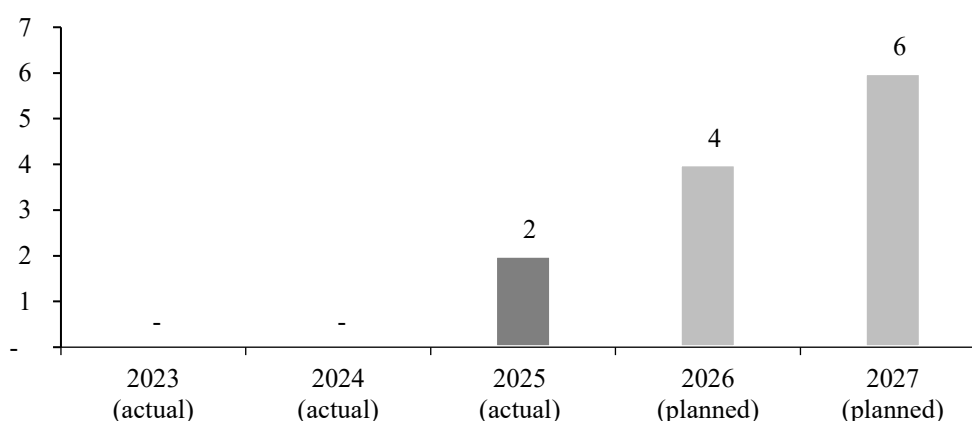
10. The lesson for the Centre was that statistical products have greater policy impact when they respond directly to clearly defined policy questions and are developed through early and continuous engagement with policymakers and other major users. Experience also showed that innovation is sustainable only when countries establish feedback mechanisms and have the capacity to update products iteratively using digital tools. In applying that lesson, the Centre will

strengthen co-creation with policymakers and end users, intensify support for the development of digital, interactive and geospatially enabled statistical products and help members of ECA to institutionalize feedback systems for continuous improvement. Those measures will enable countries to produce statistical products that remain policy-relevant, widely accessible and regularly used in decision-making processes.

11. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure in figure IV and the table below.

Figure IV

Performance measure: number of statistical products co-developed and in use by members of ECA for policy formulation and monitoring (cumulative)



Source: Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics, *Programme Performance Report 2025*.

Deliverables

12. The table below lists the proposed deliverables for the Centre for the period 2025–2027, by category and subcategory.

Category and subcategory	2025 planned	2025 actual	2026 planned	2027 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	2	7	2
Reports on:				
1. Statistical capacity development, for submission to the Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
2. Progress in population and housing censuses, for submission to the Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
3. State of a gender perspective and social development statistics, for submission to the Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
4. Integration of geospatial and statistical data, for submission to the Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
5. Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, for submission to the Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
6. Implementation of the expert segment of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	1	1	1	1
7. Geospatial information management, for submission to the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa	1	1	1	1

Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	13	9	15	12
8. Statistical Commission for Africa	–	–	1	–
9. Expert segment of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	4	0	1	1
10. Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa	8	8	12	10
11. Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Projects, programmes and other initiatives (number of projects, programmes and other initiatives)	16	13	19	20
12. Project on sectoral statistics, including agricultural, health, energy and employment statistics	1	1	2	2
13. Project on the data warehouse	1	1	1	1
14. Project on the environmental-economic accounting initiative	1	0	–	–
15. Project on the development of supply and use tables, intraregional input-output tables and a trade-in-value-added model	1	0	1	1
16. Project on technical assistance to members of ECA in updating and rebasing gross domestic product	1	1	1	1
17. Project on supporting African countries to participate in the global update and related testing of the 2008 System of National Accounts programme	1	1	1	1
18. Project on consumer price index data collection, compilation and application	1	1	1	1
19. African programme on a gender perspective and statistics	1	0	1	1
20. African programme on population and housing censuses	1	1	1	1
21. Project on the development of the African digital civil registration and vital statistics shared asset initiative	–	–	–	1
22. Project on the establishment of a digital identity platform for Africa	–	2	–	2
23. Project on mainstreaming and implementing the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and harmonizing it with the African Geodetic Reference Frame	2	2	3	2
24. Project on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (second phase)	1	–	–	–
25. Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems	1	1	1	1
26. Project on the development of a data science campus	1	0	1	0
27. Project on support for African countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063	1	1	1	1
28. Fellowship programme for young African scholars to build their capacity in data and statistics	1	1	1	1
29. Project on the performance data management dashboard	–	–	1	1
30. Project on census and survey data tools and dissemination	–	–	2	1
31. Project on innovative statistical products	–	–	–	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	92	61	48	33
32. Workshop on a statistical data exchange system for national statistical offices	5	5	2	1
33. Training events on statistical leadership for heads and senior experts of national statistical offices and line ministries responsible for the production of statistics	5	8	2	0
34. Workshop on modernizing statistical systems in Africa for the leaders and managers of national statistical offices	5	5	2	0
35. Workshop on progress in population and housing censuses for experts and managers of national statistical offices and planning commissions	2	2	2	1
36. Regional workshops on gender statistics for experts in national statistical offices and line ministries	2	2	2	1
37. Workshops on civil registration and vital statistics for experts of national ministries responsible for the production of civil registration and vital statistics data	4	4	2	1
38. Workshop on measuring and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to demographic and social statistics for experts in national statistical offices	3	2	–	–
39. Training events on national accounts, environmental and economic statistics and accounting for national statistical offices and ministries of finance	15	15	3	2

40. Regional seminars on the consumer price index, agricultural statistics and energy statistics	20	0	2	1
41. Training workshop on geospatial knowledge infrastructure and fundamental geospatial datasets for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals	5	5	10	5
42. Workshop on the strategy for the integration of statistical and geospatial information for national mapping agencies and statistical offices	5	5	5	5
43. Training events on the development of national action plans on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for national mapping agencies	5	5	5	5
44. Training events on geospatial knowledge infrastructure with innovative geospatial responses and solutions for a post-pandemic recovery	–	–	5	5
45. Training events on big data and data science for the modernization of the production of economic statistics	5	–	2	1
46. Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts	1	1	1	1
47. Technical workshop on environmental statistics	5	–	–	–
48. Technical workshop on environmental-economic accounting	5	2	3	3
49. Workshops on innovative statistical products for policymaking	–	–	–	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	1	2	2
50. Africa Sustainable Development Goals Report	1	1	1	1
51. African Development Bank Statistics Pocketbook	1	–	–	–
52. Africa statistics flash	1	–	1	–
53. Publication on the status of blocks of social, economic and natural resource statistics	–	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	2	10	14
54. African regional geospatial databases, online services and geoportals	1	1	1	1
55. African atlas of spatial statistics	–	–	1	1
56. African Statistical Yearbook	1	–	1	1
57. Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics	1	1	1	1
58. Census and survey results issues tracker, monitoring dashboard, communication, dissemination and project management toolkit	–	–	4	4
59. Automated country data harvester	–	–	1	1
60. Performance data management dashboard	–	–	1	1
61. Mobile statistical platforms	–	–	–	1
62. Artificial intelligence-powered tool for multimodal survey and dissemination	–	–	–	1
63. African data commons for key economic and social data sets	–	–	–	1
64. Artificial intelligence-powered policy tool for food security and trade	–	–	–	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: technical advice on civil registration and vital statistics, the 2030 Round of Population and Housing Censuses for members of ECA, Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the development of integrated geospatial information frameworks at the national and regional levels; an audit of ECASStats¹; technical advice to members of ECA on self-assessing their readiness for artificial intelligence

Databases and substantive digital materials: ECA statistical data portal (ECASStats), providing data for members of ECA; geospatial databases (2); online applications, services and platforms (2); the Africa GeoPortal; and mobile statistical platforms

¹ ECASStats is the comprehensive socioeconomic data portal of ECA. It empowers policymakers, researchers and the public by providing timely, high-quality statistics covering 54 African countries. Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/data/>.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: African Statistics Day; Geographic Information Systems Day; the annual Africa Symposium on Statistical Development; dissemination of information through outreach programmes and mobile applications.

Source: Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics, *Proposed Programme and Budget 2027*.

Symbol: – nil or negligible.

Note: The 2027 figures reflect the additional intergovernmental requirements associated with the tenth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

* The item number and document symbol are provisional and may be adjusted by the secretariat.

13. The Statistical Commission for Africa is requested to take note of the proposed programme plan of the Centre for 2027 and support its implementation.