



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Pooling Together for Gender Statistics: Financing the Numbers that make Women and Girls Count

Sixth Africa Gender Statistics Forum
8th – 12th July 2024
Gaborone, Botswana.

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background and Rationale

The production of gender statistics is embedded in a long history of pronouncements on the importance of statistics for underpinning evidence-based policy formulation, planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Examples include the reporting requirements for Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and the specific references made to the critical importance of gender statistics in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995).

The need for the strengthening of gender statistical systems was further emphasised after the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with its 17 goals and considerable measurement imperatives. Regionally, the Africa Agenda 2063- the Africa we want was adopted in 2015 and it highlights additional statistical requirements as articulated in the first 10-year plan.

The purpose of the joint AfDB-UN Women-ECA inter-agency Africa Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF) held annually since 2017 has been to provide a platform for harmonizing and strengthening the collection and use of gender statistics in the region on thematic areas. Below is an account of these regional forums which form the rationale for this forum:

- The 1st forum was held in September 2017 in Kampala- Uganda. Its focus was to provide member states with tools and methodologies to improve use of existing data for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in Africa.
- The 2nd forum was held in September 2018 in Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire. It focussed on the following areas: The Africa Gender Index 2018; Gender and ICT data in Africa; Training on collection of Violence Against Women (VAW) and Time Use Survey (TUS) data; Advancing Administrative Sources of Data for Monitoring Gender-related SDGs in Africa; Survey on Gender Statistics Expert Roster Needs; Minimum Set of Gender Indicators.
- The 3rd forum scheduled to take place in 2019 was postponed to 2020, however due to the movement restrictions and lockdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned forum was then replaced with joint virtual training programs in 2020 and 2021. Nonetheless, AfDB-UNWOMEN-ECA expert group met in November in Accra- Ghana. This meeting created an opportunity to provide feedback to the gender focal points and AGGES members on the findings of the 2018 ECA survey on the status of gender statistics in Africa; discuss and share best practices on coordination of gender statistics in Africa; finalize the roadmap for

coordination of gender statistics in Africa as well as the work of Data 2X with the Gender Data Focal points.

- The 4th forum was held in September 2022 in Nairobi- Kenya. It was organised under the theme ‘Gender Statistics imperatives for Africa’, the forum interrogated gender statistics through the lens of Africa Agenda 2063-the Africa we want, the SDGs that support GEWE, and the global guidance on violence against women data among others.
- The 5th forum took place from 7th to 11th November 2023 in Casablanca, Morocco. It aimed to create an opportunity to consolidate reporting to the Africa Statistics Commission and give feedback from the 9th global forum on gender statistics. It focused on using gender statistics to galvanise actions towards accelerated implementation of development agendas in Africa.
- The 6th forum is scheduled to take place from 8th to 12th July 2024 in Gaborone, Botswana. This forum is being organized under the auspices of the Economic Commission of Africa as the secretariat of the Africa Program on Gender Statistics and will be co-hosted by a partnership of agencies including Statistics Botswana, AUC, AfDB, PARIS21, SADC, UNECA, and UN Women.

II. Aim and Objectives

The 6th AGSF aims to bring together users, producers and experts in policy analysis and gender statistics across Africa to share the latest innovations and best practices related to gender statistics and engage in policy dialogues.

It will create an opportunity to link gender statistics financing for accelerated progress towards GEWE to the upcoming 4th international conference on financing for development in 2025 as well as a follow up to the Addis Ababa action agenda. It also aims to make better use of limited resources and time, through sharing best practices and developing common strategies to rationalise, harmonize and improve the measurement and use of gender statistics in Africa. The specific objectives include to:

1. Take stock of Africa’s progress and gender perceptions in the Addis Ababa declaration on population and development, Addis Ababa action agenda, and the 3rd Africa Program on Gender Statistics at regional, subregional, and country levels.
2. Provide input to the report of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa scheduled in October 2024.
3. Present/disseminate the latest methodological developments and best practices in the production, dissemination, and use of gender statistics.

To this end, the forum will cover various areas of gender statistics, including (i) Financing gender statistics, (ii) gender in trade statistics; (iii) Africa Gender Index; (iv) gender data in fragile states, countries in transition, humanitarian settings (v) gender and education statistics in Africa; and (vi) Building a common agenda for gender statistics in Africa, including review of progress of the AGGES and ways forwards. Country participants will have bilateral short working sessions with UN Women Resource Mobilisation and partnership specialist to support their fundraising initiatives.

III. Format and structure of the forum.

The AGSF is the most important annual opportunity to bring the producers and users of gender statistics together in one place. Fifty-four member states will receive invitations to attend the forum. The target participants will be individuals who are directly involved in the production and use of gender statistics. This includes representatives from Ministries responsible for the coordination and implementation of gender related programs, as well as representatives from National Statistical Offices, selected Ministries of Education, and Civil Society Organizations.

The AGSF sessions will be structured in such a way that it facilitates, active participation and sharing, exchange of best practices and informs future action plans. This will be a hybrid event, the working languages of the meeting will be English, French, and Portuguese.