



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Africa**Forum on African Statistical Development**

Twelfth meeting

Addis Ababa, 20 October 2026

Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

Opening ceremony and adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening ceremony and adoption of the agenda and programme of work

The Chair of the session will welcome participants. The Director of the African Centre for Statistics at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Samuel Annim, will then deliver opening remarks. Representatives of the major partners in the organization of the Forum on African Statistical Development, namely the World Bank, the Statistics Department of the African Development Bank, the African Union Institute for Statistics of the African Union Commission and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, will make statements. Participants will be invited to review and adopt the agenda and programme of work.

Documentation

Draft programme of work (E/ECA/FASDEV/12/2026/2)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ECA/FASDEV/12/2026/3)

Concept note on the twelfth meeting of the Forum (E/ECA/FASDEV/12/2026/4)

2. From commitments to delivery: stocktaking of progress and gaps

Under this agenda item, ECA will begin by sharing the results of the implementation of the recommendations from the eleventh meeting of the Forum. There will be an opportunity for participants to request clarifications and offer their initial reactions.

Building on this stocktaking, a representative of [*country to be confirmed*], speaking on behalf of all African countries, will present countries' needs, priority areas of demand and experience of partner support, based on the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the eleventh meeting. This will be followed by a panel discussion guided by ECA with representatives of two

* E/ECA/FASDEV/12/2026/1.



members of ECA, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. Participants will then discuss how to close the gaps identified and seek to agree on renewed measurable commitments for the next two years, together with ways of strengthening accountability for delivery. The Chair will summarize the session.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the eleventh meeting of the Forum (forthcoming)

3. Partnerships to advance the African Statistical System: financing, coordination and emerging priorities

Under this agenda item, on behalf of partners, ECA will present a summary of partners' support for statistical development in Africa. This will be followed by a panel discussion guided by ECA with representatives of two members of ECA, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the European Commission, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and Bloomberg on:

- (a) Coordination, including vehicles for cooperation;
- (b) Strengthening data use, modernization and integration, and the responsible adoption of alternative and emerging data sources, including artificial intelligence;
- (c) Sustainable financing of statistical operations and mechanisms to ensure that resources reaching national statistical offices translate into country-level results.

The panel discussion will be followed by contributions from participants and a general discussion on maximizing the effectiveness of partners' support for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa. The Chair will summarize the session.

Documentation

Summary outlining partners' support for statistical development in Africa

1. Recommendations, communiqué and closing

Under this agenda item, ECA will present the main recommendations and the draft communiqué from the twelfth meeting for participants' consideration and adoption. The communiqué, setting out the main recommendations made at the meeting, will be submitted for endorsement by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its tenth session, to be held from 19 to 23 October 2026 in Addis Ababa.

The Director of the African Centre for Statistics will deliver closing remarks.

Documentation

Draft communiqué of the twelfth meeting of the Forum
