

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS (AGGeS)

1.0 Background

Keeping in view the need of a better coordination and harmonization in addressing challenges related to the lack of gender statistics, the Statistical Commission for Africa (STACOM-Africa), in its first meeting in 2008, set up a Working Group on Gender Statistics called African Group on Gender statistics (AGGeS). The primary role of the AGGeS is to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS) and to provide strategic guidance to its implementing partners. The APGS is an umbrella regional programme which brings together various initiatives aimed at the development and strengthening of gender statistics in Africa. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is tasked to coordinate development and implementation of the APGS and serving as the secretariat of the AGGeS.

The program functions as a common regional programme being implemented by regional organizations, international agencies, regional economic communities and civil society organizations by providing technical and financial support to member states to develop and integrate gender statistics programming into their National Statistics Systems. The overall vision of the APGS is to improve coordination, avoid duplication of efforts, create synergies among the different stakeholders, optimize resource mobilization and use and ultimately resulting in significant and sustainable improvements in the coordination, production, use and integration of gender statistics in Africa.

The AGGeS will also function as the gender sub-group of Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) Specialized Technical Group (STG)-08 on Demography, Migration, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender. The strategy coordinated by Pan-African Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) aims at improving statistical coordination and collaboration among all actors in the African Statistical System.

2.0 Objectives

Main objective

The main objective for the AGGeS is to support UNECA in its coordination efforts to enhance availability and utilization of quality gender statistics across the continent through monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress made towards implementation of the APGS and provide strategic guidance to its implementing partners.

Specific Objectives

1. Support implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Africa Program on Gender Statistics (APGS).
2. Report on the implementation progress of APGS to StatCom-Africa and Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Office (CoDGs).
3. Promote coordination, collaboration and harmonization of initiatives and activities on gender statistics in Africa.
4. Promote mainstreaming of gender into regional, sub-regional and National Statistical Systems.
5. Promote exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and fostering best practices in gender statistics in Africa.
6. Support resource mobilization efforts towards production and use of gender statistics in the region.
7. Provide strategic guidance on gender statistics to the SHaSA's STG-08 on Demography, Migration, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender.
8. Ensure that the conceptualization and implementation of APGS are harmonized with SHaSA's strategic objectives from a gender perspective where appropriate.

3.0 Key Responsibilities

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of APGS

- Actively participate in development and management of detailed strategic plans and M&E frameworks for APGS implementation.
- Liaise and provide strategic guidance to the APGS implementing partners.
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness of APGS implementation and propose practical solutions to challenges identified.

Reporting on APGS

- Compile, prepare, validate and deliver comprehensive progress reports to StatCom-Africa and CoDGs on implementation of the APGS.

Initiative and activities on Gender Statistics

- Identify and map ongoing initiatives and activities related to gender statistics in the region.
- Facilitate collaboration among stakeholders to avoid duplication and promote synergies in the region.

Mainstreaming Gender into Statistical Systems

- Promote development and use of gender mainstreaming guidelines into statistical systems at regional, sub-regional, and national levels
- Promote gender integration into statistical systems at regional, sub-regional, and national levels
- Collaborate with other StatCom-Africa specialized Working Groups and SHaSA Specialized Technical Groups to promote gender mainstreaming in the region

Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

- Support conceptualization and planning of user-producer forums on gender statistics in Africa such as the Annual Regional Gender Statistics Forum and other global, and regional forums as required.
- Foster networks and communities of practice to share experiences and best practices in gender statistics.
- Coordinate and promote South to South learning on gender statistics
- Document and disseminate case studies, success stories, and lessons learnt.

Resource Mobilization

- Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy
- Assist in identifying required resources as well as potential funding opportunities and partnerships to support gender statistics initiatives.

Sub-group to SHaSA's STG-08

- Convene, coordinate and set agenda for the gender sub-group on SHaSA's STG-08 meetings.
- Provide strategic guidance on gender related issues in the implementation of SHaSA's strategic plans.
- Monitor and report on gender considerations into the implementation of SHaSA's strategic plans.
- Ensure harmonization of the APGS with SHaSA's strategic objectives.

4.0 Deliverables

- Detailed work plan and monitoring and evaluation framework on the implementation of AGGeS activities.
- Progress reports on APGS implementation to StatCom-Africa and CoDGs
- Reports and minutes from forums, workshops, and meetings.
- Documentation of best practices, case studies and what does not work
- Resource mobilization strategy

5.0 Membership, Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Members

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is tasked to coordinate development and implementation of the APGS and serving as the secretariat of the AGGeS. The Specialized Working Group will be made up of representatives from the following institutions/countries/individuals.

Country Representation:

Each of Africa's five sub-regions (Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Southern African and North Africa) will be represented by five countries. Each country will have two (2) representatives; one (1) representative from the NSO and one (1) representative from the ministry in charge of gender. In total, a region will be represented by 10 members. Notably, members will not only represent their own countries but also their respective sub-regions. The management team for the specialized group will be drawn from the NSO representatives, which will comprise of a chairperson, vice chair, secretary and two rapporteurs. Each of the five sub-regions will take up one of these leadership positions. A country may not hold these posts for more than two terms without alternate representation from other nations; these positions are renewed every two years.

International organizations:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), AFRISTAT, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO

Statistical Training and Research Institutes:

- École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA)- Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD)- Yaoundé, Cameroon
- L'Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ISSEA)- Yaoundé, Cameroon
- Institut National de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (INSEA)- Rabat, Morocco
- Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)- University of Ghana, Legon
- Pan African Statistical Training Centre (PASTC)- Kigali, Rwanda
- African Centre for Statistics (ACS)- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Center for Statistical Training and Research (CSTAR)- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- African Centre of Excellence in Data Science (ACE-DS)- University of Rwanda
- African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)- South Africa
- School of Statistics and Planning at Makerere University-Kampala-Uganda

Regional Economic Communities (RECs):

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Community (EAC) and Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

Individuals/consultants:

- Strategic advisors involved in development of the APGS strategic plans

5.2 Roles and responsibilities

ECA

- Coordination of development and implementation of APGS.
- The secretariat for the AGGeS.

Chair

- Provide leadership and oversight by ensuring that the group's objectives are met.
- Support coordination and implementation of the APGS.
- Represent the specialized working group in regional and international forums.

Vice Chair

- Support by assisting the chair in fulfilling their responsibilities and stand in for the chair when they are unavailable.
- Facilitate communication between different members of the specialized group.
- Help in coordinating activities to ensure that deadlines and milestones are met.

Secretary

- Provide administrative support including meeting scheduling, sending out notices and agenda among others.
- Keep accurate records of meetings, including minutes and attendance.
- Ensure that all progress reports are prepared and submitted on time.
- Maintain a comprehensive archive of the group's documents and correspondence.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for committee members.
- Distribute information and updates in a timely manner.

Rapporteurs

- Accurately record the proceedings during the group's meetings.
- Prepare detailed reports summarizing discussions, decisions and action points.
- Monitor and report on implementation of the group's decisions and action items.
- Collect feedback from members and other stakeholders on the progress of the group's initiatives and provide regular updates and insights based on the feedback collected.

International Organizations/Implementing partners/RECs

- Resource mobilization-provision of financial and technical support in the implementation of activities in line with the APGS strategic plans.
- Report to AGGeS through ECA and AUC on the implementation status of the APGS.

Training and Research institutes

- Capacity building and training in gender statistics.
- Research and knowledge generation on various gender related issues.

Individuals/Consultants

- Provide technical support and advisory services to the specialized group.

StatCom-Africa and CoDGs

- Provide oversight, guidance and feedback on progress reports to the group.

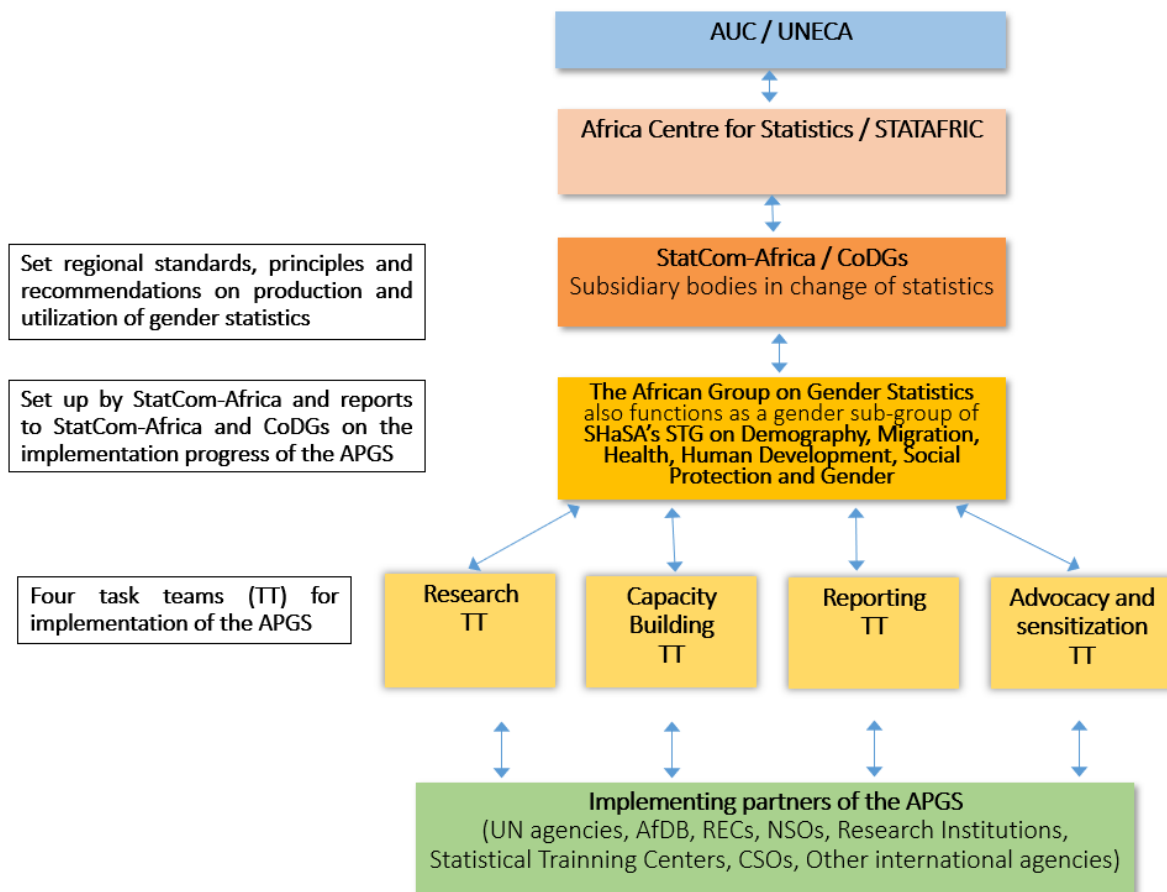
6.0 Meetings

The AGGeS will hold at least two meetings per year under the guidance and support of ECA in collaboration with UN Women. The meetings will be conducted virtually and in person where funds permit at regional events. Further, there will be subsequent sub-regional meetings. Where necessary, ad-hoc meetings as required by stakeholders or in response to emerging issues will also be held.

7.0 Reporting Requirements

- Annual progress reports to be presented during the Annual Regional Forum on Gender Statistics.
- Biennial progress reports to StatCom-Africa.
- Annual progress reports to CoDGs as a gender Sub-Group on SHaSA's STG-08 on Demography, Migration, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender.
- Ad-hoc reports as required by stakeholders or in response to emerging issues.

8.0 Coordination and Implementation Mechanism



9.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

- Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework for the AGGS
- Conduct regular assessments to measure progress against the group's objectives and adjust strategies as needed.
- Utilize feedback from stakeholders to improve the group's implementation processes against its objectives

10.0 Amendments to the Terms of Reference

The Specialized Working Group may propose changes to its terms of reference to StatCom-Africa and CoDGs as necessary.