

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
12 August 2024

Original: English

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

Addis Ababa, 28 October 2024

Concept note**I. Background**

1. The Forum on African Statistical Development is an initiative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and is supported by the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the World Bank. Representatives of 12 international organizations, 4 donor institutions and 17 regional and subregional agencies attended the first meeting of the Forum, held in Addis Ababa in May 2004, and endorsed the establishment of the Forum, with the following main functions: (a) to have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance and training in Africa; (b) to set up a permanent system for monitoring statistical development in Africa; and (c) to strengthen modalities for cooperation, with a view to leveraging each partner's comparative advantage.
2. The meetings of the Forum are an opportunity for representatives of African national statistical offices, statistical training centres, international, regional and subregional institutions, bilateral agencies, international programmes and initiatives, foundations and other institutions, to come together with the ultimate objective of rendering more efficient and effective the support made available to countries in the framework of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability.
3. The support is needed more than ever, given that national statistical systems in Africa are transforming and modernizing in order to respond adequately to the data demands associated with various development agendas and user needs. Following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which highlighted the vulnerability of national statistical systems, in particular in responding to data demands during a crisis, African statistical systems began a transformative process to become more agile and resilient and to adapt to new, changing and growing demands for data. Accordingly, and in an effort to provide strategic guidance to countries, ECA prepared a road map for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa for the period 2023–2030.
4. Included in the road map are the principles, foundations and priorities for transformation and modernization across a wide range of data systems in Africa. The road map is a guide in better planning for and carrying out the transformation and modernization of official statistics in the face of common challenges and opportunities, recognizing the need for adequate resources to drive the process, which many countries in Africa lack.



5. It is in that context that ECA, the African Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the African Union Commission have organized the eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development.

6. The eleventh meeting of the Forum will be held under the theme “Strengthening the mobilization of technical and financial resources to support innovation in statistical development in Africa”.

II. Objectives

7. The overall objective of the eleventh meeting is to foster connections among countries, partners and institutions that support statistics, with a view to addressing the need of national statistical systems for technical and financial resources to accelerate the transformation and modernization of those systems.

8. The specific objectives of the meeting are:

(a) To take stock of the challenges faced by countries and identify the needs of national statistical systems in developing and implementing transformation and modernization programmes;

(b) To take stock of the opportunities and mechanisms offered by pan-African institutions, partners and organizations to support countries in their statistical development.

III. Expected outcomes

9. The expected outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

(a) Greater awareness of the opportunities and mechanisms offered by pan-African institutions and partners to support countries in their statistical development;

(b) Deeper understanding among pan-African institutions and partners of the needs of countries in Africa;

(c) Better coordination of interventions in support of African statistical development.

10. The recommendations that participants will make during the meeting will be submitted for endorsement by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its ninth session, which will be held in Addis Ababa from 28 October to 1 November 2024.

IV. Venue and date

11. The meeting will be held in Addis Ababa, at ECA headquarters, on 28 October from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

V. Format

12. The meeting will include presentations and discussions on the following topics:

(a) Opportunities to address the challenges and needs of national statistical systems, including through the use of the integrated strategic toolkit for the transformation and modernization of official statistics in Africa;

(b) Funding of national statistical systems, including the re-engineering of the management of national statistical systems, and mechanisms to accelerate advocacy and raise funds for official statistics;

(c) Status of progress made by countries in the development of their national statistical systems;

(d) Contributions to statistical development in Africa, including the plans, strategies and initiatives of pan-African institutions and bilateral and multilateral partners to support statistical development in Africa and to assist countries in the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems;

(e) Efficiency of support from partners, in particular the coordination of and reporting on the statistical support they provide to countries in Africa.

VI. Target audience

13. The target audience comprises all organizations and institutions working in the area of statistics in Africa.

VII. Secretariat and other services

14. ECA, as the secretariat of the Forum, will provide the support for the meeting.

VIII. Contact information

15. For further information, please contact Oliver Chinganya and Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo using the following details:

Oliver Chinganya

Director, African Centre for Statistics, ECA

Tel: +251 (0) 11 544-3595

Fax: +251 (0) 11 551-4416

Email: chinganya@un.org

Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo

Chief, Statistical Development Section, African Centre for Statistics,
ECA

Tel: +251 (0) 11 544-5533

Fax: +251 (0) 11 551-0389

Email: ilboudo@un.org
