



REMARKS BY

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DURING THE 2025 WORLD STATISTICS DAY,

AFRICAN SEGMENT CELEBRATIONS

VIRTUAL, 20 OCTOBER 2025

Members of the Global Statistical Fraternity,

Distinguished stakeholders and participants,

In the interest of time, please allow me to simply state that all formalities are duly respected.

1. On behalf of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and in my personal capacity, I am delighted to welcome you to the celebration of the Africa Segment of the 2025 World Statistics Day. Africa is proud to stand with the global community in commemorating this important day, which underscores the transformative power of data in driving sustainable development and shaping the continent's future. Your presence here today reflects a shared commitment to advancing data-driven decision-making for a more prosperous Africa. And I thank you sincerely for joining us in this celebration.
2. The World Statistics Day, celebrated every 5 years, is a crucial event for data ecosystem actors. It complements our own African Statistics Day, commemorated on 18th November and reminds us of the indispensable role statistics play in the development process.
3. Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen. The theme for the 2025 World Statistics Day – ***“Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone”*** – strongly aligns with the African Development Bank's mission to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development across the continent. At the AfDB, we remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthening statistical systems, enhancing data quality, and promoting innovation in data production and use. Through sustained investment in statistical capacity building, we aim to ensure that reliable, accessible, and high-quality data underpin evidence-based policymaking and transformative development outcomes in Africa.

4. Through flagship initiatives such as the **Africa Information Highway** and the **Data Innovation Lab (DIL)**, the African Development Bank continues to strengthen national statistical systems by modernizing data collection approaches and addressing critical data gaps. I am pleased to state that our strategic partnerships with regional and global institutions have proven very useful in advancing the harmonization of statistical standards, promoting data availability and use, and fostering data innovation across the continent.
5. The Bank is proud to be actively contributing to statistical modernization in Africa through transformative programs such as the **International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa)**, the **Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program**, the **GDP Rebasing and SNA Upgrade Program**, and **Open Data Orchestration Support**, among others. Collectively, these initiatives enable countries to produce harmonized, high-quality data that informs sound investment decisions, promotes regional integration, and underpins both regional and global development agendas
6. The Bank continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening National Statistical Offices (NSOs) through its **Statistical Capacity Building Program**, which delivers comprehensive guidance and practical training on statistical standards, data dissemination, and the integration of innovative data sources into official statistics. These carefully targeted interventions are aimed at ensuring that quality data and statistics become increasingly accessible to everyone on the continent.

7. In this context, the Bank continues to publish the **AfDB Statistics Pocketbook**, a concise yet comprehensive resource offering reliable data on Africa's economic and social indicators. Complemented by other thematic and specialized statistical publications, this resource equips policymakers, researchers, and development partners with the evidence they need to design, implement, and monitor strategies that drive sustainable development across the continent.
8. Furthermore, the Bank continues to strengthen its collaboration with sister Pan-African institutions — notably the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) — as well as with key development partners, including PARIS21. Through these strategic partnerships, we remain steadfast in our collective effort to build and sustain the statistical capacity required to drive Africa's transformation agenda. Our work is anchored in advancing the aspirations of **Agenda 2063** and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**. This commitment is further reflected in our active role as one of the implementing agencies of the **Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2)**, ensuring coherence, comparability, and quality of data across the continent to inform sound policy and decision-making.
9. As we commemorate this important day, let us take a moment to reflect on how we can bring statistics closer to the people, including those who rely on data for decentralized planning, and the wider public who benefit from its insights. The African

Statistical System must continue to champion greater dissemination, accessibility, and use of the data we produce to inform development and drive evidence-based decision-making.

10. In this spirit, I invite you to explore the Bank's Africa Information Highway (AIH) platform, and our Open Data Portal (ODP). The **Open Data Portal 2.0** is presented as a public good, designed to enhance access to reliable and timely data for policy formulation, planning, and informed decision-making across the continent.

It empowers African countries to disseminate and exchange data in both human- and machine-readable formats, fostering **data interoperability, innovation, and advanced analytics** across the continent. The portal is more than a technical solution, it represents our collective vision: **to tell Africa's story through its own data** — ensuring that evidence, insights, and narratives about the continent are shaped and shared by Africans themselves.

11. We express our sincere appreciation to the Committee of Directors General (CoDGs) of National Statistical Offices in Africa for their endorsement of the Open Data Portal as the foundational platform for advancing African data sovereignty and strengthening the Pan-African Data Sharing Community.

12. In closing, let me extend our gratitude to UNECA for coordinating this significant event, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. As we celebrate, let us reaffirm our collective vision of an Africa where every decision

– whether in policy, development, or governance – is powered by accurate, reliable, and high-quality data.

13. Thank you colleagues, and I wish each of you a memorable and inspiring celebration.

Babatunde Samson Omotosho

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