

Remarks by the Director of the African Centre for Statistics

2025 World Statistics Day – Africa Segment

Theme: Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone

20 October 2025

Distinguished colleagues, partners, and fellow champions of data,

It is both an honour and a responsibility to speak today on behalf of the African Centre for Statistics at the Economic Commission for Africa, as we join hands across the continent to celebrate the 2025 World Statistics Day under the theme “**Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone.**”

This theme echoes deeply with our journey—a journey not only of numbers, but of purpose. In Africa, statistics are no longer just about counting people or measuring GDP. They are about shaping futures, correcting inequities, and amplifying voices that have long been unheard.

At ECA, we have embraced this transformation with conviction. Through the Roadmap for the Transformation and Modernisation of Official Statistics in Africa, we have moved from aspiration to action. This roadmap is not a document—it is a declaration. A declaration that Africa will no longer be a passive consumer of global data narratives, but a proactive architect of its own statistical destiny.

This progress is made possible through the effective efforts of our partners, The African union commission, African development Bank, STATAFRIC, and our national statistical offices, whose leadership continues to drive this transformation forward.

Together we have invested in building quality assurance frameworks, revitalizing civil registration and vital statistical systems, and integrating geospatial technologies into our statistical ecosystems. We have championed data interoperability, AI-driven analytics, and citizen-generated data—not as buzzwords, but as tools for inclusive development.

But transformation is not only technical—it is cultural. It requires us to rethink how we engage with data, how we communicate it, and how we democratize its access. That is why ECA has developed platforms such as ECASStats data portal, and why we are revamping the Africa UN Data for Development Platform—to ensure that data is not locked behind portals but flows freely to those who need it most.

Today, as we celebrate Africa's statistical journey, let us also confront its challenges. Let us ask: Are our data systems resilient enough to respond to crises? Are our statistical institutions empowered to lead innovation? Are our youth—our future statisticians—being mentored to carry this torch forward?

Celebration, however, must be matched by introspection. As we mark this day, we must also ask ourselves: Are our data systems resilient enough to

respond to crises? Are our statistical institutions empowered to lead innovation? Are our youth, our future statisticians, being mentored to carry this torch forward?

The answers lie in our collective resolve. And so, I call upon our partners — Pan-African institutions, national statistical offices, academia, civil society, and the private sector—to join us in co-creating a new statistical paradigm. One that is agile, inclusive, and fit for purpose.

Let this World Statistics Day not be a moment of celebration alone, but a milestone of accountability and renewal. Let it mark the dawn of a new era where Africa's data systems are bold, trusted, and transformative, where we lead not only in producing statistics, but in using them to shape the Africa we want.

Because quality statistics are not a luxury—they are a lifeline. They are the foundation upon which we can drive change — not just for everyone, but with everyone.

Thank you.