

# AFRICAN CENTRE *for* STATISTICS

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

### DATE:

1 – 4 October 2018

### PLACE:

United Nations Conference Center (UNCC),  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### Sixth Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa-VI)

*Theme: "Enhancing National Statistical System capacity to support policies for Africa's economic diversification and industrialisation"*

### Eighth Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV-VIII)

*Theme: "Innovative financial solutions to improve data quality and credibility to support Africa development agenda"*

### Fourth Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UNGGIM: Africa)

*Theme: "Linking people to place: Statistical Geospatial Integration in support of the 2020 Census round and the Sustainable Development Agenda"*

### Thirteenth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD)

*Theme: "Application of economic statistics and national accounts in support of sustainable development"*

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 Economic  
Commission for  
Africa  
1958 - 2018

## I. Background and rationale

The Statistics Committee, implemented as Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), was established in 2005 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.<sup>(1)</sup> StatCom-Africa acts within the United Nations policies and procedures framework and subject to the general supervision of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development[1]. StatCom-Africa members are composed of African countries represented by Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Regional Statistics Training Centers, international partners and high level experts also attend the meeting. StatCom-Africa is a forum where the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV), the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UNGGIM: Africa) and other initiatives report on their progress. StatCom-Africa meets on a biennial basis.



In the recent past, the StatCom-Africa was jointly organized with the African Union Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices (CoDGs). In March 2018, the AUC decided to suspend all joint committees; therefore, the Sixth StatCom-Africa will stand alone and is now planned **from 1 to 4 October 2018 at the UNCC, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

In parallel to the StatCom-Africa, the Fourth Regional Committee Meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) will be organized to stress the role and place of geospatial information in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The meeting will offer the opportuni-

ty to review the African spatial statistical framework, consolidate the consensus and drive the political on how to mainstream geospatial technology into the work of national statistical offices all the way through training, data and processes. The two meetings will share the opening and closing sessions as well as some of the relevant plenary sessions.

The Eighth Forum for African Statistical Development (FASDEV VIII) will also be organized on 2 October 2018 to give partners the opportunity to meet and interact with ECA member States. FASDEV will: (i) have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance, and training in Africa; (ii) set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; (iii) provide opportunities for partnership; and (iii) strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage.

The Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) is a forum, created in 2005, to address concerns by African statisticians. The ASSD is an annual international meeting which gathers African statisticians together with regional and international partners to tackle key statistics issues. Poor performance of African countries undertaking population censuses and a report that painted an unimpressive picture of the continent's state of readiness for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, determined that the ASSD will serve as a standing platform with an initial objective of mobilising all African countries to ensure that they carried censuses in the 2010 round covering the period 2005-2014.

The first series of ASSD was devoted to the 2010 Round of PHCs while the second series was about the improvement of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) in Africa. The current series that started in 2016 is focusing economic statistics and national accounts. The 13th ASSD will take place from 1 to 2 October 2018.

## II. Objectives

In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Africa 2063 Development Agenda, the Sixth StatCom-Africa will provide an opportunity for the African Statistical System to take stock of the ongoing global initiatives and seek out how to mainstream ownership of new and/or updated methodologies aiming at enhancing Member State's statistical capacities.

The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) was set up to address the issues of developing the capacities of African nations in the generation and dissemination of authoritative, accurate and maintained geospatial information in the continent. The main objective of UN-GGIM: Africa is to leverage the enabling capabilities of geospatial information technology to meet African development agenda and in support of the emerging global challenges. In particular, UN-GGIM: Africa is encouraging and facilitating the integration of statistics with geospatial information efforts to attain viable and meaningful outcomes, analysis and visualization of data in supporting and tracking progress of the sustainable development goals.

As of FASDEV, the main objectives are to: (i) To review the status of pan-African and partners' support for statistics in Africa; (ii) To share information and discuss the challenges of financing statistical development for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; (iii) To explore ways of improving the coordination and efficiency of support for countries; and (iv) To explore new financing sources for statistical capacity-building in Africa, in line with the transformative agenda.

The ASSD is stated under the theme: "Application of economic statistics and national accounts in support of sustainable development". In addition to economic matters, the symposium will also discuss subjects pertaining to the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa and improvement of CRVS on the continent.

## III. Format of the meeting

StatCom-Africa meeting will be delivered in plenary sessions. In each session, technical documents are presented and discussed. Break-out sessions may also be organised to discuss deeply some subjects. Member States and partners can share their experiences and programmes with StatCom participants.

## IV. Who can participate?

The official country delegation to the StatCom-Africa shall normally be led by the head of the National Statistics Office.

Similarly, the official country delegation to UN-GGIM: Africa shall normally be led by the Head of the National Mapping Agency or appropriate agency responsible for geospatial data production and custody, such as national spatial data infrastructure representatives, national cadastral, cartographic or land survey services.

Observers from national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations, IGOs, NGOs, the academia and research institutions; the private sector and related industries are also invited to attend. Observers may attend all sessions, except those designated private, and participate in discussions, but may not vote on any issues.

## V. How to participate?

Participation can be made in various ways:

- » Contact your relevant national agency to be included in the country delegation;
- » Contact the secretariat at the address below to be considered for invitation as an observer.

Proposals from parties interested in organizing side events such as meetings or workshops on relevant themes, and/or sponsoring workshop participants are welcome. The deadline to express such intention is 10 July 2018.

## Contact Information

For further information, please contact

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<sup>[1]</sup> Since its inception, ECA has established subsidiary bodies to fulfil its mandate in different thematic areas, including Statistics. In this connection, the Conference of African Statisticians was established in 1959; the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, and Demographers including a Committee on Statistics resulting from a merger of the Conference of African Statisticians, the Conference of African Planners, and the Conference of African Demographers in 1980; the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists in 1994 when Information specialists joined the previous body; and it was renamed as the Committee on Development Information in 1997. It became known as StatCom-Africa in 2005.