



2020 Edition of the African Statistics Day (ASD)

Concept note

October 2020

Context and rationale

Over the past decade, the development of statistics has been at the center of the debates of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. Two instruments are central to the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa. These are the African Statistics Charter (ASC) and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). The African Charter on Statistics was adopted in February 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, while the first version of SHaSA was adopted in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, and the second version of SHaSA was adopted in January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Union Commission has developed several methodological documents for the implementation of the Charter and SHaSA. These methodological documents allow the principles of the charter and the requirements of SHaSA to be integrated into national statistical laws and national strategies for the development of statistics. This state of affairs has enabled the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa.

Several initiatives have accompanied the development of statistics in recent years, which are no less negligible. These are the Committee of Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (CoDG), the African Symposium for the Development of Statistics (SADS), the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) and the African Program for Statistics. " accelerated improvement of the vital statistics system (APAI-CRVS). These various initiatives have made it possible to create forums for discussion and exchange on good practices and the challenges of the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa, for better planning, monitoring and evaluation of national, regional, continental and international development.

In order to intensify the development of statistics in Africa, the date of November 18 has been chosen for the celebration of African Statistics Day. Thus, all the main actors of the African statistical system program each year November 18 as the African Statistics Day. During this day, the main actors of the African statistical system discuss the main themes for the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa. It is also an opportunity for the actors of the African statistical system to take a critical look at the thorny problem of the financing of statistics in Africa. Notwithstanding the fact that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union has adopted a decision which binds member states of the

As every year, the African statistical community will again celebrate November 18, 2020, African Statistics Day. This day will allow actors of the African statistical system to take a very critical look at the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa. This year's theme is "Modernizing National Statistical Systems to Provide Data and Statistics to Support Sustainable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa", as is the African Union 2020 theme "Silencing the arms: creating conditions conducive to Africa's development.

The African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) which is the African Union's specialized agency for the development and harmonization of statistics on the continent, with its mandate to regularize statistical activity on the continent, wants to mark with a particular cachet

the celebration of Statistics Day for the year 2020. STATAFRIC will organize a series of events during this day to discuss the challenges of the implementation of the strategy of harmonization of statistics, the financing of statistical activity on the continent and also the use of statistics in planning and monitoring and evaluation in Africa. One of the problems that the African continent is currently facing is migration.

The celebration of the African day will be made in collaboration with the Institute of Statistics of Tunisia and Statistics Sweden.

Objectives

The objective of the celebration of the African Statistics Day for the year is to exchange views on the theme of the day and also to discuss the implementation of the strategy of harmonization of statistics in Africa. The specific objectives are to:

- Discuss the issue of financing statistics in Africa, in particular on the implementation of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
- Discuss the importance of statistics during this COVID 19 pandemic, as well as the role that statistics can play in Africa after the COVID 19 crisis;
- Discuss the impact of COVID 19 on the conduct of population and housing censuses in Africa;
- Discuss the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa, in particular statistics on labor migration, irregular migration, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants,
- The official launch of the 2020 trade statistics yearbook.

Meeting format

The ceremony will take place as an online event broadcasted through Youtube (or any other appropriate channel) for the African and international audience. The program of the event is as follows:

10:00-10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening and welcome remarks <p><i>By H.E. Victor Harison Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission</i></p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p><i>H.E Kooli Ali Minister of Economy, Finances and Investment Support of Tunisia,</i></p>
10:20-10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ African Statistical Day's address <p><i>By Prof. Ben Kiregyera (Uganda); Lamine Diop (Sénégal) and Pali Lehohla (South Africa)</i></p>

10:50-11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Film about Statistics in Africa <i>Film about the importance of statistics presented by the African Union</i>
11:00-11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of COVID 19 on the conduct of population and housing censuses in Africa <i>By Oliver Chinganya, Director African Centre for Statistics Economic Commission for Africa</i>
11:15-11:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistics as a tool for democracy building <i>By Ms. Ulla Andrén, Head of Development Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa at the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia</i>
11:25-11:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Importance of statistics during and after the COVID-19 pandemic <i>By Mr. Risenga Maluleke, Statistician General, Statistics South Africa</i>
11:35-11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digitization for the most credible statistics <i>By Mr Yusuf Murangwa, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda</i>
11:45-11:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistical Development in Africa: Role on International Partners <i>By Ms. Avis BENEŠ, Head of Unit B-3: Enlargement, neighborhood and development cooperation, Eurostat,</i>
11:55-12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launching of the Yearbook on Trade Statistics in Africa <i>By STATAFRIC</i>
12:15-12:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing remarks <i>By H.E. Victor Harison Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission</i>

Organizers

This 2020 edition of the African Statistics Day will be organized by STATAFRIC in collaboration with the Institute of Statistics of Tunisia, Statistics South Africa, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda and Statistics Sweden.

Event date

African Statistics Day will be celebrated on November 18, 2020 and broadcasted virtually from 10.00-12.00 (GMT).

Target audience

This event will bring together all Directors General of National Statistics Offices of AU Member States or their representatives, representatives of regional economic communities, civil society, the private sector, other stakeholders and representatives of organizations, partners.

Work language

The event will be held in English and French and interpretation into all AU languages will be provided.