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Statistical Commission for Africa
Ninth session

Addis Ababa, 30 October–1 November 2024

Report of the Statistical Commission for Africa on the work of its ninth session

Introduction

1.   The ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held from 30 October to 1 November 2024, under the theme "Unleashing the potential of African innovation in statistical development". The theme reflected the critical need to employ innovative approaches and modernize statistical systems, with a view to accelerating sustainable development and regional integration across Africa, including through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

I.   Joint opening of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa [agenda item 1]

A.   Attendance

2.   The ninth session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3.   The following entities of the United Nations system were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, Office of the United Nations Coordinator in Sierra Leone, Statistics Division of the United Nations, United Nations Centre for Regional Development, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank.

4.   Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: Fiji, France, Kazakhstan, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

5.   Representatives of the following intergovernmental and regional organizations were present: African Development Bank, African Union Commission, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Space Station secretariat, Southern African Development Community,

6.   Observers were present from the following entities: Addis Ababa University, Africa Alliance for Health, Research and Economic Development, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology, Arba Minch University, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Digital Earth Africa, Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Global Peace and Development Organization, Institute for Demographic Training and Research, International Forum on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development, Geographical Institute of Mali, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, National Higher School of Applied Statistics and Economics (Côte d'Ivoire), National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France), Optron Group, Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM), Pan-African Institute for Evidence, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, Pasco Scientific, Pierre Ndiaye National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis, Pixel Geoinformation Consulting PLC, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, SDG Data Alliance, Space Science and Geospatial Institute, Subregional Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics, Trimble Inc., United States Census Bureau, University of KwaZulu Natal, University of Malta, Yom Postgraduate College, Young Men Action for Education.

B.   Opening statements

7.   The meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Temesgen Tiruneh, who highlighted the critical importance of the gathering to addressing the statistical challenges facing Africa. In his remarks, he set a collaborative tone, emphasizing the commitment of Ethiopia to supporting data-driven governance and the modernization of the African statistical landscape. He recalled the progress made by his country in using digital technologies, such as geospatial information and artificial intelligence, to improve public administration and data literacy, and he held up the country's achievements as a model for other African States.

8.   The Minister of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, Fitsum Assefa, underscored the need for disruptive innovations to overcome existing gaps in statistical literacy and capacity across the continent and called for African States to strengthen their commitment to building resilient and innovative statistical systems.

9.   Welcome remarks were delivered by the Director of the African Centre for Statistics at ECA, Oliver Chinganya, who expressed the dedication of ECA to supporting African States as they transitioned towards innovative statistical methods and data ecosystems. He also outlined the main goals of the meeting, which included fostering collaboration among African States, integrating geospatial data into statistical systems and working towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing data capacity. In addition, he emphasized that regional collaboration was vital to achieving comprehensive and comparable statistics across Africa.

10.   The Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Statistical Service, Muluken Kere, underscored the leadership of Ethiopia on regional data initiatives and the efforts to make data more accessible and reliable through digital transformation.

11.   The Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, Maroale Chauke,

emphasized the crucial need to integrate statistical and geospatial data. She highlighted the role of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework as a guide in enhancing the continent's capacity to incorporate geospatial data into national statistical systems, noting that the Framework was instrumental to improving decision-making in such areas as resource allocation, urban planning and environmental management.

12. In the keynote address, the Secretary to the Office of the President and Cabinet of Malawi, Colleen Zamba, stressed the transformative power of data in policymaking. She shared personal experiences that illustrated the profound impact of accurate data on decision-making processes. She also encouraged African States to adopt artificial intelligence, big data and other digital tools to ensure that ethical governance standards remained a priority. In addition, she called upon African leaders to invest in data infrastructure with a view to fostering inclusion and resilience.

13. A representative of the African Development Bank, Babatunde Samson Omotosho Director, Statistics Department, African Development Bank Group highlighted the Bank's initiatives relating to data innovation and capacity-building across Africa. He introduced the Bank's Data Innovation Lab, the focus of which was to leverage modern data techniques to support national statistical systems and enhance economic statistics.

14. A representative of the African Union Commission, Interim Director of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), Adoum Gagoloum, spoke about the importance of aligning the African statistical programme with Agenda 2063 and other regional initiatives.

15. The Director of the Statistics Division of the United Nations, Stefan Schweinfest, then addressed the participants in the joint opening session, during which he emphasized the critical role of statistical development in Africa.

16. In connection with the keynote address, panellists from Ghana, South Africa and Tunisia outlined the national strategies of their countries for modernizing statistical systems.

II.   Organizational matters [agenda item 2]

A.   Election of the Bureau

17. The following countries were unanimously elected to form the new Bureau:

Chair: Liberia

First Vice-Chair: Namibia

Second Vice-Chair: Mauritania

First Rapporteur: Burundi

Second Rapporteur: Cameroon

18. The newly elected Chair, Director General of the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, Richard Ngafuan, thanked the outgoing Bureau and expressed the readiness of Liberia to steer the work of the Bureau until the next session.

19. Following the acceptance statement by the newly elected Chair, the Statistical Commission for Africa adopted, without further amendment, the programme of work and the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda that had been circulated as document E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/1/Rev.1.

B. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work and other organizational matters

20.   The programme of work and the following agenda were adopted by the delegates:

1.   Joint opening of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa.

2.   Organizational matters.

3.   Statistical programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues.

4.   Transformation and modernization of statistical systems in Africa.

5.   Joint segment with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa.

6.   Reports on preliminary and side events and related meetings.

7.   Statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities.

8.   Preparation for the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

9.   Joint closing of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa.

C. Follow-up of recommendations from the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa

Discussion

21.   After the introduction of the follow-up report on the main conclusions and recommendations of the Statistical Commission for Africa at its eighth session (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/13), participants commended members of ECA for their ongoing efforts to modernize their statistical systems, in particular by conducting population and housing censuses and updating their national accounts. In addition, they lauded ECA for continuing to support its members in their modernization efforts by helping them to adopt digital census technologies, integrate geospatial data into their statistical systems, and explore the potential for data science and artificial intelligence to improve core statistical processes.

Recommendations

22.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   Regional institutions and international organizations should continue to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and the updates to be made as part of the 2025 System, and should, in particular, provide financial and technical support to States that are still using the 1993 System or even earlier versions of the System, in order to help those States to migrate to the 2008 System, as a basis for eventually adopting the 2025 System;

(b)   ECA and other regional institutions should intensify their training efforts and increase the technical support that they offer, in particular making use of artificial intelligence, to assist African States in transitioning to the 2025 System of National Accounts and related standards;

(c)   Members of ECA that are still using the 1993 System should mobilize national resources to conduct the surveys that are a prerequisite for migrating to the 2008 System.

III.   Statistical programme of the Economic Commission for Africa: statutory issues [agenda item 3]

A.   Proposed programme plan for 2025 under subprogramme 4, Data and statistics

Discussion

23.   Following the introduction of the proposed programme plan for 2025 under subprogramme 4, Data and statistics (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/5), participants commended ECA and its partners for their continued efforts to promote the transformation of statistical systems, including the incorporation of digital and geospatial technologies, to support States in their modernization efforts.

Recommendations

24.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   ECA should continue to provide comprehensive technical support to States that are developing integrated geostatistical frameworks;

(b)   ECA, other regional institutions and their partners should continue to support the establishment and strengthening of national strategies for the development of statistics, as a priority for building and sustaining statistical capacity in Africa.

B.   Report on statistical capacity development in Africa

Discussion

25.   Following the introduction of the report on statistical capacity development in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/6), participants noted the progress that members of ECA, other regional institutions and their development partners were continuing to make in support of statistical development, through the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems. They also commended ECA and its partners for the assistance they had been providing to members of ECA in designing and updating national statistical strategies to support and accelerate the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa.

Recommendations

26.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   Development partners should:

(i)   Scale up their support for the African Statistical System, with a view to accelerating its transformation and modernization;

(ii)   Explore and support innovative funding mechanisms, with a view to securing and effectively using resources to comprehensively monitor progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b)   Members of ECA should directly involve their national statistical offices in budgetary planning, by instructing them to submit detailed funding proposals to policymakers to ensure that the statistical offices are adequately resourced and that allocated funds are used efficiently, in order to avoid project

implementation delays, which could result in States being required to return unspent funds to donors.

C. Report on the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

Discussion

27. Following the introduction of the report on the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/7), participants noted the continuing measures taken in Africa to track the progress made towards achieving the Goals at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Recommendations

28. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

    (a)   Members of ECA should:

        (i)   Continue to align their national development plans and budgeting processes with the 2030 Agenda, with regional frameworks, such as Agenda 2063, and with international frameworks;

        (ii)   Embrace, in recognition of the interlinked nature of the Goals, a whole-of-society approach in their efforts to achieve the Goals, in order to ensure the participation of and engagement with all stakeholders, in particular relevant ministries and departments;

        (iii)   Enhance data-sharing practices and prioritize data systems that support the universal value of leaving no one behind that underpins the Goals, since such practices and systems are essential for the comprehensive monitoring of progress;

    (b)   Regional institutions should strengthen the coordination of national statistical systems on the continent, and ensure that policymaking in Africa is evidence-based and supported by the collection, processing, analysis and release of reliable, timely, high-quality and disaggregated data on the Goal indicators;

    (c)   ECA and other international organizations should assist States in addressing data gaps and challenges relating to the disaggregation of data, since addressing such gaps and challenges is critical for the effective tracking of progress made towards the attainment of the Goals.

D. Progress report on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and related statistical systems in Africa

Discussion

29. Following the introduction of the progress report on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and related statistical systems in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/8), participants noted with satisfaction that some members of ECA had successfully updated the base year that they used for estimating gross domestic product and had adopted the 2008 System, thereby improving the quality of their national accounts and economic analyses. In addition, participants welcomed the promotion by ECA of modern data-collection methods for consumer price indices, including digital tools and alternative data sources, to improve data quality and timeliness.

Recommendations

30. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   ECA should:

(i)   Continue to facilitate capacity-building initiatives, in particular those that are focused on compiling supply and use tables, trade in value added statistics and trade in services statistics, and those that contribute to the analysis of global and regional value chains;

(ii)   Give technical support to any of its members that are behind schedule with the adoption of the 2008 System of National Accounts;

(iii)   Continue the initiative on the use of artificial intelligence to enhance training programmes on the System of National Accounts and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and expand the initiative, with a view to accelerating progress towards the adoption of newer versions of the System of National Accounts and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and to incorporating other areas of data science and statistics;

(b)   ECA, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission should regularly disseminate to States the results of their surveys and other data-collection initiatives on the implementation status of the System of National Accounts and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;

(c)   Members of ECA should:

(i)   Increase their participation in the testing and early implementation of the 2025 System of National Accounts, in order to prepare better for upcoming changes in the global statistical system;

(ii)   Invest further in institutional frameworks for environmental-economic accounting and harness international support in order to regularly produce reliable data pertaining to adverse effects of economic activities on natural capital.

E.   Progress report on the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems

Discussion

31.   Following the introduction of the progress report on the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/9/Rev.1), participants commended members of ECA for implementing digital civil registration systems to improve the quality and timeliness of vital statistics. They also lauded ECA for providing technical assistance for the integration of civil registration systems into national population databases.

Recommendations

32.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   Members of ECA should strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure universal birth and death registration nationwide;

(b)   ECA and its members should document and share examples of successful applications of artificial intelligence and big data in statistical systems, including use cases in civil registration, population and housing censuses, and economic statistics, in order to foster peer-to-peer learning and encourage the adoption of such technologies by all members of ECA;

(c)   ECA should expand capacity-building initiatives to improve the use of data pertaining to civil registration and vital statistics in policymaking and in tracking progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

F. Status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa

Discussion

33. Following the introduction of the report on the status of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/10), participants commended some members of ECA for completing or making progress with their population censuses as part of the 2020 round. They noted that the 2030 round would be starting in January 2025.

Recommendations

34. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should:

(i) Ensure the incorporation of geospatial technology and artificial intelligence into census operations, in order to improve data accuracy and coverage;

(ii) Transition fully from manual to digital systems that incorporate better methods and new technologies, thereby increasing the reliability, accessibility and timely availability of statistics;

(b) ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Population Fund should jointly develop a programme for African population and housing censuses during the decade 2025–2034;

(c) Regional institutions and their development partners should establish an African census coordinating committee for the 2030 round to coordinate technical assistance to members of ECA in conducting their censuses;

(d) Development partners should support all States in using the 2030 round to prepare for the transition to censuses based on administrative data for the 2040 round;

(e) ECA should produce a document on challenges in conducting population and housing censuses and share it with the ministers of finance and planning of its members.

G. Report on progress made in the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics

Discussion

35. Following the introduction of the report on progress made in the implementation of the African programme on gender statistics (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/12), participants commended ECA for the expansion of its technical support to States in the development of national gender statistics strategies.

Recommendations

36. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should strengthen their collection of gender-disaggregated data, in particular in relation to informal trade and gender-based violence;

(b) Development partners should facilitate the use of innovative tools for the collection and dissemination of gender data at the national level.

H. Status of integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa

Discussion

37. Following the introduction of the report on the status of integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/11/Rev.1), participants commended ECA for providing its members with technical assistance in the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

Recommendations

38. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should incorporate geospatial technology and artificial intelligence into their census operations more comprehensively, in order to ensure data accuracy, enhance coverage and support evidence-based policymaking at all levels;

(b) Development partners should support initiatives to build the capacity of States to train statisticians and geospatial experts in the use of data integration techniques;

(c) ECA should continue to help the statistical and geospatial communities to enhance their collaboration for the effective implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, with a view to supporting sustainable development in the region.

I. Proposed medium-term statistics plan of the African Centre for Statistics for the period 2025–2027

Discussion

39. Following the introduction of the proposed medium-term statistics plan of the African Centre for Statistics for the period 2025–2027 (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/14), participants endorsed the proposed medium-term statistics plan, noting that the plan was a strategic document that would accelerate the transformation and mobilization of national statistical systems in Africa.

Recommendations

40. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a) ECA, other regional institutions and their development partners should mobilize adequate resources to implement the plan;

(b) Members of ECA should accelerate the modernization of their national statistical systems, by incorporating innovative technologies, including big data analytics and geospatial data, into processes for the collection and dissemination of data;

(c) Development partners should increase their financial support for the modernization of national statistical infrastructure and invest in innovative capacity-building programmes that are focused on emerging technologies.

J.   Strategy and road map to assist countries in modernizing their administrative data systems for statistical purposes

Discussion

41.   Following the introduction of the strategy and road map to assist countries in modernizing their administrative data systems for statistical purposes (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/16), participants approved the proposed strategy and road map.

Recommendations

42.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA and their partners should use the strategy and road map as frameworks to guide the modernization of administrative data for statistical purposes.

IV.   Transformation and modernization of statistical systems in Africa [agenda item 4]

Discussion

43.   Following the introduction of the strategic toolkit for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/15/Rev.1) and the sharing of experiences by representatives of Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the World Bank and the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics of Côte d'Ivoire, participants noted that the strategic toolkit was an important resource that could help to make national statistical systems more agile, resilient and sustainable. The Statistical Commission for Africa acknowledged the need to support the work of statistical training institutions in Africa and to ensure that they adopted best practices from similar institutions across the world, in order to support the modernization and transformation of statistical systems.

Recommendations

44.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   Members of ECA should:

(i)   Use the strategic toolkit in support of the transformation and modernization of their national statistical systems;

(ii)   Adopt innovative approaches to removing obstacles to the transformation and modernization of their statistical systems, including the lack of funding and inadequate institutional environments;

(iii)   Harness opportunities derived from new technologies, in particular digital technologies;

(iv)   Re-establish the mechanisms initiated through the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development to support conflict-affected States and those that are recovering from conflict;

(b)   Regional institutions, along with their partners that are supporting statistical development in members of ECA, should use the toolkit as a guide in the provision of such support and promote its use;

(c)   ECA should:

(i)   Expand the toolkit by incorporating best practices;

(ii)   Promote peer-to-peer learning platforms that facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from national initiatives to modernize and

transform statistical systems, with a view to ensuring knowledge transfer across the region;

(d) International organizations should support the development of big data infrastructure in African countries, thereby helping States in the region to integrate innovative data sources into the data value chain, in order to fill data gaps and respond adequately to the needs of users.

V. Joint segment with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa [agenda item 5]

Discussion

45. Participants emphasized that the geodetic reference frame underpinned satellite positioning technology, provided a framework for all geospatial activity, was a crucial enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster risk reduction and land management, and supported the global development agenda. They also noted that land and its administration and management at the global level remained important for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

46. Considering the growing number of natural and human-made hazards, participants further emphasized the importance of reliable data for effective decision-making, response planning and resilience-building efforts during disasters. They also explored how disaster-related statistics contributed to policy development and the monitoring of international frameworks. They underscored the need for African States to integrate disaster-related statistics into national systems and to embrace innovative approaches to data collection and analysis for inclusive risk management.

Recommendations

47. In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa at its tenth meeting and made the following recommendations:

(a) Development partners should support capacity-building initiatives by investing in training programmes that help members of ECA to modernize their national mapping activities and to improve the use of geographic information systems in development planning and census activities;

(b) Members of ECA should:

(i) Share both archived and real-time geodetic data openly and freely, with a view to facilitating their use for such purposes as the connection of national height systems to global systems and the real-time monitoring of crustal dynamics, in order to enable decision makers to address global issues, such as sea level change and disaster risk reduction, through the use of global and regional products and services;

(ii) Contribute to the global geodetic reference frame, support the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, adopt the International Terrestrial Reference Frame and participate in regional geodetic programmes, such as the African Geodetic Reference Frame;

(iii) Support the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration and use it as a reference when developing, reforming, strengthening and modernizing effective and efficient land administration processes and systems;

(iv) Collaborate with and participate in the work of relevant organizations, including the working group on geospatial information for disaster risk management, the Expert Group on the Integration of

Statistical and Geospatial Information, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics;

(c)   The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics should lead the development of globally agreed guidance on disaster-related statistics, in the vein of ongoing dialogue and knowledge-sharing on the issue within the international community.

VI.   Reports on preliminary and side events and related meetings [agenda item 6]

A.   Eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development

Discussion

48.   Following the oral presentation on the eleventh meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development, participants commended members of ECA for prioritizing the development of national statistical frameworks that were aligned with the regional strategies discussed by the Forum, ensuring that they supported the modernization of statistical systems and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendations

49.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa adopted the communiqué issued by the Forum on African Statistical Development and approved the recommendations contained therein.

B.   Fourth Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics

Discussion

50.   Following the oral presentation on the fourth Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics, participants lauded ECA for providing technical support and toolkits to help its members to incorporate disaster-related statistics into their national statistical systems and enhance disaster risk monitoring.

Recommendations

51.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa endorsed the conclusions and recommendations presented in the oral report.

C.   Other side events

Discussion

52.   Following the oral presentation on the other side events that had been held on the margins of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, participants noted with satisfaction that the events had been relevant to the overall goal of statistical modernization and innovation in Africa.

Recommendations

53.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa endorsed the conclusions and recommendations presented in the oral report and made the following recommendations:

(a)   States should establish an African expert group on statistics relating to children and adolescents, in order to strengthen national capacity and collaborative

frameworks for producing high-quality, disaggregated, child-specific data, with a view to implementing policies that are effective in addressing disparities in access to health, education and protection services;

(b)   The United Nations Children's Fund and ECA should convene an interim steering committee, composed of members of ECA representing all the continent's subregions and of interested partner entities, to lead the design of the expert group and approve its first workplan.

VII.   Statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities [agenda item 7]

Discussion

54.   Following the presentation of the reports on the statistical capacity-building programmes of partner entities (namely, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the Amaris Institute of Statistics and Economic Research, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the Statistics Division of the United Nations), participants commended the partner entities for their support for statistical development in Africa.

Recommendations

55.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa made the following recommendations:

(a)   Members of ECA should foster partnerships at the national level among statistical offices, universities and private sector organizations to support the implementation of modern data-collection techniques and tools;

(b)   Regional institutions and partner entities should coordinate their collection of data regarding capacity-building needs;

(c)   Regional institutions should continue to provide coordinated technical assistance to States, in order to avoid the duplication of efforts;

(d)   Members of partner entities should:

(i)   Integrate activities under the International Comparison Programme with regular operations concerning the consumer price index, in order to ensure sustainability and coherence;

(ii)   Urge their ministries of finance and planning to allocate budgets for essential surveys and censuses as part of their national financial plans.

VIII.   Preparation for the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations [agenda item 8]

Discussion

56.   Following the introduction of the report on preparation for the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations (E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/INF/2/Rev.1), participants commended members of ECA for coordinating national efforts to ensure that common African positions on pivotal statistical issues were unified and reflected the collective priorities of the continent in such areas as capacity-building, geospatial data integration and the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendations

57.   In the light of the discussion, the Statistical Commission for Africa recommended that members of ECA should ensure the active participation of

representatives of their national statistical offices in the consultations and technical meetings that would be held prior to the fifty-sixth session, in order that they might contribute effectively to the strategic positions of Africa and strengthen the influence of the region in the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

IX. Joint closing of the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the tenth meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa [agenda item 9]

A. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa

58.   The Statistical Commission for Africa requested ECA to make the necessary arrangements for the convening of its tenth session, tentatively scheduled to be held in Equatorial Guinea in September 2026.

B. Conclusions and recommendations

59.   A representative of ECA presented the draft conclusions and recommendations emanating from the ninth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa. The conclusions and recommendations were adopted with minor amendments and were included in the final report of the Statistical Commission for Africa on the work of its ninth session.

C. Closing remarks

60.   Closing remarks were made by the Director of the African Centre for Statistics on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

61.   Following those remarks and the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair of the Bureau declared the ninth session closed at 2 p.m., on Friday, 1 November 2024.

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