



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

CELEBRATING ECA @ 60

ECA KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT DIGEST **VOLUME 1, OCTOBER 2018**



A Review on Statistical Development in Africa:
Resolutions Adopted by the Conferences of Ministers
(1958- 2018)



Economic Commission for Africa | Commission économique pour l'Afrique
1958 - 2018

Preface

The *ECA Knowledge Management Digest* is a serial publication that highlights new developments in the area of Knowledge Management and Library services of the Commission. The function is anchored in the Knowledge and Library Services Section (KLSS) within the Public Information and Knowledge Management Division.

Over the past 10 years, the ECA Library also designated as a UN depository Library has been re-envisioned as a modern Knowledge Hub in the 21st century. Furthermore, it has been systematically repurposed and retooled through the provision of specialized services and an ongoing upgrade of the physical space into an environment where users connect, network, learn and share knowledge. The ECA Knowledge Hub has access to open platforms that enable discovery, creation and sharing of knowledge, which is supported by modern ICT infrastructure and trained staff that respond to the changing needs and new information seeking behaviors of users in the digital age. Collectively, this has maximized the impact of knowledge services as a catalyst to ECA's new vision of becoming "the premier think tank in Africa" which supports the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Development Agenda 2063.

Noteworthy of the new Knowledge services, is the *ECA Knowledge Repository* @ <http://repository.uneca.org>, which is an Institutional framework for the management, preservation and dissemination of ECA knowledge products in an electronic environment. The Repository represent the corporate memory, providing historical evidence of the Commission's programmes and decisions. These knowledge resources include flagship publications, journals, conference proceedings, technical reports, mission reports, annual reports, policy briefs, resolutions, working papers, speeches and other grey literature published by ECA since its establishment in 1958. These represent the corporate memory, providing evidence of ECA's notable contribution to the economic and social development agenda of Africa based on its work through policy dialogues, consensus building and capacity development.

This first *Knowledge Management Digest (Volume 1)*, draws from the ECA Knowledge Repository and is published as a resource for the *Sixth Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa-VI)* held from 1st - 4th October 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in celebration of the Commission @ 60. It provides a chronological compilation of the Conference of Ministers resolutions on statistical development in Africa from 1958 to 2018. This digest provides a critical resource for analyzing the implementation of these decisions and stimulate discussion on their impact on socioeconomic policy development in Africa over the past six decades.

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Resolutions

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Fifteenth meeting of the Second Session (1960)

12 (II) Report of the first Session of the Conference of African Statisticians.

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Having considered the report of the Conference of African Statisticians,

1. *Approves* with satisfaction the said report; See <http://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/5186> Pg. 14
2. *Invites* members and associate members to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the Conference;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Seventeenth Meeting in the Second Session (1960)

16 (II) In service training

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Welcoming the establishment at United Nations Headquarters of a training course for African economists, now in its second year of operation,

Bearing in mind that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Europe, and their secretariats, have already accumulated considerable knowledge and experience in economic research, programming, economic development and techniques of international cooperation in the economic, statistical and social fields,

1. *Expresses* the hope that the in-service training courses at United Nations Headquarters will be continued;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to arrange, in cooperation and in agreement with the executive secretaries of the other regional economic commissions, in-service training for African economists and statisticians;
3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its third session on the establishment of in-service training for African economists at the Commission's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

18 (II) Programme of Work and priorities for 1960 - 1961

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Having examined the draft programme of work and priorities for 1960-1961 submitted by the Executive Secretary,

Bearing in mind the terms of reference of the Commission,

Considering the importance of the inter-relationship of the economic and social factors of development,

Recognizing the urgent need of all African countries and territories for rapid economic and social development,

1. *Approves* with satisfaction the work programme submitted by the Executive Secretary, as amended by the Committee on the Programme of Work and Priorities and by the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its second session;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in the execution of the programme for 1960-1961, to pay particular attention to the following priorities which reflect urgent needs in the economic and social development of African states and territories:
 - a. Problems of the traditional backward sectors of African economies (agriculture and handicrafts) and their integration into the modern sectors of the national economies;
 - b. Problems of industrialization and transportation in African states and territories in their national and regional context;
 - c. Problems of stabilization of commodity prices, studies of the measures which may be adopted at the national or regional level to meet fluctuations of world prices and reports on international action in this field, including analysis of the effects of such action on African producers;
 - d. Problems of the rapid training of staff at all levels;
 - e. Problems connected with the social aspects of economic development;
 - f. Problems of financing economic development;
 - g. Problems arising from the lack of adequate statistical data and research.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Seventy Seventh Meeting in the Fourth Session (1962)

59 (IV). Report of the second Conference of African Statisticians

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Having considered the report of the second Conference of African Statisticians

1. *Approves* with satisfaction the said report;
2. *Invites* members and associate members of the Commission to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the Conference;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its One Hundred and Twenty Sixth Meeting (1965)

146 (VII). Conversion of the Yaoundé Statistical Training Centre into an international statistical training institute for Africans

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Recognizing the importance of statistics in the process of economic and social development,

Aware, of the needs of the African countries in this field,

Noting, the growing importance of the Yaoundé Centre by reason of the increase in the number of its students, its African function, and the geographical range of its instruction;

1. *Welcomes* the great success of the Centre and the assistance provided by the United Nations;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to renew the agreement governing the Centre between the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Cameroon;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make representations to the appropriate organizations with a view to one or more permanent teachers being made available to the Centre;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to study the question of converting the Centre into an International Statistical Training Institute open to all Africans and operating under the auspices of the United Nations and the host country, and to report to the Commission at the eighth session;
5. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to propose technical and financial methods of contributing to the development of the institute.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its One Hundred and Thirty Ninth Meeting in the Eighth Session (1967)

174 (VIII). Statistics and demography

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering the importance of statistical and demographic studies in planning social and economic development,

Acknowledging that statisticians need time to gain the necessary experience, especially in certain specialized fields,

Conscious of the necessity, at least for some time, for advice in the field of statistics,

1. *Recommends* that the secretariat and competent United Nations specialized agencies should take all necessary steps to appoint experts immediately to vacant posts and to create as many posts for experts and regional advisers as is deemed necessary to assist Governments of member States in planning and executing their statistical programmes;
2. *Urges* Governments of member States to allocate sufficient funds to finance the development and expansion of their statistical offices.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its One Hundred and Sixth Third Meeting in the Eighth Session (1971)

231 (X). Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by the United Nations in developing the United Nations System of National Accounts and other statistical systems as a basis for the organization of statistical programmes and economic analyses,

Mindful of the urgent need for comprehensive and timely statistical information in planning development efforts at national and multinational levels,

Urges African Governments to take all steps necessary for the introduction of these systems without delay;

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to arrange for countries to receive the assistance needed in applying internationally recommended statistical systems and in identifying and remedying the principal statistical deficiencies which exist at the present time;
2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to give all possible assistance in the training of data processing staff at all levels;

3. *Recommends* that Governments should give urgent attention to the problems of achieving speedier publication of statistical information;
4. *Further recommends* that Governments should undertake the preparation and publication of provisional estimates of key national accounts aggregates at the end of each year.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its One Hundred and Eighty Third Meeting in the Twelfth Session (1975)

272 (XII). Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the importance of statistical information in the planning of development efforts and in reviewing and appraising the progress of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Noting that, although some progress has been made in implementing its resolution 231(X) of 13 February 1971, important deficiencies in African statistics still exist and there is a continuing need for training statisticians; conducting technical meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. and obtaining technical assistance for most other statistical activities,

Concerned by the inadequacy of technical assistance in all fields except demography, *welcoming* the emphasis which both the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians and the fifth session of the Conference of African Planners⁴²¹ placed on making Governments of the region fully aware of the need for basic statistical data and of the resources and organizational arrangements required in producing them,

1. *Urges* African Governments, because of the inadequacy of their statistics:
 - a. To ensure that provision for overcoming the major difficulties is made in their country's UNDP technical assistance programmes;
 - b. To expedite the implementation of the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) by directing statistical offices to present national accounts data according to the revised SNA;
 - c. To mount multipurpose household surveys for the collection of integrated demographic, social and economic data through the establishment of a field surveys mechanism;
 - d. To effect closer cooperation between their planning and statistical offices;
2. *Recommends*:
 - a. That Governments should endeavour to develop and incorporate in their development plans balanced and well-coordinated statistical programmes suitable for meeting the requirements of economic and social development in their countries and providing for the collection of current and basic data, the training of statistical personnel, operational costs for field work;

- b. That the United Nations should create for a period of 10 years a single integrated fund for statistical development for use by those countries which have the greatest problems in securing resources to develop their statistical services.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Seventh Meeting in the Fourteenth Session (1979)

361 (XIV). Research on African women

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the important role which African women play in Africa's economic, social and cultural development,

Noting that insufficient research has been carried out in most African countries in the activities of women,

Aware that policies for integrating women in development cannot be formulated without adequate information on the condition of women,

1. *Invites* member States to undertake research and produce statistics on the status of women, in order to obtain qualitative and quantitative data on the roles of women in the various sectors of the economy;
2. *Calls* on the Executive Secretary to collect and disseminate the conclusions and statistics obtained from the research concerning African women through the appropriate organs of the Commission;
3. *Urges* the agencies of the United Nations and international bodies concerned with technical and financial assistance to help African Governments in their research work on women.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Seventh Meeting in the Fourteenth Session (1979)

368 (XIV). Merger of the Conference of African planners, Statisticians and Demographers

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the decision taken by the Executive Committee of Commission to the effect that the Conference of African planners, the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers be merged into one Conference as a means of rationalizing the resources of the Commission and the Governments,

Noting that the proposed merger could give the opportunity to the three groups of experts to forge better cooperation in their work and thus ensure an interdisciplinary approach to

development planning at the country level and the integration of population variables in socio-economic development,

Recalling the role that was assigned to each of the three conferences at the time they were established and taking into account their activities with regard to the determination of the secretariat's work programme in specific fields,

Noting the agreement of the Conference of Demographers to the proposed merger of the three **conferences**,

1. *Approves* the merger of the Conference of African Planners, the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers into one Conference;
2. *Directs* that this new Conference should ensure that the work of the three component conferences is given equal importance at its sessions and that the secretariat's work programmes in the fields of planning, statistics and population are given their due importance and adequate consideration in the deliberations of the new Conference;
3. *Requests* the States member of the Commission to ensure that their delegations to the sessions of the new Conference are made up of the appropriate number of experts. who can cover the deliberations on the different work programmes and issues to be taken up in the three fields, namely, planning, statistics and population;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all measures to ensure that the new Conference deals with all the three fields concerned including the setting up of sub-committees during the sessions of the new Conference to cover the three subject areas namely, planning, statistics and population.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Seventeenth Meeting in the Sixteenth Session (1981)

414 (XVI). Statistical Training Programme for Africa; Regional funding by the European Economic Community

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting, the concern that has been shown by a number of Governments over the acute shortage of statistical personnel needed for the collection, processing and analysis of essential data for national planning and development,

Recalling that, in order to remedy the situation through intensified and coordinated training programmes, the Statistical Training Programme for Africa was established by a resolution of the former Executive Committee of the Commission in May 1978,531

Further noting the progress so far made in the implementation of the Programme, the problem of inadequate trainee fellowships and staffing of the centres, the recommendation 541 of the meeting of directors of Programme centres to seek assistance for regional funding from the

European Economic Community and the efforts so far made by the Commission to negotiate financial assistance for the Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the assistance so far given to the Programme by many donors, notably the United Nations Development programme, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, the European Economic Community and various bilateral agencies,

Considering the fact that the full impact of the assistance so far given may not be felt if the aforementioned problems of fellowships and staffing are not removed,

Noting that the African, Caribbean and Pacific secretariat has already initiated negotiations with the European Economic Community for further financial assistance through the provision of regional funds to the programme,

Appreciating the efforts so far made by the African, Caribbean and Pacific secretariat in connection with the project,

Taking note of the concern expressed by a certain number of Governments concerning the criteria used in the granting of scholarships to nationals of Member States,

1. *Endorses* the proposals of the project document;
2. *Urges* the European Economic Community to give these proposals favorable consideration;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to assist the African, Caribbean and Pacific secretariat to complete negotiations with the European Economic Community;
4. Invites the Executive Secretary to review the criteria for the distribution of student fellowships in cooperation with representatives of member States and the training centres concerned.

415 (XVI). Statistical Training Programme for Africa. Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African Countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the special problems of the newly independent Portuguese-speaking African countries and the need to make provision for them within the context of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2054 (LXII) of 5 May 1979 requesting the United Nations Development Programme to take a sympathetic view of the statistical training requirements of developing member States and increase the regional component of its funds to meet these requirements,

Having considered the report⁵⁶¹ of the meeting of representatives of the Portuguese-speaking African countries,

1. Takes note of the report of this meeting
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to extend technical assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries within the framework of the Statistical Training programme for Africa;
3. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to give adequate financial support to the national and regional projects to be proposed by the Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Twenty Ninth Meeting in the Eighteenth Session (1983)

469 (XVIII). African statistical Services

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the urgent need to improve economic and social policy formulation planning, administration and analysis in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action which aims to promote African development through collective self-reliance,

Recognizing that the effective organization of these activities requires adequate quantitative information at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting that many African statistical services are not yet able to supply this information in a satisfactory and timely manner because of significant interrelated constraints which include low data demand for nontechnical planning, statistical brain-drain, management weaknesses, data processing difficulties and failure to regard data applications as a principal guide in organizing data collection, processing and analysis,

Further noting that there is still a lack of coordination in external assistance to statistics and international recommendations in this field do not adequately cover data analysis and applications,

1. *Urges* Governments of the region to:
 - a. Accord higher priority generally to the improvement and strengthening of their statistical services so as to provide data which will assist in assessing current economic and social problems and in accelerating development;
 - b. Identify data applications as a basis for determining priorities for data collection and analysis in each subject field;
 - c. Utilize fully available training facilities to provide staff for statistical services and ensure that these services are efficiently managed;
 - d. Take steps to overcome existing data processing difficulties through the provision of adequate
 - e. equipment and by ensuring that statistical personnel play more direct and active role in computerized data processing;

- f. Make increasing use of national statistics coordinating organs for the planning and coordination of
 - g. activities and for the preparation of realistic and integrated statistical development programmes, which should be incorporated in national development plans as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action;
 - h. Within the context of their development programmes, ensure that statistical services prepare annual work programmes for issuing regular publications and reports on surveys, etc. and for conducting other activities in a timely manner;
 - i. Encourage both central planning agencies and those dealing with particular subject fields to adopt a more technical and analytical approach to plan preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review;
2. *Recommends* that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should:
- a. Continue existing efforts to coordinate technical cooperation in all aspects of quantitative information;
 - b. Extend international statistical recommendations to include guidelines on data analysis and applications;
3. *Appeals* to intergovernmental agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations to:
- a. Continue to assist in strengthening the operation of statistical infrastructure in the region;
 - b. Support activities designed to improve the utilization of statistical data for development;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take all necessary steps to assist the improvement of African statistics along the lines indicated above.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Forty Seventh Meeting in the Twenty First Session (1986)

576 (XXI). Strengthening of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa was established in 1978 to alleviate the acute shortage of statistical personnel required for the collection, processing and analysis of essential data for national planning and development,

Noting that the programme has so far made good progress, but that the problem of inadequate training fellowships for study at centres participating in the Programme constitutes one of the major obstacles to its development,

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action urges African countries, as a matter of urgency, to strengthen the statistical infrastructures as a basis for effective policy-making and planning,

Considering that the twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity reaffirmed that the attainment of the objectives of the Lagos

Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos depends on the development of the wide range of human resources required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes covering the entire spectrum of sectoral activities in the economic development process,

Recalling further its resolution 415 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 entitled "Statistical Training Programme for Africa: Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries",

Noting with satisfaction that the Statistical Training programme for Africa is a good example of multi-donor assistance, involving particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation and various bilateral agencies and institutions,

1. *Urges African Governments to accord high priority to statistical training and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships is earmarked for training at centres participating in the Statistical Training programme for Africa, either from national resources or from the funds provided by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies through country programmes;*
2. *Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to ensure coordination of assistance to the Portuguese-speaking African countries in statistical training within the framework of the Programme;*
3. *Expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance so far provided to the programme by many bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, and its hope that their support will continue and be further strengthened;*
4. *Requests these agencies to facilitate and accelerate the procedure for the granting of fellowships as much as possible, and to pay particular attention to financial support for national and regional statistical training programme of interest to Portuguese-speaking African countries.*

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Fifty First Meeting in the Twenty Second Session (1987)

605 (XXII). Data needs in the context of assessing social impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting the efforts of a growing number of African countries to bring about structural adjustment of their economies through a variety of policy measures, development programmes, and institutional programmes,

Considering that the above-mentioned activities have significant social implications, both short-and-long term, particularly in terms of their impact on the income levels and living conditions of different sections of the population, especially the poor,

Convinced that in order to monitor and assess the social impact of structural adjustment and to design and implement complementary programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, it is necessary to generate a continuing flow of integrated demographic and socio-economic data which will enable a comprehensive study of the living conditions of different sections of the population and the changes over time in those conditions,

Recalling that the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) is designed to help member States to obtain, through a systematic programme of household surveys and in conjunction with data from censuses and administrative records, integrated statistical data required for formulating, implementing and monitoring development plans, policies and administration as well as building national household survey capabilities,

Noting that a number of African countries are participating in AHSCP and have already generated a wide range of demographic and socio-economic data and that many more countries intend to participate in AHSCP,

Recalling its resolution 430 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the African Household Survey Capability Programme which emphasized the importance of AHSCP and the need to give it high priority by member States as means of improving their statistical data base,

Taking note of the World Bank proposal on the assessment of the social dimensions of structural adjustment, using a detailed household surveys programme entitled Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS),

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring a proper coordination in the household surveys programme undertaken in the African region in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote an optimal use of the scarce resources available,

1. Calls upon member States to take maximum advantage of AHSCP as means of meeting their data needs for assessing the social implications of structural adjustment programmes and where necessary strengthen AHSCP activities for this purpose, especially by expediting, processing and analyzing the survey results;
2. Urges the international agencies to make use of AHSCP framework as a tool for developing the information systems in African countries for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of their development activities;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the heads of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund to convene, as soon as possible, a regional meeting of African experts to discuss an overall plan, including AHSCP, for meeting the emerging data needs of the African countries in the context of the assessment of the social dimensions of structural adjustment.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Fifty First Meeting in the Twenty Fourth Session (1987)

681 (XXV). Future of the African Demographic Training Institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly decision 37/44 of 21 December 1982 which approved the statutes of the two African demographic training institutes: the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPs) and the Institute de formation et de recherche demographiques (IFORD),

Recalling also its resolution 489 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 which took note of the precarious financial state of the institutes due to the insufficiency and irregularity of contributions received from their member states,

Considering the intention of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to progressively reduce its financing of the institutes as approved by resolution 84/21 of the Fund's Governing Council,

Recalling further its resolution 625 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988, which urged African Governments to continue their support of the institutes and to strengthen this by paying their arrears as well as paying their future annual contributions regularly,

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Meeting in the Twenty Fourth Session (1990)

683 (XXV). The Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 469 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 entitled "African Statistical Services".

Considering the importance of the role of statistics in formulating, monitoring, and evaluating ongoing programmes on economic policy reforms,

Considering further that the strategy for the provision of relevant and timely statistical information should receive serious attention,

Noting, that a number of African statistical services are not yet able to supply this information,

Noting that a number of African statistical services are not yet able to supply this information in a satisfactory and timely manner because of significant interrelated constraints which had been identified during the assessment of statistical capacities of member States carried out within the framework of the project on "Data collection related to development programmes and aid-flows in Africa",

Reaffirming that ECA is the key regional institution for the development and promotion of statistics in Africa, the work of the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers,

Adopts the report of the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

1. *Adopts* the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;
2. *Exhorts* member States to use the Plan of Action as a framework for statistical development in their respective countries, to take necessary measures to strengthen their national institutional capabilities in the statistical field and to promote dialogue between producers and users;
3. *Recommends* that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should continue their efforts to ensure coordination of technical cooperation activities in all aspects of quantitative information;
4. *Appeals* to intergovernmental agencies, multilateral and bilateral donor institutions to continue and further strengthen their assistance in the statistical field in the region, in the context of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take necessary action to assist member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action annexed to the present resolution.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 683 (XXV)
ADDIS ABABA PLAN OF ACTION FOR STATISTICAL
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA IN THE 1990s

PREAMBLE

The conference of Ministers,

Reviewing, the development of statistics in Africa over the last 30 years,

Reviewing the current statistical capacities in African countries,

Reviewing major factors governing success and failure of the performance of national statistical services, stressing the strategic role of quantitative analysis for improving decision-making for sustainable development,

Mindful that data demands to formulate, monitor and evaluate policy reforms and development plans are increasing,

Noting with great concern the continuing low profile accorded to national statistical services and deteriorating conditions of service,

Concerned about a lack of consideration of national plans and priorities as well as some duplication in internationally sponsored statistical development programmes,

Reaffirming the collective commitment of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers to accelerate self-reliant social and economic development for the well-being of African peoples,

Adapts the following Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

PRINCIPLES

1. Statistics is a vital tool in national development planning.
2. African statistical services need to become fully self-reliant.
3. Statistical programmes should respond to African Governments commitment to self-reliant development.
4. International cooperation and support in the field of statistics should respond to priorities and programmes of national statistical services (NSS).
5. Adequate and reliable statistics are a prerequisite for designing, monitoring and evaluating projects.
6. Increased communication at all times between users and producers of statistics is an important resource in itself, which, once started, would generate additional resources through the attractiveness of its product.
7. Any improvement of the statistical system constitutes an integral part of economic and social development.
8. ECA should be recognized as the key regional institution responsible for the development and promotion of statistics in Africa.

OBJECTIVES

1. To achieve self-sufficiency in statistical production, including the creation of a comprehensive national statistical data base by the end of the century;
2. To improve the reliability and relevance of data produced in African countries;
3. To undertake production of data required for formulating, monitoring and evaluating programmes designed to restructure and transform African economies;
4. To improve the timeliness in the production and dissemination of statistical information;
5. To increase awareness among users of statistical information;
6. To strengthen and sustain statistical training programmes at various levels and institutions.
7. To promote contact and dialogue among African statisticians;
8. To encourage improvement in the organizational set-up of the national statistical service (NSS) and assure its autonomy.

9. To improve coordination of all statistical development programmes at both national and international levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF ECA

1. A higher priority should be accorded to statistical activities and statistics should be seen as central to the formulation of plans and strategies.
2. Adequate funding should be provided for statistical activities.
3. Assistance should be provided in the establishment of a Statistical Development Fund with contributions from the public as well as the private sector.
4. Governments should ensure that the legislation governing the statistical services in their countries assures their utmost effectiveness.
5. ECOWAS's 18 November should be adopted as African Statistics Day in order to increase public awareness for the important role, which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life.
6. African Governments are urged to continue to give support to the African Statistical Association (AFSA).

Organization of Statistics

7. The organizational structure of the national statistical services should be examined carefully and, where necessary, restructured in order to meet the various data needs.

In order to attract and retain suitable manpower Governments are urged to develop attractive schemes of service for statisticians.

Work Programme

The national statistical services should prepare longer-term statistical development programmes (e.g. 5 or 10 years) in the context of national development plans. Such programmes should serve as a guide and framework for annual or biennial national statistical work programmes.

A budget document showing details of inputs and final outputs to be delivered by the national statistical services should be prepared for each financial year.

Statistical Committees

8. Countries are requested to set up national statistical councils composed of senior civil servants, representatives of universities, NGOs and the private sector. Such a council should act as an advisory board on policy matters relating to statistical matters.
9. User/producer and producer/producer committees should be reactivated in countries where they exist or should be initiated in countries where they do not exist. These committees will enable exchange of views regarding development of statistics, uses of available statistics and the setting up of priorities for the country's statistical activities.

Establishment of Statistical Priorities

10. In accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, national statistical services should consider the following as priority areas in future statistical programmes: food and agriculture, industry, human resources; transport and communications, trade and finance, environment, energy, women and development, population and development and the informal sector.

Statistical training

11. National statistical services and statistical training institutions at the national level should organize specialized short-term training courses in statistics.
12. National statistical offices are urged to prepare and implement statistical development programmes, which would help them to fully utilize available training facilities.
13. The linkage of national statistical services with statistical and other training institutions should be encouraged, where absent, and strengthened, where it exists.
14. All governments should give support to centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA).

Seminars

15. National seminars covering specific or broad areas with participation drawn from government as well as research and training institutions should be organized on a regular basis and should be included in the programme of work.

Data quality and Dissemination

16. In order to improve the quality of information collected, national statistical services are requested to consider setting-up in their offices an organizational unit on methods and standards.
17. National statistical services are urged to ascertain that data are published with minimum delays.

18. As research is a vital element in statistical development, national statistical services are encouraged to include research as an integral part of their statistical activities.

B. TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

19. UNDP and other multilateral and bilateral agencies are urged to enhance the scope and implementation of the ongoing Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) and other programmes, respectively.

20. More effective use should be made of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, of the United Nations ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Statistical Commission as institutional arrangements to improve coordination among international agencies.

21. ECA should take the initiative to convene a working group meeting to further review and elaborate on the principles, objectives and recommendations of this Plan of Action and formulate detailed strategies for its implementation.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Eighty First Meeting in the Twenty Seventh Session (1992)

734 (XXVI). Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 683 (XXV) of May 1990 on the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s,

Noting with satisfaction that an intergovernmental Working Group met in Nairobi in July 1991 to further review and elaborate on the principles, objectives and recommendations of this Plan of Action and formulate detailed strategies for its implementation,

Taking note of the report of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, especially as regards the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action,

Noting further with satisfaction the establishment of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development under the sponsorship of the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme,

Concerned with the limited resources available while it is essential to have reliable and up-to-date data for designing, monitoring and evaluating short-term policy reforms and long-term planning to support the current efforts to transform and restructure African economies,

1. *Adopts* the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

2. *Appeals* to all parties concerned, including African Governments, international organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies and institutions, to use the Strategy referred to above as an overall framework for development of statistics in Africa in the 1990s;
3. *Urges* member States to set up Needs Assessment/Programme Review and Strategy Development Teams as soon as possible to draw lessons from past experiences and to identify needs and priorities, taking into account local conditions and the state of statistical development, and to formulate draft five- to ten-year national statistical development plans;
4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to provide during its fifth Intercountry Programming Cycle sufficient resources to the Commission for the regional operational support to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;
5. *Calls* upon other agencies to provide complementary resources to the Commission for the regional operations in respect of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action;
6. *Further* calls upon all interested donor agencies to assist countries in establishing national statistical development funds, as recommended in the Addis Ababa Plan of action, for meeting assessed statistical needs in accordance with national plans and priorities;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Conference of Ministers every two years on progress made on this Plan of Action.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Two Hundred and Ninety First Meeting in the Thirtieth Session (1994)

790 (XXIX). Capacity building for the statistical development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 683(XXV) of 19 May 1990 on the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s,

Further recalling its resolution 734(XXVH) of 22 April 1992 on implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s,

Noting with Satisfaction the initiative that has been taken by the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development in promoting statistical development in the countries of the region through capacity building in areas of organization and management of national statistical systems, research in methods and standards and data sources, data processing and statistical training,

Further noting that these are the principal aspects of statistical development in which capacity needs urgently to be further and significantly enhanced at the national, subregional and regional levels to successfully achieve the objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action,

Recalling the concern of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers at its eighth session on the drastic reduction of available resources and the need for additional resources to enhance capacity building at the national, subregional and regional levels to achieve objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action,

1. *Urges* African Governments to vigorously implement actions to be taken at the national level as recommended in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;
2. *Also urges* both the multilateral and bilateral donor agencies bearing interest in capacity building in Africa to:
 - (a) Provide further support at the national, subregional and regional levels to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development; and
 - (b) Recognize that the need to build capacity at the regional level in the Economic Commission for Africa - as the regional organization with a mandate for the promotion of statistical development - is as important as the promotion of capacity at the national level;
3. *Further urges* the United Nations Development Programme to:
 - (c) Provide requisite catalytic support to the Commission to supplement its resources to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development and help countries in identifying resource constraints to the promotion of statistical development and enhancement of requisite capacity at the national level; and
 - (d) (b) Make it possible for the Commission to support statistical institutions in the countries in accessing the technical support that the United Nations Development Programme is able to provide through its TSS1 and TSS2 modalities of technical cooperation.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Thirty Ninth Session (2006)

845 (XXXIX) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling the guiding principles of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the World Millennium Summit in 2000;

Mindful that these guiding principles and objectives are shared by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) that was adopted in 2001 as the African leadership vision framework;

Deeply concerned by the prospects for African countries not meeting some or all of the MDGs by 2015,

Noting that most African countries are engaged in the preparation and implementation of poverty reduction strategies (PRS) in collaboration with the international financial institutions (The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund), in the framework of the Highly-Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, or similar national action plans;

Recalling the Abuja Ministerial Statement of 15 May 2005, which has reaffirmed the vital importance of the MDGs as a framework for achieving poverty reduction and advancing development in Africa;

Taking into account the outcome of the 2005 Millennium Summit and the Cairo African Plenary on PRS and implementation of the MDGs, especially in respect to the need for African countries to align their national PRS or similar national action plans with the MDGs so as to bring coherence into the various planned actions aimed at achieving those goals by 2015;

Noting with appreciation that African countries have already taken steps to align their second generation of PRS with the MDGs and have elaborated comprehensive implementation plans;

Noting that African national efforts could be supported by an active mobilization of domestic resources and appropriate aid architecture, especially to ensure the effective implementation of national priority programmes for the achievement of the MDGs;

Noting also with concern the persistent view expressed by Africa's development partners, including the international financial institutions, on the lack of absorptive capacities of African countries to accommodate an increased inflow of aid;

Cognisant of the fact that aid conditionalities often deter the utilisation of aid inflows and, consequently, the attainment of development goals;

Stressing the importance of reliable statistics and data to plan, monitor and evaluate progress in the achievement of the MDGs;

Having examined document E/ECA/CM.39/5 entitled "Progress and Challenges in Aligning Poverty Reduction Strategies with The Millennium Development Goals"

Encourages African countries to pursue their efforts in the alignment of their respective second generation PRS or similar national action plans with a strong commitment to achieve the MDGs;

Invites African Governments to establish a conducive environment that would promote broad-based stakeholder participation and strengthen the role of the private sector in the

mobilization of domestic resources for translating national development policies and programmes into concrete action;

Invites Africa's partners, especially the international financial institutions, to assist African countries in the alignment of their poverty reduction strategies to the Millennium Development Goals and their integration into their national macroeconomic framework;

Encourages those development partners, including the multilateral finance institutions, to align development assistance to national priority programmes for better utilization of national implementation capacities;

Requests the secretariat of the ECA to assist African countries to strengthen their capacities in the area of data collection and statistical analyses in order to develop performance indicators and statistics for MDG tracking.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Fortieth Session (2007)

849 (XL) Statistics and Statistical Capacity Building in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with appreciation the recent endorsement by African heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other stakeholders of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building in Africa (RRSF) as the guide for statistical development activities on the continent upon recommendation by the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) held in February 2006 in Addis Ababa;

Welcoming the African initiative of establishing the Africa Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD) as a platform for the exchange of best practices and recognizing the progress made by African countries towards ensuring that they conduct a population and housing census in the 2010 Round in this framework;

Taking note of the lack of coordination in statistical activities in Africa as one of the serious impediments to the production of quality statistics needed to, *inter alia*, monitor and track progress towards achieving nationally, regionally, and internationally agreed development targets including the MDGs;

Deeply concerned about the inadequate funding for statistical operations and the slow progress in the implementation of international norms and standards namely the 1993 System of National Accounts, the principles and recommendations on population and housing censuses and the urgent need to implement these international standards for statistical harmonization and comparability;

Noting the implementation of the International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP Africa) through which African countries have compiled purchasing power parities (PPPs) based on household consumption information under the leadership of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners;

1. *Endorses* the RRSF as the guide for statistical development on the continent and trust that it will increase the capability of African National Statistical Systems to produce quality and reliable statistics;
2. *Invites* host countries of the next symposium with adequate backing of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Friends of ECA, other African countries as well as partners to ensure its sustainability by financially supporting it and fully backing the recommendations of the 2007 ASSD;
3. *Requests* ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), to strengthen its coordination efforts in statistical development in Africa, jointly with the AfDB, and calls upon development partners to support statistical development efforts in Africa, including providing required financial resources;
4. *Further requests* that the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) should scale-up its assistance to African countries to strengthen their statistical capabilities for the production of quality statistics in compliance with international standards; and
5. *Recommends* that the International Comparison Programme for Africa should be continued and enhanced in order to facilitate international comparison, including monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of the MDGs and calls upon the AUC, AfDB and ECA to ensure its sustainability.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-First Session (2008)

859 (XLI) African Charter on Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the importance of statistics for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes and for the socio-economic, political and cultural integration of Africa;

Considering also the importance of statistics to political, economic and social decision-making;

Noting the need for quality data, which implies the use of internationally recognized norms and standards, and for statisticians to abide by a code of professional conduct;

Welcoming the progress made in recent years as a result of many initiatives taken in the area of statistical capacity building and development by the Member States at the national, regional and continental levels;

Recalling Declaration AU/CAMEFII/Decl/II on the drafting of an African Charter on Statistics and the creation of a fund for the development of statistic in Africa adopted by the Second Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Finance and

Economy held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in November 2006;

Also welcoming Executive Council Decision EX.CL/ Dec.330 (X) of January 2007 adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and calling on the African Union Commission to take every measure necessary to develop an African Charter on Statistics;

Convinced of the need to establish a regulatory framework for the national, regional and continental development of statistics;

1. Takes note of the Draft Charter and accept in principle the objectives, the aims and the professional principles of the draft Charter;
2. Requests AUC, in collaboration with members of the African statistical system, to further consult legal experts on the draft Charter;
3. Also requests the African Union Commission to submit the revised draft Charter to the Executive Council of the AU as requested by Executive Council decisions EXCL/DEC 330 (X);
4. Further requests the African Union Commission to take all the measures necessary, working in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and all members of the African Statistical System, to finalize the studies on the mechanisms for implementing the charter and creating the fund for statistical development in Africa.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Third Session (2010)

871 (XLIII) Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics and Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that statistical information is vital for decision-making by all segments of the society, particularly policy-makers and economic and social players, and is therefore essential for the continent's integration and sustainable development as well as tracking progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), *Aware* of the fact that all commitments to implement development programmes and combat poverty should be based on clear evidence and therefore require a robust statistical data system which is relevant, reliable, comprehensive, harmonized and responsive,

Noting that the quality of African statistics depends on the use of internationally-recognized standards adjusted to African specificities and compliance by statisticians with the African Charter on Statistics and the fundamental principles of official statistics,

Welcoming decision ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC. 210 (XII) on the African Charter on Statistics adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government calling on all member States to sign and ratify the Charter as expeditiously as possible so as to enable it to enter into force and thus provide a regulatory framework for coordinating the development of harmonised statistics on the continent,

Commending the arrangements jointly made by the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, and African countries to develop a draft strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa,

1. *Commends* countries that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;
2. *Adopts* the draft Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) as well as its first pillar, the African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), and recommends them for adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2010;
3. *Calls* upon member States, RECs, the AUC, UNECA and AfDB and their partners to support and implement these initiatives and develop the other pillars of the SHaSA;
4. *Calls* upon the AUC to elevate its statistical function by transforming its Statistics Unit into a Division to enable it to effectively play its expected role in the joint monitoring of the implementation of the SHaSA.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Fourth Session (2011)

882 (XLIV) Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the importance of statistical information for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and policies and the economic and political integration of Africa,

Noting the progress made by pan-African institutions like the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa in developing strategies aimed at supporting the African regional integration agenda, as well as the ongoing work to map existing statistical initiatives and programmes onto the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa,

Welcoming the adoption of the Strategy by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government - a strategy that provides a framework for coordinating the development of harmonized statistics on the continent,

Recognizing the need to speed up the implementation of ongoing and future activities under the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa,

Signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics

1. *Invites* all African Union member States which have yet to sign and ratify the Charter to make every effort to do so within a period of one year to enable it to enter into force;

2. *Requests* member States, regional economic communities, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other members of the African Statistical System to implement the peer review mechanism of national statistical systems and to ensure that all countries are covered within five years; Strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa;
3. *Requests* member States, regional economic communities, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to take the necessary steps towards the implementation of all initiatives contained in the Strategy, and further develop other strategies in emerging areas such as gender statistics;
4. *Invites* development partners to support the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;

African strategy for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts

5. *Requests* that the African Group on National Accounts should be transformed into a permanent working group on national accounts just like the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts;
6. *Requests* that the System of National Accounts 2008 should be retained as the theme for African Statistics Day 2011;

Plan of action on civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa

7. *Takes* note of the progress made to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa and to support the process as an important pillar of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;
8. *Requests* the African Union Commission to institutionalize the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics as a standing regional platform to meet biannually for discussion and evaluation of political and policy issues related to civil registration and vital statistics in Africa; Statistical training programme for Africa;
9. *Requests* all countries to strengthen statistical training programmes in their national strategies for the development of Statistics;
10. *Calls* on all countries to support the Statistical Training Programme for Africa and the African Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics;

Labour Market Information System in Africa

11. *Urges* the African Union Commission to pursue the implementation of its project for the harmonization and coordination of labour market information systems;
12. *Calls* upon member States to allocate adequate resources to building a viable labour market information system to complement resources that will be mobilized from development partners;
Developing the Africalnfo database

13. *Calls upon the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund to strengthen their collaboration for the operationalization of the Africalnfo initiative to ensure that it has a continental dimension, and produce a plan for its implementation;*

Sixth African Symposium on Statistical Development

14. *Calls on all African countries to conduct their population and housing censuses by 2014;*
15. *Invites countries to establish close links between civil registration services and national statistics offices in a bid to make good use of civil status information to improve social and demographic statistics;*
16. *Calls on countries to contribute to making a success of the round of symposiums on civil registration and vital statistics.*

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Fifth Session (2012)

Resolution 897(XLV) Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the importance of statistical information for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and policies and the economic and political integration of Africa,

Noting the progress made by the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, among others, in developing strategies aimed at supporting the African integration agenda,

Expressing appreciation for the ongoing work to incorporate existing statistical initiatives and programmes into the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa,

Concerned at the slow progress made with the signing and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics,

Recognizing the need to speed up the implementation of ongoing and future activities under the Charter and the Strategy, and to secure a corresponding and improved financing climate for statistical activities,

Recognizing further the importance of implementing the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems,

Aware of the need to set up labour market information systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of employment strategies,

1. *Commends* countries, which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and calls on those, which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;

2. *Invites* countries to incorporate the principles of the Charter into statistics law and into national strategies for the development of statistics;
3. *Calls on* countries to ensure the effective participation of heads of national statistical offices in future meetings of the Conference of Ministers;
4. *Also calls on* countries and regional economic communities to incorporate the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa into national and regional strategies for the development of statistics, and invites all stakeholders to mobilize resources for implementation of the Strategy and its sectoral strategies;
5. *Recommends* that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union consider the institutionalization of a biennial meeting of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration within the framework of a relevant Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;
6. *Invites the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and partners to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics secretariat to enable it to respond to the ever-growing demand for assistance in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa;*
7. *Urges member States to allocate adequate resources to institutions dealing with labour statistics to facilitate the implementation of a harmonized framework for labour market information systems and to conduct annual labour force surveys;*
8. *Urges the African Union Commission to coordinate all activities on labour market information systems at the continental level and to reinforce its capacity with suitable staffing and adequate resources, and calls on the Economic and Statistical Observatory for sub-Saharan Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Capacity-Building Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union, the International Labour Organization, and other partners, to support this effort;*
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Children’s Fund to mobilize the required resources for operationalization of the AfricalInfo database initiative and provide the necessary support to enable countries to develop effective data management and dissemination systems aimed at enabling full public access to official statistics; and
10. *Recommends* that Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and African Development Bank follow up the work of other statistical institutions on strengthening the capacity of national and regional training centres, and supports empowerment of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources and its secretariat, to coordinate statistical training programmes in Africa.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty Sixth Session (2012)

908 (XLVI) Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation The Conference of Ministers,

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Decision of AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Assembly/AU/Dec.450 (XX)), which endorses the strategic reorientation and refocusing of ECA to support accelerated structural transformation of Africa,

Further Recalling the terms of reference of the Commission as adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 671A (XXV) of 29 April 1958 and amended by its resolutions 974 D.1 (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Cognisant of General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 which call for the role of the regional commissions to be strengthened,

Further cognisant of General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/288, the Outcome Statement of Rio+20, which invites the UN regional commissions and other regional organizations to support developing countries to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction as well as promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,

Taking Note of General Assembly resolution 67/266 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which mandates the regional commission to undertake operational activities for development at the national, sub-regional and regional levels,

Noting with appreciation the consultative process being undertaken in the African region on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and stresses that the priorities of the agenda include among others structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; innovation and technology; gender equality, and human development,

Welcoming efforts of African countries to embark on broad structural transformation and achieve middle-income status, which is anchored on the promotion of good governance, sound macro-economic policy-making and management, better planning of the economy, effective management of natural resources and climate change, harnessing the potential of its demographic dividend, boosting domestic resources mobilization, achieving gender equality, and investments in physical infrastructure and human capital,

Taking note of the paper by the Executive Secretary entitled ECA new strategic directions for the transformative development of Africa (E/ECA/COE/32/10); the Revised Strategic Framework/Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014-2015 (E/ECA/COE/32/15); the Proposed Programme Budget for the period 2014-2015 (E/ECA/COE/32/12) and Statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (E/ECA/COE/32/14),

1. *Calls on* ECA to enhance its capabilities with regard to evidence-based policy research, generating high quality and real time data and statistics, and providing enhanced advisory services, and capacity development to member States;
2. *Mandates* the Executive Secretary to realign the programmes and priorities of the ECA to the new strategic orientation with a view to support the transformative development agenda of the Africa Union;
3. *Endorses* the revised Strategic Framework and related Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2014-2015;
4. *Also Endorses* the updated statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) as the specialist training institution responsible for economic policy design and management, and development planning, monitoring, and evaluation; and Requests the Executive Secretary of the ECA to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations towards the issuance of the appropriate administrative advice to ensure its effective implementation;
5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide required support to ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities and in line with the Decision of the African Union Heads of State and Government.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Seventh Session (2013)

911 (XLVI) Statistics and Statistical Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reiterating the importance of statistical information for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and policies and for fostering Africa's economic and political integration,

Noting the progress made by the ECA, AUC, and AfDB in developing and implementing continental frameworks, strategies, initiatives such as the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and the continental gender statistics programme aimed at supporting the African integration agenda,

Recognizing that despite the progress made to date, there is still a lot to be done to bring the statistical development of this continent to the level that will effectively help it support and own its development narrative,

Welcoming the central role devoted to statistics within the repositioned ECA in its quest to generate research, policy knowledge and consensus, and to offer capacity development and advisory services in different thematic areas contributing to the development agenda of African countries,

Also welcoming the decision of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the Creation of the African Union Institute for Statistics,

Further welcoming the offer by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to host the African Statistical Training Centre when established,

1. *Commends* countries which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and calls on those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;
2. *Resolves* to allocate adequate resources for the production and use of statistics in line with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics;
3. *Requests* the AUC, AfDB, ECA, UNDP to create a working group for the development of indicators for the post 2015 development agenda based on the priorities identified under the African common position and to come up with a draft list of indicators by the end of 2013;
- 4.
5. *Calls* upon the AUC, ECA and AfDB to devote the next meeting of Director Generals of National Statistical Offices to promote the production and use of detailed economic statistics including natural capital accounts, with a view to adequately supporting the transformation of African economies;
6. *Urges* the ECA, AUC and AfDB to prepare a five-year strategic plan for the Pan African Statistical Training Center to be submitted to the meeting of Director Generals of African National Statistical Offices by November 2013;
7. *Requests* the AUC, AfDB, ECA, and RECs to prepare a strategic plan for the operationalization of the African Union Institute for Statistics and to organize an expert group meeting with the view to defining ways and means for its implementation as per the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
8. *Calls* on national statistical institutes to establish coordination units within their establishments to ensure regular gathering of statistical data, based on harmonized instruments developed by SHASA STG1;
9. *Requests* that the capacity of the statistics division of the AUC should be built to enable it to coordinate its statistics production strategy on governance, peace and security; and
10. *Urges* UNDP, AfDB, ECA, the African Governance Institute and other development partners to continue to support the efforts of AUC to implement the SHASA STG1 action plan

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Eighth Session (2014)

917 (XLVII) Country profiles

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the presentation on the new strategic orientations of the institution, made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa during the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2013,

Noting the need in Africa for specific country profiles that focus on structural transformation of the African economies,

Recognizing that the country profiles can provide an effective vehicle for the Economic Commission for Africa to produce and disseminate country- and region-specific policy analysis and recommendations on structural transformation of African economies,

Welcoming this initiative as an important contribution towards the formulation of evidence-based policies and the dissemination of high-quality and timely statistics on the socioeconomic performance of African member States,

1. *Adopts* the country profile template proposed by the Economic Commission for Africa;
2. *Commits itself* to improving the collaboration between African countries' national statistical systems and the Economic Commission for Africa in the production of, access to and dissemination of data and country profiles;
3. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to scale up its efforts to strengthen national statistical systems, with a view to improving the availability, quality and timeliness of statistics in African countries.

923(XLVII) Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Conference of Ministers,

1. *Commends* the Heads of State and Government on adopting the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is based on the views and aspirations of a wide spectrum of African stakeholders as expressed during a series of consultations that included the regional consultations on sustainable development goals;
2. *Commends* the members of the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on their commitment and leadership in the efforts to finalize the Common African Position on the Post- 2015 Development Agenda;

3. Requests member States to mainstream the common African position into their national development plans;
4. *Also* requests member States to ensure that the overarching goal of the Common African Position, which is to eradicate poverty in all its forms, is the key message in the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda, and to be vigilant about what Africa is negotiating;
5. Requests the African Union Commission, in collaboration with partners, to carry out projections of sustainable financing needs for implementing the post-2015 development agenda in Africa using sustainable finance including domestic resources;
6. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the High-level Committee, with the support of partners, to come up with an advocacy and negotiation strategy to build alliances in order to ensure that African priorities identified in the Common African Position are reflected in the global post-2015 development agenda;
7. *Requests* member States to enhance their statistical capacity to enable them to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and calls upon countries that have not signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics to do so as expeditiously as possible;
8. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Capacity-Building Foundation, to fast-track the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Statistics Training Centre, in accordance with the decision made by Heads of State and Government;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate regular expert dialogue between development planners and statisticians, with the purpose of embedding statistics in planning and management for results, so that Africa's transformative programme is achieved;
10. *Further requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic communities, with the support of partners, to organize a high-level conference in 2014 to discuss the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Eighth Session (2015)

931 (XLVIII). Data Revolution and Statistical development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the implementation of Agenda 2063 will require comprehensive, accurate and timely data,

Building on its resolution 923 (XLVII) on the post-2015 development agenda,

Reiterating the importance of statistics information for fostering Africa's economic and political integration and for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063, the extraordinary summit on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development, and the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling that at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014, the Assembly of the African Union asked the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to organize a high-level conference on the data revolution,

Taking into account the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which called for a data revolution to make information and data more available, more accessible and more broadly disaggregated,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force in April 2014 of the African Charter on Statistics,

Noting the progress made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank in developing and implementing continental frameworks, strategies and initiatives such as the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics, and the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme,

Recognizing that there is a lack of reliable data on key indicators of labour markets, migration and informal economy that can be used to monitor and evaluate progress made on commitments such as the Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa,

Noting that several African countries are graduating to middle-income status,

1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Conference on the Data Revolution, adopts its recommendations and calls upon member States, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to implement it;

2. *Resolves* to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, with a view to providing timely and disaggregated data for decision-making, service delivery, citizen engagement and information to drive Africa's social, economic and structural transformation;
3. *Undertakes* to ensure that the African data revolution is built on the principle of openness across the data value chain and on vibrant data ecosystems driven by national priorities and anchored in national statistics systems that are inclusive of all data communities and stakeholders;
4. *Commits* itself to providing adequate funds for the data revolution and data communities to ensure their sustainability;
5. *Commends* member States that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon those that have not done so to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;
6. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the relevant agencies of the United Nations to create a working group for the development of indicators for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (2014–2023);
7. *Calls* upon member States to participate actively in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses;
8. *Requests* member States to implement the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics and the African Union Commission to ensure that the programme is integrated into the Africa Peer Review Mechanism;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia to accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro, to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;
10. *Calls* upon development partners to strengthen the capacity of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa working group on the labour market and the informal economy, in order to produce better statistics and implement the framework for work statistics put forward at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva from 2 to 11 October 2013;
11. *Calls* upon member States to conduct labour force surveys on a regular basis in order to obtain data on the status of employment in their countries, and requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for migration, with the support of development partners such as the African Development Bank, the European Union and the World Bank,

to strengthen the production of migration statistics in Africa with a view to improving the monitoring of the Joint Labour Migration Programme;

12. *Calls* upon the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to fast track the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;

13. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to develop an index measuring the emerging-economy status of African countries, in line, among other things, with the guidance in Agenda 2063 and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its Forty-Ninth Session (2016)

949 (XLIX). Report of the ninth session of the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Taking note of the report of the ninth session of the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Statistics, held from 26 to 28 November 2015 in Libreville, on the theme of the data revolution, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063,

Reaffirming the importance of statistics as a key instrument in meeting the pressing needs of African countries for economic and social transformation through the appropriate formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063,

Noting with appreciation the work of the African Union Commission and other regional institutions on the harmonization of statistics in Africa,

1. *Approves* the recommendations set out in the report of the ninth session of the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Statistics ; *See* <http://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/23202> Pg. 16 -18
2. *Calls* upon the African Union Commission, in collaboration with regional economic communities and other partners, to work closely for the rapid operationalization, by the end of June 2016, of pan-African institutions of statistics, such as the pan-African training centre for statistics in Yamoussoukro and the Nelson Mandela pan-African statistics institute in Tunis;
3. *Encourages* member States to allocate at least 0.015 per cent of their budget to statistics development;
4. *Invites* member States that have not ratified the African Charter on Statistics to do so and implement the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.



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