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1–2 October 2018

**Resolutions of the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Symposium on Statistical Development  
2-4 November 2016  
Tunis, Tunisia**

**PREAMBLE**

1. **We**, the representatives of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of African States, supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the government of South Africa, and other development partners, gathered in Tunis, Tunisia from 2-4 November 2016 during the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) under the theme **“Strengthening basic economic statistics for the compilation of national accounts in Africa”**;
2. **Appreciating** the Government of Republic of Tunisia's successful hosting of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASSD and the hospitality of its people;
3. **Appreciating** the advocacy made by the ASSD for a technology-centred 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC) for Africa through the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI);
4. **Appreciating** the sharing of lessons learnt by countries on the use of CAPI and the assistance by statistical development partners in supporting countries to partake in the 2020 RPHCs;
5. **Acknowledging** the crucial role of well-functioning Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems for attaining, monitoring and reporting of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa Agenda 2063;
6. **Appreciating** the decision of Heads of States to declare 2017-2026 a Decade for repositioning Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Africa's continental, regional and national development agenda;
7. **Acknowledging** Civil Registration and Vital Statistics as a foundation for complete, efficient and robust national identification systems;
8. **Driven** by the mandate to provide statistics to monitor the Africa Agenda 2063 vision;



9. **Emphasising** that statistics in Africa Agenda 2063 are the cornerstone for transformation of African economies, and a system that guides developmental issues;
10. **Appreciating** the work done by the African Union Commission, supported by NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, coordinated by the Secretariat of the African Symposium for Statistical Development on the development of Indicators for Africa Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, and selection of the Core Indicators;
11. **Encouraging** the African Union Commission to circulate the complete set of Africa Agenda 2063 Core indicators and the Minimum list to all Directors-General of Statistics for inputs and appreciation; highlight indicators in different colours to distinguish those responding exclusively to Africa Agenda 2063 and those that have 100 per cent convergence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, finalise profiling of the indicators and metadata to facilitate common interpretation for ease of compilation, ensuring that there is clarity and appropriateness for each of the indicators, and that they represent transformative and integration targets.
12. **Recognising** the importance of strengthening basic economics for the compilation of national accounts in Africa and the role played by the major players and stakeholders
13. **Acknowledging** the importance of economic statistics for Africa's regional integration, economic structural transformation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the Africa Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063;
14. **Commending** the efforts and ongoing work of the African Group on National Accounts, under the umbrella of the Statistical Commission for Africa, in collaboration with pan-African Institutions, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, AFRISTAT, regional and international organisations, and development partners to implement the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa;
15. **Acknowledging** that in measuring progress, it is not possible for any country to implement and adopt the SNA 2008 on all elements;
16. **Recognising** the importance of Supply and Use Tables as basic requirements for both national accounts and the TiVA Database, and

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implications of their integration into global value chains on trade, manufacturing and industrialization policy;

17. **Recognising** the importance of administrative data, informal sector, business registers and information technology (IT) Tools for the compilation of national accounts;
18. **Recognising** the need to scale-up technical assistance and institutional capacity building in support of countries through joint and coordinated efforts by all stakeholders;
19. **Noting** the resolutions of the forum of Chairpersons of African Statistics Councils/Boards adopted at their meeting held in Tunis, Tunisia on 04 November 2016;
20. **Noting** the resolutions of the interim committee of the African Statistical Association on the revival of the Association and deliberations on their mandate;
21. **Noting** the resolutions of the Young African Statisticians taken during their 5<sup>th</sup> ISIBalo conference on the roles they need to play in statistical development;

## **RESOLUTIONS:-**

### **1. On Africa Agenda 2063 Core Indicators, we hereby resolve that :-**

- a) We adopt the minimum list of Indicators for Africa Agenda 2063 as the Core Indicators on both Africa Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- b) We agree that each National Statistics Office will, through the list of indicators, compile and manage statistical data on to facilitate formulation of Africa's Transformative and Integrating programmes, while the technical and financial capacities are being addressed;

### **2. On Civil Registration and Vital Statistics we hereby resolve that:-**

- a) Under the guidance of the CRVS Secretariat, countries which did not conduct comprehensive assessments shall undertake one and the



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Regional CRVS Core Group shall continue providing their support in this regard;

- b) We recognize the need for mobilising resources and establishing a financing mechanism for APAI-CRVS to ensure sustainability of the programme and sufficient human resources at the Secretariat, including tapping into the skills of retired experts available within countries;

**3. On 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses we hereby resolve that:-**

- a) We embrace the CAPI system and shall use it in conducting the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in light of the shared experiences;
- b) Equipment and systems should be bought based on common use standards and specifications such that they could be re-used during the 2020 census round due to the envisaged high costs of adopting the technology;
- c) Reference Centres for Censuses based on Electronic Data Collection in Africa, as agreed in a South-South Cooperation between Brazil, South Africa, Cape Verde and Senegal, also facilitated by United Nations Statistics Commission and United Nations Population Fund, should be rolled out to share capacity, skills and frameworks to aid countries in their transition to CAPI and other multi-mode data collection methods;

**4. On the strengthening of basic economics for the compilation of national accounts we hereby resolve that :-**

We shall promote the use of national accounts data among the planners and policy-makers in order to increase their use in the national development planning process as well for them to see the need to invest in data collection for basic economic statistics;

In liaison with the Pan-African institutions and RECs, we shall as countries develop a comprehensive capacity building program on



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strengthening of basic economic statistics to inform national accounts;

We shall as countries explore and strengthen mechanisms to make full use of administrative data to inform national accounts;

We shall as countries sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with key partners/agencies that produce administrative data and establish a bridge table between administrative data and national accounts to make a full use of administrative data;

We shall use our National Strategies for the Development of Statistics to guide the systematic achievement in the implementation of national accounts

We shall establish business register systems as a useful framework for conducting enterprise surveys;

We agree that informal sector is a significant contributor to employment and GDP in Africa, and adopt accordingly the 1-2 survey and the labour input matrix system;

We urge the African Group on Informal Sector to complete the work on harmonising and standardising questionnaires for informal sector data collection;

We agree to develop a comprehensive economic statistical capacity building programme/strategic plan which will help to strengthen basic economic statistics for the compilation of national accounts, and in particular to inform SDG 8 goal on decent work and economic growth;

We shall advocate for human and financial resources to enable implementation of national accounts plans;



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We shall strengthen the process for updating the base year and follow international recommendations of rebasing once in every five years;

We shall develop platforms to communicate the importance of quality economic statistics to national decision-makers in order to inform policy- formulation and decision-making;

We urge Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to establish an integrated economic statistics approach to coordinate the work in the NSOs between national accounts and data collection processes;

We shall as countries develop linkages between the production of quality statistics and their application through projects such as trade in value-added (TiVA) initiative to integrate into Global Value Chains;

We agree that as countries producing SUTs we shall participate in the TiVA analysis of Global Value Chains;

We advocate for a timely revision of economic statistics (national accounts SUTs, CPI, etc.) and implementation of the latest standards and classifications;

We agree to use modern IT Tools and to adopt software such as ERETES as supported by pan-African institutions, Afristat, RECs, and development partners for the compilation of national accounts;

We urge statisticians to communicate with non-statisticians and to use open data as a default position for statistics dissemination;



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We shall as Member States establish a five-year national action plan incorporating key components such as financial and human resources requirements, timelines, and technical milestones for improving economic statistics and national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA;

We entrust ECA to establish a central depository for putting all the national action plans together and to play the role of peer review, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the progress made and challenges encountered;

We shall with the support of RECs compile national action plans for strengthening economic statistics and national accounts during the next 5 years, send the plans to the central depository before the end of January 2017, hold training workshops and report status of country action plans;

We agree to review the progress made by countries in terms of implementing the action plans and to share our country experiences in dealing with challenges and difficulties every-year when we gather for the ASSD, StatCom-Africa and CoDGs;

5. We support the resolutions of Forum of Chairpersons of African Statistics Councils/Boards on taking appropriate steps to promote and support the accelerated implementation of Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), increased ratification of the African Charter on Statistics in African countries, ratification of the forum's establishment by StatCom-Africa, ensuring that sufficient levels of funding are made available for its continued functionality, and inclusion of a representative of the Forum of Chairpersons of African Statistics Councils/Boards in relevant pan-African and international structures such as the Committee of Directors-General and Statistics Commission for Africa, etc.;
6. We support the resolutions of the African Statistical Association to share with the African statistical community the proposed AfSA Constitution, hold an AfSA inaugural conference in Botswana in November 2017, invitation to members of African statistical community to join AfSA



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through social media platform such as the African Statistical Association Facebook page; and initiatives to conduct consultations on the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) amongst potential members of AfSA;

7. We support the resolutions of the Young African Statisticians to avail themselves to participate in the implementation of the 2020 round of population and housing census and advocate for provision of opportunities for their participation in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses through skills development and capacity building;

**We also hereby urge:-**

8. National governments and Pan-African institutions to embrace the ISibalo Young African Statisticians programme by supporting it with necessary resources;
9. National governments to maintain their commitment and leadership regarding CRVS improvement process, and use the momentum created during assessments and planning to move to implementation of strategic improvement plans, whilst urging Pan-African Institutions and development partners to provide support for the countries in this regard, through providing guidance and development of regional specialized pools of experts;
10. National governments' commitment to signed protocols such as the African Charter on Statistics, to increase financial commitment, and to support statistical laws for the improvement of national accounts and economic statistics;

Pan-African Institutions' commitments in terms of financing and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with donor agencies such as the World Bank and European Union to help mobilize financial resources and establish a trust fund in support of economic statistics and national accounts and to strengthen coordination of their activities and to ensure better economic statistics;

The African Union Commission to prepare and present the current situation and progress reports on economic statistics and national accounts every year to the Heads of States and Conference of





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Ministers from now on for the next five years, to share the report to the African statistical community; and to update the African statistical community on the results;

RECS, Afristat and training institutions to strongly coordinate statistical activities and ensure harmonization of standards, tools, methodologies, etc.;

11. International organisations and development partners such as IMF, World Bank, OECD, WTO, Eurostat, and INSEE to scale-up their support for countries to implement their national action plans by providing technical support, capacity building, training and technical assistance, funding and advocacy to countries to increase the financial commitment to statistics;

