

13<sup>th</sup>



ETHIOPIA  
1–2 October 2018

**The Thirteenth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development**  
*“Strengthening population censuses and national accounts to support Agenda 2030  
and Agenda 2063”*

(To be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1-2 October 2018)

CONCEPT NOTE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

**1. Introduction and background**

The Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) is an annual forum to bring the statistical community in Africa together to tackle strategic challenges confronting the African Statistics System. As decided at the 11th ASSD in Libreville, Gabon in 2015, economic statistics and in particular national accounts were adopted as the focus for the next five ASSDs covering 2016-2020.

The 12<sup>th</sup> ASSD was held in Tunis, Tunisia in 2016 with the theme of “Strengthening basic economic statistics for the compilation of national accounts in Africa.” It marked the beginning of the economic statistics round of symposia and served as an advocacy platform to raise awareness among policy makers and the African statistical community on the importance and challenges of compiling basic economic statistics in Africa. It also served as a monitoring platform to inform the achievement and progress on the African Programme on the Acceleration and Improvement of CRVS (APAI-CRVS) and the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

The ASSD, led by Statistics South Africa as its Secretariat, hosted by the Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia, and supported by ECA, AfDB, UNFPA and AUC will be holding its 13<sup>th</sup> event on 1-2 October 2018 in United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme for this year’s ASSD will be “Strengthening population censuses and national accounts to support Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.”

The System of National Accounts (SNA) serves as a guiding principle and systematic framework for economic statistics and provides a powerful foundation and database for planning, realisation, monitoring, and reporting of 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The roles that SNA can play towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will become even more significant once it is extended to include environmental issues, such as in the case of the environmentally extended supply-use tables (EE-SUTs). There have been many activities and much progress at the regional and country level. It is time to leverage and scale up the efforts.

The resolution for the 2020 round of census, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in June 2015, recognized the increasing importance of the 2020 round of



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population and housing censuses for meeting the data needs of the SDGs as well as other national and international commitments. It urges countries to conduct at least one population and housing census under the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, during the period from 2015 to 2024, taking into account international and regional recommendations.

Successfully implementing both of the above will help produce sets of statistics that are essential sources to inform properly a large number of SDG indicators.

## **2. Purpose and objectives**

The purpose of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASSD is to boost the participation of countries on the continent in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses and to advance the development of economic statistics and national accounts in Africa.

The specific objectives of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASSD are to discuss the importance and urgency of the implementations of national accounts system and of 202 round of population censuses, review progress and identify issues and challenges; share country experiences and best practices in tackling the related issues and challenges; and come up with joint resolutions on how to move forward.

## **3. Organization of the meeting**

The 13<sup>th</sup> ASSD will take place for one and a half days on 1-2 October 2018 at ECA's United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting will be organized around the following activities:

- One presentation giving an overview on the progress and challenges;
- Sharing of country experiences;
- Directors-General presenting their visions;

Further details on the topics can be found in the detailed work programme of the symposium. The meeting will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation between English and French.

## **4. Participants**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Symposium is expected to bring a total of about 200 delegates, including heads and experts from NSOs, ministries of planning, finance and economic development, and central banks, representatives of regional, Pan-African and international organizations as well as invited participants from different institutions and associations.



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## 5. Call for papers

We invite prospective participants to submit a one-page abstract in English or French by Thursday 30 August 2018 in one of the following topics:

- Production of economic statistics for SDGs;
- Practice in GDP rebasing;
- Compilation and application of supply and use tables (SUTs);
- Compilation and application of environmental-economic accounts;

and to include the following elements:

- *Subject matter*: Which statistical topic (among those listed above) are in your presentation? Why is it important?
- *Issues and challenges*: What are the problems and challenges?
- *Effective approach*: What are the experiences and best practices in terms of how you tackled the issues and challenges? In which period? What are the success stories and learning points?
- *Result*: What are the most important findings, conclusions, and recommendations from your experience?
- *Discussion*: What are the implications of your results?

The review committee will review the received abstracts to select the best ones for making presentations at the symposium. The papers/presentations should be based on the actual country experiences in the related area. The final presentation in PowerPoint should not be more than 12 slides. The duration of each presentation during the ASSD will be between 10 and 15 minutes. Please take note of the following deadlines.

### Timelines for communication and preparation of papers and presentations

| Date             | Description of actions                                      |
|------------------|---|
| 30 August 2018   | Submission of abstracts (one page)                          |
| 5 September 2018 | Notification of selected abstracts                          |
| 12 September     | Submission of first draft presentations (in PPT) for review |
| 16 September     | Feedback for improvement of presentations                   |
| 24 September     | Submission of final presentations                           |



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Interested candidates are invited to submit their abstracts and presentations in English or French to Mr. Xiaoning Gong, Chief of Economic Statistics and National Accounts Section, ([xiaoning.gong@un.org](mailto:xiaoning.gong@un.org)) with a copy to Mr. David Boko ([bokod@un.org](mailto:bokod@un.org)) within the time limit as indicated in the table above.

## 6. Sponsorship

While submitting their abstracts, authors will be requested to indicate whether they require support to cover expenses (travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence allowance) associated with their participation at the meeting. Only one author per paper accepted for presentation will be eligible for sponsorship. Support is reserved for presenters and researchers from Africa. Approximately 20 participants will be sponsored to participate at the ASSD through this “call for papers”.

