

Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa



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SHaSA



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AACB	Association of African Central Banks
AAPA	Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACIR	Africa Capacity Indicators Report
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
ACS	African Charter on Statistics
AEC	African Economic Community
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa
AFRITAC	African Regional Technical Assistance Center
AGNA	African Group on National Accounts
AGROST	African Group on Statistical Training
AMCP	African Monetary Cooperation Program
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APRM	Africa Peer Review Mechanism
ARAPKE	African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy
ASCC	African Statistical Coordination Committee
ASDI	African Statistical Development Institute
ASS	African Statistical System
ASSD	Africa Symposium on Statistical Development
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUSTAT	Statistics Unit within the Department of Economic Affairs of the AUC
BEC	Broad Economic Categories
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program
CCSA	Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
CEMAC	Communauté économique et monétaire d'Afrique centrale
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CEPGL	Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries
ClimDev Africa	Climate for Development in Africa Program
CoDG	Committee of Directors General
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government

COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMEX	ECCAS's foreign trade database
COPNI	Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households
COPP	Classification of Outlays of Producers According to Purpose
CPA	Classification of Products per Activity in the European Economic Community
CPC	Central Product Classification
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CU	Customs Union
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DGs	Directors-General
EAC	East African Community
EAG	Expert Advisory Group
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECB	European Central Bank
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
ESA	European System of Accounts
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Commission
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FASDEV	Forum on Statistical Development in Africa
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FHANIS	Food, Health and Nutrition Information System
FTA	Free Trade Area
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
GNP	Gross National Product
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
ICATUS	International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (UN)
ICD	International Classification of Diseases and Injuries

ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disease and Disability
ICHI	International Classification of Health Interventions
ICP-Africa	International Comparison Program for Africa
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSEE	National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (France)
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IRCC	Inter-regional Coordinating Committee
IRO	Inter-regional Organisation
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISI	International Statistical Institute
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LCs	Leading Countries
LPA	Lagos Plan of Action
MAPS	Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIP	Minimum Integration Program
MIS	Management Information System
MS	Member State
NA	National Accounts
NACE	Nomenclatures of Economic Activities in the European Community
NAEMA	Activities classification of AFRISTAT member states
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NAPCS	North American Product Classification System
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NEPC	National Economic Policy Committee

NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NOPEMA	Product classification of AFRISTAT member states
NSC	National Statistical Council
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
NUTS	Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OEEC	Organization for European Economic Cooperation
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRODCOM	Product classification system of the European Community
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSIS	Private Sector Investment Survey
REC	Regional Economic Community
RMC	Regional Member Country (AfDB)
RPHC	Round of Population and Housing Census
RRSF	Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa
RTA	Regional Trade Agreement
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard (IMF)
SDI	Spatial Development Initiative
SH	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SNA	System of National Accounts
STATCOM	United Nations Statistical Commission
StatCom-Africa	Statistical Commission for Africa
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
STC-Eco	STC for Economic Integration

STC-Pol	STC for Political Integration and Regional Governance
STC-So	STC for Social and Cultural Integration
STG	Specialized Technical Group
STG-CB (AGROST)	Specialized Technical Group – Statistical Capacity Building
STG-ES	Specialized Technical Group – External Sector (External Trade and Balance of Payments)
STG-Env	Specialized Technical Group – Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources
STG-GPS	Specialized Technical Group – Governance, Peace, and Security
STG-II&T	Specialized Technical Group – Infrastructure, Industries, and Tourism
STG-MF	Specialized Technical Group – Money and Finance
STG-NA&P (AGNA)	Specialized Technical Group – National Accounts and Price Indices
STG-PFPS&I	Specialized Technical Group – Public Finance, Private Sector, and Investments
STG-So	Specialized Technical Group – Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection, and Gender
STG-STE	Specialized Technical Group – Science, Technology and Education
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
UDEAC	Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WAEMU / UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAMA	West Africa Monetary Agency
WCO	World Customs Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organization
YAS	Young African Statistician

Foreword

Since the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, African leaders have expressed their desire to steer Africa toward socioeconomic, cultural, and political integration. Many initiatives have been launched in order to unite the continent and provide better living conditions for its peoples.

For the effective implementation of these commitments and to ensure that they achieve their objectives, there is a great need for reliable and harmonized statistics and information in all areas. Indeed, the development of comparable statistical data, across time and space, on the continent calls for the adoption of harmonized and standardized definitions and concepts; the adaptation of international norms to African realities and specificities, and the utilization of common methodologies for statistical production and dissemination by all African countries.

It is for these reasons that in July 2009, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Sirte, Libya, mandated the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and members of the African Statistical System (ASS), to develop a Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). This was envisioned to support the African integration agenda and enhance coordination and collaboration with National Statistical Offices (NSOs),

regional and continental statistical organizations, as well as development partners.

However, the capacity of producers of statistics at national, regional, and continental levels is significantly limited by inadequate human and financial resources, among other things. In addition, many ongoing initiatives for statistical harmonization are sector-based and do not respond holistically to the demands of the African integration process, as set out in the Abuja Treaty of 1991. This situation, therefore, reinforces the need to develop a comprehensive strategy, bringing all members of the ASS together to cover the three dimensions of the African integration process in order to guide the progressive statistics harmonization process. SHaSA represents the collaborative efforts of the three continental institutions (ECA, AUC, and AfDB), member states, and other stakeholders to address this need.

The main purpose of the SHaSA is to enable the ASS to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa. It aims to drive forward the continental integration agenda, which is a pivotal goal of African Heads of State and Government.

The document provides some background information on the African integration process and highlights priority statistical requirements for its three major dimensions, namely: (i) political inte-

gration and regional and continental governance, (ii) economic integration, and (iii) social and cultural integration. In addition, it highlights various initiatives that have been undertaken by ASS stakeholders at national, regional, continental, and international levels to foster the development of quality statistical information in Africa.

By articulating a strategy, vision, objectives and initiatives, as well as a mechanism for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, the document will serve as a valuable practical tool for producers and users of statistics. These include practition-

ers, policy- and decision-makers, and institutions for harmonized planning, projection, and programming, who share a common vision for accelerated regional integration and development.

We wish to thank the entire ASS and all stakeholders for contributing to this initiative, and invite all African countries to commit the required resources for its implementation. We also invite development partners to support the SHaSA initiative, which is aimed at fostering development and integration in Africa.

Jean Ping



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The preparation of the SHaSA involved a wide-ranging consultative process with various stake-

holders in Africa. The first draft of the SHaSA was tabled and discussed during the fourth meeting of Directors of National Statistical Offices in Africa, which was held in East London, South Africa, from December 10-12, 2009. Further drafts of the Strategy were discussed during a meeting of the ASCC (AUC, AfDB, ECA, and Statistics South Africa) held in Lilongwe, Malawi, in March 2010 and during the fifth meeting of Directors of NSOs held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from December 13-16, 2010. Statistics South Africa deserves a special mention for the critical role it has played during the whole preparation process. In particular, the contributions of the Statistician General, Mr. Pali Lehohla, and his Deputy Mr. Risenga Maluleke are gratefully acknowledged.

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Executive Summary

Background and Rationale

During the 1960s, African countries, through the Organization of African Unity (OAU), initiated a process of continental integration intended to ultimately foster and accelerate economic and social development as well as political stability. The African integration agenda, as outlined in treaties and protocols endorsed by African Heads of State and Government, addresses three main areas, namely political integration, economic integration, as well as social and cultural integration. For it to fully succeed, it requires not only quality statistical information, but also harmonized data across time and space.

Great strides have been made to date in the production of quality statistics to inform public decisions with support from national programs, continent-wide statistical development frameworks, as well as pan-African initiatives. Continental statistical development frameworks include the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in the 1990s (AAPA) and the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF). Continental initiatives include: the African Charter on Statistics adopted by African Heads of State and Government; the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS); the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD); and the establishment of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC).

Despite the manifest progress achieved, there remain a number of major challenges facing the African Statistical System (ASS), particularly with regard to current and topical events such as HIV/AIDS, environment and climate change, and more recently food and financial crises. Statistics are produced using methodologies that do not always reflect African realities and are not always comparable across countries. This is due to a number of constraints, including inadequate resources being allocated to statistical activities, a lack of institutional capacity, the low profile of statistics on the continent, inadequate coordination of statistical activities, and minimal consideration of African specificities in setting up international standards. Regional Economic Communities' (RECs) statistical harmonization programs vary from one region to another and rarely meet the demand for harmonized statistics across the entire continent. The ASS is therefore expected to scale up its efforts toward continental statistical integration to address the need for harmonized and quality statistical information.

The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) is a continent-wide effort that directly responds to these challenges and supports the African integration agenda, particularly the Minimum Integration Program (MIP), which was adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 2009.

Vision

The vision of the ASS is to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa. It is anchored on four strategic pillars and will be achieved through the establishment of a strong and operational ASS and actualizations of the African statistical renaissance. The four themes are: (i) to produce quality statistics for Africa; (ii) to coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa; (iii) to build sustainable institutional capacity in the African Statistical System; and (iv) to promote a culture of quality decision-making. Each of these themes is analyzed below.

Strategic Themes and Objectives

Strategic Theme 1:

To Produce Quality Statistics for Africa

Quality statistical information is crucial not only for the design and implementation of policies at national, regional, and continental levels, but also for the monitoring of these policies and the evaluation of their impacts on society. Strategic Theme 1 seeks to ensure the availability of relevant information in all areas of integration. It encompasses three main objectives:

Strategic Objective 1: To expand the statistical information base. The aim is to cover all dimensions of integration, including political, economic, as well as social and cultural. The approach will entail the undertaking of regular population and housing censuses (PHCs) and surveys, and economic censuses and surveys. It also calls for the strengthening and leveraging of administrative and other sources of statistical information, and the development of a statistical base to ensure

the availability of a broad range of statistics at low cost.

Strategic Objective 2: To transform existing statistics for comparability. This calls for the adoption of reprocessing and adjustment methodologies, and the production and validation of comparable data. It will contribute to the comparability of statistical data for quality decision-making in support of the integration agenda ex-post.

Strategic Objective 3: To harmonize standards and methods of statistical production. Adapting international standards and methods to African realities and harmonizing them will contribute to the integration agenda. This is referred to as harmonization ex ante.

Strategic Theme 2:

To Coordinate the Production of Quality Statistics for Africa

The poor coordination of statistical activities is repeatedly cited as a major hurdle to statistical development in Africa. Uncoordinated interventions by a number of different actors can lead not only to the duplication of activities but also to inefficiency in the use of resources.

Strategic Theme 2 embodies initiatives to enhance the coordination of the African Statistical System (ASS). It sets out three strategic objectives, namely:

Strategic Objective 1: To strengthen cooperation among institutions within the ASS. This calls for the strengthening of the ASSC and of statistical units within RECs. It also calls for the creation of statistical functions in those RECs that currently lack such a function (AMU, CEN-SAD, ECCAS,

and IGAD). The expected outcomes of this objective include harmonized programs and better coordination of statistical development.

Strategic Objective 2: To establish an effective coordination mechanism. Establishing an effective coordination mechanism hinges on a number of components: the implementation of a coordination framework, the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, the strengthening of the statistical function at pan-African institutions and especially at AUC (by transforming the Statistics Division into a Department); and the establishment of an independent African Statistical Institute. It is expected that these initiatives will result in a more effective use of resources and an environment conducive to statistical development.

Strategic Objective 3: To define statistical priorities to implement the integration agenda. The identification of statistical priorities, and the selection and definition of statistical indicators, resulting in a harmonized work program and an ASS in line with integration priorities, will help to achieve this objective.

Strategic Theme 3: To Build Sustainable Institutional Capacity in the African Statistical System

Building the institutional capacity of the ASS lies at the heart of the Strategy. Without sufficient capacity, members of the ASS will not be able to produce and disseminate the harmonized quality statistics that are necessary for the development and integration process.

The implementation of Strategic Theme 3 links to three strategic objectives, namely:

Strategic Objective 1: To reform and enhance National Statistical Systems. Adopting statistical laws and regulatory frameworks consistent with the African Charter on Statistics, establishing autonomous NSOs, building independent governance structures, mainstreaming statistics in national development processes, developing and implementing NSDSs, conducting peer reviews, and creating adequate and sustainable funding for statistical activities should go a long way toward ensuring a reformed and enhanced NSS. Indeed, the implementation of these initiatives is likely to result in better coordination and development of statistical activities, improved NSSs, adequate and sustainable funding of statistical activities, a more robust regulatory framework for statistical activities, evidence-based facts for the integration agenda, as well as enhanced governance and advocacy for statistics.

Strategic Objective 2: To build sustainable statistical capacity. The realization of this objective will entail: the development of harmonized training programs; the strengthening of statistical schools and training centers across the continent, including the establishment of an African Statistics Training Center, participation in international training programs, ensuring the exposure of Young African Statisticians (YAS) in line with the ISIBalo capacity-building program. The expected outcomes include, among others, world-class statistical training institutes; a bigger pool of competent and operational statisticians, and sustained capacity to fund African statistical scholarship.

Strategic Objective 3: To establish an effective technological environment. Developing a management information system (MIS) for the monitoring of the integration agenda, building a statistical

data warehouse, and standardizing dissemination tools and platforms will help achieve this objective. The expected outcomes of these initiatives include: the effective monitoring of integration efforts; better evidence-based decision-making; consistent dissemination of data; and accessible statistical information for better decisions.

Strategic Theme 4: To Promote a Culture of Quality Decision-making

The lack of a “statistics culture” is another major obstacle to statistical development in Africa. Policy-makers – and the public in general – overlook the vital role that statistics should play in society. This results in the current low profile of statistics in the continent and its ensuing problems, including inadequate resources.

Strategic Theme 4 seeks to address this through the achievement of two objectives:

Strategic Objective 1: To drive evidence-based decisions through the use of statistics. The implementation of two initiatives will help achieve this objective: (i) to engage policy-makers, especially legislators, in statistical discourse and (ii) to advocate more strongly for the use of statistics. This is expected to improve the quality of decisions, as well as economic and social outcomes.

Strategic Objective 2: To improve communication of statistical information. This will entail developing a strategy for data dissemination and a communication plan, resulting in increased usage of statistics and improved quality of decisions as well as economic and social outcomes.

Expected Outputs and Development Outcomes

Through the implementation of the SHaSA, it is expected that comparable statistics will be generated to improve program implementation and decision-making in support of the regional integration agenda. Key activities and products generated from the strategic focal areas include: (i) the adoption of international standards and common methods adjusted to African realities and (ii) better coordination of statistical development efforts and sustained production of harmonized statistics to inform policy decisions. These key activities and products, among other things, will facilitate the free movement of people, goods and services, and lead to harmonized economic policies, improved intra-African trade flows, and greater integration of Africa into the global economic system.

Implementation, Monitoring, and Cost

An implementation framework and its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism have been developed. This outlines the role of key actors identified in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, while capitalizing on their expertise and comparative advantages to achieve synergy in statistical capacity-building activities on the continent.

It is estimated that the cost of launching and implementing the Strategy and establishing all institutional arrangements will be about US\$ 2.0 million.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Background and Rationale

Africa's integration agenda

There are many development challenges facing Africa, including wealth creation and poverty reduction, strengthening institutions and capacity development, and reversing the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process. In the 1960s, African countries initiated a process of continental integration intended to ultimately provide critical ingredients for economic and social development as well as political stability. Since then, several initiatives and policy decisions have been adopted and implemented to accelerate the African integration agenda, with the AU as its principal executive body. The AU aims to move Africa from a position of poverty and dependence, to fulfill its potential as a thriving, peaceful continent, which engages fully with its international peers on the global stage.

The African integration agenda, as outlined in treaties and protocols signed by African Heads of State and Government, addresses three main areas, namely political integration, economic integration, as well as social and cultural integration. The 1991 Abuja Treaty was a key agreement, providing for the ultimate establishment of an African Economic Community (AEC) linked by a single currency. The Treaty sets out a process for achieving this through the creation of regional economic blocs (Regional Economic Communities – RECs), the establishment of free trade areas

(FTAs), and customs unions for each REC. The vision was to instigate a continent-wide customs union by 2019, a continent-wide common market by 2023, leading finally to full pan-African economic and monetary union. The Abuja Treaty also recognizes the need for African nations to work together on economic and social development, to increase sustainable growth across the continent and lift its people out of poverty. In addition, African countries signed up to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Table 1 summarizes the various steps of the Abuja Treaty and the progress made by different RECs toward economic and monetary union. The following definitions are used in the table.

Free Trade Area (FTA): An agreement between countries eliminating customs duties between them as well as quantitative restrictions to importation but keeping their own trade policy vis-à-vis third countries.

Customs Union: The strengthening of the free trade area, where member states adopt a common trade policy with common external tariffs. It integrates the FTA.








Common Market: Customs union plus free movement of goods, service, and capital between member states.

Monetary Union: A collection of countries that have adopted a common/single currency. It integrates the common market.

Economic and Monetary Union: This is the final, most advanced stage of the economic integration process, where countries have harmonized their different political, economic, monetary and fiscal policies. It integrates the monetary union.

It should also be mentioned that African leaders adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001 as a strategic framework that promises Africa's renewal. It provides a long-term vision of an African-owned and African-led development program to address both the existing and emerging challenges facing the continent.

Table 1: Stage of integration of each REC in relation to the Abuja Treaty

Stages of integration	REC level							Abuja Treaty
	ECO-WAS	COME-SA	ECCAS	IGAD	GEN-SAD	EAC	SADC	
First stage: (5 years) Strengthening of the RECs								1999
Second stage: (8 years) Coordination and harmonization of activities and gradual elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers								2007
Third stage: (10 years) Free trade zone and customs union								2017
	(2009)*	(June 2009)*	(2010)*	To be fixed	To be fixed		(2010)	
	Continental level							
Fourth stage: (2 years) Continental customs union								2019
Fifth stage: (4 years) Continental common market								2023
Sixth stage: (5 years) Economic and monetary union								2028

Source: AUC, Questionnaire on the Minimum Integration Program.

(*) the figures in brackets represent projections of the RECs in order to attain the different stages of integration.

1.2 Role of Statistics

It cannot be overstated the extent to which the integration agenda – and all development initiatives in Africa – are data intensive. They all require quality statistics, viz. statistics that are accurate, objective, timely, consistent, harmonized / comparable across time and space, and produced efficiently and regularly. Good data should also be readily accessible to a broad range of public and private users, and have a breadth and depth of coverage to meet the needs of policy-makers in addition to informing the public. However, there has been a tendency in the past to focus on statistics in terms of the downstream role of M&E. This downstream role uses statistics to establish baselines and identify performance targets and indicators for monitoring progress during project/program implementation, and to assess impact and outcomes upon completion of the activity. Crucially, statistics can play upstream roles as well, which include:

- » Issue recognition and definition (when statistics reveal an issue as a problem that may have been hidden from the public and/or policy-makers);
- » Informing the design and choice of policy (identifying options and making choices of actions); and
- » Forecasting future trends (e.g., inflation rates or output growth, etc.).

Indeed, statistics are now recognized internationally as a public good and part of an enabling environment for achieving development outcomes.

1.3 Challenges and Various Statistical Initiatives

Over the years, various assessments have identified weaknesses within the African Statistical System (ASS).¹ These include the evaluation in 2000 of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa (AAPA); the assessment feeding into the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF) in 2006; assessments used in the design of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and the evaluation of the coordination mechanism for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics (ACS). All these indicate that although some progress has been made in statistical development in Africa over the last 40 years or so, the process has been uneven and the ASS still faces a number of institutional and organizational challenges, as identified below.

Institutional weaknesses

- » Low appreciation of the value and importance of statistics across society;
- » Low level of political support for statistics;
- » Low priority and inadequate funding for statistics;
- » Inadequate institutional capacity (values and norms, bureaucracy, performance management and accountability, etc.);
- » Inadequate coordination, collaboration, networking and information sharing; and

¹ The African Statistical System (ASS) is a partnership composed of national statistical systems (data providers, producers and users, statistics research and training institutes, statistics coordination bodies, etc.), statistics units in RECs, regional statistical organizations, regional training centers, statistics units in pan-African organizations, coordination bodies at the continental level, and frameworks such as the RRSF.

- » Insufficient use of data for policy- and decision-making.

Organizational weaknesses

- » Inability to adequately assess and meet data user needs;
- » Inadequate resources (human and financial);
- » Poor knowledge management;
- » Data quality problems;
- » Unsatisfactory data management;
- » Inadequate data analysis and reporting; and
- » Poor information dissemination and access.

In addition, the ASS has, by and large, been unable to provide data on current and topical policy issues such as HIV/AIDS, environment and climate change, gender and more recently, the food and financial crises. Statistics are produced using methodologies that do not always reflect African realities and which are not always comparable across countries. This is partly because international statistical references and standards do not always take into account continental specificities (i.e. the nature of African economies, the cultural habits of local populations, etc.). Moreover, RECs' statistical programs vary from one region to another and hardly meet the demand for harmonized statistics. Furthermore, until recently, there was a lack of coordination and harmonization of statistical activities among the continental organizations – the AfDB, AUC, and ECA. A summary of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the ASS is given in the section on environmental assessment/situation analysis below.

In response to concerns raised by ASS stakeholders in various fora, a number of key African

initiatives have over the years been undertaken to improve statistics in support of Africa's development agenda. These include not only continental and regional programs and coordination tools, but also nation-specific programs, as outlined below. It can be seen that since 2005–2006, African statistical initiatives have proceeded at a rapid pace, culminating in the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in August 2009, in South Africa.

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

In January 1990, the Sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its principal objective was to reverse the decline in the quantity and quality of statistics in Africa experienced during the 1970s and 1980s and to lay a firmer basis for statistical development in Africa for the future. The outcome document, the *Addis Ababa Plan of Action (AAPA) for Statistical Development in the 1990s* was adopted in May 1990 by the ECA Conference of Ministers.²

The objectives of the AAPA were to:

1. Achieve national self-sufficiency in statistical production, including the creation of a comprehensive national statistical database by the end of the century;
2. Improve the reliability and relevance of data produced in African countries;
3. Undertake the production of data required for formulating, monitoring and evaluating pro-

² ECA and UNDP: *A Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s*, Addis Ababa and New York, 1993.

grams designed to restructure and transform African economies;

4. Improve the timeliness in the production and dissemination of statistical information;
5. Increase awareness of the importance of statistical information among users;
6. Strengthen and sustain statistical training programs at various levels and institutions;
7. Promote contact and dialogue among African statisticians;
8. Encourage improvement in the organizational set-up of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) and assure their autonomy; and
9. Improve the coordination of all statistical development programs at national and international levels.

General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)

Since its launch in 1997 by the IMF, the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) has proved to be a robust and flexible framework. Not only does it document current statistical procedures and practices with a focus on data quality and dissemination, but it also identifies areas where improvements are needed. Indeed, for many developing countries it has proved to be launchpad for a more comprehensive and strategic approach to statistical development and capacity building. In Africa, more than four-fifths of all countries have already prepared and disseminated their metadata and some are updating these on a regular basis. The approach of working with regional organizations has proved to be particularly effective. The fact that countries continue to participate actively in this initiative indicates that GDDS is useful and flexible enough to address issues in countries that are at very different stages of development (Eele and Chinganya 2005).

Africa's high participation rate in GDDS can be ascribed both to special efforts made on the part of the IMF and the World Bank to encourage and support countries in this initiative and to the GDDS Anglophone project. This project started in early 2002 and was sponsored by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK, with the IMF and World Bank as implementing agencies. It is designed to promote the systematic development of statistical systems, by providing diagnostic tools to identify areas that require attention and to establish processes to formulate and implement development plans. The first phase of the project assisted countries in the preparation of metadata. Subsequent activities focused on the provision of short-term technical assistance and other services to help implement plans for 15 countries, namely Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The IMF has concentrated its assistance on macroeconomic sectors, namely, fiscal, external, finance and real, while the World Bank targets the socio-demographic areas, namely population, poverty, health and education (Chinganya 2005). The first phase of the project ended in 2006 and the second phase ended in 2009.

Expected outcomes of the GDDS Project include:

- » Sustainable improvements in the quality, coverage, and dissemination of key statistics in all active countries;
- » Participating countries develop a plan to improve their NSS;
- » GDDS plans for improvement are implemented;
- » Information about data – “*metadata*” – is developed, updated, and disseminated;

- » Effective coordination is achieved nationally and within the region; and
- » Awareness of data statistical practices among data users is improved.

The main project activities targeted a number of areas for improvement, including:

- » **Real Sector:** national accounts, Consumer Price Index, Producer Price Index, and labor statistics (technical assistance for the latter was provided by the World Bank);
- » **Fiscal Sector:** public finance statistics, focusing on the coverage and classification as well as migration to the 2001 Manual;
- » **External Sector:** balance of payments, including the introduction of quarterly statistics, private capital flows, and the international investment position;
- » **Financial Sector:** financial statistics and the reconciliation of monetary and financial accounts;
- » **Population and Demographic Statistics:** population projections, taking into account HIV/AIDS, census preparation documents, etc.;
- » **Poverty Statistics:** household income and expenditure, poverty profiles, and CPI weights;
- » **Education Statistics:** improvements in data collection instruments and general improvements in education statistics; and
- » **Health Statistics:** general improvements to statistics in this sector, including the management of information and development of the health information system.

The continent-wide approach used in the project also proved valuable in promoting regional

cooperation and the sharing of experience and expertise among countries. In one example, statisticians from Zambia were able to provide technical support to Botswana in the processing of trade statistics. In another case, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland held a workshop to discuss the measurement of private capital flows within the balance of payments.

The International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa)

In 2002, the International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa) was launched as a multipurpose program whose main objective was statistical capacity building. The overarching aim was to build a reliable information base for national, regional, and global policy-making and for supporting and monitoring progress toward achieving MDGs, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), NEPAD and results-based M&E systems for development effectiveness indicators. The AfDB Group coordinated the design and implementation of this program in 48 African countries. ICP-Africa was implemented under the framework of the global ICP in partnership with the World Bank, the IMF, DFID, ECA, UNDP, PARIS21, ACBF, INSEE-France, the Office for National Statistics (ONS)-UK, and various African subregional organizations and institutions. The ICP is a global statistical initiative aimed at generating Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) estimates that facilitate cross-country comparisons of price levels and economic aggregates in real terms without market distortions.

This program assisted participating countries to strengthen their economic statistics and compilation of consumer price indices, gross domestic product (GDP) and related indices; production

of PPPs; and general statistical development, including the design of the NSDSs.

The AfDB has used the ICP-Africa as a springboard for the continent-wide Statistical Capacity Building Program (Phase II) it is currently implemented in collaboration with RECs including COMESA, ECOWAS, and SADC.

The Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF)

This framework was designed to provide strategic directions and appropriate mechanisms for guiding and accelerating the development of sustainable statistical capacity in Africa for managing for results, and for implementing the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS).³ The overarching strategy of the RRSF is the design and implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). In this context, the RRSF aims to:

1. Invigorate statistical advocacy;
2. Mainstream statistics as a crosscutting sector in the development process;
3. Update the legal and regulatory framework;
4. Assess and prioritize user needs;
5. Undertake data development;
6. Foster coordination, collaboration, and partnerships;
7. Enhance the statistical infrastructure;
8. Harness information and communication technology;
9. Develop human capital;

3 MAPS was endorsed by the Second Roundtable on Managing for Results held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2004 as a time-bound and costed action plan for improving national and international statistics.

10. Improve data analysis;
11. Improve data dissemination; and
12. Improve funding and sustainability.

The RRSF showcases best practices in statistical development in Africa. It also apportions responsibilities to national institutions, RECs, pan-African organizations, and the international community. The RRSF was endorsed by heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) in Africa, the Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDEV)⁴ in 2006, and by the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in 2007.

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

There is consensus internationally on the need for a holistic, strategic approach to improving National Statistical Systems (NSSs), particularly on building statistical capacity to provide the information needed for poverty-focused development programs. For instance, the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in February 2004 and the resulting Marrakech Action Plan on Statistics (MAPS) set out the aim that “*National Statistical Systems can meet the monitoring and evaluation requirements of PRSPs, MDGs and other national development plans*” through “*integrated statistical plans covering all data sectors and users,*” by increasing the “*number of countries with a fully costed, integrated statistical action plan.*” The MAPS was even more specific in recommending “*mainstreaming strategic planning of statistical systems and preparing NSDS for all low-income*

4 FASDEV is a forum of national, subregional, regional, and international organizations that seek to strengthen cooperation for statistical development in Africa.

countries by 2006." As was mentioned earlier, the NSDS is also the overarching strategy of the RRSF.

The NSDS is essentially a statistical plan that provides a comprehensive framework for statistical development at the national level. It provides for, among other things:

- » Statistical advocacy to create a greater awareness of the role of statistics, thereby enhancing both the demand for and use of statistics, especially in support of the results agenda;
- » Forging and/or strengthening partnerships for statistical development between producers and users of statistics, as well as for donor harmonization;
- » A vision of where the NSS should be in the medium to long term; a "road map" and "milestones" for getting there, and a starting point from which progress can be measured. It also establishes a mechanism for informed change when needed;

- » Continual assessment of ever-changing user needs for statistics and for building capacity to meet those needs in a more coordinated, synergistic, and efficient manner. It is also a framework to support the production and better use of statistics in the short term, while accelerating sustainable statistical capacity building for the future;
- » Good communication, feedback and learning, all of which are essential for organizational growth and performance enhancement; for mobilizing, harnessing and leveraging resources (both national and international); and
- » Introduction of modern and proven strategic planning and management principles and good practices in the handling of official statistics.

Table 2 sets out the current status of NSDS in African countries. It should be borne in mind that the implementation of NSDS has sometimes proved problematic, owing to financial and other constraints.

Table 2: Status of NSDS in African countries

Status	Number of countries	%
Countries implementing an NSDS	26	49
Countries designing or awaiting adoption of an NSDS	23	43
Countries whose NSDS has expired, and which plan to design a new NSDS	2	4
Countries with no NSDS, but which plan to develop one	2	4

Source: Adapted from PARIS21 (May 2009).

The Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD)

In November 2005, African countries met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to assess the progress being made in the implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC). This was in conformity with the MAPS, which encouraged full participation of developing countries in the 2010 RPHC as a major data source for tracking progress toward the MDGs. There was a follow-up meeting in South Africa to discuss the slow progress registered with regard to the 2010 RPHC. This paved the way to the establishment of the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) in Cape Town, South Africa, in January 2006. The ASSD has since been hosted in Rwanda, Ghana, Angola, and Senegal. Championed by South Africa, it has served as an advocacy tool at the highest political level for censuses, and has been addressed by key policy-makers and Heads of State and Government, such as President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, Prime Minister Antonio Kasoma of Angola, as well as the then Ministers of Finance in South Africa and Ghana, namely, Minister Trevor Manuel and Minister Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu.

ASSD is now a country-led initiative which (i) provides a forum for issues of statistical development and the challenges that are posed for the NSSs in Africa; (ii) encourages all African countries to undertake the 2010 Population and Housing Census; (iii) fosters linkages in MDG-related statistical activities and census campaigns; and (iv) provides a platform for a comprehensive exchange of experiences, technical assistance, information and data dissemination.

One of the resolutions of the first ASSD was that African countries should meet on an annual basis to discuss issues relating to statistical development in the continent. In particular, it focused on the need for all African countries to undertake a Population and Housing Census (PHC) in the 2010 round. A work program was developed that would – given the requisite political intervention and support – encourage a census to be conducted in every African country. It was envisioned that this would enrich the information base for decision-making in Africa and make country-level monitoring an indispensable element in assessing progress toward the MDGs. The ASSD also seeks to mobilize resources to assist African countries in meeting the targets. The credibility of country-level monitoring depends, to a large extent, on the reliability and accuracy of the data and information that are used. To date, 17 countries have conducted their 2010 RPHC; 23 more are expected to undertake their censuses by 2011 and 10 are halfway towards meeting the 2014 deadline (see Appendix 3).

The ASSD has witnessed close cooperation and collaboration among pan-African institutions, namely, the AUC, AfDB, and ECA.

The African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)

In September 2007, a meeting of the representatives of AUC, ACBF, AfDB, and ECA was held in Tunis, Tunisia, to coordinate statistical capacity-building work in Africa. It was decided that the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) should be established for this purpose. Membership of the ASCC includes the AfDB, ACBF, AUC, AFRISTAT, and RECs.

The main terms of reference of the ASCC are to:

- » Promote overall coordination, integration, and complementarity;
- » Promote and coordinate RRSF implementation;
- » Ensure that 12 RRSF strategies are adhered to;
- » Coordinate NSDS preparation and implementation;
- » Reduce reporting burdens on African countries;
- » Ensure that international recommendations are adapted to African realities;
- » Coordinate mechanisms to facilitate the use of international systems;
- » Foster the adoption of best practices;
- » Establish working groups on a needs basis;
- » Provide coordinated preparations for the StatCom-Africa;
- » Follow up on StatCom-Africa recommendations; and
- » Report back to StatCom-Africa on progress achieved.

Since the establishment of the ASCC, the coordination of technical and other forms of assistance to countries has improved tremendously, including in the areas of statistical advocacy, statistical planning, data management, and data dissemination.

The Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)

The Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) was established by the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as the apex intergovernmental process in charge of statistics on the continent. Members of the Commission are con-

stituted by countries represented by heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

The responsibilities of StatCom-Africa are to:

- » Promote the development of national statistical systems (NSSs) in the continent, and the improvement of the quality and comparability of statistics they produce in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- » Promote the African Charter on Statistics;
- » Ensure coordination with the United Nations Statistical Commission to map out actions to be taken to ensure sustainable development of statistics in Africa;
- » Coordinate the statistical work of the various actors and mechanisms and their implementation across the continent;
- » Assess progress, identify problems, and propose solutions to existing and emerging issues on statistical development in Africa;
- » Promote an exchange of experiences, peer learning, technical cooperation, and data sharing among African countries and institutions;
- » Examine, globally and within Africa, emerging trends in statistical development and present the state of knowledge;
- » Participate in the establishment of methodologies, norms, and standards at the international level and oversee their adoption in line with African specificities;
- » Review the relevance of regional statistical training and the on-job-training programs to individual country needs and promote the training of African statisticians;
- » Advocate in favor of resource mobilization and technical cooperation in support of statistical development in Africa;

- » Make recommendations on the statistical work program of the African Center for Statistics;
- » Promote the collection and dissemination of internationally comparable statistics of ECA member States as required by policy-makers, enterprises, researchers, and the general public;
- » Ensure the dissemination of the results of its work to NSOs, subregional, regional, and international organizations, enterprises or any other user; and
- » Recommend studies that may be required to further the objectives of the Statistical Commission for Africa and the African Statistical System.

The Committee of Directors-General (CoDG) of African NSOs

The Committee of Directors-General (CoDG), comprising heads of NSOs, meets every year under the AUC aegis to discuss statistical development issues in Africa, including the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics. Since 2008, it has reported to the joint AU-ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Membership of CoDG and the StatCom-Africa comprises the same constituency, namely Directors-General of NSOs. In order to reduce the number of statistical fora at continental level, it has been suggested that the CoDG and StatCom-Africa should merge and form a single forum, on a par with the UN Statistical Commission, to meet every year. CoDG/StatCom-Africa would act as the Steering Committee of SHaSA and the African Charter on Statistics.

The African Charter on Statistics (ACS)

The African Charter on Statistics is the latest and most significant initiative on statistical development for the continent. The Charter was developed by members of the ASS under the leadership of the AU. As highlighted by the AUC Chairperson (H.E. Jean Ping), the Africa Charter on Statistics *“will serve not only as a legal instrument to regulate statistical activity but also as a tool for advocacy and the development of statistics in Africa. It stands as a code of professional ethics and best practices for the exercise of the profession of statistician in Africa. The Charter also beckons African policy-makers to base the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies on facts observed. Statistics should be considered as an essential public asset in any decision-making process.”*

The historic step undertaken by the decision-making organs of the AU to call for the elaboration of the Charter was triggered by the realization that deficiencies in statistical information in Africa were hampering the continent’s development and integration processes. In particular, it was noted that although some significant progress had been made in statistical development in Africa, there remained a gap between data demand and supply; and that the quality of statistical information on some key development indicators was still largely unsatisfactory.

The specific objectives of the Charter are to:

1. Serve as a policy framework for statistical development in Africa, especially the production, management, and dissemination of statistical data and information at national, subregional, and continental levels;

2. Serve as an advocacy tool and instrument for statistical development in the continent;
 3. Ensure improvements in the quality and comparability of the statistics; as required to monitor the economic and social integration processes in the continent;
 4. Promote adherence to fundamental principles of production, storage, management, dissemination, and use of statistical information in the African continent;
 5. Enhance the coordination of statistical activities and institutions in Africa, including partners' interventions at national, subregional, and continental levels;
 6. Build the institutional capacity of statistical authorities in Africa, thus ensuring their autonomy in operations, while paying particular attention to the adequacy of human, material, and financial resources;
 7. Serve as a reference framework for the exercise of the profession of statistician in Africa, setting out a professional Code of Ethics and best practices;
 8. Promote a culture of evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation;
 9. Contribute to improved and effective functioning of the African Statistics System and to experience sharing; and
 10. Ensure that there is no duplication in the implementation of statistics programs.
- » Professional independence;
 - » Quality of data;
 - » Mandate for data collection and resources;
 - » Dissemination of data;
 - » Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents; and
 - » Coordination and cooperation.

The Charter was adopted by the 12th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on February 3, 2009. Arrangements for the implementation of the Charter at country level are under study.

1.4 Scaling up Harmonization Efforts

The above and other statistical initiatives have in one way or another contributed toward data production to meet Africa's development and integration. However, much more needs to be done and the ASS is expected to scale up its efforts to produce harmonized and quality statistical information. Indeed, to keep pace with current efforts in furtherance of Africa's integration agenda, a more systematic and coherent approach is required. Hence the need for SHaSA, which aims to identify critical data for the African integration agenda, as well as the transformation processes needed to deliver these data. SHaSA also delineates the roles stakeholders should play to ensure that the ASS stays aligned to the Strategy. The target audience of this Strategy document are, in the main, the executive arm of African governments, planning commissions, the legislature, judiciary and multilateral systems of government, as well as education institutions and the general citizenry.

Building on the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,⁵ the Charter seeks to promote six principles, namely:

⁵ Adopted by the UNSC in its special session of April 11-15, 1994. This was earlier set out in the Economic Commission for Europe's Decision C (47), but incorporated a revised preamble. Available online at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/statorg/FP-English.htm>

1.5 Objectives of the Report

In developing this Strategy, the ASSC intends to provide the ASS with a general framework for quality harmonized statistics to feed into the design and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation, of integration and development policies in Africa. More specifically, the document aims to:

- » Identify priority areas of the African integration process, based on decisions taken at the highest level by African leaders, as well as the policies and programs implemented at regional and continental levels that need to be underpinned by statistics;
- » Assess the state of the ASS and various initiatives toward statistical harmonization, at both regional and continental levels; and
- » Elaborate a continent-wide strategy for the production and dissemination of quality harmonized statistics to inform the development and integration of Africa.

1.6 Methodology

The development and implementation of the Strategy align to the objectives of the African Charter on Statistics, in that it serves as a contributing mechanism. Its formulation was informed by inputs from all members of the ASS under the leadership of the ASSC. The Strategy illustrates how under the ASSC, continental organizations are working in partnership in furtherance of statistical development in Africa.

Consultations were carried out with these various actors of the ASS as well as with departments and organs of the AUC to determine priorities, and to circumscribe areas to be covered by the Strategy. In addition, previous assessments of

the ASS were reviewed. From the information gathered, the scope of the Strategy was defined.

Given the difficulties in arriving at an acceptable rule to take into account all the aggregate actors' differing priorities, key areas were identified by applying some methodological principles, namely:

1. Areas and indicators should cover the multidimensional aspect of African integration;
2. Areas and indicators at the continental level should incorporate those used at national and subregional levels; and
3. The quest for continental consensus should look beyond simply supporting the status quo; it should take also account of national and subregional disparities.

In defining the Strategy, an assessment of statistical requirements and the state of statistical harmonization across the African continent was conducted. This was based on a systematic and complete review of the programs of various actors and harmonization initiatives already in place (programs, standards, tools, etc.) at national, subregional, continental, and international levels.

Details of the methodology and requisite information to monitor integration efforts are presented in Appendix I.

Finally, an implementation framework and its M&E mechanism have been developed, outlining the role of key actors. This aligns to the principle of subsidiarity and aims to capitalize on the achievements and complementarity of actors, based on their comparative advantages in delivering statistical capacity-building activities on the continent.

CHAPTER 2

The African Integration Agenda and Priority Statistical Requirements

2.1 The Minimum Integration Program (MIP): a roadmap for political, economic, physical, and social integration of the continent

As recommended by the 1991 Abuja Treaty, the integration process to be undertaken by the RECs is critical. It is a necessary first step for full integration at the continental level. Indeed, African integration can only be achieved if there is integration among regions through the harmonization of macroeconomic and sectoral policies. This entails close cooperation between RECs on the one hand, and between RECs and all organs of the AU on the other hand. The Minimum Integration Program (MIP) was developed for this purpose by the AU in 2010, using a participatory approach. It aims at ensuring greater coherence and harmony in the integration process undertaken at the regional level, leading finally to full integration at the continental level. The MIP is structured around key sectors that RECs consider as priorities for accelerating continental integration. In each of these areas, activities and concrete actions have been identified, to accelerate the integration process in the regions and encourage cooperation between RECs. The priority areas are: (i) Free Movement of Persons, Goods, Services, and Capital, (ii) Peace

and Security, (iii) Infrastructure and Energy, (iv) Agriculture, (v) Trade, (vi) Industry, (vii) Investment, and (viii) Harmonization of Statistics.

In addition to the seven priority areas mentioned above, other important themes to support African integration have been identified, namely: Political Affairs, Science and Technology, Social Affairs, Macroeconomic Convergence, and Environmental Sustainability.

2.2 Priority Statistical Requirements for the Integration Agenda

An analysis of policy frameworks structuring the African integration process highlights three major dimensions, namely: (i) political integration and regional and continental governance, (ii) economic integration, and (iii) social and cultural integration. For each of these dimensions, African countries have enunciated areas of common interest towards an integrated and prosperous Africa. Several policies and priority programs are being developed and implemented in each of these areas. To shed light on the strategic choices facing the continent and to measure the progress being made, it is crucial to have harmonized, reliable, and timely statistics.

In this regard, it is necessary to link the production of statistics to the integration timeframe as well as to continental and regional priorities. Statistics should serve not only national policies but also all the policies to which African countries have committed themselves, especially at regional and continental levels. Moreover, all stakeholders in the ASS should work toward improving and scaling up African statistics for development and integration, in line with regional and continental priorities.

In order to make African institutions effective, special attention will be paid to: (i) the promotion of synergies, linkages, and good working relationships between all organs of the AU; (ii) the creation of financial institutions capable of helping to fund the integration process; and (iii) the establishment of a framework for regular interaction and effective communication.

Emphasis will be laid on strengthening cooperation and effective collaboration with member states and RECs by establishing a forum for dialogue and regular discussions, as well as fostering coordination among RECs and promoting intra-regional best practices. The main objective is to ensure that RECs effectively serve as relays and seamlessly implement continental policies or decisions in their respective regions.

Of equal importance is the promotion of strategic partnerships that leverage comparative advantages. This will be done by strengthening the joint Secretariat of the ASCC, thus establishing a framework for the effective collaboration with multilateral agencies and strategic partners, and developing and implementing an internal frame-

work for harmonization and coordination of their respective activities.

Table 3 presents the three priority statistical themes for the integration process, broken down by integration areas and statistical dimensions.

Table 3: Priority statistical themes for the integration process

Themes	Integration Area	Statistical Dimension
1. Political integration and regional governance	Institutional organization	--
	Community funding	Autonomous alternative funding
	Political governance and collective security	Peace and security Governance
2. Economic integration	Trade integration	Foreign trade
		Balance of payments
	Monetary and financial integration	Currency and finance
		Price indices
		Public finance
		National accounts
	Economic cooperation and partnerships	Investments
		Industry
	Transportation	Transportation infrastructure
	Energy	Energy infrastructure
	Information technology and communication	ICT infrastructure
	Environment	Agriculture
Natural resources		
Environmental management and climate change		
3. Social and cultural integration	Education	Education and literacy
		Science and technology
	Health	Health
	Regional and continental citizenship	Demography
		Migration
	Art, culture, sports and leisure	Tourism
	Women and youths	Gender, Employment
		Social protection
Human development	Human development	
	Poverty	

CHAPTER 3

The Current State of the African Statistical System

3.1 The Imperative of Comparable Data in the Integration Process

Across the continent, there is a pressing need for comparable and timely quality statistics reflecting African realities. Much of the economic and structural problems that Africa faces could be better resolved, or avoided altogether, if quality statistical information were readily available. A study commissioned by ActionAid, for example, pointed out information constraints as one of the immediate causes of the famine that ravaged Malawi in 2002 (Devereux 2002).⁶ Another article shows how in Tanzania, a system to monitor demographic data was used in 2003 to establish priorities and better allocate health resources (IDRC 2003). The literature also highlights how statistics can contribute toward good governance, and ultimately, toward African stability and prosperity (Commission for Africa 2005).

Furthermore, the implementation of common regional or continental policies requires not only reliable and real-time statistics but also data that are comparable over time and space (i.e., across

countries and regions). However, the AU and RECs, in their relentless quest for integration, cannot adopt common policies (monetary, fiscal, agricultural, industrial, etc.) if their statistics are computed using disparate methodologies, which is currently often the case.

At the most elementary level, the calculation of the requisite contributions by AU and REC member states requires comparable statistics. These contributions, assessed on the basis of socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, are a sensitive issue. The calculations need to be based on the same methodologies to avoid any discrepancies related to the subtleties and assumptions for estimating indicators. It is worth emphasizing that, in order to produce comparable data, African countries must subscribe to the framework of international statistical standards and adapt these standards to their own specificities.

In this chapter, we assess the ASS's capacity to produce and disseminate quality harmonized statistics. We also analyze the comparability of data and the more or less uncoordinated statistical harmonization programs that are currently being implemented throughout the continent.

⁶ A very optimistic estimate of yields in the national statistics contributed to a delay in reacting appropriately and swiftly to the effects of the famine.

3.2 Main Actors in Statistical Development in Africa

The ASS can be classified into four overlapping levels: national, regional, continental, and international. Each of these is analyzed below:

3.2.1 National level

At a national level, NSOs are the main players within NSSs and the ASS. They are the nodal government agencies entrusted with the development and management of official statistics. It is also their role to make data accessible to government organs, the business community, and the public at large. In addition, sectoral data are produced and disseminated by various government ministries (e.g. Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Water, etc.), Departments (e.g. Immigration, Police, etc.), and Agencies (e.g. the Central Bank, utility companies, etc.), usually with little or no involvement on the part of NSOs. This often leads to dispersed and often specialized interventions of international actors. A further complication is that different actors in the same country often provide different estimates for the same statistical indicator.

In terms of data production and dissemination, NSSs are confronted with realities that vary depending on countries' capacities (human and financial). The production of harmonized quality statistics is generally affected by the following factors: (i) the level of funding allocated to statistical activities, (ii) the difficulties associated with the measurement of phenomena⁷, and (iii) the level of autonomy of NSOs.

7 Difficulties related to the informal economy and black economy, illiteracy, non-monetary economy, the conduct of surveys, human and capital mobility, etc.

Most statistical areas are affected by one or a combination of these factors. The MDGs data, for example, are available only intermittently or in selected African countries; indeed, they do not exist for some indicators. In the *2009 MDGs Progress Report for Africa*, the most recent data for the majority of indicators referred to the year 2006 with several missing data, only the HIV-AIDS prevalence rate was available up to 2007 (ECA, AUC, and AfDB 2009). MDG indicators are dependent on the results of population and housing censuses and household surveys, which are characterized by their irregularity, incompleteness, inaccuracy, and poor archiving of data collected.⁸

Other economic and social statistics, although routinely available (except for some fragile states in crisis and postcrisis), raise doubts about their quality, reliability, and timeliness. The sources used for compiling these statistics (surveys of the informal sector, business registers, administrative records, etc.) often do not operate under the most conducive conditions. In the 2009 edition of the *African Statistical Yearbook*, the production indicator series (agriculture, food, electricity, etc.) mostly cease in 2006. The industrial, mining and manufacturing production indices, meanwhile, are nonexistent except for a few countries (AfDB, AUC, and ECA 2009).

The production of national accounts is another classic example. In this area, African countries fall into three groups: (i) those that produce and publish detailed national accounts regularly and

8 Seventeen African countries (about one in three of the countries) did not participate in the 2000 round of the population and housing census. However, it is worth mentioning that thanks to advocacy undertaken by the African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD), 50 countries have committed to undertake a PHC during the 2010 round (see Appendix 3).

in a timely manner; (ii) those that produce accounts but do not publish them regularly; and (iii) countries that have difficulties in producing regular basic accounts.

Apart from the weakness in production, limited dissemination of statistical data in several African countries is particularly worrying. Only four African countries (Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia) have to date subscribed to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the IMF – out of a total of 64 subscribers worldwide.⁹ Moreover, websites of many African NSOs are hardly updated, despite several initiatives targeting the dissemination aspect of statistics.

As mentioned earlier, National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) are recommended as frameworks for statistical development at the national level. As of May 2009, almost half of African countries had developed their NSDS; the other half were in the process of designing one or waiting for it to be adopted. The development and implementation of NSDS as well as other comprehensive statistical development strategies and master plans should help to strengthen statistical homogenization and integration of National Statistical Systems. To this end, efforts are continuing for harmonization and enhanced alignment at regional and continental levels.

⁹ The SDDS and the GDDS provide tools for judging the statistical capacities of African countries. The GDDS, which is less standardized than the SDDS, recommends good practices for data production and dissemination. It is open to all IMF member countries and is not overly prescriptive in respect to deadlines for participating countries to improve their practices. In comparison, the SDDS requires that its participating countries to fulfil all conditions of the SDDS (conditions that are generally more demanding than those of the GDDS) and is applicable in countries that have or are seeking access to the capital market. (<http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddscountrylist/>)

3.2.2 Regional level

At the regional level, major players include RECs and statistical capacity-building organizations that work alongside them, such as AFRISTAT and AFRITACs.

RECs draw their mandates to undertake statistical activities directly from the Treaties and Agreements that established them. Three of the most important mandates relating to statistical activities are: (i) building statistical capacity in their member states; (ii) harmonizing statistics (ex-post and ex-ante) across their member states; and (iii) compiling and disseminating harmonized quality statistical information to inform decision-making at the regional level. Compared to the scope of their mandates, the statistical capacity of RECs is minimal, which represents a critical obstacle to statistical development and harmonization. A further complication is the multi-membership of countries in RECs and the relative lack of coordination among them.

RECs can be classified into two categories:

1. *RECs with relatively advanced statistical functions and capacity to coordinate statistical activities within their regions.* These are the Secretariats of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the East African Community (EAC). In these RECs, activities of regional statistical organizations such as AFRISTAT and AFRITACs are sometimes carried out with the political support of the RECs. These activities increasingly constitute

part of the RECs' programs of activities and are in the form of technical assistance to the region, coordinated by the Secretariats. This is the case with work carried out by AFRISTAT on price statistics and national accounts within ECOWAS, as well as in other activities beyond West Africa.

2. *RECs in which the statistics function is embryonic or nonexistent.* These include the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Inter-Governmental Agency on Development (IGAD), and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). In this case, each member state develops its statistical activities with regional partners according to its needs.

It should be noted that there is sometimes coordination of efforts, and a leveraging of comparative advantage, between regional statistical capacity-building organizations. For example, AFRISTAT's support does not cover financial and monetary statistics, for which the IMF and its AFRITAC division are better placed to provide assistance. However, such coordination does not seem sufficient to lead to the production of consistent, uniform, and harmonized data for countries or regions supported. Although AFRISTAT intervenes in WAEMU and CEMAC, areas such as GDP and consumer price indices that have undergone harmonization programs are still not fully comparable between the two subregions.

Furthermore, the overlapping of RECs, together with the multi-membership of some countries in several RECs, leads to multiple data requests in various forms and to disparate levels of detail, depending on the priorities and activities of each REC. With the weak capacity of most national

statistical systems, this leads to a dispersal of efforts and to non-optimal data quality. These problems, resulting from a lack of clarity surrounding mandates at the regional level, can be partly resolved by regional statistical coordination committees and close cooperation among RECs. In this way, COMESA, SADC, and EAC are working to resolve issues related to the publication of data on countries belonging to more than one REC and to problems related to the coordination of other statistical activities, by establishing a cooperation forum.

Based on these efforts, the coordination of data requests among RECs could be improved to create synergies. Cooperation agreements in force at the level of RECs¹⁰ and those envisioned by the Minimum Integration Program (AUC 2010) – namely the grouping of ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and AMU on the one hand, and of SADC, COMESA, EAC and IGAD on the other hand – could help to build the foundations for better statistical coordination.

3.2.3 Continental level

At the continental level, three pan-African organizations (namely the AUC, AfDB, and ECA) are playing significant roles in the development of statistics at national, regional, and continental levels, as outlined below.

African Union Commission (AUC)

The AUC is spearheading the integration process and Africa's development, in close collaboration with RECs, member states, other pan-African organizations, and the broader African citizenry. Since

¹⁰ See the AUC, *Minimum Integration Program (2010)* for further details on these agreements.

its establishment in 2002, the AU has been working toward the creation of an African Economic Community (AEC) based on RECs (pillars of the integration process), in line with the Abuja Treaty. The vision is to create *"the United States of Africa that is integrated, prosperous, fair, well managed and peaceful, sustained by its own citizens and constituting a creative and dynamic force on the international stage."* Achieving this noble objective should enable Africa to participate fully and on an equal footing in the global economy by simultaneously making efforts to solve the multifaceted social, economic, and political challenges it faces.

Based on the mandate conferred upon it and the aspirations of all actors involved in the socioeconomic and political life of Africa, every four years the AUC develops a Strategic Plan that is structured around four strategic pillars, which represent the common interests of member states. These pillars are: (i) Peace and Security, (ii) Integration, Development and Cooperation (iii) Shared Values, and (iv) Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building. Around these strategic pillars, the Commission identifies priority programs for the next four years. For the period 2009-2012, the priority programs of the Commission have been structured around the following themes: Program for Peace and Security, Program for Development, Program for Integration, Program for Cooperation, Program for Shared Values, and Program for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.

The Statistics Division, which is located within the Department of Economic Affairs of the AUC, was created to provide harmonized and reliable statistical tools to monitor the process of continental integration. Its main mandate is to build

capacities for the production and dissemination of quality harmonized statistical data on the continent, to provide advocacy for the development of statistics at all levels of decision-making, and to work for the establishment of an appropriate framework for the harmonization of integration statistics. It satisfies both the internal and external needs of the AUC with regard to statistical instruments and analyses adhering to the vision of the organization's founders.

Since its creation, the Statistics Division has been actively involved in numerous activities both within the AUC and further afield. Some of the tangible outputs it has achieved include: the formulation of the African Charter on Statistics (in collaboration with stakeholders of the ASS); the establishment of a central database at the AUC; the publication of statistics directories; the provisioning of statistical analysis to AUC Departments; and the alignment of statistical development programs with integration priorities.

In addition to these activities, the AUC – together with United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), ECA, and the AfDB – is working on the establishment of the *AfricaInfo* database. This will provide tools for the monitoring of commitments made by governments in the implementation of national, regional, and continental programs and policies.

The AUC is also working toward the full implementation of the NSS Peer Review Mechanism, which is currently run by PARIS21. The Commission intends to assume leadership for the implementation of this activity starting from 2011. To this end it is developing guidelines, jointly with the World Bank, for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics.

The current vision of the AU is to strengthen the capacity of its Statistics Division to promote statistical harmonization in Africa and to provide comparable statistical quality information that the organization needs to monitor its integration program.

African Development Bank (AfDB)

The AfDB is a multilateral development bank committed to the promotion of sustainable economic development and social progress in Africa. Its mandate is to reduce poverty and “*contribute to the economic development and social progress of its regional members, individually and jointly.*” In that regard, it “*seeks to stimulate and mobilize public and private external and internal resources to promote investment and provide technical assistance and practical advice to its Regional Member Countries (RMCs).*” The African character of the Bank emanating from its history and geographic specificity is strengthened by its shareholding structure, management, and executive staff.

The AfDB Group subscribes to the view that if the fight against poverty is to be won, there need to be significant improvements to the quality and quantity of statistical data across all the components of development. Reliable data are critical to setting goals and targets as well as to evaluating project impact. Reliable data constitute the single most effective way of involving people in what their leaders and institutions are doing, allowing them to participate in the development process and giving them a sense of ownership. This approach helps to underpin the sustainability of project outcomes.

Through its Statistics Department and online Data Portal, the AfDB is contributing to the ef-

fective development of the statistical capacity and systems of African countries. It does this by supporting the production and dissemination of timely and reliable data for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, as well as for monitoring progress toward the MDGs and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

Over the last several years, the AfDB has steadily intensified its statistical capacity-building activities in African countries. These efforts were bolstered in September 2004 within the context of the ICP-Africa.¹¹ The program aimed at strengthening statistical capacity on the continent in order to meet the urgent demand for reliable and timely data to support the monitoring of progress on the MDGs, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), the NEPAD initiative, and the results agenda for development effectiveness.

The ICP program mainly focuses on activities with Continental Public Goods characteristics, including: (i) methodological development work to generate a statistical infrastructure and approach conducive to the African environment; (ii) adaptation of international statistical standards to suit local conditions in African countries and to conduct training workshops on these standards; (iii) harmonization of data generation practices and standards, to ensure comparability of data across African countries and with the rest of the world; and (iv) training of African country officials for strength-

11 The ICP-Africa 2004–2007 was part of the global ICP initiative launched in 1970 to generate comparable price and expenditure data to facilitate cross-country comparisons of GDP and its sub-aggregates in real terms without price and exchange rate distortions. The 2005 round of the ICP covered over 140 countries, including 48 countries in Africa. This demonstrates considerable progress made since the 1993 ICP round, when only 22 African countries participated in the program.

ening statistical capacity. The AfDB is selective in its interventions and assumes a leadership role in such areas as national accounts, Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) statistics, NSDS design, infrastructure statistics, and MDG monitoring.

In addition to the above program and as part of the global agenda on Managing for Development Results, the Bank is focused on strengthening both its own capacity and the capacity of African countries to monitor and report on development results that reflect country priorities. In this regard, the Bank has since the start of 2008 systematically formulated a standardized set of indicators to measure recurrent outputs and intermediate outcomes achieved through Bank projects and programs. Following the development and approval of appropriate guidelines in May 2010, it is now mandatory for all Bank operations to incorporate these indicators at the outset. In conformity with international best practice, the Bank is allocating part of a project's total cost toward monitoring and evaluation efforts, both to build country capacity and to collect data as part of project implementation.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

ECA is both a pan-African organization and a UN body well known for its independent thinking.¹² The chief mandate for the organization is to “*promote the economic and social development of its member states, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development.*”¹³ Its unique strength derives from its role as the only UN agency mandated to oper-

ate in Africa at both continental and regional levels and to harness resources for Africa's development priorities, as set out by the AU. ECA also plays a leadership role in UN inter-agency support to NEPAD initiative, as a strategic coordinator of the regional consultative meetings (ECA 2009).

During the last 50 years of its existence, ECA's interventions in Africa have included research and knowledge production; policy analysis, articulation, development and advocacy; convening stakeholder meetings and building consensus around key development issues; and providing technical assistance and capacity building through advisory services to African countries and RECs. It has worked to honor the regional cooperation and integration obligations set out during the inauguration of the ECA by the then UN Secretary General who, with remarkable foresight, stated that “*history was producing new States whose geographical boundaries were not likely to serve their economic growth efficiently. He urged African States to pursue economic integration which he felt could be one of the major objectives of UNECA*” (ECA 2009).

ECA has identified four major challenges facing Africa that need to be addressed, viz. (i) achieving the MDGs: strategies to promote growth and reduce poverty; (ii) integrating for development; (iii) benefiting from globalization; and (iv) strengthening institutions and capacity development. Building statistical capacity on the continent will help to address these challenges. Indeed, statistics was one of the initial programs of ECA, leading to the establishment of its first technical committee, the Conference of African Statisticians, in 1959. Over the years, ECA has carried out many activities to increase African countries' statistical capacity and infrastructure.

12 ECA, *ECA and Africa: Fifty Years of Partnership*, 2nd edn 2009, Addis Ababa.

13 ECA, *Serving Africa Better: Strategic Directions for the Economic Commission for Africa*. E/ECA/CM.22/2, May 2000, Addis Ababa.

As the African arm of the United Nations and as mandated by the UN Secretary-General, the core functions of ECA with regard to statistics include:

- » Research on methods and standards setting, including harmonization to produce a consolidated set of statistics for Africa;
- » Developing and implementing regional programs that are well coordinated across African countries;
- » Development of survey systems;
- » Data compilation with respect to the African continent, particularly statistics to support regional integration and development frameworks;
- » Strengthening data-processing capability in African National Statistical Systems;
- » Database development; and
- » Providing advisory services to countries toward building their statistical infrastructure.

The work of ECA has contributed to statistical harmonization across the continent. For example, in the area of census taking, ECA has recently published the *Africa Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses*,¹⁴ as well as handbooks on census planning and data processing. In the area of national accounts, an African manual on the collection of basic economic statistics for national accounts compilation has been produced, while training on classifications and on the implementation of the SNA is organized every year. As far as strategic planning is concerned, ongoing advisory services on statistical legislation and NSDS form part of the core work of ECA. These

and activities in other areas will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

Enhancing the capacity of continental organizations

The evaluation in 2000 of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s (AAPA) recommended that for the pan-African organizations to effectively fulfill their statistical roles, they needed to be restructured and strengthened. The recommendations were not acted upon until 2006, when the Statistics Division of the AfDB was upgraded to a fully-fledged Department of Statistics with increased resources, including staffing. As part of the process of repositioning ECA to serve Africa better, an African Center for Statistics (ACS) with significant human and financial resources, was established in 2006. The AUC, which previously did not have a dedicated statistics function, established a Statistics Unit. Recommendations have been made to upgrade this Unit to a Statistics Division with increased resources.

Each of the above pan-African organizations has its own statistical program and a database that varies to a greater or lesser extent in content and in form. Similarly, each of them in the past produced a Statistical Yearbook based on data collected separately from member countries and international organizations. As a result, the yearbooks presented mutually conflicting data for many indicators, which was confusing to users.

Data requests from multiple organizations also proved to be a burden on countries.

However, great progress has been made since 2007, when the three institutions established

14 UNSD, Department of Economic & Social Affairs, *Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses*. Series M No. 67/Rev. 2, 2008.

the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC). Since its establishment, the ASCC has done a great deal to enhance the coordination of statistical work in Africa. For instance, under the ASCC, the AUC, AfDB, and ECA have been producing a joint *African Statistical Yearbook* (ASYB) since 2009. The ASYB offers prospects for data harmonization and integration in Africa. Plans are also underway to establish a joint African Statistical Database that will be replicated in each organization. These efforts will not only lead to efficiency gains in the production of data on Africa, but will also improve data comparability.

As part of streamlining their various interventions and activities, the pan-African organizations are now organizing joint capacity-building workshops in various areas of statistics and undertaking joint missions to countries. Furthermore, with support from other members of the ASS, they have developed the African Charter on Statistics, which should enhance the coordination and organization of the African statistical landscape.

3.2.4 International level

Actors at the international level comprise specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations, both bilateral and multilateral. These include:

- » United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), which manages a database sourced from countries and other UN specialized agencies;
- » International Monetary Fund (IMF), which collects and publishes monetary and financial statistics on balance of payments, foreign trade, etc.;
- » World Bank, which collects and publishes data on development in general, including data on poverty;
- » United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which collects and publishes data on education, literacy, science and technology, and culture;
- » World Health Organisation (WHO), which collects and publishes data on health issues;
- » International Labour Organisation (ILO), which collects and publishes data on labor;
- » United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which collects and publishes data on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, food security and nutrition; and
- » PARIS21, which is at the cutting-edge of statistical advocacy and statistical planning, etc.

These actors are coordinated by the **Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities** (CCSA), established in September 2002 to coordinate statistical work among international and supranational organizations. Its mandate includes the provision of international official statistics in conformity with the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities.¹⁵ It covers organizations that have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organization and regular contact with countries.

- » The Committee focuses its work on the following six main activities:
- » Efficient functioning of the statistical system;
- » Common standards and platforms;
- » Development of methodologies;
- » Inter-institutional support;
- » Outreach; and

¹⁵ Available online at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/statorg/Principles_stat_activities/principles_stat_activities.htm

» Advocacy for statistics.

An annual report on Committee activities is made available to the UN Statistical Commission and, if necessary or desirable, the report is then referred to the High Level Committee on Programs of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The functions of the UN Statistical Commission aim to engender international coordination for the production and dissemination of comparable data across countries worldwide. Its remit includes the following two principal objectives:

- » to develop international standards and norms;
- » to develop and recommend harmonized methodologies mainly in:
 - official statistics;
 - censuses and surveys;
 - national accounts & economic statistics; and
 - statistical classifications.

The actors at an international level generally fund major statistical development programs, provide technical assistance for statistical capacity building in Africa, and collaborate with the African members of the ASS to improve the status of statistics on the continent. The interventions of these actors though are disparate and scattered. They have mainly been directed at assisting countries to meet a short-term demand for data, rather than building sustainable capacity to produce quality data now and well in future. Moreover, their interventions that are directed toward specific sectors have not always been well coordinated; this has reduced their impact and on occasion undermined national priorities for statistical development.

There has at times been a distinct lack of trust in the quality of data produced by national authorities, whose independence, professionalism, and objectivity have come into question. This has prompted some institutions to make their own estimates of statistical indicators for Africa, which has led to heterogeneity and a lack of comparability in the data.

Most of these international organizations work directly with national ministries in charge of specific issues. This has sometimes led to a bypassing of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), making it difficult to coordinate statistical development at the country level. The development and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) could help avoid the confusion created by the multiplicity of actors and their interventions. However, this will still not be enough to overcome the challenge of harmonizing continental statistics, which will require synergy, complementarity, and coherence among regional and international organizations.

In addition to providing support to countries and compiling/disseminating statistical information, these international organizations and others work together toward the achievement of global statistical harmonization. UNSD plays a central role in this respect by providing a global framework for statistical harmonization and gathering stakeholders in various meetings to discuss and agree upon standards and methods for data collection, compilation, and dissemination.

In short, weak coordination among actors of the ASS has in the past given rise to a diversity of initiatives for the production and dissemination

of statistical data on the African continent. This leads to two types of risks: (i) the risk of duplicating activities and hence using limited resources ineffectively/inefficiently and (ii) the risk of publishing conflicting and heterogeneous data (that differ according to their sources). The challenge of monitoring African integration will be to integrate all actors *in an ASS that is better coordinated for harmonized and reliable statistics*.

3.3 Comparability of Statistical Data in Africa: the need for optimal resource deployment

The comparability of statistics among African countries is problematic and faces four major difficulties: (i) varying levels of funding for statistical activities; (ii) constraints associated with the measurement of phenomena; (iii) low level of participation of African representatives at international meetings that decide on international standards, methodologies and classifications; and (iv) diverse methodologies and tools used for data collection and compilation within countries.

Funding allocated for the compilation of statistical data determines not only the quality of indicators but also the comparability of these indicators at national, regional, continental, and global levels. Funding available for data compilation activities varies from one country to another. One fact is certain – countries with sufficient funding are better placed to implement “international” best practices. Such practices recommend reliable and robust data sources for the compilation of statistical indicators. However, in many developing countries, including those in Africa, data sources are poorly resourced and require adequate funding for their establishment and strengthening.

The unique characteristics of African economies increase the difficulties associated with the measurement of certain phenomena. These include: the size of the informal economy, the black economy, and non-monetary economy; problems related to the execution of surveys (including level of illiteracy of respondents, the degree of mobility of people and capital, the state of administrative records, etc.); the dominant subsistence agricultural practices, etc. Mouyelo-Katoula and Paccoud (2009) provide a tangible example relating to the compilation of consumer price indices in Africa. They show that international methods recommended for the compilation of CPIs are difficult to implement in African countries because of a lack of standardized market conditions. Indeed, in the African context, the prices of items fluctuate widely within the same day, owing to factors that lie outside the parameters of economic theory. They also cite the example of the concept of “household,” which needs to be properly defined to better capture processes and flows relating to decisions, production, employment, revenue sharing, consumption, etc. in African countries. Mouyelo-Katoula and Paccoud (2009) emphasize the need to adapt international standards, methodologies, norms and classifications to the specific characteristics and circumstances of Africa – to correctly capture African realities while also taking into consideration resource constraints. They also highlight the low participation of African representatives at international meetings that discuss and approve these standards, methodologies, norms, and classifications.¹⁶ For example, few African countries have participated in various “City Groups” over the last five years. City Groups are informal, temporary organizational

¹⁶ Some international reference systems and statistical harmonization are presented in Appendix 2.

structures that allow representatives from NSOs to come together to address selected problems in statistical methods. These groups usually develop into a series of three to four working meetings and are named after the location of the first meeting. Table 4 presents active City Groups and indicates their low level of African participation. To remedy this state of affairs, Katoula and Paccoud (2009) propose the following steps:

- » Identify priority statistical areas that will benefit from international discussions and revisions;
- » Analyze the integration of discussion and revision procedures and the relationships between systems and coordination mechanisms;
- » Assess the participation rate of African representatives at international meetings; and
- » Ensure the sustainability of systems that support discussion and revision processes.

Collection, compilation and estimation methods, data sources, tools and formats for presenting results also play a crucial role in the comparability of data. Different countries using diverse methodologies to build their statistical indicators accentuate the noncomparability of these statistical indicators. For the specific case of calculating price indices, different methodologies are used based on: the basket of reference goods, geographic coverage of the collection of data on prices, the mathematical method adopted,¹⁷ etc. Another example concerns the use of different versions of systems/manuals for data compilation. In different versions of the same system/manual, standards, policies and method-

ologies vary widely due to new realities taken into consideration in later versions. The implementation of new versions of systems/manuals requires enormous resources and many years of adaptation. It is therefore easier for some African countries (with relatively more resources) to implement these new versions than others. For instance, while some African countries fully comply with the System of National Account (SNA) 93 for the compilation of their national accounts, others comply only partially (they are in transition between the SNA 68 and SNA 93), while others still compile their national accounts according to SNA 68 conventions.

Last, but not least, there is no single continental coordination entity equipped with sufficient human, financial, and administrative resources. Consequently, the political, legal, and institutional framework for statistical coordination in general and statistical harmonization in particular needs to be solidified.

A number of statistical coordination bodies have been established at regional and continental levels.¹⁸ However, these bodies need strengthening in order for them to achieve their desired outcomes. Furthermore, the African Charter on Statistics (ACS) – which was designed to address the political, legal, and institutional void at the continental level – has yet to be ratified by 15 countries and has yet to enter into force. Advocacy, therefore, needs to be scaled up for the remaining countries to ratify and fully endorse the ACS so that it can serve as a solid political, legal, and institutional framework for the development of statistics in Africa.

17 Price indices can vary widely, depending on the calculation method used – Laspeyres, Paasche or Fisher indexes, chain measuring methods, etc. – and the method used to capture changes in quality of goods and services.

18 Such bodies include StatCom-Africa and the Committees of Directors-General/Heads of NSOs, the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC), and coordination committees at the regional level.

Table 4: Active "City groups" and African participation levels

Group Name	Topic	African participation in the last 5 years
Canberra Group	Living conditions of households	-
Canberra I	Capital stock	South Africa
Canberra II	Measurement of non-financial assets	-
Delhi Group	Informal sector	Ethiopia, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia
London Group	Environment accounting	-
Ottawa Group	Prices	-
Paris Group	Labor and compensation	South Africa
Rio Group	Poverty	ECA
Roundtable	Business survey frame	-
Siena Group	Social statistics	-
Voorburg Group	Service statistics	-
Oslo Group	Energy statistics	South Africa
Washington Group	Disability statistics	Dem. Rep. Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Source: Mouyelo-Katoula and Paccoud (2009).

3.4 Statistical Harmonization on the Continent: effectiveness through program integration

Several platforms for capacity building and harmonization of statistics exist on the continent. Some of them focus on developing methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistical data (ex-ante harmonization), while others specialize in the production of comparable statistical

indicators (ex-post harmonization). As an example, the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) focuses on the definition and adoption of common methods, while ICP-Africa is oriented toward reprocessing data collected. Some initiatives have been taken at the continental level (such as ICP-Africa), while others are compartmentalized at the level of RECs or even groups of countries. Many African countries participate in more than one statistical

harmonization initiative, increasing the risk of duplication and thus requiring the coordination of programs to be strengthened.

The statistical harmonization initiatives also target disparate statistical areas, derived from the varied priorities and agendas of the implementing organizations. Thus, some organizations are working on the harmonization of national accounts statistics, while others focus on price and external trade statistics, foreign direct investment, *inter alia*.

3.4.1 Continental level

At the continental level, the **African Group on National Accounts (AGNA)**, created in January 2008 at the first meeting of StatCom-Africa, plays a catalytic role in the implementation of the SNA. AGNA, made up of various members of the ASS (countries, regional and continental organizations) under the leadership of the AfDB, uses a participatory approach where stakeholders: (i) make proposals to feed into a strategy for the implementation of the SNA, (ii) participate in the validation of the strategy, (iii) appropriate the strategy, and (iv) implement the strategy within their organizations. Presently, AGNA has finalized a five-year strategy for the implementation of the SNA, with the following seven strategic objectives:

1. To provide the African continent with a System of National Accounts (SNA) adapted to its socioeconomic realities;
2. To improve the achievements of ICP-Africa in the area of national accounts;
3. To develop an operational system of production and dissemination of national accounts that is both optimal and efficient;
4. To build the production and analytical capacity in the area of national accounts;
5. To increase the availability and improve the quality of data required for the compilation of national accounts based on the NSDSs;
6. To increase human capacity as well as material and financial resources for compilation of national accounts; and
7. To conduct advocacy at all decision-making levels.

The implementation of this strategy could serve as a launch pad to gradually harmonize all other statistical areas.

ICP–Africa, with 48 participating countries in its first phase (2002–2008), is another statistical harmonization framework at the continental level. This first phase of the program was coordinated and funded mainly by the AfDB, with additional funding from the World Bank, the ACBF, the United Kingdom, Japan, and India. ICP-Africa is part of the worldwide ICP initiative that aims at producing estimates of purchasing power parities (PPP) to facilitate comparisons of economic aggregates in real terms between countries. The program focused on the quality, consistency, and comparability of statistics in the aforementioned areas, and provided support to African countries in implementing the SNA 93. It contributed to the *ex-post* harmonization of basic national accounts and price statistics, by collecting and reprocessing data in these areas. It is important to mention that for the implementation of ICP-Africa, the AfDB, hosting the Secretariat of the program, worked closely with RECs and AFRISTAT.

The **Association of African Central Banks (AACB)** recognizes the central role of statistics

in the implementation of its African Monetary Cooperation Program (AMCP). The AACB is mandated to *“facilitate the collection, centralisation and dissemination of information on monetary, banking and finance issues, as well as other economic issues of interest to its members.”* The AMCP also stresses the need to implement a harmonization program of macroeconomic concepts and definitions. The AACB itself does not produce statistics – this is done by its members through the principle of subsidiarity. Central banks at the national level ensure the availability of statistical data and implement recommendations of the AACB, through the production of quarterly reports, which are consolidated by the AACB. In 2006, the AACB held a seminar on statistical harmonization which brought together leading experts and all pan-African institutions. The seminar made concrete recommendations; however, the implementation of these proposals has not been rigorously monitored, neither at the level of the AACB nor at the level of regions and central banks.

The Secretariat of the **African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States**, cognizant of the recurrent need for statistical information, initiated with financial support from the European Union the design and implementation of a system to monitor regional integration in the ACP regions. This project is in its first phase and includes a system of regional integration indicators that will be adopted and implemented by regional organizations of ACP States. The system will allow progress toward integration to be measured in each ACP region. It will also facilitate comparisons between various integration processes and models at the regional level. The project should result in a functional system

of indicators on integration per region and at the level of all ACP countries. In respect to Africa, it identifies nine Inter-regional Organizations (IROs), of which seven are RECs (ECOWAS, EAC, IGAD, ECCAS, CEN-SAD, COMESA, and SADC), and two are subregional organizations (WAEMU and CEMAC).

This initiative differentiates itself from statistical support and focuses instead on defining an integrated set of operational indicators that have to be measured and monitored by various RECs. The production of statistical data to measure these indicators does not seem to be at the center of the project. Consequently, the implementation of the system will require that these aspects – including the issue of comparability of data – be covered. Nonetheless, the methodological development of the project has some very interesting features, as elaborated below.

First, the multidisciplinary nature of regional integration is well integrated, e.g. the appraisal of both integration efforts and the state of integration. The African Union’s attachment to multidisciplinary integration and the need to mainstream all of these aspects in a coherent and complementary way should thus find a suitable statistical response. Second, the system to be developed is divided into two levels, comprising on the one hand a regional integration indicator system common to all IROs (RECs according to the AU’s conceptual vision) to ensure inter-regional comparability and, on the other hand, a more individualized level adapted to the objectives and priorities of each IRO. This approach will also provide a suitable statistical response to the Minimum Integration Program’s philosophy. Third, the project’s emphasis on the functional and operational character

of the system is also an asset which should be capitalized on.

3.4.2 Regional level

At the regional level, some RECs (EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, and SADC)¹⁹ and some regional organizations (such as AFRISTAT) implement programs and projects to improve comparability of data in their regions.

AFRISTAT operates in 19 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa,²⁰ which are mostly French-speaking countries. It promotes the harmonization of concepts, standards, and methods in the areas of national accounts, prices, and informal sector statistics. Building on existing international standards, AFRISTAT, together with its member states, has developed a nomenclature of activities and a nomenclature of products adapted to the realities of its member states (NAEMA²¹ and NOPEMA²²).

AFRISTAT supports its member states in undertaking a process of ex-ante harmonization. In this context, it has developed methodological guidelines for the compilation of national accounts based on the SNA93, with specifics relating to individual countries. It has also published guidelines on concepts and methodologies for the production of informal sector statistics; price statistics, agricultural statistics; and employment statistics.

The methodological guidelines for the compilation of national accounts take up the recommendations of the SNA 93 in major areas of interest to its member states. They propose, for each area, a harmonized processing method. The proposed methods are informed by the compilation of methodological work carried out by the national accountants of these countries.

AFRISTAT also works in close collaboration with several RECs and international organizations in implementing harmonization programs, including EAC (interventions in Burundi), ECOWAS (interventions in francophone as well as anglophone countries), and the AfDB (for ICP-Africa). As a major regional actor of the ASS, AFRISTAT's expertise will be crucial in driving forward the process of statistical harmonization on the continent. A clarification of its role and contribution will enable countries to capitalize on its accrued knowledge and will contribute to the successful implementation of the continental strategy for statistical harmonization.

Half of the RECs have established statistical functions at their secretariats to contribute to the data needed for the design, implementation, and monitoring of common regional policies, as can be seen in Table 5.

19 In their structures, no subentity of the secretariats of CEN-SAD, IGAD and ECCAS or AMU is in charge of statistics.

20 Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, the Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad, and Togo.

21 Nomenclature of the activities of AFRISTAT member states.

22 Nomenclature of the products of AFRISTAT member states.

Table 5: Categorization of statistical functions in RECs

Function	ECOWAS	SADC	EAC	COMESA	CEN-SAD	ECCAS	IGAD	AMU
Explicit statistics service	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Functional statistics service	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Statistics production	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Regional statistics coordination body	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Functional Regional statistics coordination Body	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Level	Relatively advanced				Embryonic or absent			

Key: 1 = function performed 0 = function not performed

Even though they lack critical human and financial resources to fully achieve their goals, these statistical functions have shown dynamism in respect to the standardization, harmonization, and modernization of statistics. In the main, they have focused on statistics relating to foreign trade, public finance, price indices, and national accounts, which confirms the mandates given to RECs by their member states.

Making comparable data available is one of the major projects carried out by **East African Community (EAC)** Secretariat, which targets the following priority statistical areas: (i) demographic and social, (ii) national accounts, (iii) agriculture, (iv) direct foreign investment, (v) environment and tourism, (vi) monetary and financial, (vii) prices, (viii) trade, (ix) ICT; (x) transport and construction, and (xi) balance of payments.

In order to carry out its harmonization agenda, the EAC Secretariat set up technical working groups, made up of statisticians and experts in the area, who agree at national level on the concepts, methodologies, and tools to be used for the compilation of statistics. Regional workshops are then held to determine minimum standards, in line with the international standardization. After EAC member states have agreed on minimum standards, experts are recruited to strengthen the countries' technical capacity.²³

Harmonization is also a flagship activity in the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** Commission. Moreover, WAEMU's advanced status in statistical harmonization, including data on multilateral surveillance, serves

²³ EAC uses local experts as often as possible and collaborates with AFRISTAT, which provides its expertise particularly in the case of Burundi (the only completely French-speaking country of the region).

as an engine to drive the harmonization agenda across the entire ECOWAS region. Because this is a lengthy, complex, and expensive process, the ECOWAS Commission currently focuses on a few sectors (external trade, consumer price index (CPI), national accounts, and public finance) and works to make the data from other sectors comparable (ex-post); the ex-ante harmonization of all areas of statistics is its long-term goal. External trade, national accounts, and price statistics are produced and disseminated according to the same standards.

ECOWAS's harmonization programs cover not only concepts, definitions, nomenclatures, methods, and presentation formats, but also the institutional framework and establishment of tools (software) for data compilation. The ECOWAS Commission promotes the use of common software for data processing such as EUROTRACE (adopted but not used by all countries) for the compilation of foreign trade data; ASSYCUDA (SYDONIA) for the recording of customs data; ERETES for national accounts (partly used by some countries); and PRIMA (adopted by Ghana and due for experimentation in four other countries of the region) to calculate consumer price indices.

To implement its data harmonization program, the ECOWAS Commission resorts to several strategies, including: the recruitment of focal points (consultants) in institutions responsible for statistics in targeted areas; the use of AF-RISTAT (as a consultant) for the harmonization of the CPI and national accounts, especially to replicate in anglophone countries what has been implemented in francophone countries (adapted

classifications, methodological manuals, etc.); and collaboration with other organizations.

The West Africa Monetary Agency (WAMA)

complements the ECOWAS Commission in carrying out harmonization programs covering public finance, monetary, financial, and balance of payments statistics.

In recent years, the **South African Development Community (SADC)** Secretariat has also committed itself to implementing several projects on statistical harmonization, especially in the areas of CPI, national accounts, population and housing censuses, and external trade. The SADC Secretariat prepares technical guidelines and manuals for data compilation in the statistical areas mentioned above, and sends the draft documents to the organizations concerned (NSOs, customs, central banks, etc.) of member countries for comments and consultations. Once the countries' comments have been received, the Secretariat organizes meetings to adopt guidelines, which are then used to train professionals.²⁴ The SADC Secretariat works closely with other organizations, such as COMESA (in the areas of CPI and external trade) and EAC Secretariats. From the outset, all the working parameters are defined to ensure proper coordination of harmonization projects. For example, Mozambique is leading the process of harmonization for national accounts, South Africa leads in population and housing censuses, Zambia in external trade statistics, Zimbabwe in classifications, etc. It is telling that the execution of these harmonization programs

24 In most of its statistical priority areas, SADC has already prepared technical guidelines that have been adopted, or are about to be adopted, by its member countries. The challenge now is to implement these guidelines.

has been delayed, largely because of a lack of resources.

Integration programs at the **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** are centered on trade, i.e. the removal of tariff and nontariff barriers, trade efficiency, and trade-related issues such investment, competition, finance (payment and settlement), etc. The COMESA Secretariat, therefore, focuses its efforts on the harmonization of external trade statistics and trade-related statistics. It follows the same standards and uses the same software as ECOWAS. It also works toward defining and implementing a regional harmonized system to monitor regional integration.

It is worth mentioning the existence of the **Interregional Coordinating Committee (IRCC)**, which was created and funded by the European Commission (EC). This is made up of representatives of COMESA, EAC, IGAD, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), with the SADC admitted as an observer. This Committee coordinates all the activities financed by the EC in this region.

3.5 Environmental Assessment/Situational Analysis

Environmental assessment/situation analysis is crucial as it delineates the strengths and weaknesses in the internal environment (i.e. the internal characteristics of the ASS). The internal environment strategies need to be balanced with strategies aimed at tapping into the opportunities and avoiding weaknesses presented by the external environment (i.e. characteristics that are external to the ASS). The situation analysis of the ASS identified and evaluated various strengths and

weaknesses (summarized in Table 6 below), as well as opportunities and threats (summarized in Table 7 below).

Table 6: Strengths and weaknesses of the ASS

Strengths on which to build	Weaknesses to be resolved
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existence of statistical regulation in countries to regulate statistical activities 2. Infrastructure for undertaking large-scale data collection activities, including censuses and large-scale sample surveys 3. Existence of competencies in data collection and management in government Ministries, Departments Agencies (MDAs) 4. Existence of training institutions both for professional and sub-professional statistical personnel 5. Strengthened continental and regional organizations capable of providing financial and technical support to countries 6. Existence of various initiatives aimed at increasing statistical capacity in Africa²⁵ 7. Existence of various fora for the sharing and exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices, including regular meetings of Heads of NSOs at regional and continental levels, African Statistical Newsletters, the AfDB's <i>African Statistical Journal</i>, etc. 8. Increasing willingness on the part of key stakeholders at all levels in the NSS to collaborate to achieve synergy and cost-effectiveness in statistical production 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fragile and vulnerable National Statistical Systems in much of Africa 2. Weak statistical capacity in country MDAs, some RECs, and some pan-African organizations 3. Lack of effective civil registration and vital statistical systems 4. Weak statistics that lack quality 5. Under-use of data by policy- and decision-makers 6. Scarcity of data for some key development indicators such as environment/climate change, gender, governance and accountability, and HIV/AIDS 7. Lack of incentives and/or capacity to utilize data 8. Inadequate administrative autonomy and insufficient professional independence 9. Lack of predictable and sustainable funding arrangements for the harmonization of statistics in Africa 10. Lack of official statistics in training programs of many universities and statistical training centers 11. Political interference in statistical work, especially at the country level

25 Including: the African Charter on Statistics, policies aimed at developing statistics in some RECs, NSDSs, GDDS, ICP-Africa, RRSF etc.

Table 7: Opportunities and threats to the NSS

Opportunities to be exploited	Threats to be avoided
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The results agenda has led to an upsurge in demand for statistics and to an international consensus that statistics are a necessary part of the enabling environment for improved development outcomes and decision-making at all levels 2. Recognition by national governments of the weaknesses in their statistical systems and the need to strengthen them 3. Commitment from development partners to support, both financially and technically, statistical capacity-building initiatives in Africa 4. Existence of international frameworks, standards, guidelines, and best practices in statistical harmonization 5. Increased regional, continental, and international partnerships for statistical development 6. Advances in technology, which have made computers cheaper, more powerful, and more accessible 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiplicity of initiatives and lack of coordination among international partners 2. Reduced demand for statistical data and information 3. Reduced prioritization of, and investment in statistics 4. Inability to attract and retain statistical staff 5. Lack of commitment to coordination efforts among stakeholders in the NSS 6. Failure to enact and implement a new and conducive Statistics Act

CHAPTER 4

Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a description of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics (SHaSA), first setting out the strategic intent, vision, themes and objectives, including the initiatives for each objective. This is followed by the presentation of a Strategic Matrix and a template of strategic enablers and risks. Finally, the institutional structure, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and costs are assessed.

4.2 Strategic Intent

Statistics produced in Africa do not always meet user needs. Often they fail to be produced and disseminated in a timely manner. Moreover they sometimes neglect to take into consideration current and topical events, or to take on board the specificities of the African environment. So it is not unusual to find that their methodologies do not reflect African realities and that they are not always comparable between countries; etc. This stems from various constraints discussed in the previous chapter, including: inadequate resources being allocated to statistical activities; a lack of institutional capacity to produce, manage and disseminate data; the low profile of statistics and perception of its role on the continent; inadequate coordination of statistical activities; and scant consideration of the

African context when setting up international standards.

Conscious of these challenges, SHaSA is designed to make quality harmonized statistical information available to users in all areas, and to provide for better formulation and effective monitoring in line with the timetable of the African integration process. A major goal of SHaSA is to contribute to the establishment of an integrated Africa, speaking with one voice, that will actively participate in the global arena. The overarching objective of the Strategy, therefore, is to make readily available harmonized quality data, which are produced regularly and on time, and which cover all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration in Africa.

4.3 Strategic Vision

The vision of the Strategy is to *"shed light on the path to an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa led by its citizens and that constitutes a dynamic force on the world stage by making comparable, reliable and updated statistical information available regularly and in a timely manner in support of policy and decision-making, covering political, economic, social and cultural aspects of development and integration"* (AUC 2009).

The operationalization of this vision will be achieved through the establishment of a strong and well-coordinated African Statistical System. The availability of harmonized quality African statistics, produced regularly and on time, will lead to the emergence of African reference statistics and herald the dawn of a distinct African statistical identity at the international level.

4.4 Strategic Themes and Objectives

The Strategy addresses challenges relating to the production of quality statistics, the coordination of the ASS, the reinforcement of institutional capacity, as well as the inculcation of a “statistics culture” across the continent.

It is structured around four strategic themes, each of which embodies strategic objectives, cascading down through a number of strategic initiatives. Grass-root activities are crucial for the overall implementation of the Strategy. However, this document does not provide detailed information on them, and stops at the level of strategic initiatives. An Action Plan, currently under preparation, will elaborate the detailed activities to be covered by the Strategy.

There follows a breakdown of the four strategic themes and their objectives.

Strategic Theme 1: To Produce Quality Statistics for Africa

There have been repeated calls for quality statistical information to feed into policy- and the decision-making processes in Africa. Quality statistical information is crucial not only for the design and implementation of policies (at national, regional,

and continental levels) but also for monitoring the implementation of these policies and evaluating their impacts on society.

Strategic Theme 1 underpins the availability of such information across all the dimensions of integration. It embodies three main objectives: (i) to expand the statistical information base; (ii) to transform the existing statistics for comparability; and (iii) to harmonize standards and methods of statistical production.

Strategic Objective 1: To Expand the Statistical Information Base. The expansion of the statistical information base will cover all areas of integration – political, economic, as well as social and cultural. It entails the conduct of regular population and housing censuses/surveys, regular economic censuses/surveys, the strengthening and harnessing of administrative and other sources of statistical information including the civil registration system, and the building of an integrated and comprehensive statistical database on Africa. This will ensure the availability of a broad range of statistics at low cost.

Strategic Objective 2: To Transform Existing Statistics for Comparability. This calls for the adoption of reprocessing and adjustment methodologies, and the production and validation of comparable data. It will contribute to the comparability of statistical data for quality policy- and decision-making in support of the integration agenda.

Strategic Objective 3: To Harmonize Standards and Methods of Statistical Production. Adapting international standards and methods to African realities and aligning them will ensure the availability of harmonized statistical data in support

of the integration agenda, and contribute to the applicability of international standards and methods to the African context.

*Strategic Theme 2:
To Coordinate the Production
of Quality Statistics for Africa*

Time and again, the coordination of statistical activities has proved to be a major hurdle to statistical development in Africa. Uncoordinated interventions by different actors may lead not only to the duplication of activities, but also to the inefficient use of resources.

Strategic Theme 2 embodies initiatives to foster a more coordinated ASS. It includes three strategic objectives, namely: (i) to strengthen cooperation among institutions within the ASS; (ii) to establish an effective coordination mechanism; and (iii) to define statistical priorities for the implementation of the integration agenda.

Strategic Objective 1: To Strengthen Cooperation among Institutions within the African Statistical System. This calls for the strengthening of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC), the creation of statistical functions within those RECs that currently do not have one (namely AMU, CEN-SAD, ECCAS, and IGAD), and the strengthening of the statistical functions that do exist within RECs. The expected outcomes include harmonized programs and better coordination of statistical development.

Strategic Objective 2: To Establish an Effective Coordination Mechanism. This demands a robust coordination framework, the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, further strength-

ening of the statistics function at pan-African institutions and especially at AUC, and the establishment of an independent African Statistical Development Institute (ASDI). It is expected that these initiatives will result in a more effective use of resources and to a well-regulated environment for statistical development.

Strategic Objective 3: To Define Statistical Priorities for the Implementation of the Integration Agenda. The identification of statistical priorities, together with the selection and definition of statistical indicators, will contribute to a harmonized work program and to an ASS aligned to the priorities of the integration agenda.

*Strategic Theme 3:
To Build Sustainable Institutional
Capacity into the African Statistical
System*

Building and sustaining institutional capacity is crucial to the Strategy because without it, ASS producers will not be able to collect, manage, and disseminate the quality harmonized quality statistics that are essential to the development and the integration process.

Strategic Theme 3 embodies three strategic objectives, namely: (i) to ensure the reform and enhancement of National Statistical Systems; (ii) to build sustainable statistical capacity; and (iii) to establish an effective technological environment.

Strategic Objective 1: To Reform and Enhance National Statistical Systems. This will involve the following activities: adopting statistical laws and regulatory frameworks consistent with the African Charter on Statistics; establishing au-

onomous National Statistical Offices (NSOs); setting up independent governance structures; mainstreaming statistics in national development processes; developing and implementing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs); conducting peer reviews; and ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for statistical activities. Achievement of these activities should go a long way toward the creation of a reformed and enhanced NSS. Indeed, the implementation of these initiatives is likely to result in better coordination and development of statistical activities, better functioning NSSs, adequate and sustainable funding of statistical activities, improved regulatory frameworks for statistical activities, evidence-based data for the integration agenda, as well as enhanced governance and advocacy for statistics.

Strategic Objective 2: To Build Sustainable Statistical Capacity. This objective will be realized through: the development of harmonized training programs; the establishment or strengthening of In-Service Training Centers at NSOs; the strengthening of statistical schools and training centers; African participation in international training and programs; and ensuring exposure of Young African Statisticians (YAS) in line with the ISlbaló capacity-building program. The expected outcomes include, among others, world-class African training institutes producing competent statisticians, an increased pool of experienced, operational statisticians, and sustained capability of African statistical scholarship.

Strategic Objective 3: To Establish an Effective Technological Environment. Developing a management information system (MIS) for the monitoring of the integration agenda, building

a statistical data warehouse, and standardizing dissemination tools and platforms will help to achieve this objective. The expected outcomes will include: effective monitoring of integration efforts; better evidence-based policy and decision-making; consistent dissemination of data; and accessible statistical information for better policies and decisions.

*Strategic Theme 4:
To Promote a Culture of Quality
Decision-making*

The lack of a “statistics culture” is another major obstacle standing in the way of statistical development in Africa. Policy-makers and the public in general tend to undervalue the role of statistics in society, resulting in its current low status and ensuing problems, especially in terms of securing adequate human and financial resources.

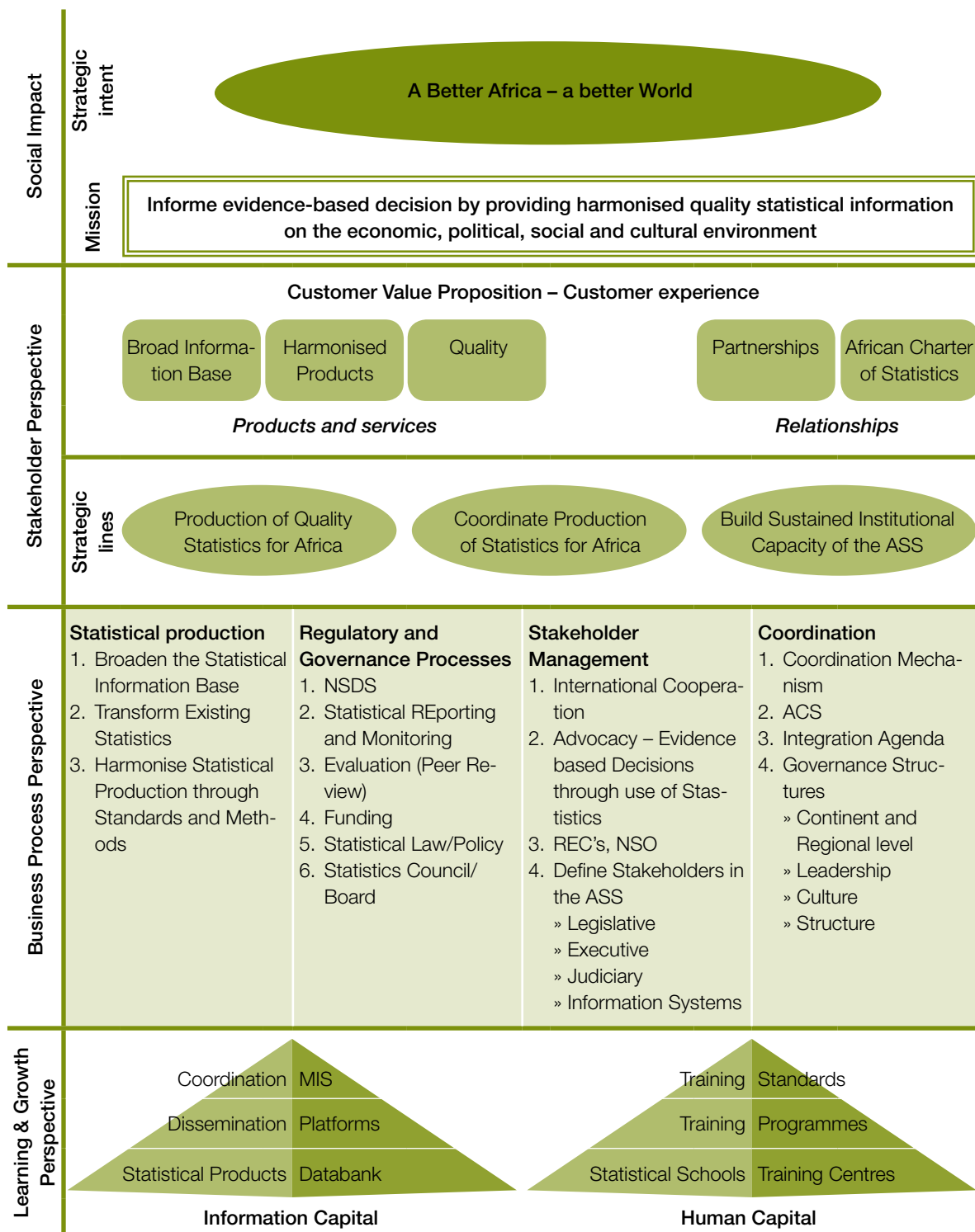
Strategic Theme 4 seeks to address this by: (i) promoting evidence-based policy and decisions through the use of statistics and (ii) improving the communication of statistical information.

Strategic Objective 1: To Promote Evidence-based Policies and Decisions through the Use of Statistics. The implementation of two initiatives will help achieve this objective, first by engaging policy-makers and legislators in statistical discourse and, second, by advocating strongly for the use of statistics. This is expected to improve the quality of policies and decisions as well as economic and social outcomes.

Strategic Objective 2: To Improve the Communication of Statistical Information. This will entail developing a strategy for data dissemination and

a communication plan. This will result in the increased usage of statistics, improved policy- and decision-making, as well as enhanced economic and social outcomes.

The next section presents a Strategic Matrix for Harmonized Quality Statistics, whereby each strategic theme is listed together with its strategic initiatives, expected outputs, performance indicators, milestones/targets, and outcomes. A more detailed Action Plan, setting out activities, responsible parties, etc. is under preparation.



4.5 Strategic Matrix for Harmonized Quality Statistics

STRATEGIC THEME 1: To Produce Quality Statistics for Africa

Strategic Objective 1: To Expand the Statistical Information Base

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Conduct regular population and housing censuses (PHCs) and household surveys	Statistical information on population: composition, distribution, size & growth, migration, employment, education, social and health, remittances, housing / living conditions, poverty, and gender	Number of countries conducting population and housing censuses during the period 2005-2014 and household surveys and published results	53 countries committed to conduct PHC in the 2010 round, as well as to conduct regular periodic surveys 53 countries conduct PHC in the 2010 round and publish results within the recommended timeframe, as well as undertaking regular periodic household surveys	MIDGs and other social and demographic indicators to inform an integrated development agenda
Conducting periodic economic censuses and surveys	Statistical information on employment, inputs, gross output, and value added by the different sectors and other characteristics of businesses Statistical information on Spatial Development Initiative (infrastructure – transport, energy, communication and water)	Number of countries undertaking censuses over the next 5 years Number of countries conducting SDI surveys Periodicity of SDI surveys	53 countries undertake census every 5 years and publish results 53 countries conduct SDI surveys every 3 years	Value added in all the sectors of the economy vital for the production of a full set of national accounts including gross domestic product (GDP)
Conducting regular agricultural census & annual agricultural surveys	Statistics information on: Structure and organization of the agricultural sector Performance and monitoring information on the agricultural sector	Number of countries participating in the 2010 round of agricultural censuses (2005-2014) Number of countries conducting annual agricultural surveys	53 countries undertake the census every 10 years and publish results 53 countries undertake the annual agricultural survey and publish results	Informed food security and nutrition initiative (e.g. CAADP) Better food security and nutrition

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
<p>Conduct periodic economic censuses and surveys</p>	<p>Statistical information to measure the value added in all the sectors of the economy vital for the production of a full set of national accounts, including GDP</p>	<p>Number of countries conducting a census of business establishments Periodicity of surveys</p>	<p>53 countries publish results of economic census by 2013 and every 5 years thereafter</p>	<p>-More informed GDP estimates Informed extent of economic growth on the continent</p>
	<p>Statistical information on: -International investment position -Investor perceptions</p>	<p>Number of countries conducting private sector Investment surveys (PSIS) Periodicity of surveys</p>	<p>53 countries publish annual data on PSIS by 2012</p>	<p>Informed international investment position Informed Investment policies</p>
	<p>Number of countries conducting industrial surveys Periodicity of surveys</p>	<p>53 countries publish annual industry statistics by 2012</p>	<p>More effective development of productive capacity on the continent</p>	<p>Statistical information on industries</p>
	<p>Statistical information on: -Innovation -Research and Development</p>	<p>Number of countries conducting science, technology and innovation surveys (STI) Periodicity of surveys</p>	<p>53 countries publish statistics on innovation, research and development by 2013 and every 5 years thereafter</p>	<p>Informed innovation policies Informed extent of science and technology</p>
	<p>Statistical information on: -Price statistics</p>	<p>Number of countries conducting ICP Periodicity of ICP survey</p>	<p>53 countries publish results of ICP by 2013 and every 5 years thereafter</p>	<p>Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) Investment and trade decisions</p>
	<p>Registers: Population Business Geographic frames Local government information</p>	<p>Number of countries with register-based systems</p>	<p>53 countries have register-based systems</p>	<p>Accessible and low-cost production system</p>
	<p>Statistical information on economic convergence criteria</p>	<p>Number of countries compiling and publishing economic convergence criteria indicators</p>	<p>53 countries publish annual economic convergence criteria indicators by 2012</p>	<p>Economic convergence</p>

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Conduct periodic economic censuses and surveys	Statistical information on gross national product (GNP) and its components	Number of countries compiling and publishing GNP	53 countries publish annual GNP statistics by 2012	Better management of Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and MDG 8
	Statistical information on Spatial Development Initiative (infrastructure – transport, energy, ICT, and water)	Number of countries conducting SDI surveys Periodicity of SDI surveys	53 countries conduct SDI surveys every 3 years	Informed interstate connectivity and development
	Statistical information on trade	Number of countries conducting trade surveys Periodicity of surveys	53 countries publish annual trade statistics by 2012	Informed trade policies Increased trade on the continent
	Statistical information on industries	Number of countries conducting industry surveys Periodicity of surveys	53 countries publish annual industry statistics by 2012	More effective development of productive capacity on the continent
	Statistical information on climate change: CO ₂ emissions Rising sea levels Desertification	Number of countries conducting climate change surveys Periodicity of surveys	53 countries publish annual climate change statistics by 2012	Better climate adaptation and mitigation on the continent
	Statistical information on natural resources	Number of countries conducting natural resources surveys Periodicity of surveys	53 countries publish annual natural resources statistics by 2012	Better management and exploitation of natural resources
	Statistical information on tourism and cultural goods	Number of countries conducting tourism and cultural goods surveys Periodicity of surveys	53 countries publish annual tourism and cultural goods statistics by 2012	A culturally and socially integrated Africa
	Statistical information on the informal sector	Number of countries conducting informal sector surveys Periodicity of surveys	53 countries publish annual informal sector statistics by 2012	Better management of the economy and the informal sector

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Strengthen and harmonize administrative and other sources of statistical data	Statistical information on vital events (mainly births, deaths, and causes of death)	Number of countries with effective Civil Registration System	53 countries with effective Civil Registration Systems by 2020	-Better informed public policies -Better monitoring of development
	HIV/AIDS surveillance	Number of countries with HIV/AIDS surveillance system	53 countries with HIV/AIDS surveillance system by 2015	Improved management of HIV/AIDS
	Food security: Food, Health and Nutrition Information System (FHANIS)	Number of countries with FHANIS	53 countries with FHANIS surveillance system by 2015	Improved household food security and nutrition
Develop a statistical base on governance	Statistical information on: Peace and security Governance	Number of countries compiling and publishing information on peace, security, and governance	53 countries publish annual information on peace, security, and governance by 2012	A better governed Africa

Strategic Objective 2: To Transform Existing Statistics for Comparability

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Adopt reprocessing and adjustment methodologies	Manuals on reprocessing and adjustment methodologies	Number of manuals	Manuals on reprocessing and adjustment methodologies in all areas of integration by 2013	Comparable statistics for quality policy- and decision-making in support of integration
Produce and validate comparable data	Publish comparable data	Number of statistical areas with comparable data	Comparable statistical data in all areas of integration by 2014	Comparable statistics for quality policy- & decision-making in support of integration

Strategic Objective 3: To Harmonize Standards and Methods of Statistical Production

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Adapt international standards and methods to African realities	Manuals on common standards and methods	Number of manuals	Manuals on common statistical standards and methods in all areas of integration by 2014	Applicable international standards and methods to African realities
Implement adopted common standards and methods	Harmonized statistics	Number of harmonized statistical areas	53 countries implement common standards by 2014	Applicable international standards and methods to African realities

STRATEGIC THEME 2: To coordinate the Production of quality statistics for Africa

Strategic Objective 1: To Strengthen Cooperation among Institutions within the African Statistical System

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Strengthen the ASCC (African Statistical Coordination Committee)	Common agenda on statistical activities among pan-African institutions	Number of programs agreed upon	Annual agreed statistical agenda	Harmonized programs
Create statistics function in those RECs without one (AMU, CEN-SAD, ECCAS, IGAD)	Functional statistics entities	Number of functional statistical entities	4 statistical entities created by 2015	Better coordination of statistical development within the RECs
Strengthen the statistics function of RECs where these exist	Functional statistics entities Common regional statistical programs and profiles	Number of functional statistical entities Number of intra-regional programs	Annual RECs work programs by 2011	Better coordination of statistical development within the RECs Harmonized regional programs

Strategic Objective 2: To Establish an Effective Coordination Mechanism

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Implement a coordination framework for the ASS	Coordination framework ²⁶	Number of members of the ASS that comply with the framework	Coordination framework adopted by 2010	Harmonized statistics Effective utilization of resources
Implement African Charter on Statistics (ACS)	Review reports on implementation of the Charter	Number of countries that have signed and ratified the Charter	15 countries sign the Charter by 2010	Regulated environment for statistical development Sustained production of harmonized statistics
Strengthen the statistics function at pan-African organizations, especially the AUC	Functioning statistics department at the AUC	Number of harmonized statistics programs that enhance the integration agenda Number of new staff recruited	Statistics department established at AUC by 2015	Sustained production of harmonized statistics
Establish an independent African Statistical Development Institution (ASDI)	Functioning, independent ASDI	Number of programs undertaken by ASDI	ASDI up and running by 2014	Harmonized and harmonized statistical activities and development on the continent

Strategic Objective 3: To Define Statistical Priorities for the Implementation of the Integration Agenda

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Identify statistical priorities	Compendium of statistical priorities	Number of countries that include the integration agenda in their national statistical master plans	Annual African statistical work program in force by 2011 53 countries publish statistical master plans in line with the African statistical work program	Harmonized statistical work program in line with integration priorities
Select and define statistical indicators	List of statistical indicators with their definitions	Number of indicators generated and published	Statistical indicators updated annually	Harmonized African Statistical System (ASS) in line with integration priorities

²⁶ Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism; ToRs for members of the ASS; governance structures; etc.

STRATEGIC THEME 3: To build the sustainable institutional capacity of the African Statistical System

Strategic Objective 1: To Reform and Enhance National Statistical Systems

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Adopt statistical laws and regulatory frameworks consistent with the African Charter on Statistics (ACS)	Up-to-date and conducive statistical laws	Number of countries with up-to-date statistical laws consistent with the ACS	53 countries with up-to-date statistical laws consistent with the ACS by 2015	Better regulatory framework for statistical activities
Establish autonomous NSOs	Autonomous NSOs	Number of autonomous NSOs	53 autonomous NSOs by 2015	Objective facts for the integration agenda
Establish independent governance structures to promote autonomous production	Functional statistics boards, councils, associations, etc.	Number of functional governance structures created	53 countries establish statistical governance structures by 2015	Better governance and advocacy for statistics
Mainstream statistics in national policy and planning frameworks	Statistics identified as a cross-cutting sector targeted for development	Number of countries with a separate chapter on statistical development in their PRSP or National Development Plan	53 countries with a separate chapter on statistical development in their PRSP or National Development Plan by 2015	Statistic prioritized in national development
Develop National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)	NSDS designed in line with internationally agreed principles and essentials Implementation plan Investment plan Monitoring plan	Number of countries that develop an NSDS	53 countries with an NSDS by 2011	Better coordination and development of statistical activities within countries

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Implement NSDS	–Implemented NSDS –Monitoring report	Number of countries that implement a NSDS	53 countries implement NSDS by 2015	Better coordination and development of statistical activities within countries
Create sustainable funding for statistical activities	African Statistics Fund National Statistics Funds	Adequacy of funds Sustainability of sources	African Statistics Fund by 2011 At least 25 National Statistics Funds by 2015	Adequate and sustainable funding of statistical activities
Conduct peer reviews	Peer review reports on National Statistical Systems	Number of peer review reports	Peer review reports on 30 countries by 2014	Improved National Statistical Systems

Strategic Objective 2: To Build Sustainable Statistical Capacity

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Strengthen African Group on Statistical Training (AGROST) Develop harmonized training programs	Training standards Standardized curricula	Number of NSOs, schools and centers that adopt training standards	All training schools and centers adopt training standards by 2011	Competent statisticians Better integration of training centers Improved methods of learning
Establish In-service Training Centers at NSOs or strengthen them if they already exist	Training centers established Training centers strengthened	Number of new training centers established Number of training centers strengthened	53 countries with a strong In-service Training Center at their National Statistical Office (NSO) by 2015	Increased number of well-trained statistical personnel
Strengthen statistical schools and training centers	Centers of excellence in all areas of statistical production	Number of centers of excellence	Centers of excellence in all areas of statistics by 2015	World-class institutes that produce a critical mass of competent statisticians
Participate in international statistical training/ programs	Statisticians trained	Number of training programs attended	At least 100 statisticians trained every year by 2013	Greater number of competent statisticians trained

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Ensure exposure of "Young African Statisticians" (YAS) in line with ISibalo capacity-building program	Annual report on mentorship and coaching programs	Number of YASs mentored and coached	At least 1000 YAS mentored and trained every year by 2012	Increased pool of experienced, operational cadre of statisticians
Establish an African Statistics Training Center	Training Center for Africa ²⁷	Number of courses offered Number of people trained Research output	Training Center for Africa established by 2012 At least 100 people trained every year by 2014	Sustained capability of African statistical scholarship

Strategic Objective 3: To Establish an Effective Technological Environment

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Develop a Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring the integration agenda	Functional MIS for monitoring the integration agenda	Number of integration areas/aspects covered	Annual progress report on implementation of the integration agenda by 2010	Better monitoring of integration efforts
Build a statistical data warehouse	Functional statistical data warehouse for data management	Number of indicators populated in the warehouse	Statistical data warehouse covers all areas of integration from 2010	Better evidence-based decision-making
Standardize dissemination tools and platforms	Standardized dissemination tools and platforms	Number of countries adopting standardized dissemination tools and platforms	53 African countries adopt standards dissemination tools and platforms by 2014	Consistent dissemination Accessible information for better decisions

27 In addition to the statistical training in statistics, training will also be given in such vital areas as leadership and management, communication language, retooling, and refresher programs.

STRATEGIC THEME 4: To promote a culture of quality policy- and decision-making
Strategic Objective 1: To Drive Evidence-based Decisions through the Increased Use of Statistics

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Engage policy-makers and legislators in statistical discourse	Annual report on engagement with governments, parliaments, civil society, and the private sector	Number of policy-makers that apply statistics in decision-making Increased use of statistics in parliamentary debates	Two meetings every year with policy-makers, at the continental level, starting in 2010	Improved quality of decisions Improved economic and social outcomes
Advocate for the use of statistics	Advocacy strategy	Number of countries in which the strategy is implemented	Advocacy strategy finalized and implemented by 2014 in 53 countries	Improved quality of decisions Improved economic and social outcomes

Strategic Objective 2: To Improve the Communication of Statistical Information

Strategic Initiative	Output	Performance Indicator	Milestone/Target	Outcome
Develop a data dissemination strategy	Dissemination plan Manuals on dissemination of statistical information	Number of manuals	Manuals published by 2011	Improved quality of decisions Improved economic and social outcomes
Develop a communication plan	Approved plan	Use of website User perception	10% increase in website visitor numbers by 2012 User satisfaction survey conducted by 2012	Increased usage of statistics

4.6 Strategic Enablers and Risks

STRATEGIC THEME 1: To produce quality statistics for Africa

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Enablers	Strategic risks
1. To expand the statistical information base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Commitment and capacity of African countries to plan and execute sample surveys and censuses – Countries are starting to take an interest in emerging issues such as climate change, environmental, gender statistics, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inability of countries to conduct sample surveys and censuses – For censuses in particular, there is a risk in moving large volumes of paper, given the context of poorly developed statistical and transport infrastructure – Conflict and civil strife that make it impossible for some countries to prioritize statistical production
2. To transform existing statistics for comparability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Commitment and capacity of African countries to plan and execute sample surveys and censuses – General agreement on the methods to be used for comparability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inability of countries to conduct surveys and censuses – Inadequate technology and methodologies to enhance comparability
3. To harmonize standards and methods of statistical production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Capacity of African countries to agree on common standards and methods – Opportunities for technical staff from African NSOs to meet, discuss, and adopt positions on subject-matter relating to statistics, e.g. on MDGs, ICT, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor/lack of participation of African countries in international fora where reviews for standards and methods are discussed, – Enforcement of a “one size fits all” methodology by the international statistical community on a continent that has very different dynamics – Lack of methods of African origin that take into account political, economic, social, and cultural values and practices on the continent

STRATEGIC THEME 2: To Coordinate the Production of Quality statistics for Africa

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Enablers	Strategic Risks
1. Strengthen co-operation among institutions within the African Statistical System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regular and focused meeting among pan-African institutions, RECs, and member states – Elimination of overlaps among the RECs and intra-RECs – Coordination of statistical development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of cooperation/collaboration among RECs and pan-African institutions
2. Strengthen coordination mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effective statistical functions at pan-African institutions, RECs and member states – An effective African Statistics Coordination Committee (ASCC) in place – African Charter on Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Delay /inability to restructure and re-source pan-African institutions, RECS, and member states – The weak state of RECs and delays to unbundle overlaps hinder coordination on the continent
3. Define statistical priorities to implement the integration agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will of policy-makers to achieve integration on the continent – Targeted programs such as MDGs and other continental initiatives benefit the statistical integration agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor articulation of political, economic, social and cultural continental priorities into concise statistical priorities

STRATEGIC THEME 3: To Build the Sustainable Institutional Capacity of the African Statistical System

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Enablers	Strategic Risks
1. To reform and enhance the National Statistical System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Demonstrated political will of some member states to reform the statistical system – In some countries, the regulatory framework for statistical production gives the key players (NSOs, boards, councils, etc.) independence – National development frameworks that highlight the need for good statistics for monitoring and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Risk of autonomy and independence being hijacked by monopoly capital, leading to the privatization of statistics and possible deviation from national priorities – Lack of effective leadership of autonomous NSOs
2. To build sustainable statistical capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training institutes as well as capacity-building initiatives already exist on the continent – Some statistical regional organizations (such as AFRISTAT) already have well-established training programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inadequate coordination and leadership of succession planning initiative – Low retention rate of statisticians on the continent – Language poses a serious barrier in capacity building
3. To establish an effective technological environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Growing and relatively high penetration rate of cellular networks and internet facilities – Growing international development in data-capturing technologies could minimize need for bulk movement of paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Africa is a latecomer to the development and use of technology and has a high level of dependency on other regions of the world – Negative perceptions of technology as a security risk

STRATEGIC THEME 4: To promote a culture of quality decision-making

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Enablers	Strategic Risks
1. To drive evidence-based policy and decisions through the use of statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is a growing interest to reference statistical information, especially for integration – There is growing interest to lead statistical development on the continent – Regular reference of the importance of evidence-based policy making by Heads of State and Government lends support to the drive to use statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statistics and statisticians do not form part of the entire process of planning, monitoring and evaluation; rather, statisticians are usually brought in only when data is urgently needed – Statistics producers are not sufficiently capacitated – Lack of trust in official statistics
2. To improve communication of statistical information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Some NSOs are starting to develop promotional materials for statistical development on the continent – Hosting of statistical gatherings (such as ASSD, ISI, etc.) in different parts of the continent gives greater media prominence to the role of statistics – Regular coverage of the importance of evidence-based policy-making by Heads of State and Government lends support to the drive to use statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Key policy statements presented without statistical facts to back them up

4.7 Institutional Arrangements for Strategy Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation

4.7.1 Organizational Structure

The continental statistical harmonization process should not be conducted as a separate parallel exercise to the daily activities of pan-African organizations (e.g. AfDB and ECA), RECs, and national statistical systems. Rather, it calls for the establishment of a coherent framework that will allow such organizations, RECs, and member states to meet the needs for continent-wide harmonization *within the daily exercise* of their statistical activities. Such a framework will be based on a pyramid system, consonant with the mechanism for implementing of the African Charter on Statistics. Appendix 5 presents the terms of reference (TOR) for the various implementation bodies, including Specialized Technical Groups (STGs), Leading Countries (LCs), Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), and Committee of Directors-general of NSOs.

Specialized Technical Groups

Specialized Technical Groups (STGs) will be established for each identified statistical area, under the coordination and responsibility of a lead organization. These groups, comprising 20-25 members, will be made up of statistics specialists and practitioners from member states, RECs, and representatives of specialized, regional and international agencies. Membership will be on voluntary basis and STGs will hold meetings at least twice a year. Twelve STGs will be formed around the various identified statistical areas (see Table 8). As far as possible, STGs should

coordinate/synchronize their activities with similar groups established by StatCom-Africa.

Furthermore, a group to monitor the integration process (MonIP) will be set up under the coordination of the AUC. This group will meet twice a year on the eve of each Summit of Heads of State and Government to examine the state of implementation of decisions taken during previous summits and integration programs.

Leading Countries (LCs)

Leading Countries (LCs) will be designated based on their capability to champion STGs for an effective implementation of the Strategy.

Table 8: Specialized Technical Groups

No.	Specialized Technical Group	Leader	Leading Country (to be determined)	Composition (Other members)
1	STG-GPS: Governance, Peace & Security	AUC		ECA, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, Member States (MS)
2	STG-ES: External Sector (External Trade & Balance of Payments)	AUC		ECA, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, AFRITAC, MS
3	STG-MF: Money & Finance	AACB		AUC, ECA, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRITAC, MS
4	STG-NA&P (AGNA): National Accounts & Price Statistics	ECA		AUC, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, MS
5	STG-II&T: Infrastructure, Industries & Tourism	AfDB		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, MS
6	STG-PFPS&I: Public Finance, Private Sector & Investments	AfDB		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, AFRITAC, MS
7	STG-STE: Science, Technology & Education	AUC		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, MS
8	STG-So: Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection & Gender	ECA		AUC, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, MS
9	STG-Env: Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources	AfDB		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, FAO, MS
10	STG-CB (AGROST): Statistical Training	ECA		AUC, EAC, RECs, MS
11	STG - Informal Sector	AFRISTAT		AUC, AfDB, ECA, RECs, MS
12	STG - Classification	ECA		AUC, AfDB, AFRISTAT, RECs, MS
13	STG - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	ECA		AUC, AfDB, AFRISTAT, RECs, MS

Specialized Technical Committees (STCs)

STGs will develop draft implementation norms, standards, and methodologies which will be submitted for the scrutiny of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs). STCs will bring together specialists and practitioners of all member states, RECs, pan-African organizations, and other designated organizations. Three STCs will be formed to handle projects relating to the three dimensions of integration, as set out below. They will hold annual meetings (ahead of meetings of the Committee of Directors-General of NSOs):

1. **STC-Pol:** STC on Political Integration, and Regional and Continental Governance;
2. **STC-Eco:** STC on Economic Integration; and
3. **STC-So:** STC on Social and Cultural Integration.

Committee of Directors General of NSOs/ Statistical Commission for Africa

The implementation of the Strategy will take place under the overall guidance of the Committee of Directors General of NSOs (CoDG/StatCom-Africa, which serves as the Steering Committee. It is the CoDG/StatCom-Africa that will review projects submitted by STGs and approved by the STCs and decide whether to submit them for adoption by the AU's governing bodies. The Committee will meet once a year.

Once decisions or directives/regulations are adopted by political authorities at the continental level, Regional Statistical Coordinating Councils (RSCCs) will ensure that these directives/regulations are implemented in their respective regions by the National Statistical Councils (NSCs). The existing Committee of DGs within RECs and National Statistical Councils/ Boards could be used

for this purpose to avoid duplication of structures and functions. The ASCC will provide the secretariat for the implementation of the Strategy in order to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of all strategic initiatives.

4.7.2 Monitoring and evaluation mechanism

The African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) will provide general coordination for the implementation of the Strategy. It will ensure the regular monitoring of reports (technical and administrative) and follow up on the implementation in each statistical area by designated leaders.

Periodic administrative reports will help ensure smooth implementation of programs, in accordance with a well-established timetable, and will draw attention to results/any shortcomings observed. Leaders will be accountable for the implementation of activities within their respective areas. Administrative reports will be produced biannually.

Technical reports will provide information on progress made in achieving the objectives assigned. They will give details on the actual execution (physical and financial) of defined programs, as well as on results obtained. They will be produced annually.

STCs, the CoDG/StatCom-Africa, and the ASCC will be responsible for monitoring implementation of the Strategy. Each STC will monitor implementation in the area of integration assigned to it. The CoDG/StatCom-Africa will monitor the overall implementation of the Strategy and formulate recommendations for improvement, as appropriate. The ASCC will ensure harmonious and

chronological monitoring of activities, respecting deadlines and maintaining the institutional infrastructure for implementation of the Strategy. Each year the ASCC will submit a comprehensive report assessing the implementation of the Strategy to the competent authorities of the AUC. Table 9 summarizes the monitoring mechanism.

Performance indicators in the Strategy Matrix will be used to monitor progress. In addition, Appendix 4 (Table A9) gives a list of indicators that have been identified for monitoring the integration status and progress, while Table A10 gives a list of identified indicators for monitoring the results/effects/impacts of integration.

Table 9: Monitoring mechanism

Group	Description
Interdepartmental Group (AU) on monitoring the integration process (MIP)	Meeting of the Group twice a year, prior to the Summit of Heads of State and Government
Specialized Technical Groups (STGs)	Meeting of the 12 STGs twice a year (a total of 20-25 persons)
Specialized Technical Committees (STCs)	Meeting of STC once a year for all member states and development partners
Committee of Directors-General of NSOs/Stat-Com Africa	Meeting of the Committee of Directors-General of NSOs/StatCom Africa once a year

4.8 Costs

It is estimated that the cost for launching the Strategy and establishing all institutional arrangements for its implementation and monitoring will be around US\$2 million.

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Appendix 1:

Methodological Guidelines and Requisite Information to Monitor Integration Efforts

1. Methodological guidelines

The objective of this section is to come up with a realistic and concise list of data requirements to monitor integration efforts using the following three methodological principles:

- » Areas and indicators should cover the multidimensional aspect of African integration;
- » Areas and indicators at the continental level will integrate those used at national and regional levels; and
- » The search for a continental consensus should not mean simply reverting to the status quo, nor should it neglect national and regional disparities.

In accordance with these principles, statistical priorities can be organized around three main dimensions of integration: (i) political integration and regional and continental governance; (ii) economic integration; and (iii) social integration.

Following literature reviews and interviews carried out with RECs, organs of the AU, and Departments of the AUC, the need for statistical information for the formulation, monitoring, and assess-

ment of African integration can be categorized into two groups, regardless of the three dimensions of integration. These are: (i) the requirement for statistical data to monitor community policies currently being implemented and ongoing integration efforts, and (ii) the data requirement to evaluate the state of integration in terms of outcomes, effects, and impacts of policies/programs implemented.

Given the relative weakness of statistical functions in countries and most RECs, adopting a long list of priority areas/sectors may revert to the status quo. Even if we exclude a number of areas/sectors (such as national accounts and price indices) where there already exist continental platforms that could be used for harmonization programs, the problem remains unresolved.

Two options (and a third combining the two) seem feasible to circumscribe the process of statistical harmonization. The first option is to keep all identified integration sectors but to limit the list of indicators within the sectors. The criteria for selecting indicators should be spelt out and their coverage of all identified sectors of integration ensured.

The second option is to establish a hierarchy and make a selection among the priorities expressed by the regions and the AU, while ensuring the multidimensional monitoring of integration. Hierarchy implies a ranking of statistical priorities provided by RECs and the AU and/or inferred from goals, priority programs, and the level of integration. Next, an aggregation rule should be determined to express a collective preference that reflects the individual predilections of RECs and the AU. To determine the collective preference, the theoretical framework of collective decision-making (Arrow 1983)²⁸ may constitute a reference that does not necessarily provide a satisfactory aggregation rule of individual preferences (here that of RECs and the AU). If one adheres to the "continentalization" aspect that the African Union holds dear, and which is to provide comparable statistical data at the continental level, a combination of both options might prove a better alternative.

The proposals made in the sections that follow aim to strike a balance between the need for monitoring multidimensional aspects at the continental level on the one hand, and the operational character and feasibility of the statistical harmonization process on the other.

2. Requisite information to monitor integration efforts

This category includes information necessary for monitoring the implementation (in terms of process and efforts made) of integration programs at the level of the AU and RECs. It has more to do with the information (qualitative or quantita-

tive) needed to calculate indicators of activities and products than with information to assess results/outcomes/impacts in terms of macro, meso or sectoral progress toward regional and continental integration.

The information required may vary from one REC to another, depending on the priorities defined at the level of each community. It may however be useful to agree on a short list of indicators to be sent to the AU by all RECs, together with an extended directory of indicators to be informed by RECs' own priorities, programs, and processes. The extended directory will serve as a basis for possible future extension of the short list of indicators.

An assessment of statistical initiatives on the continent reveals a compatibility between the regional integration monitoring program developed by the ACP Secretariat and the above methodology. It may then be useful, since all the RECs (apart from AMU) are represented in it, to capitalize on this ACP program and draw inspiration from it in the light of complementarity. Since the program does not specifically raise the issue of statistical support and data production, it may find a coherent response in the harmonization strategy.

Based on the three dimensions of integration, the sectors where monitoring should be conducted are summarized in Table A1.

28 "Values and Collective Decision Making" in *Collected Papers of Kenneth J. Arrow*, Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1983. The main principles embodied in the framework have to do with the collective opinion, and the unanimity and independence of foreign alternatives.

Table A1: The three integration dimensions and sectors (activities and products) to be used for the monitoring of program and policy implementation

Dimensions	Sectors
1. Political Integration and Regional and Continental Governance	Institutional organization
	Community funding
	Political governance and collective security
2. Economic Integration	Trade integration
	Monetary and financial integration
	Economic cooperation and partnerships
	Transportation
	Energy
	Communication
	Environment
	Regional tourism
3. Social and Cultural Integration	Education
	Health
	Regional and continental citizenship
	Women and youths
	Arts, culture, and sports

Based on these sectors, a shortlist of indicators to evaluate the implementation of the integration process is proposed (Appendix 4). The following criteria were used to determine the list of indicators:

- » Validity
- » Reliability
- » Simplicity
- » Utility
- » Measurability

- » Costs
- » Availability on time

The criteria are further divided into a number of subcriteria, as indicated in Table A2.

Table A2: Criteria and subcriteria for selecting indicators

Serial No.	Criteria	Serial No. of subcriteria	Contents (subcriteria)
1	Validity	1	Indicator consistent with the objective
		2	Indicator related to a substantial aspect of the expected outcome
		3	Indicator allowing judgment to be made
		4	Indicator avoiding contrary efforts to those looked for
2	Reliability	5	Permanent indicator that is independent of the vagaries of organization
		6	Indicator of unquestionable reliability
3	Simplicity	7	Indicator immediately understandable or clearly explained
4	Utility	8	Indicator immediately exploited by the administrations concerned
		9	Indicator suitable for comparison over time and space and between actors
5	Measurability	10	Data necessary for measuring indicators can be collected
6	Cost	11	Indicator drawn up at a reasonable cost (insignificant or relatively low as compared to information brought by the indicator)
7	Availability	12	Indicator available at regular intervals

From a list of indicators identified in the literature (see Appendix 4), a selection is made by testing the indicators using the above criteria. This evaluation consists in determining the rating scale of the *Likert* type scale on the one hand, and on the other hand determining the threshold from which it can be said that the indicator is relevant.

The rating scale for the criteria is as follows:

- 5 = Very good
- 4 = Good
- 3 = Fairly good
- 2 = Below average
- 1 = Poor

As for the relevance threshold, it is equal to the simple arithmetic average of 3.5 points. An indicator is therefore kept if, on average, it is rated to be more than “Fairly Good” ranked by all the criteria.

Based on this information, each of the 12 sub-criteria is given a score following the rating scale. The total sum of scores make it possible to arrive at an average on which to assess the relevance of each indicator, taking into account the relevance threshold of 3.5. Table A9 in Appendix 4 presents the list of indicators.

3. Summary of statistical requirements for monitoring the state of integration

The second category of statistical priorities expressed by RECs and the AU aim at monitoring the results/impacts of integration at regional and continental levels. This is statistical information aimed at informing performance indicators/effects and impacts of the integration process. It is also statistical information taken into consideration in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of regional and continental integration in all its dimensions.

The summary consists of merging regional preferences expressed by each REC with those expressed by AU organs. This exercise is essential in that, *a priori*, each REC, under the framework of the African integration process, has its own program which it implements according to its own priorities (different integration processes).

A simple addition of REC preferences results in a list of priority sectors, as presented in Table A3 below.

Table A3: Summary of priority statistical areas according to the REC

REC	Priority statistical areas
ECOWAS	External trade, price indices, national accounts, public finance, finance, money and balance of payments
EAC	Sociodemographics, national accounts, agriculture, direct foreign investment, environment and tourism, monetary and financial, price indices, trade ICT, transport and construction, balance of payments
COMESA	Trade in goods, direct foreign investment, national accounts, infrastructures and ICT, price indices, industries
CEN-SAD	Agriculture, sociodemographics, infrastructure, transportation, energy, health
IGAD	Agriculture, environment, economic cooperation, social development, peace and security, gender
SADC	Foreign trade, macroeconomic, social, human development
ECCAS	Foreign trade, infrastructure, peace and security, agriculture and energy, ICT, environment, other economic statistics, social statistics
AU	Population, migration, health, education, employment, gender, living conditions, poverty, social protection, MDGs, migration, agricultural production, industrial production, tourism, transport and telecommunications, public finances, monetary and finance, private sector, balance of payments, price indices, governance, peace and security
Summary of priority areas	Governance, peace and security, external sector, national accounts & prices, money and finance, infrastructure, industries and tourism, public finance, private sector and investment, science, technology & education, demography, migrations, health, human development, social protection and gender, agriculture, environment and natural resources, informal sector statistics

An alignment of these sectors in relation to the dimensions and sectors of multidimensional regional and African integration is presented in Table A4.

Table A4: Priority statistical areas of integration

Dimensions	Integration area	Statistical area
1. Political integration and regional governance	Institutional organization	Statistical reforms
	Community funding	Autonomous alternative funding
	Political governance and collective security	Peace and security Governance
2. Economic integration	Trade integration	Foreign trade
		Balance of payments
	Monetary and finance integration	Monetary and finance
		Price indices
		Public finance
		National accounts
	Economic cooperation and partnerships	Investments
		Industry
	Transportation	Transportation infrastructure
	Energy	Energy infrastructure
	Communication	Communication infrastructure
	Environment	Agriculture
		Natural resources
Environmental management and climate change		
3. Social and cultural integration	Education	Education and literacy
		Science and technology
	Health	Health
	Regional and continental citizenship	Demography
		Migration
	Culture, sports and leisure	Tourism
	Women and youth	Gender, employment
		Social protection
	Human development	Human development
		Poverty

Following the same criteria as those in the preceding point, the list of indicators in Table A9 in Appendix 4 is proposed.

Combining two types of indicators (monitoring of efforts and integration) leads to an information directory on the Implementation of Integration Processes. The objective is to harmonize the information so as to obtain a dynamic Database for the Monitoring of Regional and African Integration (AFROINDICATORS).

Appendix 2:

International Reference Systems and Statistical Harmonization

The lack of statistical harmonization is frequently cited as a major obstacle to the smooth implementation of regional and continental development and to integration programs in Africa. Indeed, the quality of data needed for decision-making and implementation of common policies is wanting. Moreover, with the exception of a number of programs to harmonize statistics in a few areas – which do not generally cover all African countries – there is no holistic statistical harmonization program covering all statistical sectors and the entire continent.

Globally, several references (classifications, systems, technical manuals, and guidelines) provide a framework for data compilation. Generally accepted guidelines and technical frameworks exist for the compilation of statistics on national accounts, balance of payments, public finances, foreign trade, investment, price indices, demographic and social data, etc. Most of these global references adhere to various international conventions and good practices relating to the compilation of statistical data. However, these conventions and good practices are limited in their applicability because different economies and local realities/conditions vary widely. Indeed, it is practically impossible to take full account of the specificities of each type and category of country. For example,

the particularities and requirements of developed countries and those of emerging and developing countries differ extensively, requiring the adaptation of global standards to local specificities.²⁹

Many researchers criticize the validity of international comparisons of data published by countries. Hartwig (2005), for example, shows that the difference between real growth rates of the US and the European Union since 1997 can be almost entirely explained by changes in the methods of deflation introduced in the US post 1997. Given that several other statistical indicators – financial, monetary, social, etc. – are not calculated using the same techniques or in the same way, this poses problems of comparability between countries.

The following three subsections will look at: (i) *reference classifications*, which form the basis for any attempt to harmonize statistics; (ii) the various ways African countries implement the

29 *National Accounting System 2008* (EC, IMF, OECD, UN, and WB 2008); *Consumer Price Index Manual* (ILO, IMF, OECD, Eurostat, UN, and World Bank 2004); *Producer Price Index Manual* (ILO, IMF, OECD, Eurostat, UN, and World Bank 2004); *Government Finance Statistics Manual* (IMF 2001a); *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual* (IMF 2000); *Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position* (IMF 2008a); *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (UN, EC, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, and WTO 2002); *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census* (UN 1996) etc.

System of National Accounts (SNA); and (iii) the *European System of Accounts*, which represents a unified system of accounts.

1. Reference classifications

Classification systems are used to group statistical data according to criteria that make them more homogeneous and more likely to be used for accurate analysis. The harmonization and adaptation to African realities of these reference classifications will play a fundamental role in the overall harmonization process of integration statistics.

At the international level, there are several reference classifications, recorded in the classification registry of the United Nations Statistics Division (for the most part, economic classifications) or published by other specialized agencies of the United Nations such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Several categories of economic classifications exist, of which the three main ones are: (i) classifications of economic activities, (ii) product classifications, and (iii) functional classifications. Classifications of economic activities are primarily used to compile statistical data on production, the production process (intermediary consumption, value added), factors of production, capital formation, financial transactions, etc. Product classifications are used to compile data on the supply (domestic production, import) and use (intermediate and final consumptions) of products, as well as to identify their price dimension. Functional classifications are used to compile functional, specific data (public or private con-

sumption, capital formation, intermediary consumption, etc.).

It is important to note the harmonized and integrated nature of reference economic classifications. Indeed, the same kinds and different kinds of classifications have been harmonized. Conceptual relations and relationships between classifications of activities and products are also homogeneous.

Table A5: Evolution of the international integrated economic classifications system

Period	Classification of activities	Product classification
1983		HS
1986		SITC Rev. 4
1989	ISIC Rev. 3	
1991		Prov. CPC
1998		CPC Version 1.0
2002	ISIC Rev. 3.1	CPC Version 1.1
2006	ISIC Rev. 4	CPC Version 2.0
2007		SITC Rev. 4

Source: UN (2009).

Key: ISIC = International Standard Industrial Classification; SITC = Standard International Trade Classification; CPC = Central Product Classification.

While there is virtually only one reference classification for economic activities – namely the International Standard Industrial Classification of all areas of economic activities (ISIC) – there are several product classifications. These include: the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS); the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), developed using the HS; the Central Product Classification (CPC), developed using the SITC; and the Broad Economic Categories (BEC).

ISIC and CPC have in particular been used as references in the development of other “derived” nomenclatures, adapted to the realities of certain groups of countries. Classifications derived from these classifications include: the Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) and the Classification of Products by Activity in the European Community (CPA) for European Union (EU) countries. In Africa one can

identify the Classification of Economic Activities of AFRISTAT member states (NAEMA) and the Products Classification of AFRISTAT member states (NOPEMA).

Several functional classifications also exist, including classifications of expenditures by economic entity to collect information such as price indices. One of the reference classifications in this category is the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), also adapted in Africa by AFRISTAT to take into account certain regional specificities.

In addition, economic classifications include occupational classifications (e.g. International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), regional and territorial units, construction, tourism and customs classifications, etc.). A number of African countries have adopted classifications

and/or developed directories based on these international standards.

In addition to economic classifications, specialized UN agencies, in collaboration with other international organizations, have developed other reference classifications in the fields of education, health and others. The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), for example, was developed by UNESCO to *"serve as an instrument suitable for gathering, compiling and presenting education statistics both within individual countries and internationally."* Classifications published by WHO in the area of health include: the International Classification of Diseases and Injuries (ICD), the International Classification of Functioning, Disease and Disability (ICF), and the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI).

Table A6: Summary of selected classifications

Classifications	Depository	Family	Region covered
ISIC	UNO (UNSD)	Economic activities	Global
NACE	EC (EUROSTAT)	Economic activities	European Community
NAICS	Office of Management and Budget (USA)	Economic activities	Canada, United States, Mexico
NAEMA	AFRISTAT	Economic activities	19 Members States of AFRISTAT
HS	World Customs Organization	Products	Global
SITC	UN (UNSD)	Products	Global
CPC	UN (UNSD)	Products	Global
BEC	UN (UNSD)	Products	Global
CPA	EC (EUROSTAT)	Products	European Community
NAPCS	Office of Management and Budget (USA)	Products	Canada, United States, Mexico
NOPEMA	AFRISTAT	Products	19 Members States of AFRISTAT
PRODCOM	EC (EUROSTAT)	Products	European Community
COICOP	EC (EUROSTAT)	Functional	Global
COPNI	UN (UNSD)	Functional	Global
COFOG	UN (UNSD)	Functional	Global
COPP	UN (UNSD)	Functional	Global
ICATUS	UN (UNSD)	Functional	Global
ISCO	UN (UNSD)	Others	Global
NUTS	EC (EUROSTAT)	Geography	European Community
ISCO	UNESCO	Education	Global
ICD	WHO	Health	Global
ICF	WHO	Health	Global
ICHI	WHO	Health	Global

2. System of National Accounts (SNA) and its implementation in Africa: A typical example of a "statistically balkanized Africa"

The System of National Accounts (SNA) is the "set of standards, agreed on internationally and recommendations on how to compile measurements of economic activity in accordance with strict accounting agreements based on economic principles."³⁰ It covers a set of concepts, definitions, classifications, and international conventional accounting rules, to measure economic indicators and interactions.

The 2008 SNA (EC, IMF, OECD, UN, and WB 2008) is the latest version of this system, preceded by previous versions: the 1993 System of National Accounts, the 1968 System of National Accounts; and Standardized System of National Accounts (OEEC³¹ 1952). The 2008 SNA was born out of the need to "align accounts with the new economic environment, new advances in methodological research and user needs."³² An inter-secretariat taskforce on national accounts was given the mandate to coordinate and manage the project to update the SNA, with a total of 44 updating issues and 39 clarification points considered by an Expert Advisory Group (EAG).³³ All the preliminary recommendations of the EAG, endorsed by the Statistical Commission of the

United Nations (STATCOM), were then sent to national statistical institutes and central banks for consultation. The 2008 SNA was subsequently adopted by STATCOM in August 2008 for Volume 1 of the document, and in February 2009 for Volume 2.

Several critics argue that the SNA does not adequately take African realities and specificities into account, and this can be explained largely by the remarkable absence of African representatives at international meetings that discuss and formulate international standards.

Furthermore, several other factors contribute significantly to undermining comparisons of national accounts between African countries. A major factor is that African countries are at different stages of implementation of the SNA. It should be borne in mind that the process requires considerable resources of funding, time and statistical expertise, not only for countries with weak statistical capacity but also for the relatively advanced ones. The international community has developed six milestones for judging the progress made by countries in the implementation of the 93 SNA. Depending on their capacities, African countries are ranked at various stages of implementation. Some still strive to comply with the 68 SNA; others have reached steps 1 and 2 of the 93 SNA implementation – covering parts of general and immediate accounts; others are at steps 3, 4 and 5 – relating to the development of comprehensive flow accounts for institutional sectors; yet other countries with advanced baseline data systems have progressed still further and have developed consolidated balance sheets. Once a step is completed, the country must decide whether to allocate their resources to complete a further step,

30 SNA 2008 (EC, IMF, OECD, UN, and WB 2008).

31 OEEC is the acronym for the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation.

32 STATCOM, *Preface to the Updated System of National Accounts*, February 2003.

33 The EAG comprises 20 experts from around the world and five experts of the Technical Experts group, to make recommendations on proposals to update all the groups.

or allocate resources to improve the estimates quality of the phases already completed.

The complex process of national accounts compilation may also lead to problems of final data comparability. This process involves five basic steps: (i) collection of micro-data, (ii) aggregation of micro-data to obtain intermediary data, (iii) converting the intermediary data into the national accounts format, (iv) reconciliation of national accounts; and (v) presentation and analysis of national accounts. Throughout this process, there is a constant country-comparability risk of final accounts.

3. European System of Accounts (ESA): a model reconciling multiplicity for regional statistical integration

The 1995 European System of Accounts (95 ESA) was born of the need to have harmonized and reliable statistical tools to monitor the integration objectives of the European Union, including the integration program and the calculation of contributions from member countries. Compared to the previous version of 1979, the 95 ESA lays special emphasis "on harmonization of methodology, accuracy and precision of concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules that should be implemented in order to obtain a consistent, reliable and comparable quantitative description of countries of the [European] Union" (EC 1996).

Like the SNA, the concepts used in the ESA are harmonized with those of major international guidelines related to various other economic statistics, particularly the IMF's *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (IMF

2008), the *Government Finance Statistics Manual* (IMF 2001a), and ILO resolutions on concepts related to employment. It is broadly consistent with the 93 SNA, but various components and features are characteristic of the 95 ESA, especially in its presentation, *which is adapted for use by the European Union*. While the SNA is flexible and offers several options for compiling national accounts, the ESA usually selects a single option, consistent within the European Union. The ESA also provides greater detail regarding the definitions and accounting rules applicable in member countries of the European Union. It uses classifications that are specific to the European Union (NACE, CPA), derived from reference classifications and adapted to European realities and exigencies. In addition, the ESA operates on a sound basis (as a Council Regulation) and is not limited to the compilation of annual accounts of countries but also includes the compilation of quarterly and regional accounts.

The ESA is in the process of being updated in accordance with the 2008 SNA. The agenda of the updating process comprises several stages: preparatory discussions on the revision of the 95 ESA (2008); editing of ESA manual (2008–2010); adoption of the regulation on the ESA revised by the European Parliament and Council, the publication of the new ESA Manual (2012); and implementation of the revised ESA (2014).

It is also noteworthy that Eurostat produces several technical manuals and guidelines that serve as reference documents for European countries in compiling their statistics.

Appendix 3:

Census Dates for African Countries in the 1990, 2000 and 2010 Rounds of Housing and Population Censuses

Note

This information was sourced from the United Nations Statistics Division's website last updated on November 16, 2009: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm>,

Symbols

(Date)	It is expected that a census will be held on the date indicated.
[]	A census was planned for that year but there is no information available to the United Nations Statistics Division that it was carried out.
(...)	It is expected that a census will be held during the decade.
-	No census taken or planned in the period indicated.

Table A7: Census dates for African countries in the 1990, 2000, and 2010 rounds

Countries	1990 round of censuses 1985–1994	2000 round of censuses 1995–2004	2010 round of censuses 2005–2014
Algeria	20 Mar. 1987	25 June 1998	16-30 Apr. 2008
Angola	-	-	(2010 or 2014)
Benin	15 Feb. 1992	11 Feb. 2002	(2012)
Botswana	21 Aug. 1991	17-26 Aug. 2001	(Aug. 2011)
Burkina Faso	10-20 Dec. 1985(P)	10 Dec. 1996	9-23 Dec. 2006
Burundi	16-30 Aug. 1990	-	16-30 Aug. 2008
Cameroon	10 Apr. 1987	-	11-30 Nov. 2005
Cape Verde	23 June 1990	16-30 June 2000	(2010)
Central African Republic	8 Dec. 1988	8 Dec. 2003	(2013)
Chad	8 Apr. 1993	-	(2009)
Comoros	15 Sep. 1991	Sep. 2003	(2013)
Congo	20 Nov. -5 Dec. 1994(1)	6 June-30 July 1996	28 Apr. 2007
Côte d'Ivoire	1 Mar. 1988	21 Nov.-20 Dec. 1998	Nov. 2010-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	-	(2010)
Djibouti	-	-	(12-26 Apr. 2009)
Egypt	17-18 Nov. 1986	19 Nov. 1996	11 Nov.-11 Dec. 2006
Equatorial Guinea	4 July 1994(P)	Feb. 2002	(...)
Eritrea	-	-	(2011)
Ethiopia	11 Oct. 1994	-	28 May 2007
Gabon	1-31 July 1993(P)	Dec. 2003	(2013)
Gambia	15 Apr. 1993(P)	15 Apr. 2003	(15 Apr. 2013)
Ghana	-	26 Mar. 2000	(Mar. 2010)
Guinea	-	1-15 Dec. 1996	(2010)
Guinea-Bissau	1 Dec. 1991	-	15 Mar. 2009
Kenya	24 Aug. 1989(P)	24 Aug. 1999	(24 Aug. 2009)
Lesotho	12 Apr. 1986(P)	14 Apr. 1996	9 Apr. 2006
Liberia	-	-	21 Mar. 2008

Countries	1990 round of censuses 1985–1994	2000 round of censuses 1995–2004	2010 round of censuses 2005–2014
Libya	-	11 Aug. 1995	15 Apr.-7 May 2006
Madagascar	1 Aug. 1993	-	(...)
Malawi	1-21 Sep. 1987	1-21 Sep. 1998	8-21 June 2008
Mali	1-30 Apr. 1987	1-14 Apr. 1998	1-14 Apr. 2009
Mauritania	5-20 Apr. 1988	1-15 Nov. 2000	(Feb. 2010)
Mauritius	1 July 1990(P)	2 July 2000(P)	(July 2011)
	5 Feb.-17 Jun. 1990(H)	7 Feb.-18 Jun. 2000(H)	July 2010
Morocco	2 Sep. 1994	1-20 Sep. 2004	(Sep. 2014)
Mozambique	-	1-15 Aug. 1997(P)	1-15 Aug. 2007
Namibia	21 Oct. 1991	27 - 28 Aug. 2001	(2011)
Niger	20 May-3 June 1988	20 May 2001	(2011)
Nigeria	26 Nov. 1991(P)	-	21-27 Mar. 2006
Rwanda	15 Aug. 1991	16-30 Aug. 2002	(2012)
São Tomé and Príncipe	4 Aug. 1991	25 Aug. 2001	(2011)
Senegal	27 May 1988	8-22 Dec. 2002	(2010)
Seychelles	17 Aug. 1987(P)	29 Aug. 1997	(Apr. 2010)
	26 Aug. 1994	22-26 Aug. 2002	.
Sierra Leone	15 Dec. 1985	4 Dec. 2004	(2014)
Somalia	15 Feb. 1987(2)	-	(...)
South Africa	5 Mar. 1985	10 Oct. 1996	>
	7 Mar. 1991	10 Oct. 2001	(Oct. 2011)
Sudan	15 Apr. 1993(P)	-	22 Apr. 2008
Swaziland	25 Aug. 1986	11-12 May 1997	28 Apr. - 14 May 2007
Tanzania	28 Aug. 1988	24-25 Aug. 2002	(Aug. 2012)
Togo	-	-	2009
Tunisia	20 Apr. 1994	28 Apr. 2004	(2014)
Uganda	12-19 Jan. 1991	12 Sep. 2002	(Aug. 2012)
Western Sahara	-	-	(...)
Zambia	20 Aug. 1990	25 Oct. 2000	(16 Oct. 2010)
Zimbabwe	18 Aug. 1992	17-27 Aug. 2002	(Aug. 2012)

Table A8: Census dates for African countries in the 2010 round

Year		Country	Census Date	Results release date
2005		Cameroon	11-30 November	
2006	(1)	Burkina Faso	9-23 December	
	(2)	Egypt	11 November–11 December	
	(3)	Lesotho	April	
	(4)	Libya	15 April-7 May	
	(5)	Nigeria	21-27 March	
2007	(1)	Ethiopia	1-15 August	
	(2)	Mozambique	1-15 August	
	(3)	Swaziland	28 Apr-14 May	
2008	(1)	Algeria	16-30 April	
	(2)	Burundi	16-30 August	
	(3)	Congo	April	
	(4)	Liberia	March	
	(5)	Malawi	8-21 June	
	(6)	Sudan	April	
2009	(1)	Chad	12-26 April	
	(2)	Djibouti	12-26 April	
	(3)	Guinea	December	
	(4)	Guinea-Bissau	March	
	(5)	Kenya	August	
	(6)	Mali	1-14 April	
	(7)	Togo	MONTH NOT STATED	

Year		Country	Census Date	Results release date
2010	(1)	Angola	12-26 April	
	(2)	Cape Verde	12-26 April	
	(3)	Côte d'Ivoire	November	
	(4)	Democratic Republic of Congo	March	
	(5)	Ghana	March	
	(6)	Mauritania	February	
	(7)	Mauritius	July	
	(8)	Senegal	August	
	(9)	Zambia	August	
2011	(1)	Botswana	August	
	(2)	Eritrea	October	
	(3)	Namibia	October	
	(4)	Niger	October	
	(5)	São Tomé and Príncipe	October	
	(6)	South Africa	October	
2012	(1)	Benin	April	
	(2)	Equatorial Guinea	April	
	(3)	Rwanda	April	
	(4)	Seychelles	April	
	(5)	Tanzania	August	
	(6)	Uganda	September	
	(7)	Zimbabwe	August	
2013	(1)	Central African Republic	MONTH NOT STATED	
	(2)	Comoros	MONTH NOT STATED	
	(3)	Gabon	MONTH NOT STATED	
	(4)	Gambia	MONTH NOT STATED	

Year		Country	Census Date	Results release date
2014	(1)	Morocco	Sep	
	(2)	Sierra Leone	MONTH NOT STATED	
	(3)	Tunisia	MONTH NOT STATED	
NS	(1)	Madagascar		
	(2)	Somalia		

Appendix 4:

List of Indicators

Table A9: List of indicators for monitoring the integration status and processes

Area	No.	Indicators
Institutional organization	1	Degree of RECs' overlap
	2	Extent/stage of ratification community acts
	3	Extent/stage of implementation of community acts
Community funding	4	Extent of dependence on contributions from member states
	5	Existence of an operational independent funding mechanism
	6	Extent of member states' contribution arrears
Political governance and collective security	7	Extent of compliance with commonly adopted institutional standards
	8	Extent of influence of community organs
	9	Existence of an operation mechanism for conflict prevention
	10	Existence of operational community security mechanism
Trade integration	11	Existence of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)
	12	Extent of implementation of RTA
	13	Existence of interregional trade agreements
	14	Extent of implementation of Africa Capacity Indicators Report (ACIR)
Monetary and Financial Integration	15	Existence of harmonized economic and monetary policy instruments
	16	Alignment on community monetary and financial directives
	17	Existence of an agreement on capital circulation (intra- and inter-regions)
	18	Extent of convertibility of currencies (intra- and inter-regions)
	19	Extent of compliance with convergence criteria
Economic Cooperation and Partnerships	20	Extent/stage of harmonization of tax systems
	21	Existence of operational community arrangement for the right to settle
	22	Extent/stage of implementation of community directives

Area	No.	Indicators
Transportation	23	Existence of regional road infrastructures (inter-state and inter-regions)
	24	State of road and rail infrastructures
	25	Density of rail interconnections
	26	Existence of regional ports
	27	Density of air interconnections
Energy	28	Existence of regional (and inter-regional) projects
	29	Extension of interconnected network
	30	Existence of community standards
	31	Existence and extent/stage of implementation of community standards
Communication	32	Existence of regional (inter-regional) telecommunication projects
	33	Extent/stage of harmonization of legislative and regulatory frameworks
	34	Density of interconnection of states (and regions)
Environment	35	Existence of regional projects on environmental protection
	36	Extent/stage of harmonization of regulations on environmental management
Tourism	37	Existence of regional policies on tourism
Education	38	Existence of operational regional university institutions
	39	Extent of inter-university cooperation (intra- and inter-region)
	40	Extent/stage of harmonization of school curricula
Health	41	Existence of common health policy
	42	Extent of cooperation among health professionals
	43	Existence of operational regional health institutions
Regional and Continental Citizenship	44	Existence of a regional agreement on free movement under implementation
	45	Extension of the scope opened by provisions of the freedom of movements
Women and Youths	46	Existence of a regional policy on women and youth empowerment
	47	Extent of gender mainstreaming in community acts
	48	Existence of institutional framework for the expression and consideration of the voice of youths
Arts, Culture, Sport	49	Existence of regional policy on arts, culture and sports
	50	Extent/stage of harmonization of regulatory frameworks for handicrafts and tourism

Source: AUC (2009b).

Table A10: List of indicators on the monitoring of results/effects/impacts

Statistical area	No.	Indicators	Statistical information required
Fundraising	1	Level of alternative financial resources	Amount of resources collected through an independent mechanism
Peace and security	2		
	3		
	4		
Governance	5	Proportion of community programs / projects involving civil society	Total number of community projects, Number of community projects involving civil society
	6	Degree of credibility of institutions and policies	CPIA marks and ranks; corruption index and rank
Foreign trade	7	Development of intra- and inter-regional trade	Imports Exports
	8	Degree of openness	Imports Exports
	9	Degree of integration	Imports Exports
	10	Regional integration speed (Import and export)	Imports Exports
	11	Level of tariffs for intra- and extra-regional imports	
Balance of payments	12	Imports coverage rate by exports	Imports Exports
	13	Balance of trade in services	Traded services
	14	Balance of payments	Imports and exports Capital services
Currency and finance	15	Capital mobility	Traded capital
	16	Degree of tax transition	Tax revenues
	17	Convergence of interest rates	Interest rate
Price indexes	18	Consumer price index	Prices of main consumer products

Statistical area	No.	Indicators	Statistical information required
Public finances	19	Balance of overall budget	Public revenues and expenditures, debts, interests, GDP
	20	Sustainability of public finances	Level and evolution of public debt, GDP
National accounts	21	GDP	GDP
Investments	22	Intra- and inter-regional FDI	FDI, GDP
	23	Regional competitiveness	Global Competitiveness Index (GCI-WEF)
Transportation infrastructure	24	Density of the regional road network	Kms of inter-state and inter-REC roads, population
	25	Regional air traffic	Number of passengers*km, volume*km
Energy infrastructure	26	Intra- and inter-regional trade in electricity	Volume of electricity sales, capacity of electricity network
	27	Intra- and inter-regional hydrocarbon trade	Value and volume of hydrocarbons traded and consumed
Communication infrastructure	28	Telephone density	Number of lines, population
	29	Communication costs	Invoiced price of communication
Agriculture	30	Regional agricultural GDP	Agricultural GDP Regional GDP
	31	Degree of agricultural self-sufficiency	Regional demand for agricultural products Regional agricultural production
		Development of intra- and inter-regional agricultural trade	Agricultural exports and imports
Industry	32	Regional industrial GDP	Industrial GDP Regional GDP
	33	Level of competitiveness of regional industries	Regional and global manufactured products
	34	Development of intra- and inter-regional industrial trade	Exports and imports of manufactured products
Natural resources			
Environmental management			

Statistical area	No.	Indicators	Statistical information required
Education		Gross schooling rate	
		Intra- and inter-regional university mobility	
Science and technology			
Health			
Population			
Migration		Intra-regional migratory flow	
Tourism			
Gender, social protection,			
Human development, poverty		HDI	GDP, schooling, literacy, life expectancy
		Poverty incidence	

Source: AUC (2009b).

Appendix 5:

Terms of Reference (TORs) for Various Implementation Bodies

Specialized Technical Groups (STGs)

STGs will be established in identified statistical areas, under the coordination and responsibility of a lead organization. These groups, with some 20-25 members at most, will be composed of statistics specialists and practitioners from member states, RECs, and representatives of specialized and regional international agencies.

STGs will hold meetings at least twice a year under the auspices of the lead organization. The Terms of Reference of STGs with respect to the implementation of the Strategy will include:

- » Adapting international standards and methods to African realities;
- » Developing draft standards and methods for the harmonization of statistics in Africa, to be submitted for the consideration of Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);
- » Monitoring the implementation of adopted common standards and methods in countries;
- » Preparing progress reports on the harmonization of standards and methods in the continent;
- » Identifying data requirements for the integration agenda and designing actions/programs for their provision;

- » Addressing new statistical issues in Africa; and
- » Discussing and validating statistics from countries in line with adopted common African standards.

Lead Countries (LCs)

Lead Countries (LCs) will be designated to champion STGs for a period of four years, non-renewable. Their designation will be based on their capability to champion and promote statistical development and harmonization in the focal areas of their respective STGs. LCs will function under the following Terms of Reference:

- » Promoting statistical development and harmonization in the focal areas of their respective STGs;
- » Convening, in collaboration with the lead organizations, meetings of STGs;
- » Ensuring better coordination and implementation of adopted common standards and methods in countries, in collaboration with the lead organizations, for an effective implementation of the Strategy in their respective areas;
- » Coordinating, together with the lead organizations, the work of STGs; and
- » Assisting the lead organizations in the preparation of the progress reports on the imple-

mentation of adopted common standards and methods in countries.

Lead Organizations

Pan-African organizations (namely AUC, AACB, AfDB, ECA, and ACBF) will be designated according to their areas of competence to lead STGs. Lead organizations will operate under the following Terms of Reference:

- » Promoting statistical development and harmonization in the focal areas of their respective STGs;
- » Ensuring better coordination and implementation of adopted common standards and methods in countries, in collaboration with the lead countries, for an effective implementation of the Strategy in their respective areas;
- » Coordinating, together with lead countries, the work of STGs;
- » Convening, in collaboration with lead countries, meetings of STGs;
- » Providing technical assistance to STGs and countries in the implementation of adopted common standards and methods;
- » Providing technical support to STGs in the identification of statistical data requirements for the integration agenda, as well as actions/programs for their provision;
- » Providing technical assistance in the validation of statistical data from countries, in line with adopted common African standards; and
- » Preparing progress reports on the implementation of adopted common standards and methods in countries; and submitting these reports through the AUC (which will host the Secretariat for the implementation of the Strategy), to the Committee of DGs, the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Plan-

ning and Economic Development, and the Summit of Heads of State and Government for consideration and action.

Specialized Technical Committees (STCs)

There will be three STCs, which will bring together specialists and practitioners of all member states, RECs, pan-African organizations, and other designated bodies. They will handle projects relating to the three dimensions of integration:

- » **STC-Pol:** STC on Political Integration, and Regional & Continental Governance;
- » **STC-Eco:** STC on Economic Integration; and
- » **STC-So:** STC on Social and Cultural Integration.

STCs will hold annual meetings (ahead of meetings of the Committee of Directors-General (DGs) of African National Statistics Offices (NSOs). They will function under the following Terms of Reference:

- » Discussing and reviewing draft standards and methods and submitting them for the consideration of the Committee of DGs;
- » Reviewing adapted international standards and methods to African realities proposed by STGs and making recommendations for the consideration of the Committee of DGs;
- » Monitoring the implementation of adopted common standards and methods in countries;
- » Reviewing progress reports on the implementation of adopted common standards and methods in countries and making recommendations for the consideration of the Committee of DGs;

- » Identifying statistical requirements for the integration agenda, as well as actions/programs for their provision; and
- » Discussing and validating requirements from countries according to the adopted common African standards.

Committee of Directors-General (DGs) of African National Statistics Offices (NSOs)/ StatCom Africa

The Committee of DGs/StatCom Africa, comprising Heads of African NSOs, will function under the following Terms of Reference (TORs):

- » Monitoring the overall implementation of the strategy and formulating the necessary guidelines for improving the implementation and results;
 - » Reviewing draft standards and methods and submitting them to the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Summit of Heads of State and Government for consideration and further possible action;
 - » Reviewing adapted international standards and methods to African realities and making recommendations to the Conference of Ministers of Finances, Planning and Economic Development and the Summit of Heads of State and Government for consideration and further possible action;
 - » Discussing progress reports prepared by STCs and making recommendations to the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Summit of Heads of State and Government for consideration and further possible action;
- » Submitting, through the AUC, a comprehensive assessment report on the implementation of the Strategy, highlighting and addressing problems and obstacles encountered to the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Summit of Heads of State and Government for consideration and possible further action;
 - » Setting up a peer review system to evaluate the status of the Charter implementation at national, regional and continental levels;
 - » Considering and adopting statistical programs based on data requirements for the integration agenda, as well as actions/programs for their provision; and
 - » Validating statistics from countries in line with adopted common African standards based on STCs' recommendations.

Appendix 6:

List of People Consulted during the Preparation of SHaSA

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Nombuyiselo Mokoena: Directeur adjoint
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African Union
Commission



African Development Bank



United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa