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19TH COMMITTEE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES (CoDGs)

03-05 December 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DRAFT REPORT

December 2025

Introduction

1. The nineteenth annual session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistical Offices (CoDGs) of the African Union took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3–5 December 2025, aligned with the African Union's 2025 theme: "**Contribution of statistics to 'Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations'**".

Participation

2. *The meeting brought together the Directors General of the AU Member States' NSOs, Pan-African Organizations, development partners, Journalists, Training centres, independent experts, non-African states, and observers.*

a) Member States

3. Delegates from 43 AU Member States took part in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinee Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

b) Other participants

4. The meeting was also attended by other participants such as:

- i. **Regional Economic Communities (RECs):** The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Community of Sahel–Saharan States (CEN-SAD), The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- ii. **Pan-African Organisations (PAOs):** Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), African Migration Observatory (AMO), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), African Union Commission (OSPD, STATAFRIC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB).
- iii. **Other regional organisations and statistical Schools:** Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT), National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis (ENSAE), National Higher School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA), Higher School of Statistics and Information Analysis (ESSAI), Makerere University, the Sub-regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA), University of Ibadan, Institute for Training and Demographic Research (IFORD).
- iv. **Other international organisations and non-African states:** ATAF, Eurostat, World Bank, OECD, Paris 21, FAO, INSEE, IOM, ILO, Statistics Sweden, Praia Group, Statistics Norway, Statistics Sweden, Expertise France,

and Data Act Lab, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, and International Statistical Institute.

v. **Key experts and Consultants**

Meeting objectives

The main objective of the 19th annual session of the CoDGs was to reflect on ways of producing sound statistics, including those relevant to guiding decision makers for building resilient justice systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant justice in Africa. The specific objectives include:

- (i) Present the report of the SHaSA 2 Mid Term Review (MTR);
- (ii) Present the key notes on the 2025 AU Theme on Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations;
- (iii) Present the status of the implementation of the 18th session of the CoDGs;
- (iv) Present the status of the signing and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics;
- (v) Discussing statistical coordination mechanisms and their implementation in the continent; and
- (vi) The establishment of the STATAFRIC's Governance.

Opening Session

The 19th session of the Committee of Directors-General of National Statistical Offices (CoDGs) opened with warm welcomes from Ethiopia's Director General of Statistics, Dr Beker Shale, and other officials, distinguished guests, and representatives of regional and international organisations. Speakers highlighted the indispensable role of credible, timely, and harmonised statistics in guiding evidence-based policy, development planning, and equitable growth across Africa. Ethiopia's investments in its national statistical system, including surveys and censuses, were showcased as examples of commitment to evidence-driven development. The importance of modernising statistical capacities, fostering collaboration among African and global statistical offices, and leveraging digital and big data innovations was strongly emphasised.

Key partners and leaders, including Prof. Samuel Annim (UNECA), Mrs. Dorothee Ouissika (AfDB), Mr. Nyakassi Sanyang (GBoS), H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi (AU Deputy Chairperson), H.E. Ahmed Shide (Ethiopia Ministry of Finance), and H.E. Temesgen Tiruneh (Deputy Prime Minister), underscored Africa's progress in statistical development, the need for robust and inclusive indicators on justice, inequality, and historical reparations, and the centrality of the African Charter on Statistics. They called for strengthened partnerships, harmonised data, institutional capacity-building, and innovative approaches, including AI and big data, to ensure statistics not only inform policy but also advance justice, inclusivity, and sustainable development across the continent.

Session I: Procedural issues

I.1. Organisational matters (the Quorum)

5. The 19th CoDGs was attended by 43 AU Member States. The quorum was therefore met.

I.2. Adoption of the Agenda

6. The agenda of the meeting was adopted without any amendments.

I.3. Election of the Bureau

7. The elected bureau of the 19th CoDGs is as follows:

- Chair: Zambia
- 1st Vice-Chair: Algeria
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Cameroon
- 3rd Vice-Chair: Tanzania
- Rapporteur: Senegal

I.4. Keynote address

The Statistician-General of South Africa opened the 19th CoDGs session, acknowledging partners and emphasizing the 2025 AU Theme on justice and reparations as central to addressing Africa's historical inequalities. He stressed the key role of statistics in documenting past injustices, guiding transformative policies, and supporting reparations, while noting challenges such as data gaps, weak measurement of discrimination, and the invisibility of diaspora populations. He called for reliable indicators on inequality, justice, and discrimination, a continental statistical framework under SHaSA II, and the use of digital and big data innovations, urging NSOs and partners to act decisively to produce credible, harmonised statistics that enable evidence-based action for Africa's future.

Session 2- 7—Proceedings

The meeting proceeded according to the adopted agenda, featuring a series of presentations, discussions, and deliberations. Participants engaged actively, sharing insights and experiences, and the sessions concluded with key findings and conclusions that emerged from the discussions, reflecting consensus and actionable recommendations to advance the objectives of the CoDGs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

89. Based on these findings, discussions and conclusions, the CODGs adopted a set of resolutions and recommendations to address the identified challenges. They focus on enhancing coordination across the national, regional and continental statistical systems, strengthening financial and human resource capacities, and improving the coverage, quality and dissemination of statistical data in line with international

standards and frameworks.

Recognition/Gratitude/Endorsement

90. The CoDGs:

91. Congratulates the Executive Committee and the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) as well the side events on Africa Migration Data Network and Governance, Peace and Security for the high quality, rigour, and relevance of their deliberations, and commends them for the valuable recommendations which are hereby endorsed.
92. Expresses appreciation to STATAFRIC for its enhanced organisation and coordination in preparing the CoDGs, acknowledging its dedication, professionalism, and effective leadership, which have contributed significantly to the smooth and successful conduct of the meeting. Recognises its ongoing activities, including the revision of the African Charter on Statistics, the mid-term evaluation of SHaSA II, and the development of various continental guidelines, which continue to strengthen statistical systems across Africa.
93. Extends sincere recognition to partners—including OECD, UN-Women, EU, UNICEF, ILO, IOM, INSEE, FAO, PARIS21, Statistics Sweden, and the World Bank—for their invaluable support and initiatives in strengthening national, regional, and continental statistical systems, with special appreciation to the World Bank for its substantial contributions, and encourage the continuation and extension of such support to all regions of Africa.

Mandate/Delegation

94. The CoDGs:

- M.1 Mandates STATAFRIC, with the support of AfDB, ECA, and all relevant partners, to develop continental guidelines for ethical data collection and dissemination, particularly on sensitive topics such as ethnicity, race, and historical injustices, to support reparations and the formulation of inclusive policies.
- M.2 Mandates STATAFRIC, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue the peer review process of National Statistical Systems (NSS), building on the African Peer Review Methodology, and to expand its scope to cover the statistical systems of the AU Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with the support of other Pan-African Organisations (ECA, AfDB) and partners.
- M.3 Invite STATAFRIC to develop a comprehensive roadmap outlining the remaining steps for the full implementation of SHaSA II, including timelines, responsibilities, and required resources. STATAFRIC is further instructed to initiate the preparatory work for SHaSA III by drafting a clear guidance note and an initial roadmap that defines its strategic priorities, expected outcomes, and consultation process with Member States and partners.

- M.4 Encourage the ASCC members to co-sponsor and co-invest in further enhancing the Open Data Portal which serves as the key reference tool endorsed by the Pan-African Data Sharing Community to promote harmonized data management, reporting, and dissemination across Africa.
- M.5 Mandates STATAFRIC, as the coordination body of the African Statistical System, to design and promote robust succession planning and systematic knowledge-transfer frameworks. STATAFRIC will provide guidance, tools, and best practices to national statistical offices, which will implement these mechanisms to ensure continuity of leadership and nurture the next generation of statisticians across the AfSS.
- M.6 Requests STATAFRIC to work with ECA to enhance its visibility and engagement in international forums. This includes ensuring that SHaSA-related issues are consistently brought to the agenda through a unified African position, increasing STATAFRIC's presence and active participation at the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), and going beyond the current observer status to assert a more influential and recognised role in global statistical discussions.

Resolutions/Decisions

95. Recognising the indispensable role of credible statistics in documenting historical truths and informing transformative policy, we, the Directors/Statisticians General, commit to strengthening national statistical systems, developing reliable indicators on inequality, justice, and discrimination, leveraging digital and big data innovations, and coordinating with continental and global partners. Progress will be reported regularly to the Secretariat to ensure effective monitoring, follow-up, and accountability, thereby enabling Africa to measure its past, understand its present, and pursue a future rooted in justice.

96. Decide to hold the STATCOM and CoDG's meetings consecutively in 2026, recognising overlapping issues and the shared audience. This will meet statutory requirements, integrate side events, enhance efficiency, and avoid duplicate travel. The meetings will provisionally be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia pending confirmation of 3 Member States (Algeria, Burundi and Cameroon) to host following three months of consultations.

Recommendations

The CoDGs

AU Member States

- R.1. Call upon AU Member States, with the support of Pan-African Organisations and partners and in coordination with STATAFRIC, to engage in developing indicators on inequality, justice, and discrimination, and in leveraging digital and big data

innovations, to ensure credible statistics that support evidence-based policies and accountability across Africa.

- R.2. Encourages national statistical systems actors, under the coordination of NSOs, to establish a professional order for statisticians to uphold ethical standards, ensure technical and professional integrity, reinforce accountability, and enhance the credibility and recognition of the statistical profession across Africa.
- R.3. Invites AU Member States to promote production, dissemination, and use of disaggregated data to inform targeted actions and development plans, including those addressing gender disparities and child-related challenges, ensuring that no group is left behind in development efforts.
- R.4. Urges AU Member States to actively engage in initiatives led or supported by partners—including the World Bank, OECD, UN-Women, EU, UNICEF, ILO, IOM, INSEE, FAO, PARIS21, Data Act Lab, and Statistics Sweden—that strengthen national statistical systems, facilitate the production and dissemination of data, publications, and analytical tools, and promote capacity-building, methodological exchanges, and knowledge sharing to improve the quality, comparability, and utilization of statistics across Africa.
- R.5. To conclude, STATAFRIC call AU Member States that have yet to sign and ratify the ACS to do so and invited Pan-African organization and Regional organizations to provide them support need in terms of advocacy and guidance.
- R.6. Call upon the AU Member States to join this initiative. There is no payment required. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are also welcome to collaborate with the initiative.
- R.7.

Pan African Organisations and partners

- R.8. Call upon the Pan-African Organisations and relevant partners, in coordination with STATAFRIC, to establish a dedicated program to assist fragile and post-conflict states in strengthening their national statistical systems, addressing specific needs to produce reliable data for national programs as well as regional and continental initiatives.
- R.9. Call upon STATAFRIC, in coordination with Pan-African Organisations (PAOs) and with the support of partners, to initiate pilot projects and assessments on the use of AI and emerging technologies in statistical operations, emphasising capacity-building, skills development, and knowledge transfer to enhance innovation, efficiency, and sustainability.
- R.10. Call upon partners supporting the African statistical system to periodically assess their initiatives and programs for institutional capacity-building, including leadership training, to ensure they are aligned with the needs of national statistical systems

and effectively contribute to strengthening statistics across Africa.

- R.11. Call upon the Commission to write to Member States, regional economic communities and other Pan African Organisations to nominate members within three months regarding the board of the STATAFRIC.
- R.12. Call upon the STATAFRIC to convene virtual meetings for induction to clarify the modalities for STATAFRIC' board members.
- R.13. The meeting underscored the need to reinforce STATAFRIC's institutional status as the continental statistical authority. This includes securing legal recognition within AU structures and investing in its capacity to coordinate data harmonization across member states.