



20th Session of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)

1-2 December 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DRAFT REPORT

December 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) met on 1-2 December 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants included the following statutory members and observers.

Members:

- The Committee of Directors General of National Statistical Offices (CoDGs) Bureau represented by its Chair;
- The African Union Commission represented by the African Union (AU) Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC);
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) represented by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS);
- The African Development Bank (AfDB) represented by the Statistics Department;
- Regional Economics Communities (RECs): the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), 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);
- The Statistics and Economic Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT);
- Statistical schools represented by:
 - o Higher School of Statistics and Information Analysis (ESSAI), Tunis, Tunisia;
 - o National School of Statistics and Applied Economics of Abidjan (ENSEA), Cote d'Ivoire;
 - o National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis (ENSEA), Dakar, Senegal;
 - o School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda;
 - o Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA), Yaounde, Cameroon;
 - o University of Ibadan (UI), Ibadan, Nigeria.
 - o Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), University of Ghana

Membership on application basis

- The African Tax Administration Forum - ATAF

Observers

- APRM

The nominative list of attendance is in annex.

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASCC MEETING

The objective of the meeting was to discuss mechanisms for achieving greater synergy between continental, and regional institutions and coordinate statistical programs for effective support of the African Statistical System (AfSS). The specific objectives were as follows:

- 1) Review status of implementation of the 19th meeting of the ASCC recommendations
- 2) Review and consider the report of the Executive Committee of SHaSA 2;
- 3) Present the SHaSA 2 Mid Term Review;
- 4) Present the different guidelines on statistics developed by PAOs
- 5) Discuss on the joint African Statistical databases and Publication;
- 6) Discuss on the African Statistics Day organization (ASD);
- 7) Discuss the data collection and capacity building for countries on the indicator's handbook, monitoring and evaluation framework of the Agenda 2063 STYIP/SDGs;
- 8) Discuss on how PAOs will mobilize financial resources for SHaSA2 STGs operationalized and other statistical activities for 2026 and beyond
- 9) Discuss on how to provide technical and financial assistance to Member States including the support to fragile Member States on statistical activities; and
- 10) Discuss how to enhance the statistics capacity of RECs.;

II. PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Stephen Ngugi from STATAFRIC, who moderated the opening ceremony, welcomed all the participants to the 20th ASCC meeting and introduced the Chair to make his remarks.

II.1. Opening Remarks

- The Chair of the ASCC and The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) Statistician-General, **Mr Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang**, welcomed participants to the 20th session of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC). He highlighted the committee's role in addressing persistent challenges in data availability, comparability, and methodology. He noted the growing demand for complex, timely data to support policy and decision-making in a rapidly changing world. He called on Pan-African institutions to increase support for national statistical systems and suggested that annual meetings may be insufficient for addressing ongoing challenges. He urged participants to focus on actionable solutions and expressed confidence in the committee's ability to deliver impactful resolutions.
- **Mr. Adoum Gagoloum**, Head of the Statistics Division at **STATAFRIC** welcomed participants to the African Statistical Coordination Committee meeting, emphasizing Africa's progress in statistical development—including the adoption of SHaSA2, new data technologies, and guidelines on migration statistics. He called for stronger coordination among Pan-African Organizations, RECs, and training schools to avoid duplication and ensure all countries, especially fragile states, benefit from reliable statistics. In closing, he urged participants to reaffirm their

commitment to a well-coordinated, robust, and inclusive African Statistical System that supports the continent's development agenda with credible evidence.

- **Mrs Dorothée Ouissika**, representing **Mr Louis Kouakou, Manager of the Economic and Social Statistics Division (AfDB)**, in her opening remarks highlighted the crucial role of modernized, harmonized statistical systems for Africa's development. She emphasized the importance of creating data innovation labs across the continent and strengthening member countries' capacities in data analytics and visualization. She stressed that reliable, innovative data practices are necessary for shaping development agendas at every level and urged all stakeholders to unite in making data a key factor of Africa's growth.
- **UNECA's Centre for Statistics**, represented by **Prof. Samuel Annim** expressed gratitude for participating and underscored the vital responsibility statisticians have in Africa's development. He emphasized the need to move beyond routine meetings and ensure statistical coordination leads to real transformation. He went on further to highlight persistent issues like fragmented systems and parallel projects called for structural and functional integration of the continent's statistical efforts. Five priorities were outlined, including establishing a unified data sharing platform and supporting fragile states. Prof. concluded with a call for operational courage and a collective shift from planning to effective execution in Africa's statistical agenda.

II.2. Follow-up of conclusions and recommendations of the last meeting of ASCC

The representative from STATAFRIC reviewed the implementation status of the recommendations issued during the ASCC meeting (5–6 December 2024), held in Banjul. This report provides an update on the implementation of these recommendations, based on a questionnaire administered to Member States, Regional Economic Communities, statistical training schools, and pan-African organizations. With an overall response rate of 57%, the analysis indicates genuine yet uneven progress across domains and countries. In total, 11 recommendations were issued: 9 directed to Member States and 2 targeting pan-African organizations, RECs, and partners.

Overall, most recommendations were only partially implemented, reflecting promising momentum that is nevertheless constrained by technical, financial, and institutional challenges. Notable progress was made in developing subnational data systems, strengthening statistical analysis, modernizing administrative data, and increasing participation in the Specialized Technical Groups (STGs). To date, 29 out of 55 countries have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, supported significantly by pan-African organizations and RECs in the transition to the 2008 SNA and in the development of NSDSs in Member States.

Conversely, some areas are advancing more slowly, notably the synchronization of major censuses (Population and Housing Census and Agricultural Census), the establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and the

implementation of recommendations arising from peer reviews. The report therefore underscores the need to enhance capacities, mobilize additional resources, and strengthen coordination among national, regional, and continental stakeholders.

Discussion & recommendations

The discussion focused on the current state and challenges facing specialized technical groups, with 13 out of 18 reported as functional. Concerns were raised regarding low participation rates among RECs and Member States, and the difficulty in ensuring full representation due to other commitments. The importance of African Statistics Day as a tool to raise public awareness and engage stakeholders was emphasized. Furthermore, concerns were raised about integrating population and housing census with agriculture census, with potential data quality issues.

Coordination and capacity gaps amongst countries and regional entities (RECs) were highlighted as ongoing obstacles to progress. Meeting discussed the need for each member country to identify focal points to improve communication. Efforts by STATAFRIC and UNECA to support RECs through technical assistance and the development of Statistical Development Strategies were acknowledged. Participants called for increased resources, documentation of lessons learned, and continued peer collaboration.

II.3. Report on Presentation on the SHaSA2 MTR

The STATAFRIC consultant presented the midterm review of SHASA 2 Strategy, highlighting achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement, including political commitment, coordination, funding, and stakeholder involvement. The review, coordinated by STATAFRIC, involved all strategic themes and objectives of SHaSA 2. Findings revealed an overall implementation rate of 63%, with disparities in implementation across different strategic themes and objectives. Key recommendations emphasized accelerating the recruitment of key STATAFRIC staff, full operationalization of PANSTAT, enhancing data dissemination, and ensuring inclusive process in the development of SHaSA 3 to ensure implementation success.

Discussion and recommendations

The discussion highlighted the slow implementation progress with only 1.2 billion USD mobilized out of the required 11 billion USD. Only 16 out of 55 member states met the recommended allocation to statistics of 0.15% of the national budget. SHaSA 3 development should be all-inclusive and aligned with national and regional strategies. Key recommendations include restructuring technical groups, enhancing stakeholder engagement, and improving resource mobilization. The urgency of initiating the process of development of SHaSA 3 was emphasized to address current challenges and ensure a robust African statistical system.

II.4. Presentation of the report of the Executive Committee of SHaSA 2

The representative from STATAFRIC on behalf of the Chair presented a summary of the report of the 7th SHaSA 2 Executive Committee Meeting that brought together coordinators from 45 member states, Regional Economic Communities, Pan-African Organizations, Statistical training institutions and other stakeholders to discuss the status of statistical system development across Africa. The highlights of the deliberations of the committee included the presentation of the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 6th SHaSA 2 executive committee, the summary of SHaSA 2 MTR, the achievements of specialized technical groups and updates on their operational status. Presentations by Regional Economic Communities, statistical training institutions and PAOs. The reports underscored issues such as funding constraints, the need for modernization, and aligning programs with continental strategies. Summarized presentations on guidelines for migration statistics, and collaborative SharePoint platforms for improved coordination of STGs was also highlighted. The meeting emphasized the importance of capacity building, harmonizing standards, and investing in technological innovation.

A range of recommendations were adopted to strengthen governance, data quality, and stakeholder engagement, urging member states to modernize systems, respond to questionnaires promptly, and align strategies with continental priorities. Pan-African Organizations were tasked with enhancing capacity on qualitative data, coordinating implementation of statistical frameworks, and formalizing continental data sharing mechanisms. Training institutions were encouraged to develop courses in emerging fields like AI and data science and expand partnerships for sustainability.

Discussion and recommendations

The meeting emphasized the need for statistical outputs to be contextually relevant for both national and regional decision-making, highlighting the importance of customizing methodologies to fit local conditions and priorities. The conversation underscored the necessity for ongoing professional development, investments in new technologies, and establishing minimum standards to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of statistical systems. Strengthening partnerships and collaboration, especially in capacity building and adopting technological innovations was also encouraged. Overall, the discussion reinforced a shared commitment to continuous improvement, effective implementation of the proposed recommendations, and developing robust, adaptable statistical practices across member states.

II.5. Presentation of the guidelines of Migrations & Displacement Statistics

The representative from STATAFRIC presented the developed guidelines on migration statistics and forced displacement in Africa, covering a comprehensive presentation that included key topics such as definition of migration concepts, national migration data, integration of administrative data, policy evaluation, data security, and harmonization of migration statistics across member states. The guideline had incorporated recommendations from a specialized technical sub-group on migration. The presentation also emphasized capacity needs, recommendations, and tools to improve migration data quality and policy effectiveness.

The representative from UNECA provided an overview of various guidelines, handbooks, and toolkits developed to strengthen and modernize statistical systems in Africa. Key topics included the compendium of geospatial data sources for climate impact monitoring, technical recommendations for integrating geocoding into censuses, and the development of a data situation index to assess data readiness for the SDGs. Furthermore, she spoke on the guidance on digital civil registration, independent census monitoring, and the use of administrative data, all designed to improve data quality and governance. Their presentation also described a handbook derived from digital census experiences and a strategic toolkit enabling countries to assess and improve their data maturity levels. The overarching message was the importance of harmonization, regional coordination, and leveraging new technologies for effective data systems. Ms Kiconco concluded by urging member states and partners to invest in capacity-building, collaboration, and sustained digital transformation of statistical processes.

II.6. Pan-African Data Sharing Community

The representative from African Development Bank, presented the establishment of a Pan African data sharing community to modernize data in Africa. Key challenges include data production, dissemination, and harmonization across multiple systems. The proposed solution involves creating a data hub network, improving AI data readiness, and standardizing data using the Open Data Platform 2.0 (ODP 2.0). The community will be managed by the AfDB, with task teams focusing on open data portals and Big Data Innovation. The goal is to enhance data quality, usability, and centralization, and to launch the community in 2026.

II.7. Presentation of the status of the continental database

The representative from UNECA made a presentation focusing on the development and implementation of the Pan African continental database, an initiative led by core Pan African institutions such as the African Union, ECA, and AfDB. He discussed the technical and organizational aspects, highlighting the need for harmonized, accessible, and comprehensive continental data to support evidence-based policymaking, fill data gaps, and improve comparability across member states. Key technical challenges included interoperability between existing national and regional databases, as well as issues of data disaggregation and standards. The implementation will leverage existing platforms and adopt a federated approach rather than full centralization. The timeline aims for a technical working group to begin work early next year, with milestones leading up to the database launch in September 2026.

Discussion & recommendations

Participants expressed the importance of inclusivity, emphasizing the engagement of both data producers and users from various sectors, including academia and research, and ensuring that demand-side voices are considered throughout the process. Concerns were raised about document dissemination, timely review opportunities, and involving all relevant bodies and regions. Participants stressed the need for clear roles, transparent communication, and resource allocation to ensure successful delivery. The meeting concluded with reaffirmations of the collective responsibility and urgency to realize an authentic, Africa-driven data platform.

II.8. Presentation on the African Statistical Yearbook

The representative from the AfDB in his presentation highlighted the importance of sharing and collecting information to improve statistical processes for sustainable development across Africa. It emphasized the need for harmonized and comparable indicators to effectively measure economic growth and poverty reduction. Collaboration among national and regional institutions was identified as crucial to achieving coherent data and governance. He discussed the challenges of standardizing statistical methodologies across diverse regions. Solutions proposed included clear procedures for data validation, ongoing capacity building, and strengthened international collaboration. The presentation concluded with a call for collective action to enhance data comparability and support Africa's development goals.

Discussion & recommendations

Participants acknowledged the usefulness of the yearbook while noting several challenges in its compilation, including low response rates from countries, inconsistent focal points, and significant data gaps across time periods and indicators. There was broad agreement on the need for stronger REC engagement to help mobilize member states and to increase reliance on data sourced directly from countries rather than international partners.

II.9. Discuss data collection process and capacity building for countries on the indicator's handbook, monitoring and evaluation framework of the Agenda 2063 STYIP/SDGs

Ms. Angela Kiconco presentation highlighted the importance of robust data collection and capacity building for monitoring Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa. Speakers emphasized that the first 10 years of Agenda 2063 faced significant challenges in data monitoring, which must be addressed to achieve better results in the next decade. Only 13 of 55 African Union member states responded to requests for data, highlighting poor country engagement and coordination challenge at the national level. There was a repeated call for each country and regional body to appoint focal points and develop mechanisms for efficient, harmonized data collection. The presentation underscored the need for integration between national, regional, and continental systems, and stressed the importance of quality assurance, feedback loops, and country-level dashboards for data transparency.

Adoption of new data sources and methodologies, including big data, AI, and geospatial analysis, was identified as crucial for filling persistent data gaps. Legal frameworks and investment in human capital were cited as essential for supporting these efforts. Ms Angela Kiconco urged moving from frequent discussion of known challenges towards practical coordinated actions, clearer national focal points, and validation processes for data submitted to global databases. Regional economic communities (RECs) were asked to track responses and help close the 42-country gap. She emphasized the cost of delay and the risk of missing targets, with a call to address longstanding bottlenecks through collaborative, action-oriented approaches.

Discussion and recommendations

Participants agreed that low reporting reflects weak coordination, limited capacity, and insufficient resources at national level, with breakdowns between NSOs, focal points, REC's and sectoral ministries which affects both data quality and response rates. Many

highlighted how Agenda 2063 still does not receive the same national attention as the SDGs, leading to gaps in ownership and monitoring. Stakeholder engagement remains insufficient, with limited involvement from academia, civil society, and private sector organizations. NSO's often lack the necessary support, further complicating data collection and validation processes.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were seen as underutilized partners in the data coordination effort. Integrating alternative and unofficial data sources was raised as a potential solution but concerns about validation and quality control persist. Furthermore, there is a need to map the data sources to fill gaps. Recommendations included nominating a focal point team per country clarifying NSO responsibilities for coordination and internal validation, and harmonising requests to reduce response burden. The meeting resolved to include deadlines for focal point nominations, DG-level directives to strengthen NSO coordination, REC's mandated to follow up regionally and incremental approaches to address these persistent issues.

II.10. AfDB Data Innovation Lab Initiative

This AfDB presentation explored the need for transformative innovation to address emerging challenges throughout the entire data value chain—from mobilization and processing to utilization and analysis. It emphasized the importance of collaboration with partners (UNSD, UNECA, World Bank, African Union-STATAFRIC) and introduced the Data Innovation Lab, detailing its three core functions: innovator, facilitator, and catalyst. The session also outlined a 12-dimension maturity model for diagnosing readiness, shares lessons from pilot countries (Tunisia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and others), and discussed future steps, tools, and best practices for driving data-driven transformation in African statistical offices.

II.11. Discussion the role of Statistical Schools on ASCC

The meeting focused on the role of statistical training schools in supporting the Africa Surgical Coordination Committee (ASCC) and the Agenda 2063. Key points included the need for integrated training programs, digital tools, and collaboration with NSOs. Proposals were made for creating a digital entity for knowledge sharing, a pilot project for training teachers, and incorporating Agenda 2063 into curriculum. The importance of accreditation standards for statistical schools was highlighted to ensure alignment with global SDGs. The discussion emphasized the need for practical training, harmonization of training systems, and the involvement of civil society and academia in future meetings.

II.12. Discuss on how to provide technical and financial assistance to Member States and how to support fragile Member States on statistical activities

II.13. Discuss on how to enhance statistics capacity of the RECs

III. SIDE EVENTS ON GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS) AND AFRICA NETWORK DATA MIGRATION

III.1. Governance, Peace and Security Statistics meeting

The side event on Governance, Peace, and Security was held on December 1, 2025, at the headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, back-to-back with the 19th Session of the Committee of Directors General of the National Statistics Offices. The event was co-organized by STATAFRIC, the Praia Group, UNDP, IRD, and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

At the conclusion of the side event, the Praia Group presented a declaration for consideration and support by the Committee of Director-Generals. The declaration calls for: **(1) endorsement of the Praia Group task teams' methodological instruments and their presentation at the UN Statistical Commission in March 2026; and (2) renewal of the Praia Group's mandate for the period 2026–2031.**

III. 2 Africa Network Data Migration meeting

IV. MAIN TAKEAWAYS, RESOLUTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Main takeaways

The members of the ASCC:

1. Acknowledges that five specialized technical groups remain non-functional and require attention to fully operationalize them.
2. Recognizes the issue of low response by RECs and member states when responding to questionnaires from PAOs, emphasizing the importance of identifying focal points and alternative approaches for enhanced engagement.
3. Noted the existing gaps in capacity for data production in member states, especially in qualitative data analysis, and reporting and supported the need for targeted support and training initiatives. The committee also supported the collaboration among RECs, member states, and technical partners to bridge capacity gaps.
4. Noted the concerns regarding integrating Population and Housing Census and agricultural censuses, actors to be more cautious of the potential risks of compromising data quality. The committee emphasized the need for countries which have managed to link the two censuses to document and share experiences and lessons learned to guide future initiatives.
5. Commended the continued use of African Statistics Day and other platforms of raising public awareness and stakeholder engagement in statistics.

6. Highlight the greater involvement of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), academia, civil society, and private sector to improve data collection, coordination, and data quality.
7. Encourage the motivation, nomination and coordination of national focal points, and to ensure Agenda 2063 receives priority and ownership alongside the SDGs, through stronger institutional frameworks and regular engagement.

Based on these findings and conclusions, the ASCC took resolutions and issued recommendations to address challenges discussed during the deliberations, with a focus on improving data quality, coordination, capacity building, and alignment with continental frameworks.

IV.1. Resolutions

- Rs.1. Strengthen and modernize national statistical systems, ensuring alignment with continental and regional statistical priorities, and develop comprehensive data quality assessment and assurance frameworks.
- Rs.2. Commit to leverage on the Africa Statistics Day to enhance public awareness of statistical activities and to foster stronger stakeholder engagement.
- Rs.3. Proactively monitor and coordinate statistical activities (SHaSA2 national coordinators), maintaining alignment with continental objectives and providing regular updates on progress.
- Rs.4. Build capacity for qualitative data analysis and reporting, improve coordination mechanisms, and formalize robust continental data-sharing frameworks.
- Rs.5. Introduce short-term courses in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence and data science, mobilize regional partnerships and dedicated funding, and advocate for continental statistical strategies among students.
- Rs.6. Accelerate the operationalization of the PANSTAT, schedule an external evaluation of the SASHA 2 strategy, pursue additional resource mobilization, and update the African Charter on Statistics in light of emerging methodological and technological advancements.
- Rs.7. Commit to deadlines for focal point nominations including the DG-level providing directives to strengthen NSOs coordination with the RECs's mandated to follow up regionally.
- Rs.8. The side event SHaSA2- GPS Resolves to reaffirm Africa's leadership in advancing governance, peace, and security statistics, recognizing the continent's pivotal role in shaping global and regional agendas through initiatives like the Praia Group and STATAFRIC.
- Rs.9. The side event SHaSA2- GPS Resolves to prioritize investment in governance statistics by urging governments, donors, and partners to allocate resources.

- Rs.10.** The side event on GPS Highlight the contributions of SHaSA-GPS and its harmonized tools as a foundation for enhancing global standards, ensuring alignment with SDG 16 monitoring and Praia Group methodologies, while reinforcing Africa's role in global knowledge-sharing and policy insights.
- Rs.11.** The side event on GPS formally endorse the methodological instruments developed by the Praia Group Task Teams and SHaSA 2 GPS' Action Plan and Minimal set of indicators.
- Rs.12.** The side event GPS support the renewal of the Praia Group mandate for 2026–2031, building on its decade-long leadership in governance statistics.
- Rs.13.** The side event on Africa Migration Data Network resolved to draft and validate the comprehensive Terms of Reference for the Africa Migration Data Network (AMDN). This document must explicitly define the governance structure, including the composition of the Steering Committee, criteria for membership, and the Secretariat's coordination role within the AU architecture.
- Rs.14.** The side event on Africa Migration Data Network resolved to identify and close critical missing migration indicators. To achieve this, the AMDN must serve as the primary mechanism for supporting member states in implementing the new African Guidelines on migration statistics. This ensures that the "relaunch" results in harmonized, high-quality data across the continent

Recommendations

The ASCC endorsed all recommendations issued by the 7th SHaSA 2 Executive Committee; the side event on Governance, Peace and Security; side event on Africa Migration Data Network, and issued additional proposals:

- R.1** Encouraged STATAFRIC to address the concerns of non-functional specialized technical groups to ensure all groups are fully operationalized.
- R.2** Encourage all Member States to promptly identify and assign their SHaSA 2 national focal points to improve coordination and communication.
- R.3** Encourage Member States to take precautions when integrating population and housing census and agricultural censuses due to the likelihood of compromising data quality and tasked UNECA to collect, review and documented experiences from countries that have managed to link the two censuses.
- R.4.** Establishing a dedicated platform or entity to promote integration and collaboration among statistical training centers across Africa, developing joint training modules and pilot projects in line with Agenda 2063.
- R.5** Call upon the Training Centres to create an accreditation system to align statistical training with continental agenda.

- R.6. Member States should develop NSDS and use them as the tool for bargaining for resources which will ensure that the support targets the whole National Statistical System.
- R.7. Encourage PAOs including RECs to institutionalize regular coordination and development partners meetings to map statistical support.
- R.8. Request Member States to integrate statistics into national budgets and medium-term expenditure frameworks to sustain domestic funding to statistical activities.
- R.9. Recommend PAOs to improve statistical capacity of RECs which are lagging behind especially CEN-SAD to achieve full harmonization of Statistics in the continent.

NOMINTATIVE LIST OF ATTENDANCE