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2ⁿᵈ Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
7ᵀᴴ SHaSA 2 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26-28 November 2025

REPORT

ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 2025

INTRODUCTION

1. The 7th Executive Committee (EC) of the Second Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2) held its 2025 statutory meeting from 26th to 28th November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by SHaSA 2 national, regional, and continental coordinators.

2. **National coordinators**: Angola**,** Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea- Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

3. **Regional Coordinators:** Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) , the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and AFRISTAT.

4. **Continental Coordinators:** AfDB, UNECA, APRM, and AU STATAFRIC.

5. **Statistical schools Coordinaotrs:** Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan; Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique Pierre Ndiaye (ENSAE Dakar); Ecole Supérieure de la Statistique et de l'Analyse de l'Information de Tunis (ESSAI), University of Carthage; École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA Abidjan); Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), University of Ghana; School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University, L'institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ISSEA).

6. **Observers:** United Nations Volunteer

7. Representative from STATAFRIC, moderated the opening ceremony, welcomed all the participants to the 7th SHaSA 2 Executive Committee Meeting and introduced the Chair of the CoDGs to make his remarks.

8. **Mr. Lamin Dibba** from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics and who represented the chair of the CoDG welcomed participants to the meeting. He emphasized that SHaSA 2 is Africa's key framework for modernizing and harmonizing statistics. He highlighted that SHaSA 2 supports Agenda 2063, the SDGs, AfCFTA, and national development plans through its four pillars of coordination, harmonized data production, innovation, and statistical communication. He noted that achieving these goals requires modernizing data systems, strengthening human and institutional capacity, and embracing new technologies.

9. The objectives of the meeting were: (i) to assess progress in the implementation of SHASA 2 in 2025 at national, regional, and continental levels; and (ii) issue recommendations to address any challenges identified and engage the African statistical system (AfSS) in a virtuous path regarding statistics harmonisation, production, and dissemination.

10. Mr. Tinfissi Joseph ILBOUDO, on behalf of UNECA highlighted the importance of data harmonization for justice and reparations, in line with the theme of the African Union in 2025. He assured strong commitment from UNECA to support SHASA 2 implementation. Furthermore, he emphasized integration across the 55 countries under Agenda 2063 as a collective priority.

11. Mr. Adoum Gagoloum, representing the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) expressed gratitude for collaboration and highlighted technical progress in SHASA 2 implementation. Recognized challenges in financial sustainability, coordination, and infrastructure deficits. Mentioned that 13 out of 18 specialized technical groups (STGs) have been operationalized, covering various statistical domains. He further encouraged continued partnerships between STATAFRIC, African Development Bank, and UNECA for capacity building and methodological harmonization.

12. Dr. Meron Kifelew, Deputy Director General of Ethiopian Statistical Services, in her opening remarks emphasized Ethiopia's strong support and commitment to SHASA 2 and the broader harmonization goals. She highlighted the critical role that reliable statistics will play in monitoring Agenda 2063, SDGs, and AfCFTA. Furthermore, she called for practical solutions in methodology, capacity building, and digital innovation during the meeting. Dr. Meron Kifelew declared the meeting officially open, welcomed participants to Addis Ababa and wished them fruitful deliberations throughout the meeting.

Session I: Procedural issues and scene setting

Adoption of the Agenda and other organizational matters (the Quorum)

13. Following the opening of the meeting and after verifying that the meeting had a quorum, the agenda of the meeting was presented by the Chair of the 2024 CoDGs and adopted by the coordinators with the inclusion of the review of the APRM.

Presentation on the Report on the implementation of the 6th session of EC

14. A representative from STATAFRIC presented the follow up recommendations related to 6th Executive Committee of SHaSA2. The presentation focused on the evaluation of the status of 16 recommendations, highlighting partial implementations, particularly the establishment of monitoring frameworks (24 countries), sub-national data systems (30 countries), and the ratification of the African Charter on Statistics (29 out of 55), while notable progress in data systems, statistical collaborations, and transition to updated national accounting systems was observed. Despite efforts, challenges remain, including low response rates, limited coordination in some countries, and incomplete ratification of the African Charter on Statistics. The overall assessment showed advancements in certain areas but emphasized the need for continued support, resources, and follow-up to fully achieve the strategic objectives.

Discussions & Recommendations

15. The meeting discussed challenges in qualitative data analysis, data harmonization, and artificial intelligence integration. Participants emphasized the need for clearer, actionable and measurable recommendations, enhanced capacity building, and improved coordination within national statistical systems. The committee underscored the importance of data sharing, adopting digital transformation strategies, and making official statistics discoverable through AI to advance statistical development and

policy decision-making. The importance of aligning capacity building and training activities to the continental strategy was emphasized.

Report on Presentation on the SHASA2 MTR

16. A consultant from STATAFRIC presented the midterm review of SHaSA 2 introduced his presentation by a summary review of SHaSA 2. He, highlighted achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement, including political commitment, coordination, funding, and stakeholder involvement. The review, organized by STATAFRIC was an overall external evaluation in accordance with SHaSA monitoring and evaluation requirements. It involved all strategic themes and objectives of SHaSA 2. Findings revealed an overall implementation rate of SHaSA 2 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, splitting some STGs, enhancing data dissemination, and ensuring inclusive process in the development of SHaSA 3 to ensure implementation success.

Discussions & Recommendations

17. The meeting raised concerns on the implementation rates of the strategy, coordination challenges, and the need for better alignment of national, regional and continental statistics strategies coupled with advocacy missions to popularize SHaSA 2. Participants highlighted the need of addressing resource constraints to enhance the strategy's effectiveness. The recommendations made by the review were said to be important in guiding the remaining period (one year) for the implementation of SHaSA 2 and shaping future dialogue especially in the development of the SHaSA 3. A number of issues and comments were addressed such as the importance of having further discussions among the PAOs on refining coordination mechanisms and guiding the development of SHaSA 3. The need of having an all-inclusive process was emphasized in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

Session 2: STGs reports including Actions Plans and Minimal Set of Indicators

18. To date, 13 of the 18 Specialized Technical Groups defined by SHaSA 2, as shown below, are operational. Since the last EC meeting, each of these 13 groups has had the opportunity to meet and to consider the Group's Terms of Reference adopted by 18th session of the CoDGs, elect the bureau, and develop an action plan for 2025-2026 and, where applicable, the minimum list of indicators to be produced in each of the statistical areas covered. The composition of the Bureaus of these 13 STGs is appended to this report.

STG No	SHaSA 2 Specialized Technical Groups
01	Governance, Peace & Security
02	External Sector (External Trade & Balance of Payments)
04	National Accounts & Price Statistics
06	Public Finance, Private Sector & Investments
08	Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection & Gender
09	Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources
10	Statistical Training & Capacity Building (AGROST)
11	African Group on Employment and Informal Economy
12	Classification
13	African Group on CRVS

STG No	SHaSA 2 Specialized Technical Groups
16	Mobilizing political will
17	Emerging issues (big data, open data, data revolution, geospatial data, etc.)
18	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

STG01 on Governance, Peace and Security Statistics – Cote d'Ivoire

19. The Specialized Technical Group on Governance, Peace, and Security (STG-GPS) advances SHaSA-2 by enhancing institutional coordination and reliable GPS statistics across Africa. The latest meeting of the group aimed to review 2024 CoDGs outcomes, align Agenda 2063 indicators, and update GPS data tools, resulting in revised questionnaires, a minimal indicator set, and a 2025–2026 action plan. Recommendations emphasize phased implementation for challenged countries, fact-based result dissemination, and strengthened collaboration with Agenda 2030/2063 coordinators and African Union bodies for effective monitoring.

STG02 on External Sector (External trade only) - Kenya

20. The Specialized Technical Group on External Sector (STG-ES) focuses on external sector statistics including trade and balance of payment data. The main outcomes of the meeting were an Action Plan for 2025-2026 for the STG-ES and a minimum list of ES indicators to be regularly reported on by AU Member states. The STG-ES recommends that AU Member States enhance external sector statistics by integrating non-customs data sources, conducting annual mirror exercises, adopting ICBT guidelines and partnering with the private sector for digital trade data. The STG-ES also called for operationalizing the Trade Data Tool (TDT) by 2026, hosting workshops on digital trade, and developing an IMTS/MSITS 2026 action plan.

STG04 on National Accounts & Prices Statistics - Mauritania

21. The Specialized Technical Group on National Accounts and Price Statistics (STG-4) convened virtually from June 30 to July 3, 2025, and focused on accelerating the transition from SNA 2008 to SNA 2025 and modernizing macroeconomic statistics. A 2025–2026 action plan was developed, emphasizing technical support, capacity building (annual and quarterly national accounts, price indices), and the promotion of tools like NADABAS and ERETES, alongside peer learning and robust monitoring mechanisms. The group also recommended adopting the 2020 CPI Manual, integrating innovative data sources, and strengthening governance frameworks.

STG06 on Public Finance, Private Sector & Investment - Senegal

22. The SHaSA 2 Specialized Technical Group on Public Finance, Private Sector, and Investment (STG-6 PFPS&I) convened in Algeria from May 12–14, 2025. The meeting focused on developing a standard generic model for public finance data, promoting data dissemination and establishing a minimal list of indicators for public finance, private sector, and investment statistics. The STG recommended strengthening institutional coordination, harmonizing methodologies, and fostering peer learning among AU Member States. It urged National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to adopt data sharing platforms for data dissemination and regularly publish public finance, private sector, and investment data.

STG08 on Demography, Migrations, health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender: Subgroup on Migrations Statistics - Maroc

23. The Sub-group on Migration (STG-SO) met in Abidjan (May 12–15, 2025) to align migration statistics with African governance and policy frameworks, emphasizing the need for accurate, timely, and disaggregated data. The Sub-group on Migration (STG-SO) recommended strengthening institutional capacities and cross-institutional collaboration to address data fragmentation and gaps. It also called for developing African-specific migration guidelines and harmonizing methodologies to ensure alignment with Agenda 2063 and enhance data comparability for evidence-based policymaking.

STG09 on Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resource: Subgroup on Agriculture - Tunisia

24. The Specialized Technical Group on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources (STG-09 Agriculture) convened its first annual meeting in Hammamet, Tunisia, from June 9–11, 2025, focusing exclusively on agricultural statistics. The group recommended that Member States harmonize definitions, classifications, and methodologies and strengthen South-South cooperation. Technical and Financial partners were urged to provide capacity-building support, expand household survey compilation, and streamline data reporting using standardized platforms to ensure consistency and reduce reporting burdens.

STG10 on Statistical Training & Capacity Building (AGROST) - Cameroon

25. The Specialized Technical Group on Agricultural Statistics and Capacity Building (STG-10 AGROST) held a workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from August 18–20, 2025. The workshop aimed to strengthen its role in harmonizing and enhancing statistical capacity building across Africa. Key outcomes included the adoption of a 2025–2027 action plan and a guide on emerging statistical topics. The workshop recommended coordinated capacity-building, investment in digital infrastructure and stronger partnerships among stakeholders to enhance statistical training and collaboration.

STG11 on African group on Employment and Informal Economy - Namibia

26. The Specialized Technical Group on Employment and Informal Economy Statistics (STG-EIE) convened in Windhoek, Namibia (April 21–23, 2025), to advance the harmonization of labor and informal economy statistics in Africa. The meeting focused on adopting the 19th–21st ICLS standards, finalizing a 2025–2026 action plan, and electing a new bureau. The STG-EIE recommended that AU Member States integrate ICLS standards into national surveys, standardize priority labor indicators, and promote peer learning, while urging AU-STATAFRIC and partners to create a metadata repository, accelerate the LMStat framework, and enhance communication for effective ICLS adoption and data sharing.

Session 3: STGs reports including Actions Plans and Minimal Set of Indicators - cont'd

STG12 on Classification – Gabon

27. The Specialized Technical Group on Classification (STG12-Class) held its meeting in Libreville in April 2025, focusing on harmonizing statistical classifications across Africa to align with international standards while addressing local realities. Key outcomes include the development of a priority nomenclature list, a detailed diagnostic report, and a training program to enhance the capacity of Member States in adapting and implementing statistical classifications. The STG-12 recommended that NSOs align classifications with global standards, create dedicated divisions, and foster peer learning, while urging UNECA, AFRISTAT, and OECD to develop Africa-specific classifications.

STG13 on CRVS – Equatorial Guinea

28. The Specialized Technical Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (STG-13 CRVS) convened in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (June 2025). The meeting focused on finalizing a 2025–2026 action plan, establishing a minimum list of 67 CRVS indicators, and electing a regional bureau to drive implementation, while emphasizing digital integration, legal identity programs, and decentralized registration to improve data quality and coverage. The STG-13 CRVS recommended that Member States boost CRVS funding, ensure emergency access, and adopt UN legal identity programs, while urging pan-African organizations to provide coordinated technical support.

STG16 on Mobilizing Political Will - Kenya

29. The Specialized Technical Group on Mobilizing Political Will convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from February 17–19, 2025. Key recommendations included institutionalizing sustained political commitment, prioritizing statistics in national development agendas, and allocating at least 0.15% of national budgets to statistical systems. The group also called for ratifying the African Charter on Statistics, protecting funding for censuses and surveys, updating governance frameworks, and enhancing engagement with civil society, media, and advocacy groups to ensure transparency, data quality, and sustainable domestic financing.

STG17 on Emerging issues (big data, open data, data revolution, geospatial data) – Somalia

30. The Group on Emerging Statistical Issues (STG-17) convened under SHaSA 2, focusing on modernizing Africa's statistical systems through big data, AI, open data, geospatial information, and data governance. Key discussions underscored structural gaps, including shortages of data scientists, outdated infrastructure, and incomplete governance frameworks for privacy and ethics. The group issued Kigali Recommendations, calling for continental leadership to align innovation with development goals, increased financing and technical support, strengthened data governance laws, and harmonized methods across countries.

STG18 on National Strategy for the development of Statistics (NSDS)

31. The Specialized Technical Group on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (STG-18) held its first 2025 meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from May 21–23. The group recommended that Member States align NSDSs with PARIS21 guidelines, modernize systems using AI and digital tools. It also called for strengthening legal frameworks, establishing National Statistical Funds, and embedding monitoring/evaluation from the design stage. RECs were urged to support Member States in aligning NSDSs with regional strategies, while partners were encouraged to provide technical assistance, capacity building, and gender-sensitive support to ensure sustainable, high-quality statistical systems.

Discussions & Recommendations

32. All participants congratulated the technical groups on the quality of their work and their reports. A number of participants expressed the wish that their countries be represented within these groups. Representatives of regional communities emphasized the importance of communicating the groups' work and recommendations, particularly to all stakeholders, in order to maximize coordination of actions. Participants also emphasized the importance of human resources and the need for capacity building to implement the action plans of the various STGs. Several comments, remarks, and suggestions were addressed specifically to the various specialized technical groups.

Session 4: RECs, AFRISTAT and Schools support to the implementation of SHaSA 2

Reports from Regional Economic Committees (RECs)

33. **IGAD** presented its Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) which is fully aligned with the SHaSA 2 framework and noted steady progress in data availability, statistical quality, regional coordination, evidence-based policy making and Member State capacity. It emphasized strong integration of SHaSA-2 principles, particularly in building a harmonized regional statistical system for cross-border and multi-sectoral needs. However, IGAD highlighted persistent challenges, including inadequate funding and technical capacity gaps, which hinder full implementation. To address these, it called for stronger collaboration, coordinated action, increased resource mobilization, greater country ownership, and a formal regional statistics program with sustained.

34. **COMESA** is advancing SHaSA II implementation by finalizing its 2026–2030 Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS), focusing on digital transformation, methodological innovation, and sustainable financing to build a resilient statistical ecosystem. The strategy emphasizes resource mobilization, cross-border collaboration, and monitoring/evaluation systems to ensure measurable progress and long-term impact. COMESA will also prioritize capacity development, technological integration (geospatial data, big data, AI), and behavioral change to promote data use among policymakers and stakeholders.

35. **The SADC Secretariat** is advancing SHaSA 2 implementation by strengthening coordination between REC and Member States, accelerating harmonization with continental frameworks, and modernizing statistical systems—including SNA 2008 adoption and digitalization. Key actions include enhancing administrative data systems, improving interoperability between SADC and continental platforms, and mobilizing sustainable financing beyond project-based support. The region emphasizes innovation in statistical tools (Python, R, CSPRO) and regional collaboration to build resilient, cost-efficient national statistical systems aligned with SHaSA 2 priorities.

36. **CEN-SAD** was created in 1998, with its headquarters in Tripoli and 25 member states. The supervisory department has recognized the urgent need to create a dedicated statistics unit, prioritizing key areas like peace, security, and sustainable development, though funding constraints currently hinder its establishment. Once the statistical unit is up and running, CENSAD will be able to provide more active support for the regional implementation of SHaSA 2.

37. **The ECOWAS Commission** is advancing SHaSA II implementation by expanding its statistical information base, harmonizing methodologies, and strengthening coordination mechanisms through the 2023–2027 Regional Statistical Program (PSR) and PHASAO/PHASAOC projects. Key actions include finalizing and adopting methodological guides for various statistical domains, while promoting South-South cooperation and advocating for the ratification of the African Charter on Statistics. ECOWAS will focus on enhancing technological infrastructure by launching online regional databases (ECOBASE, STATBASE, etc.) and improving data dissemination to support evidence-based decision-making.

Reports from AFRISTAT

38. In 2025, AFRISTAT advanced SHaSA 2 implementation by strengthening institutional capacities, finalizing national accounts frameworks (CNAQ) in Guinea and Chad, and providing technical training in annual/quarterly accounts, price statistics, business statistics, and economic forecasting across member states. The organization also promoted and improved innovative statistical tools covering various domains. To sustain progress, AFRISTAT is expanding partnerships, securing new agreements, and participating in international/regional statistical forums to align methodologies, mobilize resources, and foster collaboration for SHaSA 2 priorities.

Discussions & Recommendations

39. UNECA recommended that RECs with the least statistical capacity coordinate with those that are more advanced in statistical production, particularly when they share some of the same member countries. AU-STATAFRIC also emphasized that RECs have a critical role to play in advocating with their member countries that have not yet signed or ratified the African Charter on Statistics.

Reports from Statistical Training Schools

40. **The École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA-Abidjan)** of Côte d'Ivoire presented its long-standing contribution to statistical training and capacity building in Africa. The school offers a wide range of training programs: from initial degrees in statistics and economics to specialized master's in actuarial science, agricultural statistics, data science, and management. It also provides PhD programs in applied economics, statistics, and data science, supported by research laboratories. ENSEA's activities extend beyond Côte d'Ivoire. It supports statistical training in different countries. Looking ahead, ENSEA outlined several perspectives: strengthening capacity-building for national statistical institutes (INS), engaging in World Bank initiatives, expanding partnerships with non-francophone countries, reforming its information system.

41. **L'institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ISSEA)** is a specialized institution of Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) established in 1984 for the training of intermediate and senior statisticians. It has three core missions: training young statisticians from CEMAC member countries, providing continuing education in economics and statistics, and advancing work in statistics and data science. They are planning to establish a PhD school to complement the existing Master's program and to further expand training-of-trainers initiatives. Continued capacity building remains a key need to support these developments.

42. **The University of Ibadan**, as a prominent statistical training center under SHaSA, highlighted its extensive academic programs and the vital role of its Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis. Recent achievements include updating their curriculum with courses on AI and data systems,

collaborating with national agencies, and expanding outreach through workshops and radio. Despite strong research outputs and advocacy for statistical literacy, they face challenges such as limited collaboration, funding shortages, and curriculum gaps. The university recommends enhanced funding, continental collaboration for sharing curricula, research, and training resources, and harmonized certification to strengthen statistical capacity in Africa.

43. **The Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (ENSAE-Dakar)** is a sub-regional higher education institution in Senegal known for its harmonized statistical training programs, welcoming students from 15+ nationalities. Its achievements include a five-year training plan, regional initiatives, integration of emerging technologies like AI and big data into curricula, and impactful student-led projects in data science and agriculture. The institution also undertakes infrastructure improvements and fosters international collaboration. Recommendations focus on leveraging digital platforms, building trainer databases, improving administrative data management, and shared monitoring systems to further enhance capacity building and statistical education across Africa.

44. **The School of Statistics at Makarere University**, established in 1969, offers undergraduate programs in actuarial sciences, population studies, quantitative economics, and statistics, along with master's and PhD programs in statistics and quantitative economics. It has trained over 18,000 statisticians, many of whom work with regional organizations like AU and UN. Annually, over 500 graduates are produced, and short courses are offered to NSOs and ministry staff. The school also has internships, a data science lab, and partnerships with organizations like ISTAC. Challenges include limited funding, outdated curriculum, and digital infrastructure gaps, despite high demand for data professionals.

45. **The Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS)**, established in 1972 by Ghana and the UN, has trained over 1,600 graduates in demography. The institute offers Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy programs, focusing on demography and statistics, with courses in population analysis, data evaluation, and qualitative methods. RIPS supports civil registration and vital statistics systems, migration data, and census analysis across Africa, partnering with organizations like the African Development Bank and UNFPA. They also have specialized programs in computational social science and a grant management system.

46. **The Ecole Supérieure de la Statistique et de l'Analyse de l'Information de Tunis (ESSAI)**, established in 2001, discussed its activities and achievements of ESSAI-Tunis, highlighting its established programs, partnerships, strengthened collaboration with national institutions and recent updates in curriculum emphasizing data science, AI, and machine learning. Future plans include expanding emerging modules, fostering cooperation among African institutions, and contributing to sustainable programs aligned with the continent's capacity building objectives in statistics and continental development agendas.

Discussions & Recommendations
47. The meeting discussed challenges of statistical training schools in Africa, emphasizing the need for inclusion of more regional institutions, particularly from the south, and the exploration of funding opportunities such as consultancies and scholarships. Participants discussed the importance of aligning training curricula with continental strategies, updating them more frequently, and enhancing collaboration among training centers to improve capacity building and knowledge dissemination. Suggestions included merging overlapping institutions, leveraging e-learning platforms, and ensuring students and professionals are well-informed about the African Statistical System and its objectives. It

was further recommended that STATAFRIC to involve training centres more directly in the elaboration of upcoming ShaSA's 3.

Presentation of the guidelines on Migration & Displacement Statistics

48. A representative from STATAFRIC presented, for information, the developed guidelines on migration statistics and forced displacement in Africa, covering a comprehensive presentation that includes context, 13 chapters, and recommendations from a specialized group on migration. Key topics included the definition of migration concepts, national migration data, integration of administrative data, policy evaluation, data security, and harmonization of migration statistics across member states. The presentation also emphasized capacity needs, recommendations, and tools to improve migration data quality and policy effectiveness.

Discussions & Recommendations

49. The discussion emphasized that the migration guidelines has been developed collaboratively with international, regional, and national partners since 2024. Participants further discussed the frequency of future editions, the involvement of regional economic communities. It was affirmed that the document will be accessible for further understanding.

Launching and presentation of the SHaSA 2 implementation platform

50. A representative from STATAFRIC presented on the SHaSA 2 implementation platform having developed a SharePoint to address communication gaps and strengthen collaboration among 18 Specialized Technical Groups (STGs). The platform, launched in June 2025, includes 18 SharePoint sites, with continuous improvements based on member feedback. Key features include access to meeting reports, action plans, and minimum set of indicators in French and English, with additional languages planned. The platform also facilitates member interaction, virtual meetings, and updates on Bureau activities.

Discussions & Recommendations

51. The meeting concluded with discussions on sharing presentation materials and ensuring platform accessibility, including support for users with non-Microsoft accounts. Participants emphasized the importance of data governance, recommended collaboration with APRM, and requested that all previous reports and documents be made available on the platform for member states.

Reports on the training on monitoring financial protection in health

52. A representative from STATAFRIC, presented the workshop on Training on Monitoring Financial Protection in Health Report that was Jointly organized by the World Bank, WHO and AU-STATAFRIC in Dakar 14-17 October 2025. This workshop aimed at tackling the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a cornerstone of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 3 on its Indicator 3.8.2, which measures the proportion of the population protected from large and impoverishing health expenditures. The workshop aimed at i) improving understanding of financial protection in health ii) Strengthening knowledge of methodologies and data sources iii) Developing national capacities to produce financial protection estimates, IV) Discussing a roadmap for regular production of financial protection estimates. Health Statisticians and Household Survey Specialists were Working together before and during the physical meeting. The training concerned different tools such as STATA and the WHO's online tool (FP-

STATS). Key recommendations concluded the need i) to ensure coordination between Ministries of Health and NSOs, ii) to facilitate Data Access and more transparency, iii) to Integrate SDG 3.8.2 indicators into national reports and iv) to organize sessions on complex indicators and analytical tools.

Report on the standardized volunteer work measurement module

53. The Representative of the University of Pretoria, **Professor Samuel Manda** introduced the Global Index of Volunteer Engagement (GIVE), developed by the University of Pretoria with UNV, ILO, and UNDP. The initiative seeks to measure the true societal impact of volunteering, moving beyond simple counts of hours and participants. GIVE is a multidimensional index built on four pillars: Individual value (skills, health, well-being), Community value (social cohesion, civic engagement), Economic value (labour input, replacement cost), Enabling environment (policies, institutions, culture, financing.

54. The index highlights how volunteering strengthens resilience, productivity, and social cohesion, while also exposing gaps in engagement across age, gender, and regions. The call to action was clear: policymakers, national statistical offices, academia, and civil society must work together to institutionalize GIVE, ensuring that volunteerism is recognized as a measurable driver of sustainable development.

Report on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Governance Index

55. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Governance Index presented by **Dr. Sampson Osei** that was introduced as a voluntary instrument of the African Union designed to promote good governance, democratic principles, human rights, and sound socio-economic policies. The governance assessment framework covers six thematic areas: democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance, socio-economic development, state resilience to shocks and disasters, and e-governance. The APRM Governance Index (AfGI) was introduced to track governance under Agenda 2063 and establishes a baseline for each country, using official and mutually agreed government data, and is designed to serve as an early warning system on critical governance issues.

56. Data collection has already been undertaken in 21 countries, combining quantitative administrative data and qualitative assessments. However, several challenges were highlighted such as the persistent data gaps, limited digitalization and accessibility, fragmented administrative systems, with ministries and local governments, weaknesses in administrative data for justice, security, public service, and anti-corruption sectors. The key recommendations emerged was the need to formalize data-sharing frameworks through MoUs between APRM and STATAFRIC and to strengthen political buy-in by reducing sensitivities around governance data and demonstrating its value for national planning and to improve access to administrative data systems.

Discussions & Recommendations

57. Participants raised comments on data governance support, coordination among NSOs and partners, and the need to promote greater use of administrative data. Several countries noted their inability to attend the Financial Protection in Health workshop, requesting access to its materials and emphasizing the importance of SDG 3.8.2 data. Discussion on the APRM presentation highlighted challenges with fragmented data, the need to incorporate citizen perspectives and independent data to strengthen APRM's role as a governance watchdog, and the importance of deepening partnerships. Finally,

participants sought clarification on the GIVE volunteer index, including the types of data sources required.

58. STATAFRIC discussed the implementation of SHaSA 2, highlighting that resource mobilization targets were not met and emphasizing the need for clearer implementation approaches, additional efforts, and more workshops based on mid-term review findings. It was noted that SHaSA 2 has been implemented at both regional and national levels through RSDS and NSDS, but key instruments still require adoption by Heads of State. UNECA stressed the need for an act and regulations, suggesting that lessons from SHaSA 1 and 2 should inform improvements, including developing an annual workplan to guide and evaluate activities. AfDB expressed full support for planning SHaSA 3, underscoring the importance of incorporating reflections from SHaSA 2, strengthening legislation aligned with the African Charter of Statistics, adopting a participatory approach, and considering the restructuring of technical groups to ensure balanced representation. STATAFRIC further emphasized the need to make technical groups more effective, reduce duplication, and strengthen coordination among member states and partner organizations.

Election of the EC' Bureau 2025

59. A representative of STATFRIC from STATAFRIC presented The ToR's of the Executive Committee (EC) of SHaSA 2 that was established to provide a clear and inclusive governance structure for the SHaSA. The composition of the EC reflects this inclusivity: at the national level, 55 coordinators represent AU Member States; at the regional level, representatives from the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AFRISTAT, and statistical training schools participate and at the continental level, AU-STATAFRIC, AfDB, and UNECA provide leadership and oversight.

60. The EC's roles and responsibilities are comprehensive. It provides strategic advice to the Committee of Directors General (CoDG), ensures operational integration of SHaSA 2 into national and regional statistical strategies, advocates for statistical development, and mobilizes political support. It also oversees implementation of recommendations and decisions, monitors and evaluates progress, prepares consolidated reports, promotes cooperation among member states, and fosters partnerships. Ordinary session is held once a year alongside the CoDG meetings, and extraordinary sessions when requested by two-thirds of member states. Its bureau consists of a Chair, two Vice Chairs, and two Rapporteurs, while the secretariat is provided by AU-STATAFRIC.

61. <u>SHaSA EC' Bureau 2025</u>

- Chair – Uganda
- 1st Vice-Chair – Ivory Coast
- 2nd Vice-Chair – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 1st Rapporteur – Angola
- 2nd Rapporteur – Morocco

62. Main Conclusions and Recommendations

A. To All

R1. Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), training schools and Pan-African institutions should leverage African Statistics Day more strategically to raise public awareness, promote the value of statistical activities, and strengthen engagement with stakeholders across the continent.

R2. Call upon all SHaSA2-STGs Bureau and STGs secretariat to implement their action plans and the recommendations from their meetings.

B. To African Union Member States

R3. SHaSA national coordinators should proactively coordinate and monitor all national statistical activities, ensuring alignment with continental priorities, and regularly update their knowledge on both domestic and Africa-wide statistical developments to foster harmonization and informed decision-making.

R4. Member States are urged to timely, exhaustively and accurately respond to questionnaires from Pan-African institutions and designate dedicated, responsive focal points to streamline data collection and reporting processes.

R5. Member States are urged to prioritize, within their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs), the modernization of administrative data sources to enhance their credibility and reliability while encouraging south-south cooperation.

R6. SHaSA national coordinators are encouraged to include a dedicated section on SHaSA implementation progress in their countries' annual reports on the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

R7. Member States to align their National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS) to Regional Strategies for Development of Statistics (RSDS) and continental statistical strategy (SHaSA).

R8. Call upon Member States to develop and implement comprehensive Data Quality Assessment Frameworks (DQAFs) and quality assurance and certification frameworks to enhance the credibility, reliability, and comparability of statistical outputs.

R9. Call upon Member States to modernise their National Statistical System, revise and update their statistical legal and regulatory frameworks including statistical laws, to explicitly incorporate provisions related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big data, alternative data sources, technological advances in official statistics into the production and dissemination of official statistics.

R10. Urge Member States to ensure that their National Statistical Offices (NSOs) focus research activities primarily to improve statistical methodologies and standards, data production processes, and quality of official statistics.

C. To Pan-African Organizations (PAOs), RECs and Partners

R11. Build capacity on qualitative data across NSOs by designing and delivering targeted training to improve in the reporting of the quantitative data.

R12. Call upon STATAFRIC to accelerate the recruitment of key staff and fully operationalize PANSTAT and enhance data dissemination.

R13. Call upon the PAOs to improve SHaSA 2 coordination mechanisms and guide the development of the SHaSA 3. In this respect, STATAFRIC, in its capacity as SHaSA coordinator, should initiate the process and in an inclusive and participatory manner. The SHaSA 3 should be aligned with major continental priorities, particularly the African Union's Agenda 2063 or related governance frameworks. This alignment will ensure that statistical development is not treated in isolation but integrated into broader policy objectives. By embedding the strategy within AU flagship programmes, the strategy will gain stronger political support and continuity beyond the current cycle.

R.14. Recommend STATAFRIC to schedule an end-term external evaluation of the strategy in line with SHaSA 2 requirements, within a realistic timeline, to accurately report on implementation progress and identify gaps to enhance the implementation of future strategies.

R15. Call upon ECA, in collaboration with STATAFRIC and partners, through STG-Class to develop continental classifications aligned with international standards to be used for national and regional data production processes.

R16. Request STATAFRIC through STG on Governance Peace and Security (GPS) and STG on Mobilizing Political Will to work closely with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and partners to strengthen and harmonize data governance efforts across Africa.

R17. PAOs are requested to maintain effective communication and feedback mechanisms for all Specialized Technical Groups (STGs) using SharePoint sites to enhance transparency, accountability, and coordinated progress in statistical harmonization.

R18. The meeting noted the urgency of mobilizing additional resources to bridge the funding gap for SHaSA 2 implementation, estimated at $11 billion. The meeting recommended that STATAFRIC pursue collaboration with partners to negotiate access to UN trust funds and to work with the African Development Bank to increase a dedicated financing window for statistical programmes.

R19. The discussion recognized the potential role of Trust Funds and private foundations in supporting statistical development, particularly in priorities areas like youth employment and gender equality. The meeting recommended AfDB to negotiate a public-private partnership framework that positions data innovation as a driver of socio-economic development.

R20. Call upon STATAFRIC to revise and update the African Charter on Statistics to incorporate issues which have emerged since its enactment including alternative data sources, use of AI and new technologies in data production processes.

R21. Request APRM in collaboration with STATAFRIC to formalize continent-wide data-sharing and coordination frameworks through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to institutionalize data exchange, harmonize methodologies, and ensure regular coordination between the two institutions.

R22. Call upon APRM in collaboration with STATAFRIC to jointly conduct data quality assessments to strengthen the credibility, comparability, and reliability of governance-related statistics across Member States.

D. To Training Schools

R23. Urge statistical training institutions to develop and provide short-term courses/programs in new fields—such as artificial intelligence, data science, and advanced statistical techniques—with a strong emphasis on their practical use in the production and analysis of official statistics.

R24. Mobilise regional partnerships and targeted funding: leverage consultancies, scholarships, and operationalisation of regional centres to sustain training, expand access (including e-learning), and align programs with the continental strategy.

R25. To popularize and advocate for SHaSA strategy and African Charter on Statistics (ACS) amongst students and their official events.