



## **Report on progress made on the implementation of the African Programme on Gender Statistics**

### **I. Introduction**

1. Over the last decade, the development of gender statistics has been among the highest priorities of the statistical development agenda in Africa. Pan-African institutions and international agencies working in the area of statistics have deployed greater efforts for the development of gender statistics capacity and the improvement of their availability and use. These efforts contributed to create greater awareness among African statisticians about gender issues and concerns, as well as the need to mainstream them in national statistical systems. Consequently, they have contributed to achieving progress in the area of gender statistics, both at the regional and national levels. They meant to strengthen national statistical capacities in order to improve collection, compilation, dissemination and use of timely, comparable and reliable gender-related data, and to promote exchange of good practices and experiences.

2. Despite this progress, African countries are still left behind in the production and use of gender statistics, as efforts towards the development of such statistics have been mostly project-based and ad hoc in nature, and do not bring about sustainable improvements in the situation. In addition, such efforts have largely been uncoordinated, resulting in duplication of efforts. As a result, to date very few African countries have managed to achieve their objectives for including gender in their statistics, which remains a challenge for many African countries.

3. To address this issue, the African Group on Gender Statistics has developed a five-year regional programme on gender statistics known as the African Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS). The objective of APGS is to improve the availability of accurate gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels in Africa. APGS is an umbrella regional programme on gender statistics which encompasses all conceivable activities that need to be undertaken by regional organizations, international agencies and other institutions at the regional level. The Programme was endorsed by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its third session, which asked the Working Group on Gender Statistics to coordinate the implementation of the Programme and to report on progress made. In this respect, a five-year plan of action (2012–2016) has been developed. The present report is a summary of activities undertaken

by the member institutions of the African Group on Gender Statistics in accordance with the above-mentioned plan of action for the period 2014–2016.

## **II. Implementation of the African Programme on Gender Statistics**

### **A. Regional partnerships and coordination**

4. The African Group on Gender Statistics was set up to coordinate the implementation of APGS. The member institutions of the African Group are:

(a) The three pan-African institutions: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission;

(b) United Nations agencies and other international agencies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN–Women); the United Nations Population Fund; the United Nations Children’s Fund; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the International Labour Organization; the World Bank; and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

(c) Statistical training centres;

(d) Regional economic communities;

(e) Member States.

5. ECA is the secretariat of the African Group on Gender Statistics.

#### **1. Meeting of the African Working Group on Gender Statistics**

6. ECA, as the secretariat of the African Group on Gender Statistics, in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, organized a meeting of the Group from 2 to 6 November 2015 in Nairobi.

7. The meeting was attended by gender focal points from the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) of seven countries, members of the Working Group (Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, South Sudan and Uganda), representatives of three statistical training institutions (L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA) of Cote d'Ivoire, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and the United Nations System Staff College) and international experts on gender statistics. Representatives of the United Nations Population Fund, OECD, and ECA (African Centre for Statistics and African Centre for Gender) also attended the meeting.

8. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

(a) Take stock of progress made in the implementation of activities of APGS and decide on the way forward;

(b) Review and validate the report on gender statistics for the forthcoming Statistical Commission for Africa;

(c) Review and validate the first draft of the manual on assessment and development, a gender statistics programme at the national level that is being developed by ECA;

(d) Demonstrate to the Working Group members an online training toolkit on gender statistics developed by ECA and the United Nations System Staff College;

- (e) Discuss institutional issues; and
- (f) Identify ways forward.

## **2. Development of the African Programme on Gender Statistics (2017–2021)**

9. The African Group on Gender Statistics, at its meeting in November 2015 in Nairobi, raised the need to address challenges resulting from the adoption of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. In this respect, it requested to align the forthcoming APGS to the new demands emanating from gender-related indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those goals monitoring requirements, as baseline data is unavailable for several of the Sustainable Development Goals targets.<sup>1</sup> It also recommended aligning the new Programme to the minimum set of gender indicators and ensuring that the upcoming Programme will address challenges identified in APGS 2012–2016.

10. Since the current APGS 2012–2016 will end on 31 December 2016, ECA, as secretariat of the African Group on Gender Statistics, has worked on the draft APGS 2017–2021. APGS 2017–2021 includes a five-year plan of action (2017–2021), and a set of strategies has been identified for achieving its objective. These include:

- (a) Capacity-building and research;
- (b) Reporting storage and dissemination; and
- (c) Advocacy and communication of gender statistics at the country and regional levels.

11. The draft APGS also specifies the institutional mechanism that is proposed for implementation of the Programme and also for monitoring and evaluation. As recommended by the African Group on Gender Statistics, the draft document takes into account gender data and statistics requirements arising from the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, particularly with regard to data and methodological requirements, as well as supporting political, legal and institutional frameworks.

12. The draft document builds on ongoing methodological work under the Global Gender Statistics Programme to generate substantial knowledge on mainstreaming gender perspective into national statistical systems. The new Programme will be guided by the global work on the standards, concepts and methodologies. The draft Programme was sent to institutions members of APGS for their review and input.

13. Moreover, the development and implementation of the Programme is in line with ongoing efforts at the continental level to implement the Strategy on the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.

## **3. Signed Memorandum of Understanding between the African Development Bank and UN–Women**

14. Through the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UN–Women are expected to collaborate on areas related to accelerating women’s economic empowerment in global agricultural value chains; support and equip AfDB regional member countries in their work on water and sanitation; expand women’s financial inclusion; and compile gender data and statistics for regional member countries, as well as undertake joint country gender profiles.

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<sup>1</sup> “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, September 2015 (para. 57), available from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

15. In this regard, the two institutions are conducting a research study on gender and poverty measurement in the Comoros and a joint Country Gender Note for Kenya. In the context of the Bank's new Results Measurement Framework, they are also working on the alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals indicators to the Bank's High 5s agenda<sup>2</sup> indicators.

16. The National Bureau of Statistics (Institut national de la statistique et des études démographiques (INSEED)) in the Comoros requested updated statistical tools to assess the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Previously, no poverty analysis taking into account the gender dimension has been achieved in the Comoros, despite the availability of data from the survey 1-2-3 financed by AfDB in 2014–2015. A multi-dimensional approach to poverty based on gender is necessary to implement a socio-economic analysis on three analytical dimensions: income poverty, gender disparities and indicators of access to basic goods.

17. AfDB and UN–Women are providing technical expertise to support the implementation of this study. The contribution of the Bank and UN–Women will be to develop and strengthen the institutional capacity of INSEED to improve the diagnosis and measurement of poverty based on gender. A draft report is being finalized.

18. AfDB and UN–Women are also conducting a Country Gender Note for Kenya, which will update the two institutions' operations related to gender statistics. More specifically, the Country Gender Note will present and analyse specific sectors and gender issue areas that are relevant for the Bank's programme in Kenya and could affect economic and social development in-country. This Country Gender Note will also provide Kenya and the Bank with reliable sex-disaggregated data, which can be processed and integrated at all the levels of Bank interventions as well as with other development partners. The work is still ongoing.

## **B. Capacity-building and research**

### **1. Online training toolkit on gender statistics**

19. Following the recommendations of the second session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, ECA in 2012 developed a training toolkit on gender statistics. The toolkit brings together the knowledge and guidance contained in various existing handbooks and manuals, with a view to incorporating the gender perspective into all facets of national statistical development agendas. The toolkit also provides a cursory overview of the issues related to individual and group studies, as well as ad hoc and institutionalized training, and is aimed at trainers.

20. In order to maximize the reach of the toolkit to users and producers of gender statistics, ECA has converted the toolkit into a user-friendly and interactive e-training course. The online version of the gender statistics training toolkit has been developed by ECA in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College. It is meant to contribute to strengthening a network of knowledgeable practitioners engaged in the development of gender statistics at the country level, and to promote continued capacity-building and learning by producers and users of these statistics.

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<sup>2</sup> AfDB's High 5s priorities are: Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa.

21. The specific objectives of the project were to:

- (a) Systematize the delivery of training in gender statistics across the African continent;
- (b) Increase learning opportunities in the area of gender statistics; and
- (c) Build capacity and improve knowledge in the mainstreaming of gender into national statistical development agendas.

22. The following achievements have been made in the development of the online toolkit:

- (a) The availability of new knowledge assets and customized learning tools in the area of gender statistics tailored to an audience in the African region;
- (b) The deployment of a dedicated e-learning portal to distribute this learning material and enable collaboration among members of relevant professional networks;
- (c) E-learning modules created and incorporated into a course, together with other required functionality (such as certification, evaluation, etc.);
- (d) A dedicated Moodle-based Learning Management System set up on United Nations System Staff College servers to distribute learning content;
- (e) The platform to be maintained by the United Nations System Staff College until the end of 2016 to enable time for a smooth and transparent handover;
- (f) A dedicated subdomain (<http://uneca.unssc.org>) set up on the United Nations System Staff College Domain Name System for this activity, which will remain active until the activities have been transferred to ECA.

23. Keys results of the project include the availability of four modules on gender statistics:

- (a) Module 1: Introduction to Gender Statistics;
- (b) Module 2: Planning for Gender Statistics;
- (c) Module 3: Producing Gender Statistics; and
- (d) Module 4: Communicating and Using Gender Statistics as a Tool for Change.

24. The English version of the online toolkit is available and functioning. The French version is under development and will be available by the end of 2016. It was demonstrated in a meeting of the African Group on Gender Statistics in Nairobi in 2015 in order to gather feedback of participants. It was also demonstrated at a consultative meeting of AfDB with the African Union Commission, ECA and Regional Economic Communities. As a result, this meeting has proposed to plan a training session, in November 2016, for national offices of statistics and the gender departments of Regional Economic Communities. It was also suggested to form a team of Training of Trainers from Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission, ECA and AfDB which can provide direct technical support to the Regional Economic Communities in order for them to have a pool of trainers on gender statistics.

25. The link and information on accessing the toolkit has been published on the ECA website, and sent to all the heads of NSOs, requesting them to publish the access link on their websites and organize training workshops and seminars for key stakeholders and media.

**2. Gender statistics toolkit on women in informal cross-border trade in Africa**

26. ECA developed a toolkit to assist African countries to collect, analyse and report on statistics on “Women in informal cross-border trade in Africa”. It was reviewed at a meeting of experts in Lusaka, Zambia, in August 2014, and finalized in 2015.

**3. Manual for countries to conduct an assessment and develop national gender statistics**

27. ECA has developed a handbook on assessment and development of gender statistics programme at the national level. The document aims to provide countries with guidance on development and implementation of gender statistics programmes. The outline of the draft document was reviewed during the meeting of the African Working Group on Gender Statistics, held in Nairobi in November 2015. The document is now being reviewed.

**4. UN–Women flagship programme initiative “Making Every Woman and Girl Count”**

28. In 2015, UN–Women significantly contributed to the discussion on the indicators framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, and through its position paper “Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges”.

29. To improve gender-responsive statistics and information, UN–Women has developed and prioritized its flagship programme initiative “Making Every Woman and Girl Count”, whose aim is to affect a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women’s empowerment. The programme envisions a multi-year and multi-country programme of work, supported by global and regional activities linking normative and technical work on gender statistics at the global level to the regional and national levels through three interlinked areas of work (see programme document for more details):

(a) Building a supportive policy and institutional environment for the localization and effective monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Increasing the quality, comparability and regularity of gender statistics to address national data gaps and meet reporting commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals; and

(c) Ensuring that gender statistics are accessible to users in governments, civil society, academia and the private sector, to strengthen adequate demand for their production.

30. The Gender Statistics flagship programme initiative will be implemented initially between 2016 and 2020. During the next five years, the implementation arrangements and proposed activities include:

(a) Partnerships at the country level: As a pilot initiative, between 2016 and 2020, UN–Women – working closely with NSOs and in coordination with other international agencies and all relevant actors – will identify 10 to 12 pathfinder countries in which to develop joint country projects. The principal objective is to provide technical support to countries to improve the production of gender statistics in all areas of the Sustainable Development Goals. These projects will advance specific elements of the Gender Statistics flagship programme initiative, depending on national circumstances, policy priorities, statistical capacities and available financial resources, and will be used to demonstrate the specific approaches that work in particular contexts. Projects

will include: technical support to develop plans for the regular monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and to customize gender-related Sustainable Development Goals indicators to national contexts; capacity-building of NSOs to improve data production; support for the creation of national coordination mechanisms for gender statistics; and support for conducting regular user-producer dialogues. Lessons learned from these projects through thorough evaluation will inform the scaling-up of this approach to include more countries;

(b) Regional technical support projects: At the regional level, technical support projects will be developed whose dual objectives are to provide direct technical support to the pathfinder countries in their region, and work closely with each of the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant agencies to help promote and support country-led plans to localize and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals. Through regional cooperation, these projects will also include regular activities to advocate for the dismantling of barriers to the regular production of gender statistics and promote South–South cooperation and sharing of best practices. Partnerships will also be developed with other actors, including civil society organizations, to support advances in gender statistics and to ensure coordination of all plans and activities in this area;

(c) Global policy support project: The objective of the project is to oversee the implementation of all activities under the flagship programme initiative and to link normative and technical work on gender statistics at the global level to the regional and national levels, to increase data availability and lead innovations in the development of methodologies and standards for use by countries. Through regular, authoritative and periodic global data compilation and monitoring of the gender-related Sustainable Development Goals targets, the project will significantly contribute to the overall objectives of this flagship programme initiative, which is to ensure that gender statistics are used to inform policymaking and strengthen accountability for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. Such periodic monitoring will also provide a necessary link between intergovernmental processes and the country and regional level activities. Through strategic partnerships with governments, civil society organizations and academic institutions, including through the organization of high-level political events, global advocacy will be conducted to ensure that the importance of gender statistics for evidence-based policymaking remains high on the political agenda.

## **C. Thematic and methodological research on gender issues**

31. This section deals with methodological work on the measurement, collection and analysis of gender-related data undertaken by institutions members of APGS, including research institutions and regional and international organizations.

### **1. Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative and its activities in the African region**

32. Working with partners, UN–Women continued to support gender statistics in the region and emphasize their importance in policymaking. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative (EDGE), implemented by UN–Women, the United Nations Statistics Division and other partners worked to support the generation of comparable gender indicators.

33. During the reporting period, the EDGE programme worked to enhance the international online platform to disseminate gender indicators on health, education and employment in support of evidence-based policy formulation. The data/metadata are maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division and

were updated in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies. In 2014, the EDGE programme worked with the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study team to conduct a Methodological Experiment on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Experiment. A comprehensive analysis of the survey results was carried out in 2015, and the findings helped to inform the survey instruments piloted in 2015.

## **2. Piloting of the Social Institutions and Gender Index in selected countries**

34. The Development Centre of OECD, with the support of the Austrian Development Agency and in partnership with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, launched the first country pilot of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) in Uganda in 2013. The study, which adapted the SIGI global methodology to the subnational level, capturing discriminatory social institutions across all of Uganda's 112 districts through a nationally representative survey, was completed in May 2015.

35. In July 2015, the second country study of SIGI at the national level commenced in Burkina Faso in partnership with its Ministry for Gender Equality and its NSO (Institut national de la statistique et de la démographie (INSD)), and supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation. The study will take approximately two years, and will involve a nationally representative survey (4,003 households, more than 8,000 individuals interviewed, both women and men).

36. The third edition of SIGI was launched in November 2014, and included all African countries (divided into North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa). The SIGI Regional Report for Africa provides in-depth analysis of the SIGI results for sub-Saharan Africa and will be launched officially in Burkina Faso on 10–11 November 2016. It includes inputs from the African Union Commission, and the UN–Women office in Uganda, as well as other non-governmental organizations operating in Africa.

37. SIGI data and analysis have been mainstreamed into the annual OECD African Economic Outlooks. In 2016 for the first time, the SIGI data were included in the statistical annexes.

38. Moreover, AfDB, in partnership with OECD Development Centre and the Burkina Faso NSO, launched SIGI in Burkina Faso in May 2016 to strengthen national policymaking aimed at tackling the root causes of gender inequalities. The Burkina Faso SIGI will provide policymakers, civil society and the development community with a comprehensive database of information on discriminatory social institutions at the subnational level (AfDB Report on Gender Statistics activities under the APGS 2016).

39. For the first time, discriminatory laws (formal and informal), attitudes, norms and practices will be recorded and quantified across the different regions of the country, putting the spotlight on the effects of discrimination on gender inequalities, poverty and the marginalization of women. The study is ongoing.

## **3. Support for surveys on gender statistics**

### **(a) Support for gender statistics surveys**

40. UN–Women and AfDB have been helping African countries to integrate gender modules into their household budget surveys. The two institutions have supported the integration of gender perspective into the household budget surveys carried out in the Comoros and the Sudan in 2014. They organized training sessions and several working meetings in both countries, with a view to changing attitudes towards the generation and use of gender statistics, underlining the relevance of mainstreaming gender issues in economic and social development and growth, promoting country ownership, boosting technical capacity-building, and refining the design of the household budget



surveys. They also supported the integration of gender into the 2015 national household budget survey in the Sudan (in collaboration with AfDB and the Central Bureau of Statistics).

**(b) ECA time-use studies**

41. In 2012, ECA produced a report on “Time-Use Surveys in Africa: Assessment and Policy Recommendations”, assessing the status of implementation of time-use surveys in Africa, since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995. The report discusses the extent to which time-use statistics have been used in estimating and understanding unpaid work and in informing the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-responsive policies; identifies the challenges encountered by countries in undertaking time-use surveys; and makes recommendations. Since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, at least 38 surveys have been conducted in 30 African countries, including 27 conducted by NSOs and 11 conducted by researchers or private organizations as ad hoc surveys. Depending on the objective of the survey and cost considerations, these surveys adopted different survey designs, data collection methods and classification of time-use activities. Despite these methodological issues, the report concludes that the work pattern of time-use in African countries that have undertaken time-use surveys is highly gendered, with men tending to spend more time than women in market production, while women tend to spend more time than men on unpaid household production. Also, women work longer hours than men, if total work is defined as the sum of work-for-pay and household production.

42. However, despite their value, the report finds that time-use surveys have not yet been institutionalized in the national statistical systems of African countries, with some countries never undertaking such a survey, and for those that have undertaken time-use surveys, the results are not being used in national reports and to inform the policymaking process. The report recommends that African countries should conduct regular time-use surveys with objectives that reflect national priorities, and use time-use statistics to inform the design, implementation and evaluation of country-owned national development plans and strategies. Regional and international organizations should assist member States by providing financial and technical assistance to produce, analyse, use and disseminate quality time-use statistics, and facilitate information sharing and best practices among countries, while researchers should continue to collect and use time-use statistics to influence policy-related debates. Also, non-governmental organizations should encourage African countries to undertake time-use surveys and to use time-use statistics to inform the policymaking process and, together with media organizations, do more to popularize the findings of these surveys and increase the resulting statistics in policy-related debates.

**4. Support for studies on gender statistics**

43. UN–Women has also undertaken many studies on different gender issues in Africa, particularly at the country level. For example, in Ethiopia, UN–Women supported the development of a gender profile in 2014 and plans to develop a more comprehensive gender profile with support from other partners. In Rwanda, the agency supported the production of the National Gender Statistics Report (2014) containing all the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators.

44. ECA produced the third African Women’s Report (AWR-III) in 2013 on the Socioeconomic Costs of Violence against Women in Africa, in partnership with UN–Women. The aim of AWR-III is to provide member States with the statistics and knowledge base on the magnitude of violence against women and its impediments to socioeconomic development to support appropriate policy responses and programming to tackle the issue. The report estimates the

socioeconomic costs of violence against women in Africa with specific detailed studies of seven selected countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique and Uganda. Data was also collected through questionnaires sent to member States, to which 25 countries responded. The draft report was reviewed at an experts meeting in September 2013, which was attended by 52 participants from the seven countries covered by the study, the African Union Commission, academia, non-governmental organizations, selected experts, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and UN–Women. Given the few studies on violence against women that have been carried out in African countries, the report was hailed as timely and very critical, as it responded to the knowledge gaps which drastically limit policy actions. The study reports indicative socioeconomic costs of violence against women, ranging from 0.03 percent to 1.7 percent of gross domestic product for the countries under study.

## **D. Reporting, storage and dissemination**

### **1. The African Gender Index Framework**

45. In response to the gender data challenges, ECA developed in 2004 the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), a composite index whose primary objective is to provide African countries with an accurate gender-accountability tool to implement and assess their progress against their commitment. In 2015, AfDB launched the Africa Gender Equality Index, whose aim is similar to the one of AGDI.

46. At the request of member States, the two organizations have engaged themselves in a process of developing a joint Gender Index, taking stock of the comparative advantages of both indices. Having one African Gender Equality Index will create a strategic synergy, in that it will help avoid the duplication of efforts and resources, while promoting collective focused interventions. In this respect, the two institutions have started working together on producing the joint Africa index on gender equality. The first publication of the joint index is expected in 2017.

47. So far, a draft framework has been prepared by AfDB and ECA, and five selected countries have been identified to pilot the new index.

#### **(a) The Africa Gender Equality Index**

48. To help African countries measure their progress toward gender equality, assess the remaining gaps, and then chart a course for addressing those gaps, AfDB has developed the Gender Equality Index. This index combines both gender-differentiated outcomes and social institutions that explain gender gaps in countries, addressing the institutional dimension, in addition to the social and economic dimensions, as a factor in the gender gap. It measures gender-based gaps in access to resources and opportunities simultaneously with gender gaps in law and institutions in individual countries, rather than the actual levels of the available resources and opportunities in those countries. Thus, it is independent of countries' levels of development — that is, it ranks countries on their gender gaps, not on their development level. The index is motivated by the recognition that gender gaps in access to resources and opportunities are directly linked to countries' laws and institutions. The first issue of the report was published in 2015.

#### **(b) The African Gender and Development Index**

49. AGDI was developed by ECA in response to the Beijing Plus Ten Review in 2004, when a large number of African countries reporting on the status of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action indicated a lack of adequate data to reflect achievements in gender equality and the empowerment of

women. The index aims to support member States to measure the gap in the status of African men and women, as well as assess the progress made by Governments of African countries in implementing policies aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. AGDI consists of two complementary parts: a Gender Status Index and the African Women's Progress Scoreboard. The Gender Status Index covers the aspects of gender relations that can be measured quantitatively, while the African Women's Progress Scoreboard captures qualitative issues in relation to the performance of gender policies of African Governments on implementing regional and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. Since it was launched in 2004, 36 countries have either already undertaken or are in the process of undertaking the AGDI.<sup>3</sup> South Africa is finalizing its second AGDI this year. ECA launched the fourth and final phase of AGDI in 2016 which, once completed, will bring the number of countries that have been part of AGDI to at least 48.

## 2. Gender statistics database, dashboards and profiles

50. Different member institutions of the African Group on Gender Statistics have developed gender statistics databases. The *African Statistical Year Book*, jointly produced by ECA, AfDB and the African Union Commission, now includes data on gender-related indicators. AfDB has developed three regional gender statistics databases:

(a) The first is a data portal for census data dissemination, with gender as one of the four key dimensions (under development in collaboration with Statistics South Africa);

(b) The second is a database for agriculture and rural development statistics; and

(c) The third is a financial sector database with a gender statistics module.

51. UN–Women, through its country offices, is supporting member States in the development of databases leveraging existing and new gender statistics, such as:

(a) Mapping of statistical data on gender-based violence (including HIV) in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia;

(b) Mapping of the access and use of mobile phones by women and girls in Morocco; and

(c) Mapping of existing indicators, sex-disaggregated data and statistics relevant to women's empowerment and gender equality and identifying gaps (Mozambique).

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<sup>3</sup> AGDI has been implemented in the following 26 countries as part of phases 1 and 2: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The third phase of AGDI is in progress in 10 countries: Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, the Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

## **E. Advocacy and communication for development and implementation of the gender statistics programmes in member States**

### **African Union Commission African Gender Scorecard**

52. In 2015, the African Union Commission, supported by ECA, published the first African Gender Scorecard. The Scorecard is a simple yet comprehensive tool whose main goal is to provide the African Union Commission and its member States with an implementation, as well as a monitoring and accountability tool, to achieve the key objectives of Agenda 2063 from a gender perspective.

53. The 2015 Scorecard focused on seven sectors that have multiplier implications for women's empowerment: access to credit, women in parliament and decision-making, employment, business sector, access to land, education and health. The findings were published in two products: a comprehensive knowledge product that provides a detailed analysis of gender gaps and policy messages, and recommendations for member States in addressing gender concerns; and an A5-sized booklet, which presents a visual representation of each country's achievement and progress. The publication was presented at the 2015 Heads of State and Government Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

54. Following the African Union Commission's decision to publish the Scorecard regularly, ECA and AfDB, as part of their strategic partnership, have supported the African Union Commission in the development of the 2016 Scorecard, focusing on the theme "Women's Rights", mirroring the African Union Commission's declared "2016: African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women". Experts of the three institutions conducted several meetings and videoconferencing on the preparation and design of the 2016 African Union Commission's Gender Scorecard and the new framework of the Africa Gender Index. They reviewed data sets, identified the data gaps, made proposals on how to get the final list of indicators of the Gender Scorecard, and made recommendations to the team on the way forward. They also contributed to the preparation of the report.

55. The primary objective of this edition of the Scorecard was to support African countries in their endeavors to secure and protect women's human rights by providing them with a holistic assessment of the progress they have made.

## **III. Conclusion**

56. Throughout the five years of implementation of the 2012–2016 action plan, APGS has provided much-needed impetus to the advancement of the gender statistics agenda in Africa as well as helped to strengthen dialogue and partnership between the various stakeholders. It has to be admitted, though, that in spite of many activities completed on the regional level, the translation of these efforts to the improvement in systematic production of gender statistics on the country level has not been satisfactory.

57. In the meeting of the African Group on Gender Statistics in 2015, the member States reported persisting challenges in the production of gender statistics, such as insufficient coordination and cooperation between NSOs and ministries, lack of high-level support and appreciation for gender statistics resulting in frequent resource cuts and low priority of gender statistics in the workplans of NSOs.

58. As per recommendation of the meeting of the African Group on Gender Statistics, the most important aspects of the way forward of the programme must be improved coordination of activities and efforts between the Group members, addressing the challenges resulting from the adoption of new development agendas (Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals), as well as an emphasis on a more systematic way of producing and using gender statistics in the countries. This will require technical support in the form of developing manuals, creating a pool of experts and trainings, as well as ensuring high-level political support.

59. A new action plan for the years 2017–2021, incorporating these recommendations and addressing the challenges resulting from the adoption of new development agendas (Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals), is being developed and will be shared with members of APGS for their input.

#### **IV. Points for discussion**

60. The Commission is invited to:

(a) Take note of achievements made so far by members of the APGS in capacity development and awareness raising of member states in the production, use and dissemination of gender statistics;

(b) Endorse proposals made in the report and recommend them to member states to implement, particularly those related to:

(i) Improvement of the production of gender statistics at the country level;

(ii) Improvement of coordination and cooperation between NSOs and line ministries;

(iii) The need of high-level support for gender statistics;

(iv) Improvement of coordination of activities and efforts between members of the APGS;

(v) Development of the new action plan of APGS for the years 2017–2021.