



Statistical Commission for Africa
Fifth session

**Committee of Directors General of National
Statistics Offices**

Tenth session

Abidjan, 28 November-2 December 2016

Report on the Africa Working Group on National Accounts (AGNA)

I. Background

1. Created by the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) at its first meeting in 2008 with membership of all the African countries since 2011, the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) is taking the lead to tackle the challenges that African countries confront in the compilation of national accounts, through the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA). The implementation of the 2008 SNA provides an opportunity to improve the quality, timeliness, consistency, and harmonization of economic statistics and national accounts in Africa to support the continental development agenda of economic structural transformation, regional integration, and sustainable development.

2. The African Project on the 2008 SNA was officially launched in January 2014, with a Phase I in 2014-2015 followed by a Phase II in 2016-2018. During the period of May-November 2015, based on the discussion at the previous AGNA meetings and the experience gained at countries from Phase I, an independent Mid-Term Evaluation was organized and an updated Project Document for Phase II was prepared by the Secretariat of the AGNA, i.e. the ECA. Both documents were reviewed, discussed, and then endorsed by the 4th Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) of the project and later by the 9th Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices (CoDGs).

II. Activities

The Annual Meeting of the African Group on National Accounts

3. Under the theme of “scaling-up support for the African Project the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA),” the annual AGNA meeting was held in April 2016. The meeting reviewed and assessed the progress of the Project during Phase I; shared and exchanged experiences and best practices of countries; established and strengthened linkages between countries and international and regional organizations and development partners; and formulated work plans and programs to implement Phase II of the Project. One of the significant outcomes of the meeting was to

come up with the “Supply and Demand Matrix of Technical Assistants for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa” (Annex 3) to effectively address the training and technical assistance needs of countries.

4. The meeting was attended by representatives from 45 African countries, Regional Economic Community (RECs); training institutions; and the following 5 regional and international organizations and development partners: INSEE France, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), OECD, and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

5. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the AGNA Meeting can be found in (Annex 1) below.

The 5th Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee

6. The 5th Meeting of the CSC for the African Project on the 2008 SNA was held on 31 October - 1 November 2016 in Tunis, Tunisia. The meeting reviewed the progress of the African Project on the 2008 SNA, provided guidance on issues arising from the project, and advised on the way forward. In particular, on the way forward, a “Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for Phase II” (Annex 4) was developed for collaboratively carrying out the Project by all key stakeholders in the upcoming year, 2017.

7. The meeting was attended by the following CSC Members and Observers: Member States (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia); RECs (AMU, ECOWAS, and SADC); Research and Training Institutions (Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA), and School of Statistics and Planning at Makerere University); and Regional and International Organizations and development partners (AFRISTAT, AfDB, AUC, ECA, and INSEE).

8. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the 5th Meeting of the CSC can be found in (Annex 2).

III. Main Outcomes

Supply and Demand Matrix of Technical Assistance

9. To address the technical assistance needs of countries and to better coordinate the delivery of technical assistance, the AGNA developed the “Supply and Demand Matrix of Technical Assistants for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa” during the AGNA Meeting in April 2016. The matrix was developed on a voluntary basis by supporting agencies based on their existing work plans in the area of national accounts in Africa¹. As no single agency can cover the technical needs of every country, through the Matrix, agencies are currently contributing in a collaborative manner to cover the technical and training needs of 53 countries. The Matrix serves as the first “port of call” that Member States can utilize to request technical assistance when encountering difficulties and challenges during the course of the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

10. The Matrix of Technical Assistance can be found as (Annex 3).

Project Implementation Plan for 2017

11. To provide guidance and advise on the way forward, the CSC formulated the “Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for 2017” during the CSC meeting in November 2016. The PIP has been developed based on the six expected

¹ Supporting agencies: AFRISTAT, RECs, IMF, the World Bank, AfDB, and AUC.

accomplishments (EAs) of the ProDoc for Phase II of the African Project on the 2008 SNA.

12. As captured by the ProDoc, the goal of Phase II is to support sound macroeconomic policy formulation and evidence-based decision making through sustained and quality compilation and reporting of national accounts based on the 2008 SNA. The target is that by the end of the project all Member States will adopt the 2008 SNA. To achieve the goal, the six expected accomplishments of Phase II of the project are the following:

- (i) EA1: Increased support for 2008 SNA implementation at the national, regional, and international level;
- (ii) EA2: Institutional capacities strengthened;
- (iii) EA3: Technical capacities strengthened;
- (iv) EA4: Technical operational guidebooks compiled;
- (v) EA5: Developed national accounts in Member States in accordance with 2008 SNA;
- (vi) EA6: Continuity and sustainability of the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

13. By clearly defining individual and collective roles and responsibilities with specific timeframes, as well as leading and supporting institutions, the PIP can be an effective coordination framework among project stakeholders on how to carry out the activities in Phase II in 2017. For example, in addition to (i) NSOs, which will lead the development of national accounts in Member States in accordance with the 2008 SNA; (ii) AUC will lead efforts to increase support for the advocacy campaign at the national and continental levels; (iii) RECs will lead in strengthening institutional capacities; (iv) AfDB will lead in strengthening technical capacities; (v) ECA will lead in compiling technical documents; and (vi) ECA as the Secretariat jointly with all key stakeholders will contribute to the continuity and sustainability of the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

14. The Project Implementation Plan for 2017 can be found in (Annex 4).

IV. Points for Discussion

15. The 2nd Joint Session of StatCom-Africa/Co-DGs is invited to:

- 1. Express support for and provide guidance on the following proposed action points:
 - (a) Finalize national action plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA by April 2017 and send the national action plans to the central depository at ECA for review and sharing of experiences and best practices;
 - (b) Take follow-up actions to implement the national action plans once they are formulated.
- 2. Approach supporting agencies for needed technical and training assistance for implementing the 2008 SNA, as outlined by the Matrix of Technical Assistance:
 - (a) By sending a formal letter to the respective agencies;
 - (b) Attaching the final national action plan for implementing the 2008 SNA.

3. Express support for countries to actively participate in the upcoming AGNA Meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held in April 2017:
 - (a) Contributing to the presentation and discussion of technical issues;
 - (b) Completing pre-meeting survey questionnaires and identify areas of technical and capacity needs.

Annex 1

“Conclusions and Recommendations” of the AGNA Meeting in April 2016

Country Action Plans

Finalizing national action plans:

1. Member States that have yet to formulate national action plans are strongly encouraged to make a formal request through the DGs of NSOs for technical support from RECs and AUC to formulate, finalize, and launch national action plans by 31 June 2016;
2. In formulating national action plans, Member States are encouraged to utilize the “Minimum-Required Components of a Template for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA” developed by the AGNA;
3. In formulating national action plans participants recognize the importance of an integrated statistics approach;
4. In finalizing national action plans, Member States are encouraged to submit their action plan to ECA for review;
5. AUC and RECs will support Member States to organize national workshops to launch the national action plan as a planning and resource mobilization tool;
6. Member States which have already completed national action plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA are urged to submit their action plans to IMF Regional Technical Centers and other partners for technical assistance;

Implementing national action plans:

7. Member States that have a completed national action plan will take follow-up actions for the implementation of the 2008 SNA;
8. When encountering challenges, Member States that need technical assistance could contact supporting institutions as found in Annex 1 of the Conclusions and Recommendations;
9. Member States who need technical assistance in collecting source data can contact the supporting institutions, including the world bank;

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

10. Pan-African Institutions, in collaboration with the AGNA, are called upon to conduct a capacity assessment and group countries in clusters based on their technical and institutional capacities in order to more comprehensively address their needs;
11. Technical assistance and support to Member States will be offered on a case by case basis, bearing in mind the technical activities and support of the Pan African Statistics (PAS) Programme are to commence in July 2016;
12. AUC will organize training for RECs and Member States on 2008 SNA through the PAS Programme;
13. AfDB will support Statistics Training Centers for the training of national accountants of Member States with the aim of strengthening the technical capacity of NSO staff;
14. Supporting institutions are strongly encouraged to design their technical assistance programs to support the implementation of country action plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA;

15. OECD can give technical assistance to some countries for compiling SUTs Member States are encouraged to participate in the Trade in Value Added (TiVA) program of the OECD by sending their existing SUTs;

IT Tools for Compiling National Accounts

16. Member States interested in adopting ERETES are advised to make a formal request to AUC for technical and training assistance on the software;

17. AUC is encouraged to continue supporting Member States willing to adopt ERETES by:

- Organizing training on ERETES for countries currently using or willing to adopt the software;
- Facilitating south-south cooperation by forming a pool of experienced ERETES users to serve as resource personnel.

Compilation of Technical Documents

18. ECA, in collaboration with the AGNA, is requested to finalize the guidebooks on administrative data, supply and use table, and informal sector and circulate the operational guides for review by Member States within 6 months;

19. The Secretariat will update the Current Status and Needs Assessment Report and the Partner Report and circulate the documents among the AGNA and Member States;

Advocacy Campaign

20. In accordance with the 5 year plan of the ASSD, the annual thematic topics of African Statistics Day should be incorporated with ASSD thematic topics;

21. AUC and RECs are requested to scale-up the advocacy campaign, and follow-up the commitment of countries to allocate at least 0.015% of the national budget towards statistics, at the highest levels, at the national and regional level;

22. Pan-African Institutions along with, RECs, and Member States are requested to organize donor roundtable meetings on an ongoing basis;

Coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

23. The Project Document for Phase II lays out the action plan for the implementation of the African strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA on the continent. It should provide a framework for concerned stakeholders to plan their work accordingly so that all stakeholders work in a coordinate and collaborative manner;

24. Pan-African Institutions, in collaboration with the AGNA and the CSC of the African Project, are called upon to review the current timeline which calls for implementing the 2008 SNA in Africa by 2018;

25. RECs are strongly encouraged to speed-up the process of appointing a focal person to facilitate monitoring, reporting, and information sharing with their Member States and the Secretariat.

Annex 2

“Conclusions and Recommendations” of the CSC Meeting in November 2016

National Action Plans

1. Member States are strongly encouraged to finalize their national action plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA by April 2017;
2. In formulating national action plans, Member States are requested to:
 - (a) Take as reference the “Minimum-Required Components of a Template for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA”;
 - (b) Submit the national action plans to the central depository for the exchange of experiences and best practices;
 - (c) Entrust CA to create such a central depository; *and*
 - (d) Submit a formal request through the DGs of NSOs to AUC for technical support for the formulation of national action plans, if needed.
3. AUC will support RECs to carry-out country missions and regional workshops for the formulation of national action plans in support of Member States.

Technical Assistance

4. Member States will utilize the “Matrix for Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA” to request technical assistance and capacity building from supporting agencies.

Institutional Strengthening

5. RECs will continue supporting institutional strengthening and advocacy efforts in the development and implementation of national action plans in their Member States;
6. AUC, through the Pan African Statistics (PAS) Programme, is fully committed to providing technical and training support in the following areas:
 - (a) Developing national action plans in Member States;
 - (b) Carrying-out advocacy in Member States, upon request;
 - (c) Application of ERETES for compiling national accounts; *and*
 - (d) Compilation of national accounts.
7. Training institutions will take-up the role of intellectual leadership on the continent by actively participating in research on national accounts and related issues, developing training modules, and being flexible in the modality of training to meet the demand of countries.

Technical Documents

8. The document on minimum criteria for implementing the 2008 SNA in Africa will be prepared by ECA with the support of RECs and circulated among NSOs for comments and feedback.

IT Tools for Compilation of National Accounts

9. Countries are urged to adopt IT tools dedicated for the compilation of national accounts;
10. Countries interested in adopting ERETES should contact AUC, Afristat, and INSEE for technical assistance and training.

Advocacy Campaign

11. AUC, ECA, and RECs will scale-up the advocacy campaign at the Conference of Heads of State and Ministers, Joint Session of Co-DGs and StatCom-Africa, as well as other statutory meetings;
12. NSOs will intensify the advocacy campaign at the national level for the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

Coordinating, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

13. The PIP for 2017 has been developed by the CSC identifying key players and activities;
14. In preparation of the AGNA meeting in April 2017, the Secretariat will review the implementation of the PIP and will request project stakeholders for updates and feedback;
15. RECs are requested to speed-up the process of appointing a focal point person to facilitate monitoring, reporting, and information sharing process with their Member States and the Secretariat. The Secretariat has made the formal request in a written statement;
16. The Secretariat is requested to disseminate the Conclusions and Recommendations of CSC and AGNA meetings to the DGs of NSOs for information sharing, follow-up, and implementation;
17. Given the importance and wider representation of Member States at meetings of the AGNA, to institutionalize the organization of the AGNA meeting, the arrangement for organization and funding are proposed to be the following:
 - (a) AUC to conduct a pre-event for RECs, covering participation of RECs and English and French interpretation;
 - (b) AfDB and ECA to cover the participants of countries. Each to sponsor 27 countries;
 - (c) The next AGNA meeting will be held in April 2017.
18. The IMF, World Bank, COMESA, and ECCAS have made significant contributions to the development of economic statistics and national accounts on the continent; as such, the CSC strongly requests the participation of the IMF, World Bank, ECCAS, and COMESA in the future CSC and AGNA meetings.

Annex 3

Supply and Demand Matrix of Technical Assistants

Country	Supporting institutions ²					
	<i>Afristat</i> ³	<i>ECOWAS</i>	<i>IMF</i>	<i>WB</i>	<i>AfDB</i>	<i>AUC (PASP)</i>
Algeria						√
Angola			√	√	√	
Benin	√	√	√			
Botswana			√		√	
Burkina Faso			√			
Burundi	√		√	√		
Cape Verde			√			√
Cameroon	√					√
Central African Republic						√
Chad	√			√		
Comoros	√		√	√		
Congo	√			√		
Congo DRC				√		
Côte d'Ivoire	√					√
Djibouti	√					√
Egypt					√	
Equatorial Guinea						√
Ethiopia			√	√	√	
Gabon				√		
Gambia		√	√	√	√	
Ghana		√	√	√	√	
Guinea	√	√	√			√
Guinea Bissau	√	√	√			√
Kenya			√	√	√	
Lesotho			√	√	√	
Liberia		√	√		√	
Libya						√
Madagascar			√	√		
Malawi					√	
Mali	√		√	√		
Mauritania	√	√	√	√		
Mauritius		√			√	
Morocco					√	
Mozambique					√	
Namibia					√	
Niger	√		√	√		
Nigeria			√		√	
Rwanda			√	√	√	

² Although INSEE and Eurostat are ready to support, their assistance not linked specific to any country; instead they may intervene based on demand.

³ Afristat's intervention is dependent on the sponsorship of a funding institution.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Supporting institutions²</i>					
	<i>Afristar³</i>	<i>ECOWAS</i>	<i>IMF</i>	<i>WB</i>	<i>AfDB</i>	<i>AUC (PASP)</i>
Sao Tome and Principe						√
Senegal	√	√	√	V		√
Seychelles			√			
Sierra Leone			√	√	√	
Somalia						√
South Africa			√			√
South Sudan				√		
Sudan				√	√	
Swaziland			√		√	
Tanzania			√	√	√	
Togo	√	√	√			√
Tunisia						√
Uganda			√	√	√	
Zambia			√		√	
Zimbabwe					√	

Annex 4

Project Implementation Plan for Phase II in 2017

Expected outcomes	Tasks description	Implementation timeframe				Leading (Responsible) Institution	Supporting Institution
Expected Impact: All countries of the African continent implement the 2008 SNA in order to produce harmonized and comparable national accounts and related economic statistics.		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4		
EA1: Increased support for 2008 SNA implementation at national, regional, and international levels.	Main Activities for EA1:						
	<u>Activity 1.1:</u> Formulate country action plans as an implementation and resource mobilization tool	x	x	x	x	NSO	RECs, AUC, Afristat, ECA, IMF, WB
	<u>Activity 1.2:</u> Mobilize and increase national resources through National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)	x	x	x	x	NSO	AUC, Afristat, AfDB, Paris 21,
	<u>Activity 1.3:</u> Organize advocacy campaign at national level	x	x	x	x	NSO	RECs, AUC, Afristat, Paris 21, AfDB, ECA
	<u>Activity 1.4:</u> Organize advocacy campaign at regional level	x	x	x	x	AUC	Afristat, Paris 21, RECs AfDB, ECA
	<u>Activity 1.5:</u> Promote the use of statistics and specially of national accounts	x	x	x	x	NSO	RECs, Afristat, Paris 21, AfDB, AUC, ECA
EA2: Institutional capacities strengthened.	Main Activities for EA2:						
	<u>Activity 2.1:</u> Strengthen national NSO position and role in the society	x	x	x	x	NSO	AfDB, RECs, Afristat, AUC
	<u>Activity 2.2:</u> Establish and strengthen existing governance and coordination structures for national accounts statistics at national level	x	x	x	x	NSO	AfDB, RECs, Afristat, ECA, AUC
	<u>Activity 2.3:</u> Strengthen the statistical training institutions	x	x	x	x	AfDB	AUC
	<u>Activity 2.4:</u> Strengthen the African Network of National Accountants.	x	x	x	x	ECA	INSEE, AUC, AfDB, Afristat
	<u>Activity 2.5:</u> Strengthening the national statistical system	x	x	x	x	NSO	AfDB, RECs, Afristat, ECA, AUC
EA3: Technical capacities strengthened.	Main Activities for EA3:						
	<u>Activity 3.1:</u> Conduct technical assistance missions	x	x	x	x	AfDB	RECs, Afristat, ECA, AUC, IMF, WB, INSEE
	<u>Activity 3.2:</u> Conduct training workshops	x	x	x	x	AfDB	RECs, Afristat, ECA, AUC, IMF, WB, INSEE
	<u>Activity 3.3:</u> Organize study tours and facilitate south-south cooperation	x	x	x	x	NSO	AfDB, RECs, Afristat, ECA, AUC

Expected outcomes	Tasks description	Implementation timeframe				Leading (Responsible) Institution	Supporting Institution
		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4		
Expected Impact: All countries of the African continent implement the 2008 SNA in order to produce harmonized and comparable national accounts and related economic statistics.							
	Activity 3.4: Conduct peer review missions	x	x	x	x	AfDB	RECs, Afristat, ECA, AUC
EA4: Technical operational guidebooks compiled.	Main Activities for EA4:						
	Activity 4.1: Review and operationalize international standards and recommendations	x	x	x	X	ECA	Afristat, IMF
	Activity 4.2: Exchange country experiences and best practices	x	x	x	X	ECA	RECs, Afristat
	Activity 4.3: Organize Expert Group Meetings	x	x	x	x	ECA	Afristat, AUC, AfDB, RECs
	Activity 4.4: Dissemination and promoting the operational guidebooks compiled	x	x	x	x	ECA	AUC
EA5: Developed national accounts in Member States in accordance with 2008 SNA.	Main Activities for EA5:						
	Activity 5.1: Improve data sources	x	x	x	x	NSO	Afristat, IMF, WB, INSEE, ECA
	Activity 5.2: Implement classifications	x	x	x	x	NSO	Afristat, IMF INSEE, ECA, AUC
	Activity 5.3: Adapt and adopt modern IT Tools for national accounts compilation	x	x	x	x	NSO,	Afristat, INSEE, AUC
	Activity 5.4: Improve compilation processes	x	x	x	x	NSO	Afristat, IMF INSEE, AUC
	Activity 5.5: Develop policy for dissemination and revision	x	x	x	x	NSO,	Afristat, ECA INSEE, AUC, RECs
EA6: Continuity and sustainability of the implementation of the 2008 SNA.	Main Activities for EA6:						
	Activity 6.1: Monitoring and evaluation of project activities	x	x	x	x	ECA	AUC, RECs, AfDB
	Activity 6.2: Coordination and facilitation of project activities (meetings, technical assistance, training, workshops)	x	x	x	x	ECA	AUC, RECs, AfDB
	Activity 6.3: Reporting and information sharing of progress and project activities	x	x	x	x	ECA	All stakeholders
	Activity 6.4: Ensure sustainability of the 2008 SNA implementation by updating standards, classifications, and compilation procedures					Put on hold for now	