





United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Statistics 

 **Statistical Recovery in Africa** 

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1st Session
ESCAP Statistics Committee
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Outline

- A: Introduction**
- B: Statistical Commission for Africa**
- C: Statistical Coordination in Africa**
- D: Other developments**

Slide 2

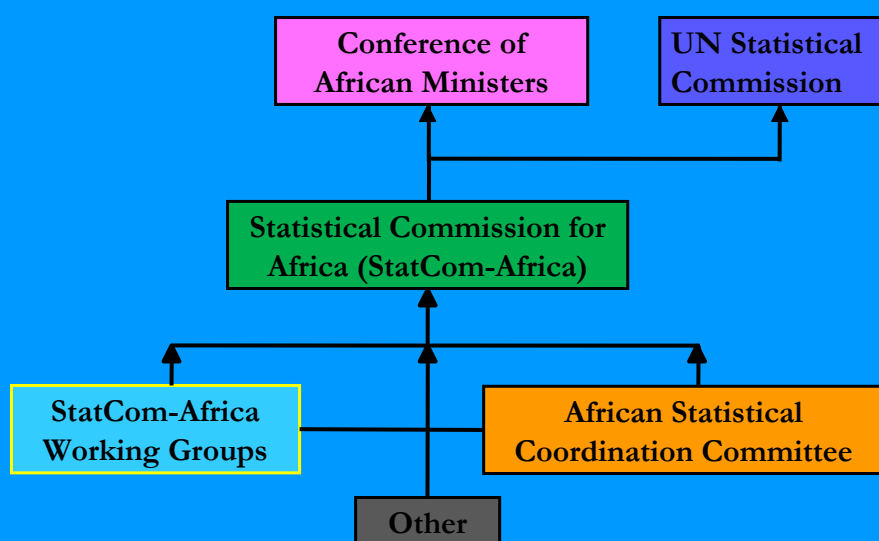
A. Introduction



- ❑ Glory days before reforms of 1997 (statistical development)
- ❑ Dark days – reforms at UNECA
 - statistics Division abolished (1997)
 - collapse of statistical programmes
 - dire consequences (e.g. low census participation)
 - survival strategies (Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa, Friends of ECA – 9 countries)
- ❑ Repositioning ECA to serve Africa better (2006)
 - Knowledge Management & Statistics priority sub-programmes of ECA
 - creation of African Centre for Statistics (Division status)
 - creation of Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)(Conference of Ministers, FPE)

Slide 3

Reporting lines



Slide 4

B. Statistical Commission for Africa



- ❑ Apex inter-governmental body for statistical development (one of 7 subsidiary bodies of UNECA)
- ❑ Defined TOR (approved by African Ministers)
- ❑ Session delegations (leaders of NSSs)
- ❑ Bureau of StatCom-Africa (5 countries)
- ❑ Frequency of meetings - every two years, Bureau meets in-between
- ❑ Working Groups (report to Bureau)
 - National Accounts
 - MDG Monitoring
 - Gender statistics
 - Informal Sector
 - Data Management
 - Statistical Training

Slide 5

C. Statistical Coordination in Africa



- ❑ Key players in statistics in African region
 - Countries
 - Regional Economic Communities (Sub-regional organizations) (8 in number)
 - Regional Organizations
 - ✓ UN Economic Commission for Africa
 - ✓ African Development Bank
 - ✓ African Union
 - ✓ African Capacity Building Foundation
 - Bilateral, multilateral, international organizations/agencies (PARIS21, UNSD, World Bank)

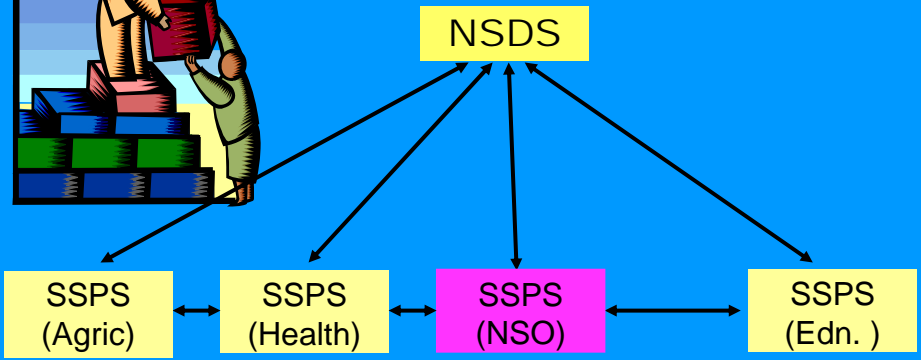

Slide 6

- ❑ Need for coordination & partnerships
- ❑ Coordination mechanisms
 - Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building (RRSF) (2006):
 - ❖ endorsed by:
 - ✓ Heads of NSOs,
 - ✓ Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning & Economic Development
 - ✓ donors & international organizations
 - ❖ RRSF regional variant of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) but broader (13 strategies)
 - ❖ Forum on African Statistical development (FASDEV)
 - ❖ Overarching strategy: National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) (PARIS21)




Slide 7

Bottom-up approach to NSDS



SSPS – Sector Strategic Plan for Statistics



Slide 8

Partially coordinated National Statistical System



Slide 9

Fully coordinated National Statistical System



Slide 10



- ❑ African Statistical Coordination Committee (AFSCC) (2007):
 - Members
 - ✓ UN Economic Commission for Africa
 - ✓ African Development Bank
 - ✓ African Union
 - ✓ African Capacity Building Foundation
 - Reporting to StatCom-Africa
 - Coordination activities
 - ✓ Joint activities (workshops, seminars, etc)
 - ✓ Joint African Statistical Yearbook (from 2009)
 - ✓ African Statistical Journal
 - ✓ Joint Regional Statistical Database (longer-term)
 - ✓ Regional statistical programme

Slide 11

D. Other developments



- ❑ AfDB upgraded a Statistics Division to a full Department
- ❑ African Union established a Statistics Unit
- ❑ African Symposium on Statistical Development
- ❑ Statistical Training Programme for Africa
- ❑ African Charter on Statistics
- ❑ African Statistics Day
- ❑ ISI Session in S. Africa (2009)
- ❑ New focus on statistical reforms & design of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- ❑ Hosted for 6 months the President of the ISI
- ❑ Professional staff complement at ECA doubled wef 1 January 2009

Slide 12



Thank you!

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Slide 13