



## **Sound Statistics for ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.**

Seventh Africa Gender Statistics Forum  
30 June–4 July 2025

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Joint AfDB - UNECA - AUC - UN Women – Open Data Watch - UNICEF

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### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **I. Background and rationale**

Recognizing the importance of gender statistics for gender equality and women's empowerment, the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM – Africa) established the African Group of Gender Statistics (AGGES) as a Sub-Group Specialised Technical Group (STG8) of Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa- 2 (SHaSA 2), with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as the secretariat of the Specialized Technical group on Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection and Gender . The mandate of AGGES is to support and advise on gender statistical issues, needs and challenges, poverty reduction strategies and global development agendas. UNECA in collaboration with AGGES developed an umbrella regional programme on gender statistics in Africa in 2012, called the African Programme on Gender Statistics (APGS).

The year 2025, marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, where in 1995 a clarion call for more and better gender statistics was made. In working towards the crucial aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the roadmap developed in Beijing forms the main globally agreed guidelines for women's empowerment and gender equality (GEWE). Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action created an action plan grounded in the real experiences of women and reflecting their ideas and aspirations and made a strong call for the expansion of the production and use of gender data and statistics. It is also the most progressive and widely endorsed global blueprint for women's and girls' rights and has completely transformed the way governments approach legal protection, access to services, youth engagement, and change in social norms, stereotypes and ideas stuck in the past.

The need for strengthening of gender statistical systems was further emphasised after the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with its 17 goals and considerable measurement imperatives. Regionally, the Africa Agenda 2063- the Africa we want was adopted in 2015 and it highlights additional statistical requirements as articulated in the second Ten Year Implementation Plan (2024-2033).



The purpose of the joint inter-agency Africa Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF) has been to provide a platform for harmonizing and strengthening the collection and use of gender statistics in the region around gender specific thematic areas. This forum has been held annually since 2017, except for 2020 and 2021. The planned 7<sup>th</sup> AGSF will be held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and will be building on the outcomes and resolutions of the forums that have preceded it.

Below is an account of the historical Africa Gender Statistics Forums that were held between 2017 and 2024:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> ever Africa gender Statistics Forum (at the time referred to just as the forum) was held in September 2017 in Kampala- Uganda. Its focus was on providing member states with tools and methodologies to improve use of existing data for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in Africa.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> forum took the users and producers of gender statistics to Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire (September 2018 in) and focussed on the following areas: The Africa Gender Index 2018; Gender and ICT data in Africa; Training on collection of Violence Against Women (VAW) and Time Use Survey (TUS) data; Advancing Administrative Sources of Data for Monitoring Gender-related SDGs in Africa; Survey on Gender Statistics Expert Roster Needs; Minimum Set of Gender Indicators.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> forum was affected by limited resource availability and was replaced by a AfDB, AUC and -UNWOMEN-ECA expert group met in November in Accra- Ghana. This meeting created an opportunity to provide feedback to the gender focal points and AGGES members on the findings of the 2018 ECA survey on the status of gender statistics in Africa; discuss and share best practices on coordination of gender statistics in Africa; provide a consultative platform for the development of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators in Africa; finalize the roadmap for coordination of gender statistics in Africa as well as the work of Data 2X with the Gender Data Focal points.
- In 2020 and 2021 the planned forums were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated movement restrictions. The forums for these two years were replaced with joint virtual training programs in 2020 and 2021.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> forum was held in September 2022 in Nairobi- Kenya. It was organised under the theme 'Gender Statistics imperatives for Africa', the forum interrogated gender statistics through the lens of Africa Agenda 2063-the Africa we want, the SDGs that support GEWE, and the global guidance on violence against women data among others.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> forum was held in November 2023, Casablanca, Morocco. It aimed at creating an opportunity to consolidate reporting to the Africa Statistics Commission and give feedback from the 9<sup>th</sup> global forum on gender statistics. It focused on using gender statistics to galvanise actions towards accelerated implementation of development agendas in Africa.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> forum took place in July 2024 in Gaborone, Botswana. This forum was organized under the auspices of the Economic Commission of Africa as the secretariat of the Africa Program on Gender Statistics and was hosted by a partnership of agencies including the AfDB, SADC, UNECA, AUC, and UN Women.



## II. Aim and Objectives

The 7<sup>th</sup> AGSF, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, has adopted the International Women's Day 2025 theme of "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." This theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation—youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls—as catalysts for lasting change.

Engage media, corporate leaders, governments, community leaders, civil society and youth, and others with influence to take action in your communities. Ask leaders to take action and invest in promoting women's rights and gender equality. Share International Women's Day stories and messages on digital platforms, using the hashtag #ForAllWomenAndGirls to spark dialogue and inspire action.

As for previous AGSF's, the 7<sup>th</sup> AGSF will function as a continental user-producer dialogue between high level officials and experts who are involved in the day-to-day production and use of gender statistics. The AGSF provides an opportunity to share the latest innovations and best practices related to gender statistics and engage in relevant gender policy dialogues and their associated data needs. It also aims to make better use of limited resources and time, through sharing best practices and developing common strategies to rationalise, harmonize and improve the measurement and use of gender statistics in Africa.

The specific objectives of the 7<sup>th</sup> AGSF are:

1. Take stock of Africa's progress in gender statistics since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, highlighting both achievements and remaining gaps., and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Program on Gender Statistics at regional, subregional, and country levels.
2. Provide input to the deliberations 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, which will take place on 30 September 2025 and the 10th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, which will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 1–3 October 2025.
3. Present/disseminate the latest methodological developments and best practices in the production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.

To this end, the forum will cover various areas of gender statistics, including (i) Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 STYIP indicators related to gender statistics;(ii) advances in administrative data and register based Censuses (iii) the future of DHS and MICS ;(iv) Normative frameworks and mainstreaming gender in NSDS; (v) Africa Gender Index; (vi) normative frameworks in support of gender data production and use; (vii) gender based violence statistics; (viii) gender and migration statistics; and (ix) building a common agenda for gender statistics in Africa, including review of progress of the AGGES and way forward.



### III.Format and structure of the forum

The AGSF is the most important annual opportunity to bring the producers and users of gender statistics together in one place. Fifty-four member states will receive invitations to attend the forum. The target participants will be individuals who are directly involved in the production and use of gender statistics. This includes representatives from Ministries responsible for the coordination and implementation of gender related programs, as well as representatives from National Statistical Offices, and Civil Society Organizations.

The AGSF sessions will be structured in such a way that it facilitates active participation and sharing, exchange of best practices and informs future action plans. This will be a hybrid event; the working languages of the meeting will be English and French.