

YOUNG AFRICAN STATISTICIANS MEETING

Concept note

Monday 05 July 2021, 3pm – 5pm EAT (Nairobi Time)

Theme: Leveraging on the power of young statisticians in the development of a robust statistical system in Africa.

General information

Date	Monday 05 July 2021
Time	3.00 – 5.00pm EAT (Nairobi Time)
Language	English and French
Organisers	African Centre for Statistics of the ECA StatCom-Africa Bureau
Format	Online
Platform	Zoom
Theme	<i>Leveraging on the power of young statisticians in the development of a robust statistical system in Africa.</i>

Background

1. Statistical development in Africa requires sound training of young statisticians and their involvement in statistical affairs on the continent. Meeting the data needs from National Development Plans, the Continental Agenda 2063 and the global Agenda 2030, demands a special focus on African young statisticians as they remain the custodians of the future of the continent and already play an important role in the current statistical arena.
2. Statistics South Africa in 2008 initiated the ISibalo programme with the support of the ECA in response to growing concerns about the dearth of African statistical research and knowledge driven by Africans themselves, and also in response to the demographics of the African statistical community. ISibalo was borne out of the need to nurture, grow and mentor a cadre of future statistical professionals and leaders.
3. Since its inception in 2008, Statistics South Africa has borne the administrative, financial and intellectual costs of birthing, growing and driving this programme. The African continent remains deeply grateful for the visionary role that Statistics South Africa has played. However, in light of its own role as an NSO and its own strategic priorities amidst austerity measures, the responsibility of maintaining this programme has to rest elsewhere.
4. Other initiatives at the sub-regional level include the young statisticians' programme of the AFRISTAT (Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa) which hosts young statisticians and demographers for internships as part of its recruitment programme for "young statisticians". These young statisticians come from a network of francophone Statistical Training Centres in partnership with the Support Centre for African Statistical Training Centres - CAPESA (French abbreviation for Support Centre for African Statistical Training Centres).

5. Furthermore, the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) was established in 2009 to promote statistical training through a better coordination between Statistical Training Centres (STCs), to harmonize curricula, to facilitate experience sharing and help STCs acquire more capabilities in terms of knowledge and infrastructure.
6. As the African statistical development landscape evolves through transitions arising from a shift towards more digital technologies; improved data for development in light of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's own Agenda 2063; change of guard as older professionals in the statistical community hand over to younger professionals, it is imperative that, building upon existing initiatives, Young African Statisticians are mobilised to play their essential role in the statistical development arena. This shall be done through a consolidated and harmonised programme, under the leadership of a mandated institution working in the area of statistical development and strongly connected to the Statistical Commission for Africa and the UN Statistical Commission, being the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Objective

The objective of this meeting is to bring to bear ECA's expanded role which include spearheading the young statistician programme and to discuss the draft concept note of the "Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme" with a view to build consensus on its role which will be submitted to the Statistical Commission for Africa in 2022 for consideration and adoption.

Participants

The meeting will be attended by:

- Young Statisticians from Africa
- African Community of statistical elders
- Practitioners from African National Statistics Systems
- Statistical development partners
- Trainees from African Statistical Training Centres

Tentative Agenda

Time	Event
3.00 – 3.10	Opening remarks
3.10 – 3.20	Keynote address on “Leveraging on the power of young statisticians in the development a robust statistical system in Africa”
3.20 – 4.00	Presentation of the draft concept note - Takwimu YAS Programme (20min) - Discussions, QAs (20min)
4.00 – 4.20	Breakaway session (20min) Discussions on: - Q1. What should be the focus of the Takwimu Young African Statisticians Programme? - Q2. How to mobilize Young African Statisticians from diverse horizons (language, country, sub region, diaspora, etc.) to play their essential role in statistical development in Africa?
4.20 – 4.30	Intervention of 2 senior statistical elders
4.30 – 4.50	Debriefing (4 groups will be given the floor to present their notes from discussions - 5min each)
4.50 - 4.55	Way forward
4.55 – 5.00	Closing remarks