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**Not Applicable**

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** **THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS**

**FROM :** **Cecilia AKINTOMIDE**  
**Secretary General**

**SUBJECT :** **INFORMATION NOTE ON THE BANK'S CELEBRATION OF WORLD**  
**STATISTICS WEEK: OCTOBER 19-23, 2015\***

Please find attached the above-mentioned document.

**Attach:**

**cc :** **The President**

<b>* Question on this document should be addressed to:</b>			
<b>Mr. S. KAYIZZI-MUGERWA</b>	<b>Ag. Chief Economist &amp; Vice President</b>	<b>ECON</b>	<b>Extension 2062</b>
<b>Mr. C.L. LUFUMPA</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>ESTA</b>	<b>Extension 2175</b>
<b>Mr. O.J.M. CHINGANYA</b>	<b>Division Manager</b>	<b>ESTA.2</b>	<b>Extension 2170</b>
<b>Mr. B. KOKIL</b>	<b>Division Manager</b>	<b>ESTA.1</b>	<b>Extension 3325</b>
<b>Mr. R. MPOFU</b>	<b>Principal Statistician</b>	<b>ESTA.2</b>	<b>Extension 4243</b>
<b>Mr. L.K. KOUAKOU</b>	<b>Statistician</b>	<b>ESTA.1</b>	<b>Extension 3038</b>

## **INFORMATION NOTE ON THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD STATISTICS WEEK: ABIDJAN, OCTOBER 19–23, 2015**

### **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1.1 The inaugural World Statistics Day was proclaimed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2010 to recognize the importance of statistics in shaping the advancement of our societies and our lives. The event provides a platform for the global statistical community – producers, suppliers, users, and all relevant stakeholders – to showcase their achievements and their ongoing statistical work. It is an opportunity to reflect on past experiences, take stock of progress, identify challenges and emerging issues, and for all stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels to seek solutions by synergistically working together. In this respect, it also helps to craft strategies to map data supply with demand going forward.

1.2 This year World Statistics Day falls on October 20, 2015 and adopts the general theme “***Better Data, Better Lives.***”<sup>1</sup> This year’s event comes at an opportune moment, when world leaders in September of this year committed to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the successor initiative to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and pledged to their full implementation by 2030. The African Union’s Agenda 2063 also recognizes the importance of statistics in shaping sustainable and inclusive growth across the continent and advocates for a profound shift in the way data is harnessed.

1.3 The AfDB, as one of the leading institutions driving statistical development progress in Africa, joins the rest of the global statistical community in celebrating World Statistics Day. It has planned a series of seminars from October 19 to 23, 2015 at the Bank’s Headquarters in Abidjan. The main objective of the seminar series is to bring together producers and users of statistics within the AfDB, with the aim of showcasing the statistical activities already underway, as well as future programs planned in response to the current demands of the Data Revolution and the SDGs agenda.

1.4 The intensity of the Bank’s ongoing Statistical Capacity Building Program (SCBP) is expected to gather momentum in response to the UN’s clarion call to harness the Data Revolution in service of sustainable development. This will entail more data communities coming together and collaborating in a sustainable manner in the context of a data ecosystem. It is generally acknowledged that reliable and timely statistical are crucial for evidence-based decision-making, whereby informed policies can positively impact the lives of millions of people. Improved data sources, sound statistical methods, new technologies, and strengthened statistical systems continue to be actively promoted and financially supported through the AfDB’s Statistical Capacity Building Program. But vital though the data collection and management processes are, it is equally crucial that these timely, harmonized and accurate statistics are made freely available to all stakeholders when they are most needed. So at the other end of the process, the Bank through its groundbreaking Africa Information Highway (AIH), provides free and open access to all stakeholders – including the public, RMCs, subregional organizations, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, UN agencies, and the media. This data is uploaded onto the AfDB’s centralized information hub not just by national statistical agencies and central banks in its RMCs, but also by international development partners such as the IMF. The World Statistics Day

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<sup>1</sup> The UN has launched a special website to promote the 2015 event: <https://worldstatisticsday.org/> It also features a summary of the UN Secretary General’s invitation to governments worldwide to participate

2015 provides an opportunity to demonstrate what the Bank is doing to make this vision of “**Better Data, Better Lives**” into a reality.

1.5 The following section provides an overview of the seminar sessions scheduled to be held during the week of October 19-23, 2015. The agenda is also attached for easy reference.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF WORLD STATISTICS WEEK: SEMINAR SESSIONS**

As part of World Statistics Week, eight seminars will be held by Statistics Department on various key statistical topics, as elaborated below. The objective will be to highlight ongoing activities and new areas of emphasis driving the statistical agenda going forward.

### ***Session 1: Harnessing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development***

This session will demonstrate the Bank’s response to the statistical challenges faced by regional member countries in the context of the Data Revolution and the need to deliver on the Sustainable Development Agenda. There is a growing demand for statistics to inform evidence-based decision-making processes; this includes the need for African countries to engage with capital markets, particularly for results measurement and to measure progress on achieving the SDGs. Many African countries face enormous statistical challenges – including a lack of skilled manpower, inadequate financial resources, as well as weak statistical infrastructure. To address these deficiencies, concerted efforts continue to be required both from national governments and development partners, including the AfDB. This first session will provide information on what actions have been taken by the Bank and what others are planned for the future to assist African countries to keep pace with other global regions in their statistical development, *with a view to leaving no one behind.*

### ***Session 2: Lighting and Powering Africa – Estimating Investment needs for Power in Africa***

This session will present the analytical approach, based on the Open Source Energy Modeling System (OSeMOSYS), which has been used by ESTA to estimate power investment needs for 15 African countries (Algeria, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Morocco, São Tomé & Príncipe, Seychelles, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe) for the period 2015–2025. It will discuss application of this methodology, with a view to rolling it out to all African countries. More specifically, this session will present the main findings discussed in the forthcoming AfDB report, “*Estimating Investment Needs for the Power Sector in Africa Region.*”

### ***Session 3: Estimating Investment Needs for ICT in Africa***

This session will discuss the current status and future investment needs in three broad categories: (i) coverage, extension and capacity-driven investment in mobile networks; (ii) investment needed in fiber backbones, including across borders; and (iii) indicative “fiber to the home” (FTTH)<sup>2</sup> potential based on

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<sup>2</sup> FTTH (fiber to the home) or FFTP (fiber to the premises) is a form of fiberoptic communication delivery, in which an optical fiber is run in an optical distribution network from the central office all the way to the premises occupied by the subscriber.

local affordability. The approach used is based on Geographic Information Systems (GIS)<sup>3</sup> models to focus on coverage extension and capacity expansion. It will draw from the results and conclusions contained in the soon to be published AfDB report on “*African Telecom Infrastructure Investment Needs*”.

#### ***Session 4: Feeding Africa – Measuring the Capacity of African Countries to Produce Timely, Reliable, and Sustainable Agricultural Statistics***

This session will review the current capacities of RMCs to produce statistics needed to inform the Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development Agenda in Africa. The discussion will focus on the results of assessments undertaken by AfDB in 52 RMCs over the period 2013–2014, as part of the *Action Plan for Africa*, which the Bank spearheaded in collaboration with its pan-African partners AUC and UNECA, as well as SROs such as AFRISTAT. The country assessments undertook a thorough assessment of the statistical needs and capabilities of each country, the state of the agricultural data they produced and disseminated, the methodology they used, and their readiness to implement planned activities, in respect to the Global Strategy. The assessments were also geared to establish targets, enrich effective monitoring and evaluation, and measure the impact of AfDB’s agricultural statistics work program over time.

#### ***Session 5: The Africa Information Highway – Revolutionizing Access to Data and Information in Africa***

The *AfDB’s Africa Information Highway* initiative was recently nominated by OECD-Paris21 as one of the most innovative data initiatives in the world. Presentations in this session will therefore (i) provide the audience with an update on key Bank innovations in Data Management and Data Dissemination, (ii) discuss linkages between the various initiatives and development effectiveness of the Bank in African countries, (iii) discuss how data openness at AfDB and RMCs is contributing towards enhancing the agenda for transparency and accountability in RMCs, and (iv) discuss the new initiatives that are being piloted in African countries.

#### ***Session 6: Greening Africa’s Growth: Reflections on the Green Growth Index for Africa***

This session will discuss a pilot Green Growth Index that has been developed to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of progress for the green growth agenda in Africa. This incorporates issues relating to improved human well-being, social inclusion and equity, while critically reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities in a green economy.

#### ***Session 7: Building Sustainable Statistical Systems in RMCs for Sustainable Development Goals***

This session is intended to showcase what the AfDB is doing to strengthen statistical capacity in RMCs to generate timely and reliable data for development. The Bank, through its Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) Program, continues to play a major role in improving statistics in RMCs, including mobilizing additional resources from development partners. Recently the work program has been scaled up substantially to meet the Data Revolution requirements for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well

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to support the Bank's new corporate priorities (the "High 5s"), including the New Deal for Energy in Africa.

**Session 8: *The Scandal of Invisibility in Africa: Actions to improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in RMCs***

This session will discuss the importance of ensuring the provision of individual identity records and certificates (e.g. birth, marriage, divorce, death), to be generated from the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in all African nations. This is a prerequisite to fulfill the first fundamental human right to which every individual is entitled upon birth – namely, the right to a name and an identity, which is the cornerstone of all other human and civil rights. The session will also outline the efforts that are being put in place to reverse the poor state and performance of CRVS systems in Africa, which has led to the so-called "scandal of invisibility," whereby millions of Africans come into this world and die without leaving a trace in any official record of their existence. CRVS systems are also vital for the monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved toward the Sustainable Development Goals going forward, to determine for example the growth rate of populations, child and maternal mortality rates, etc. which still pose major challenges for many low-income African countries.

**3. CONCLUSION**

The Boards of Directors are invited to take note of the planned World Statistics Day Seminar Series as part of the celebration of World Statistics Day, as designated by the United Nations.



**AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
BANK GROUP**

## **STATISTICS DEPARTMENT – ECON COMPLEX**

### **Statistics Week Seminar Series: October 19–23, 2015**

#### **Celebrating World Statistics Day<sup>4</sup>**

**Theme:** *Better Data, Better Lives*

#### **Monday, October 19, 2015**

12:30-13:45 **Session 1:** Harnessing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development

#### **Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

10:30-11:45 **Session 2:** Lighting and Powering Africa – Estimating Investment Needs for Power in Africa

11:45-12:45 **Session 3:** Estimating Investment Needs for ICT in Africa

14:30-15:45 **Session 4:** Feeding Africa – Measuring the Capacity of African Countries to Produce Timely, Reliable and Sustainable Agricultural Statistics

#### **Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

10:30-11:45 **Session 5:** The Africa Information Highway – Revolutionizing Access to Data & Information across Africa

11:45-12:45 **Session 6:** Greening Africa's Growth: Reflections on the Green Growth Index for Africa

#### **Friday, October 23, 2015**

10:30-11:45 **Session 7:** Building Sustainable Statistical Systems in RMCs for Sustainable Development Goals

11:45-12:45 **Session 8:** The Scandal of Invisibility in Africa: Actions to Improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in RMCs

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<sup>4</sup> World Statistics Day falls on October 20, 2015 and will be celebrated across the world.