



Sound Statistics for ALL women and girls. Rights. Equality. Empowerment.

Joint Seventh Africa Gender Statistics Forum
30th June – July 4th, 2025
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	5
Executive summary	6
Abbreviations and Acronyms	9
I. BACKGROUND	11
II. OPENING SESSION	12
Welcome remarks	12
III. PROCEEDINGS	14
Day one – 30 th June 2025 - Status of gender statistics implementation	14
Session 1: Updates from previous meetings	14
The 2024 AGSF and objectives of the 7 th forum	14
Gender feedback from the 9th statistical commission for Africa 2024 Meeting	14
Session 2: Africa Gender Index	15
State of gender equality in Africa with the Africa Gender Index 2023 key findings.....	15
Session 3: Advancing Gender Statistics in Africa	15
AU STATAFRIC’s role in the development of statistics and gender statistics in Africa.....	16
APGS and the work of AGGES	16
Progress with Beijing and gender implementation	17
Session 4: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.....	18
CRVS programmatic framework of UNICEF.....	18
Gender statistics and the life course perspective focusing on Marriages and Divorces.....	18
Interventions on Marriages and Divorces registration in the continent and long-term data collection initiatives	18
Country cases	19
Day two – 1 st July 2025 - Gender data use, intersectionality and social safety nets	20
Session 5: Intersectionality	20
Intersectionality, gender data use and the Gender Network.....	20
What does it take to build inclusive gender data systems?	20
Country cases	21
The work of the Collaborative on citizen data	22
Session 6: Gender data use	23
Gender Data Assessment in production and use in Africa.....	23
Promoting Gender Data Use: collective action for greater impact	23
Promoting gender data use: Recommendations from across the value chain	24
Session 7: Social protection	24
Harnessing social protection for gender equality, resilience and transformation	24
How social safety protection is impacting on the GEWE agenda.....	25

Overview of quantitative and qualitative approaches to measuring Social Protection	26
Session 8: Social safety nets	26
Evidence briefs to support sustainable investments and reforms in the care economy in West and Central Africa.....	27
Harnessing time-use data for social protection policy	27
Day three – 2 nd July 2025 - Gender based violence statistics	28
Session 9: Enhancing GBV Data in Africa	28
Overview of GBV statistics in Africa	28
Masculinity and GBV Prevention Strategies	28
Interface between GBV prevention, support and data needs	29
Session 10: GBV data collection	29
Overview of MICS7.....	29
Closure of DHS program - implications for planned surveys and indicator measurement.....	30
Gender Data and Statistics in Zimbabwe	31
Latest development in GBV administrative data work in Zimbabwe	31
Session 11: Technology facilitated violence.....	32
Measurement of technology facilitated violence	32
MICS module on technology facilitated violence.....	32
Session 12: Femicide	33
Femicide statistical framework	33
Testing of the femicide statistical framework.....	33
Day four – 3 rd July 2025 - Gender statistics normative frameworks and gender profiles.....	35
Session 13: Enhancing Africa Gender Index Dimensions	35
Session 14: Africa Gender Index 2026 edition	35
2026 AGI Methodology and process	35
Emerging gender issues for the AGI.....	35
Session 15: African Gender Statistics Regional Initiatives.....	36
Gender statistics strategies of regional bodies	36
Session 16: Main streaming gender perspectives.....	37
Mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical legislation.....	37
Mainstreaming gender perspective into National Strategies for the Development of Statistics ...	37
Session 17: Gender Data Outlook.....	37
Session 18: Mainstreaming child statistics in National Statistics Development Strategies	38
Strengthened National Data and Statistical Ecosystems for Children	38
Session 19: Gender Data in Migration Statistics	39
Why gender needs to be considered in the field of migration.....	39
Women on the move	39

Children on the move.....	40
Day five – 4th July 2025 - Africa Group on Gender Statistics (AGGES)	41
Retirement Tribute and Gender Statistics	41
Session 20: Africa Programme on Gender Statistics	41
Progress of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics.....	41
Progress of the AGGES 2025-2026 work program	41
Elections of additional members for AGGES	42
Closure	42
Annex 1: Abidjan outcomes and recommendations.....	43
Annex 2: Meeting recordings.....	48
Annex 3: Meeting agenda	50
Annex 4: Photo Gallery	51

Acknowledgements

This report reflects the exemplary efforts of the organizing committee comprised of William Muhwava, Fatouma Sissoko, Gonzaque Andre Rosalie, Pamela Kakande Nabukhonzo of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Isabella Schmidt of UN Women East and Southern Africa (ESA), Michka Seroussi of UN Women West and Central Africa (WCA), Marc Koffi Kouakou of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Meriem Ait Ouyahia of Open Data Watch.

The overall management of the Forum was done by Michka Seroussi (UN Women WCA) . The event communication team was led Rokhaya Ngom (UN Women WCA), who conceptualized and headed all strategic communications, with support from Sylvia Maina (UN Women ESA), Fatim Touré, UN Women Cote d'Ivoire Communication Specialist, Aristide Somda (UNECA), Girondin Raissa (AfDB) and Deirdre Appel (Open Data Watch). Zekariyas Mintesnot (UNECA) was responsible for the virtual meeting room, livestreaming and overall sound and interpretation systems. Marie Celeste Diouf (UN Women WCA) ensured that all accommodation and other logistical arrangements for the participants were in place and provided significant support.

We warmly thank Khady Ba, UN Women WCA, whose constant commitment ensured that all presentations were made available on time each day, both for use during the forum and for inclusion in this report

We take this opportunity to recognize all the delegates who graciously agreed to serve as rapporteurs for the respective sessions and provided meticulous reports articulating the critical issues and key messages summarized in this report. Khady Ba (UN Women WCA) and Pamela Kakande collated and edited the various session reports compiled by the rapporteurs, before Pamela Kakande Nabukhonzo (UNECA) wrote this workshop report product.

Finally, we are grateful to all the individuals and institutions who provided support and expertise towards the resounding success of the seventh Africa Gender Statistics forum and who continue to spearhead the gender statistics agenda in Africa. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions in this acknowledgement.

Executive summary

The seventh Forum on Gender Statistics in Africa, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from June 30 to July 4, 2025, provided a comprehensive platform for discussing gender data collection, analysis, and utilization across the continent. The forum aimed to inform policy and promote gender equality through reliable gender statistics.

Opening and Objectives of the Forum

The forum commenced with representatives from organizations such as UNECA, UN Women, and the African Development Bank, emphasizing the critical role of gender statistics in advancing women's rights, equality, and empowerment in Africa. The event's objectives included sharing experiences, addressing challenges in data collection and resource mobilization, and discussing strategies to enhance gender data utilization continent-wide. Sessions covered a range of topics, including civil registration, the role of national statistical offices, and progress since the Beijing+30 review.

Key Themes and Discussions

1. Advancing Gender Statistics in Africa

The forum reviewed progress in gender statistics, underscoring the need for improved coordination, innovation, and investment in gender data. Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to strengthening its statistical system and integrating gender dimensions was highlighted, including the publication of its first gender booklet. Discussions included updates on gender equality initiatives, social protection, gender-based violence, and emerging issues such as technology-facilitated violence and femicide.

2. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

Presentations emphasized the importance of birth, marriage, and divorce registration for protecting rights and generating vital statistics. Strategies for improving birth registration included decentralization, digitalization, and interoperability to address low registration rates in sub-Saharan Africa. Marriage and divorce registration were linked to Sustainable Development Goal 5, with country representatives sharing challenges and reforms, such as integrating customary marriages into civil systems.

3. Inclusive and Intersectional Gender Data Systems

The second day focused on inclusive gender data systems, emphasizing intersectionality and disability data collection. Presenters highlighted the need for data capturing multiple intersecting characteristics to better understand lived experiences. Citizen data initiatives in Ghana and Kenya were discussed as valuable complements to official statistics, stressing quality, accessibility, and sustainability.

4. Gender Data Use and Impact

Workshops addressed translating gender data into policy impact, with exercises prioritizing recommendations such as aligning data production with policy needs, strengthening dialogues between data producers and users, and diversifying dissemination methods. Challenges included resource mobilization and standardizing data formats.

5. Social Protection and Gender-Responsive Policies

Sessions explored social protection as a human right and development enabler, with significant gender gaps in coverage. Barriers include labor market inequalities and siloed interventions. Financing mechanisms, including mainstreaming social protection into national budgets and innovative financing, were discussed. Data collection methods for social protection varied by country, with challenges related to fragmentation and survey implementation. Time use surveys revealed gender disparities in unpaid domestic and care work, informing gender-responsive policies.

6. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Statistics

The third day centered on GBV statistics, highlighting data collection challenges and intervention strategies. Presentations covered the use of GBV data to inform prevention programs in Uganda, Kenya, and by the African Development Bank. Research on masculinity and male involvement in GBV prevention emphasized policy integration and engaging men and boys. One session was dedicated to the challenge posed by the discontinuation of DHS funding, as these surveys are an important source of gender data for the continent. A presentation was also made on MICS surveys, which could serve as an alternative to DHS in many countries

7. Technology-Facilitated Violence and Femicide Frameworks

The forum addressed technology-facilitated violence, with surveys indicating high prevalence in Uganda and legislative responses in several countries. The International Classification of Violence Against Children was presented to standardize data collection. A statistical framework for femicide was introduced, with pilot implementations in African countries facing challenges such as underreporting and lack of shared definitions. The need for harmonized data and training was emphasized.

8. Africa Gender Index and Regional Initiatives

The fourth day featured the Africa Gender Index (AGI), which evaluates gender equality across economic, social, and empowerment dimensions. Plans to add a fourth dimension on ICT, energy, climate, and environment were discussed. Challenges include political engagement and data availability. Regional economic communities shared gender statistics strategies, focusing on harmonization, capacity building, and policy integration. The Gender Data Outlook 2025 report highlighted varying gender data capacities across African countries and the need for sustainable funding and improved data use.

9. Mainstreaming Child Rights and Gender in Migration Statistics

The forum emphasized integrating child rights into national statistical planning, requiring coordination, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement. Gender-disaggregated migration data was discussed, highlighting vulnerabilities faced by women migrants in West and Central Africa, including exposure to exploitation and trafficking. Climate change was identified as a migration factor, and voluntary return programs were noted.

10. Strategic Planning and Leadership Transition

The final day honored retiring staff and reviewed the Africa Program on Gender Statistics' strategic plan for 2022–2026, aiming to build national capacities for gender data. Work plans emphasized operationalizing groups, monitoring, advocacy, and knowledge management. Discussions included forming technical and broader stakeholder groups, preparing reports,

and ensuring balanced regional representation. New leadership was elected, and commitments to reducing gender inequalities were reiterated.

11. Recommendations and Outlook

The forum concluded with calls to improve data collection methods, integrate gender perspectives into statistics, enhance collaboration, and address emerging issues such as technology's impact and femicide data. Plans include drafting new gender statistics programs, updating the Africa Gender Index, and strengthening capacity building and data quality assurance. The importance of partnerships and accessible, timely gender-sensitive data to inform policies and measure progress toward gender equality was underscored.

—

This summary reflects the forum's comprehensive efforts to advance gender statistics as a foundation for gender equality across Africa, highlighting key themes, challenges, and strategic initiatives discussed during the event.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADF	African Development Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGGES	Africa Group of Gender Statistics
AGI	Africa Gender Index
APGS	Africa Program on Gender Statistics
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CBGenSMS	Capacity Building on Gender Statistics and Monitoring System
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CR	Civil Registration
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
D4H	Data for Health Initiative
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
ESA	East and Southern Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GEB	Gender and Equity planning and Budgeting
GEWE	Gender equality and women's empowerment
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDN	Gender Data Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geo Information System
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HCP	High Commission for Planning-Morocco
ICBT	International Cross Border Trade
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MDAs	Ministries, departments, and agencies
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
NSO	National statistical office
NSS	National statistical system
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st century
REC	Regional economic community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIGI	Social Institutions Gender Index

SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
STATAFRIC	Pan-African Institute for Statistics
TFVAW	Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women
TFV	Technology Facilitated Violence
TUS	Time Use Survey
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Database
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VNR	Voluntary National Report
WAEMU	West African Economic Monetary Union
WCA	West and Central Africa

I. BACKGROUND

The 7th Africa Gender Statistics Forum (AGSF) was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 30th June to 4th July 2025. The AGSF functions 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. 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 rationalize, harmonize and improve the measurement and use of gender statistics in Africa.

The specific objectives of the 7th AGSF were to:

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 3rd Africa Program on Gender Statistics (APGS) at regional, subregional, and country levels.
2. Provide input to the deliberations of the 19th meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, which will take place on 30th September 2025 and the 10th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, which will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 1st – 3rd October 2025.
3. Present/disseminate the latest methodological developments and best practices in production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.

The workshop was attended by 348 participants (101 were in person and 247 were online) from National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Gender, statistical training institutions, CSOs, NGOs and development partners of 45 African countries and 8 non-African countries. There were 220 women and 128 men.

The joint organization, official opening and closure of the 7th AGSF was a demonstration of collaboration and partnership to harness efficiencies with Africa. The financial and technical support from partners included African Development Bank (AfDB) and UN WOMEN with support from, Agence Nationale de la Statistique - Côte d'Ivoire (ANSTAT), African Union Commission (AUC), Data2X, East Africa Community (EAC), Korea Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC), Open Data Watch, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNICEF.

II. OPENING SESSION

Chair: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

Session Organiser: Doria Deza, ANSTAT Cote d'Ivoire

Welcome remarks

Mr. William Muhwava, UNECA

In his remarks at the 7th Africa Gender Statistics Forum, Mr Muhwana welcomed participants and thanked the Côte d'Ivoire National Statistics Agency for their support. He highlighted the importance of promoting equal rights for women and girls and underscored that reliable statistics are crucial for effective policymaking. The ECA remains dedicated to strengthening statistical capacity across Africa, especially in data collection and management and dissemination. He confirmed that the forum aims to improve national statistical systems through collaboration and dialogue, where collaboration with partners is recognized as vital to achieving collective objectives. In his conclusion, he expressed optimism that the forum would lead to constructive discussions and practical solutions, reaffirming that robust statistics are essential for creating inclusive public policies.

Ms. Adjaratou Ndiaye, UN Women Representative, Côte d'Ivoire

Ms Ndiaye welcomed participants and commended the workshop's organization, noting its alignment with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. She stressed that sustainable public policy relies on robust data and highlighted the rising importance of gender statistics for tracking women's empowerment and educational access. As of 2021, fewer than half of countries had reliable, regularly updated gender data which is critical for assessing SDG 5 progress. She expressed concern over reduced funding for national surveys like the DHS, emphasizing that such constraints hinder essential gender related data production. To address this, she called for stronger engagement from regional bodies such as ECOWAS and SADC to support national statistical systems and enhance gender data collection.

She underscored gender statistics as vital tools for governments to assess disparities and improve policy effectiveness. Investing in gender data is an investment in the well-being of women and girls. On the Beijing Conference anniversary, she reiterated that promoting human rights depends on comprehensive data systems: *"You cannot change what you cannot measure."* She concluded by affirming UN Women's commitment to supporting National Statistical Offices and ministries in strengthening gender statistics through collaboration and sustainability.

Ms. Aberash Tariku Abaye, STATAFRIC- AUC

Ms Abaye focused on the African Union's Agenda 2063 and emphasized women's crucial role in decision-making for sustainable development. The speaker highlighted the need to empower women, integrate gender considerations into public policy, and referenced the African Union's Strategy for Women and specialized groups that support gender statistics collection. STATAFRIC, established in 2017, was noted for improving statistical systems and data quality across Africa. She acknowledged ongoing challenges, to overcome cultural barriers that hinder women's access to fundamental rights, and that addressing gender-based violence continues to be a priority. She stressed the importance of reliable statistics to inform policies and address inequalities.

Ms. Nathalie Gahunga, AfDB

Ms Gahunga commended the Ivorian government and partners for promoting gender equality through data, stressing that reliable data is vital for understanding and improving the status of women and girls. She noted that only 35% of gender indicators are measurable, revealing major gaps in areas like education, health, economic empowerment, and political participation. Open Data Watch found that just 50% of SDG indicators are available in most African countries. The 2019 African Gender Index produced in collaboration emphasized the need for better sex-disaggregated data. She outlined five priorities: strengthening capacity for gender statistics production, integrating gender into administrative data, investing in statistical innovation, applying an intersectional approach in policy, and embedding gender data in legal and institutional frameworks to ensure their sustainability in strategic decision-making. She closed by saying, *“When women succeed, society as a whole prospers.”*

Mr Thiekoro DOUMBIA, ANSTAT General Director- Côte d’Ivoire

Mr Doumbia thanked participants for the opportunity to join a forum focused on reliable data for women and girls, highlighting its importance as it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. He expressed gratitude to partners for selecting Côte d’Ivoire as host, noting the event’s value for fostering collaboration on gender equality across the continent.

He stressed that gender statistics gathered through censuses and surveys are vital for improving women’s and girls’ lives, but the current data collection tools lack full coverage, especially regarding informal entrepreneurship and underreported gender-based violence. To address these gaps, he proposed: systematically collecting and disseminating sex-disaggregated data, strengthening NSOs' human and financial resources, and institutionalizing dialogue between data producers and users.

He emphasized that the 7th AGSF seeks to advance best practices, formulate targeted recommendations, and reinforce the ongoing commitment to producing high-quality gender data. He closed by thanking all organizers, partners, and participants, in the same vein he officially declared the 7th Africa Forum on Gender Statistics open and wishing participants success productive discussions and advancing outcomes for women and girls in Africa.

III. PROCEEDINGS

Day one – 30th June 2025 - Status of gender statistics implementation

Day one focused on updates from the previous meetings, the Africa Gender Index (AGI), advancing gender statistics and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in Africa.

Session 1: Updates from previous meetings

Chair: William Muhwava, UNECA

Session Organizer: Pamela Kakande and Fatouma Sissoko, UNECA

The 2024 AGSF and objectives of the 7th forum

A representative from UNECA, Mr. Rosalie Gonzague recapped the previous year's discussions on gender statistics, including preparations for the Beijing+30 review, the Africa Program on Gender Statistics, and methodological developments in various areas such as trade, financial inclusion, and other key sectors. Key recommendations from the last forum focused on strengthening coordination mechanisms at all levels, financing gender equality and statistics, and developing methodology to identify and address gender data gaps in various contexts including humanitarian and fragile settings, climate change and the environment

The agenda for the 7th AGSF was expected to cover a wide range of topics, including updates on gender equality in Africa, development of gender statistics in the African Union, progress since Beijing+30, civil registration statistics, and the use of gender data for greater impact. The program also included sessions on social protection, gender-based violence, emerging issues like technology-facilitated violence and femicide, and discussions on youth, gender profiles, and migration statistics. The forum would conclude with updates on the African Program on Gender Statistics (APGS) and the election of new members to the African Group of Gender Statistics Experts (AGGeS). – see final agenda in annex.

Gender feedback from the 9th statistical commission for Africa 2024 Meeting

The Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM) is an intergovernmental body created in 2007 during the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development organized by UNECA. It operates within the policies and procedures of the United Nations and is overseen by the Conference of Ministers.

A representative from UNECA, Ms. Pamela Kakande, presented feedback on gender from the 9th Statistical Commission for Africa and other statutory bodies. The Commission discussed the Africa Program on Gender Statistics (APGS) and its progress in areas like regional partnerships, capacity building, and data dissemination. Key messages included the importance of quality gender statistics for decision-making, the need for stronger coordination among stakeholders, and the necessity of effective resource mobilization strategies. The Commission endorsed the revised terms of reference for

the African Group on Gender Statistics (AGGeS) and recommended strengthening the collection of gender-disaggregated data, particularly for informal trade and gender-based violence. Including that development partners should facilitate the use of innovative tools for the collection and dissemination of gender data at the national level. The 18th committee of directors general of national statistical offices called upon partners to continue supporting the AU Member States to develop and implement National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) which should be sector and gender sensitive.

Session 2: Africa Gender Index

Chair: William Muhwava, UNECA

Session Organizer: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

State of gender equality in Africa with the Africa Gender Index 2023 key findings.

A representative from AfDB, Mr. Fiacre Dantondji gave a snapshot of the Africa gender index (AGI) 2023 for tracking progress and identifying opportunities to advance gender equality across Africa. The presentation discussed the AGI report and its recommendations, including reducing gender segregation in the labor market, addressing time poverty, strengthening reproductive health rights, and implementing quotas for women in government. Noted that few countries have gender data budgets; regular public funding and capacity building for focal points is required.

Plenary discussions. Participants raised questions about data collection methods, dissemination strategies, and emerging issues like climate change and gender-responsive budgeting. The discussion highlighted the need for better data access, improved dissemination and communication of results, and consideration of qualitative indicators alongside quantitative ones. Experts emphasized the importance of investing in gender data collection and suggested focusing on specific areas in future reports, such as discrimination perceptions, education outcomes and labor market participation.

Recommendations. To advance gender equality in Africa, participants recommended strengthening exchange best practices from high-performing countries (e.g., Rwanda, Namibia, Lesotho). Strengthening national dissemination and data-driven policymaking. Embedding gender-sensitive provisions in climate and procurement policies. Budgeting with dedicated resources for gender statistics. Inclusion of perception-based metrics in future indices.

Session 3: Advancing Gender Statistics in Africa

Chair: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

Session Organizer Pamela Kakande and Fatouma Sissoko, UNECA

AU STATAFRIC's role in the development of statistics and gender statistics in Africa

Ms. Aberash Tariku of AU STATAFRIC presented the role of the AU in developing gender statistics in Africa. She discussed the AU's experience with gender equality initiatives, including legal frameworks, policy strategies, and data collection efforts. The presentation highlighted the 2021 AU Gender Scorecard, the Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and a gender data capacity gap assessment. She also explained the role of STATAFRIC, the AU's statistics institute, in producing quality statistics and implementing the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA II) through specialized technical groups (STG). She pointed out the African charter on statistics as a legal instrument to regulate statistical activities in the continent and serve as an advocacy tool for the development of statistics in Africa.

Recommendations. Going forward AU STATAFRIC will strengthen gender data collection in the continent, reinstate some pending activities related to gender data compilation, work on the STG related to gender and strengthen collaborate with other partners including UN Women, ECA, AfDB and PARIS21.

Plenary discussions. Participants made suggestions to strengthen collaboration between national statistical offices and sectoral ministries, establish a technical working group on gender statistics at the regional level, allocate specific financial resources for the production and dissemination of gender statistics, and promote innovation and partnerships for better use of data.

APGS and the work of AGGES

Ms. Caroline Mutwiri from UN Women, on behalf of the African Group on Gender Statistics briefly introduced the work of the APGS and the AGGeS, explaining their roles in coordinating and harmonizing gender statistics production and use in Africa. This presentation focused on gender statistics in the framework of the AGGeS. She highlighted the continental strategy for gender equality and women's empowerment, highlighting the importance of reliable statistical data for monitoring progress and developing inclusive policies. Noting that the role of the ECA is to coordinate the development and implementation of the activities of the APGS and serve as the secretariat of the AGGeS.

She highlighted 2023 Casablanca declaration to revitalize the group and develop terms of reference (ToR), which STATCOM validated in 2023 as part of Agenda 2063 on gender issues. At STATCOM-Africa's 9th session in Addis Ababa (2024), the revised ToRs and an added role for the group as a gender subgroup of SHaSA STG-08 were approved. The regional programme, with support from pan-African institutions and development partners, aims to coordinate resources efficiently, integrate gender statistics, and promote gender equality.

She stressed that the APGS is now in its third phase (2022–2026) after evaluation of the previous phases (2012–2016, 2017–2021), focusing on partnership and regional coordination, capacity building and research, reporting and dissemination, and advocacy. Implementation will follow the SHaSA strategy. Noted the details on the group's leadership noted two representatives per country making ten countries for each of the five Africa sub-regions and reports are required twice yearly, both in person and virtually. She recognized challenges such as securing adequate technical and financial resources, challenges related to managing a large group and competing activities arising additional roles especially for the country representatives.

Recommendations. Going forward the AGGeS will conduct election of additional three country representatives and nominations of other members, develop work plans, provide progress updates for CoDGs in 2025 and resource mobilization.

Progress with Beijing and gender implementation

Mr. Gonzague Rosalie of UNECA presented the achievements of the Beijing +30 review process with countries assessing their implementation of the Beijing declaration and platform for Action. Regarding the review process, role and mandate of the UNECA is to provide support and capacity building, to facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation and reporting, and routine reviews of managers. The 6th review was prepared by UNECA, UN Women & AUC and presented at the Africa ministerial forum in November 2024. In March 2025, UNECA supported integration of the Africa Common Position into the political declaration on Beijing +30 at CSW69.

Twelve key action areas have been identified for national reviews, including addressing the Poverty, Education and Training, Health, Violence against Women, Armed Conflict, Economy, Power and Decision-Making, Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, Human Rights, Media, Environment and the Girl Child. He pointed out six key action areas of the Beijing +30, including addressing the digital gender gap, poverty eradication, ending violence against women, promoting women's decision-making power, advancing the women, peace and security agenda, and centering women in climate action.

Recommendations. He mentioned upcoming opportunities to advance this agenda will include:

- Late June/early July 2025: The 4th Global Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain - Financing Gender Equality.
- July 2025: The High-Level Political Forum will discuss SDG 5.
- September 2025: Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the United Nations General Assembly.
- September 2025: The 19th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- October 2025: 10th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- November 2025: The 2nd World Summit for Social Development in Doha; and the G20 summit in Johannesburg.

Plenary discussion. Participants appreciated the role played by ECA in conducting the reviews and Expressed the need to understand how the AU specialized technical groups will work in the context of the Beijing+30 reviews.

Session 4: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Chair: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

Session Organizer: Pamela Kakande, UNECA

CRVS programmatic framework of UNICEF

Mr. Hrayr Wannis of UNICEF focused on advancing birth registration, legal identity and CRVS. He emphasized the significance of birth registration for safeguarding children's rights and ensuring access to essential services. He noted that sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest birth registration rates, with only 51% of children under five registered. The presentation elaborated the CRVS programmatic framework of UNICEF in addressing this challenge, highlighting the importance of policy reforms, legislative measures, appropriate budgeting, and social behavior change initiatives. He also talked about persistent challenges for birth registration including the effects of conflict and displacement on registration services, gender-related barriers, and issues in interdepartmental communication.

Recommendations. He identified decentralization, digitalization, and interoperability as three primary strategies for enhancing birth registration systems. Additionally, he underscored the critical role of national statistical offices in producing vital statistics to support and strengthen birth registration systems.

Gender statistics and the life course perspective focusing on Marriages and Divorces

The representative from UNECA, Ms. Pamela Kakande, in her presentation discussed the importance of marriage and divorce registration in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality including other international laws and obligations on the universal registration of marriages and divorces. She highlighted challenges in prioritizing and implementing marriage and divorce registration systems in Africa due to sociocultural complexities and legal frameworks. The speaker noted that marriage rates in Africa are declining, with Niger having the highest percentage of married women aged 15-49 at 82% and Namibia the lowest at 32% in 2025.

Interventions on Marriages and Divorces registration in the continent and long-term data collection initiatives

Mr. David Nziyimana of UNFPA highlighted the current interventions on marriage and divorces registration in the continent and long-term data collection initiatives to create evidence-based policies. Some of the interventions on marriages and divorces registration include the establishment of the global Centre of excellence for CRVS systems. The Centre serves as a global knowledge hub on CRVS systems by collaborating with organizations and experts to facilitate access to information and expertise, including global standards, tools, research evidence, and good practice. The Centre works with UNECA, UNFPA, UNICEF and World Bank Global Financing Facility for women, children and adolescents in strengthening and capacity development. He highlighted upcoming convenings on civil registration as follows the IUSSP International Population Conference scheduled for 13th -18th July 2025 in Brisbane, Australia, the second World summit for social development upcoming 4th -6th November 2025 in Qatar, and the 4th CRVS and gender global symposium scheduled for 14th -17th October in Nairobi Kenya.

Country cases

Representatives from Namibia and Niger shared insights on their countries' practices and challenges regarding marriage and divorce registration, including efforts to reform laws and integrate customary marriages into civil registration systems.

Namibia. Ms. Linda Shitenga highlighted the country's alignment with international frameworks and best practices in Namibia that include the National Population Registration System (NPRS) integrating births, deaths through e-birth and e-death notifications and provides groundwork for future electronic marriage/divorce notification, the integrated digital ID system links civil registration events (births, deaths), legal reforms (2024) that ensure no-fault divorce, privacy, and access to justice as well as strong alignment with human rights and gender equality principles. Major challenges explaining the low marriage registration rate include incomplete registration of customary unions and the Namibia Statistics office having limited to no data on marriage and divorces.

Niger. Ms. Saidou Fati Kouadima explained that the high registration of marriages and divorces is governed by the civil status Act, which makes registration compulsory and free of charge. However, challenges remain in the implementation of this obligation, particularly regarding access to civil registry services, problems of corruption and inefficiency that affect the proper functioning of civil registration services and limited public awareness. The registration of customary marriages is less systematic, which poses challenges for the collection of accurate data on the number of marriages and divorces.

Recommendations. Emphasized the need for enhanced marriage registration systems in Africa to collect key information on marriage events and spousal attributes. Noted that improving CRVS systems requires collaboration and partnerships. Targeted actions are needed to strengthen civil registration services, raise awareness and integrate customary marriages into the civil registration system. There is need for improvement of data reporting mechanisms and strengthening the system to produce vital statistics. Additionally, procedures for registering marriages and divorces need to be simplified and made more accessible to all. Member states were advised to have memorandums of understanding for data sharing between the civil registration offices and the NSOs taking the example of Rwanda.

Plenary discussion. Requested to support NSOs to understand and create the synergy between vital statistics and gender statistics for proper integration in reports. Requested to harness the integration of migration and vital statistics.

Day two – 1st July 2025 - Gender data use, intersectionality and social safety nets

Day one focused on gender data use, intersectionality and social safety nets

Session 5: Intersectionality

Chair: Frederick Unterreiner , UNICEF

Session Organizer: Meriem Ait Ouyahia, Open Data Watch II

Intersectionality, gender data use and the Gender Network

Ms. Shaida Badiie of Open Data Watch made a presentation online demonstrating dedication to intersectionality and gender data. The session focused on inclusive gender data systems, linking to global frameworks and strategies presented earlier. She covered intersectionality, disability, and citizen data with various international, continental, regional, and national speakers providing diverse perspectives on collaborative efforts in this field. She noted that research shows many countries are now increasingly engaging in gender data initiatives, recognizing that without robust data, it is impossible to design effective policies or measure progress toward gender equality. She introduced the work of Open Data Watch, Data2X, and Paris21 in supporting the Gender Data Network and closing gender data gaps.

Intersectionality recognizes that women and men are not homogenous groups; people experience overlapping forms of disadvantage based on multiple identities such as sex, age, disability, ethnicity, location, and socioeconomic status. For example, a rural woman with a disability may face compounded barriers to health services, economic opportunities, or participation in decision-making. Applying an intersectional lens to gender statistics is therefore crucial to uncover these layered inequalities and to design targeted interventions that truly leave no one behind. Gender data use plays a vital role in making these disparities visible.

What does it take to build inclusive gender data systems?

The presenters Ms. Meriem Ait Ouyahia of Open Data Watch and Ms. Elizabeth Hedge of Data2X emphasized the need for data systems that capture multiple intersecting characteristics to provide a more comprehensive understanding of people's lived experiences. They discussed how to integrate intersectionality across the data value chain, from collection to impact, and provided case studies of intersectional approaches in various countries. The session also included a presentation on disability data and intersectionality, highlighting examples from deaf communities in Ecuador and Mongolia. The speakers stressed the importance of partnerships, standardization, and resource mobilization to make intersectional data practices the norm rather than the exception.

The presentation discussed the importance of intersectional data in understanding complex social issues. Ms. Elizabeth Hedge highlighted how intersectional findings on violence against women in Opd showed that violence can affect anyone regardless of background. She noted that this data collection influenced broader efforts, including similar studies by the national statistical office. The discussion that followed touched on challenges in implementing intersectional methods, including capacity building, awareness, coordination, and appropriation of tools.

Additionally, she underscored the importance of ethical guidelines and transparent privacy processes, particularly when working with vulnerable groups. In closing, Meriem identified four strategic

opportunities: standardizing intersectional data practices, mobilizing resources, developing case studies, and fostering partnerships, emphasizing that showcasing existing intersectional initiatives can inspire broader adoption.

The discussion also highlighted the role of platforms such as the African Gender Statistics Network (AGSN), which fosters collaboration among national statistics offices, gender ministries, UN agencies, and civil society organizations. The Network drives capacity building, harmonization of indicators, and knowledge sharing across Africa to ensure that robust gender data informs policy and accountability frameworks at both national and regional levels.

Plenary discussion. Participants also discuss the potential for using existing data sources with an intersectional lens and the importance of careful, ethical approaches when working with vulnerable groups.

Recommendations. Standardize data collection tools and make sure everyone understands, mobilize resources and make sure funding prioritizes intersectionality, develop case studies because they have a greater impact and improve partnerships and collaborations. Made a call for intentional commitment from national statistics offices, donors, policymakers, and civil society, urging these key actors to prioritize intersectional approaches throughout the data value chain to ensure that all population groups are visible and no one is left behind.

Country cases

Looking at some Case Studies on Intersectional Data Collection, two presentations from Elizabeth Hedge, Elizabeth Lookwood of CBM-Global and a video recording presentation by Philip R. Crehan (KOPPA, Co-Founder & Director).

Ecuador: A Deaf-Led Intersectional Data Collection project led by the Global Disability Rights (GDR) team worked with deaf community leaders and members to design and collect intersectional data using mixed methods and interviews, with extensive use of interpreters (including American Sign Language, Ecuadorian Sign Language, and regional sign variants). The deaf community initially did not view intersectionality or overlapping oppression as distinct concepts, seeing deafness itself as the primary unifying challenge. Data were categorized into four groups signing deaf people, oral deaf (do not use sign language), deaf-blind individuals, and deaf people with limited language due to deprivation. The project compared these groups' experiences with those of hearing populations (women, LGBTQ persons, low-income groups). Despite a small sample, multi-level modeling and prior knowledge of systemic barriers were used to analyze data. Importantly, this process not only gathered data but built capacity and data literacy within the deaf community, addressing long-standing language deprivation.

Mongolia: Research on deaf women and violence conducted by the Culture Center for the Deaf, this study involved 107 deaf women, exploring the prevalence of violence using tailored questionnaires and sign language interviews by trained deaf facilitators. Intersectional analysis revealed that education level, age, or location did not protect deaf women from violence, highlighting that gender-based violence could occur universally among deaf women. This research influenced the Mongolian National Statistics Office and other organizations to adopt similar methodologies and instruments in subsequent surveys, showing the impact of community-led intersectional data collection on national

policy and data practices. She concluded by emphasizing that intersectional, community-led approaches are essential not only for accurate data but also for empowering marginalized groups and influencing broader statistical systems and how to increase intersectionality, with guidelines.

Philippe Crehan, Co-founder and Director of KAPPA, the LGBTI+ Economic Power Lab, discussed the need for more LGBTI+ data to inform better interventions, emphasizing safety concerns and the need for partnerships with civil society. He emphasized that while the data needs of LGBTI people remain vast and largely unmet, there is growing demand and some encouraging shifts such as many governments and statistics offices are beginning to include LGBTI questions in censuses and surveys. However, much of the existing data comes from civil society and citizen-generated surveys, often overlooked despite revealing serious gaps and the demand for identity-specific data.

Safety concerns are paramount; rigorous consultations with communities are essential to protect LGBTI respondents from stigma, discrimination, or legal repercussions. Funding constraints hinder data collection. Philippe called for creativity in tapping into new financing streams to sustain this work. Data often sits unused on reports and websites, missing opportunities to influence policy, development programs, and rights-based interventions. He illustrated how targeted citizen-generated data by LGBTI organizations can reach populations that national surveys often miss, such as those in informal sectors, lower-income or rural groups, and individuals experiencing compounded poverty due to discrimination and violence. He underscored the importance of building local ownership, raising awareness, and strengthening civil society partnerships to ensure data is not only collected and analyzed, but effectively used to advance human rights and inclusive growth.

The work of the Collaborative on citizen data

Ms. Liliana Suchodolska of PARIS21 discussed the work of the citizen data collaborative, an initiative designed to help countries work more closely with civil society by recognizing the value of citizen-generated data as an important complementary data source. She introduced the Copenhagen framework, the first globally endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission that provides guidance on how national statistical systems can effectively engage with and leverage citizen data. Citizen data helps address intersectional marginalization, expands insights for policymakers, and empowers citizens to contribute directly to the data value chain. It also allows civil society to reach hard-to-access populations that official systems might overlook.

Ghana. Ms. Gloria Akoto Bamfo from Ghana Statistics Service shared Ghana's journey using citizen data for SDG monitoring, describing it as a process of innovation, learning, and fostering local ownership. Ghana has conducted several pilot projects using citizen data, including studies on gender-based violence, waste management, and disability access to public funds. They found that citizen data can add value to national statistics when combined with public education and stakeholder buy-in. The Copenhagen framework principles especially openness and accessibility continue to guide Ghana's citizen data initiatives.

Kenya. Mr. Stanley Mutwii Wambua of Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shared Kenya's evolving journey in engaging with citizen data, highlighting how the process started with significant resistance and mistrust between government and civil society rooted in Kenya's broader democratization context. Kenya uses memorandums of understanding to structure partnerships with civil society, clearly outlining mutual expectations and accountability. Kenya has developed criteria for validating citizen-

generated data and integrating it with official statistics. They faced initial resistance but are now actively engaging with civil society organizations to produce and validate data, particularly on gender and education topics. Established a dedicated technical working group with civil society representatives, fostering dialogue and addressing barriers. Both countries emphasized the importance of data quality, accessibility, and sustainability in citizen data initiatives. They used citizen data to fill gaps in SDG reporting and are working to further integrate it into official statistical processes.

Recommendations. Recognizing and integrating citizen-generated data offers a win-win opportunity for both statistics offices and civil society, strengthening data ecosystems to better inform inclusive policies.

Session 6: Gender data use

Chair: Aberash Tariku Abaye, AUC

Session Organizer: Meriem Ait Ouyahia, Open Data Watch II

Gender Data Assessment in production and use in Africa

Ms. Violet Murunga from the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) presented findings from a collaborative assessment with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The study examined the state of gender data production, translation, and use across Africa, focusing on Ethiopia and Senegal at the national level, and broader regional insights. She outlined eight thematic areas to guide future efforts, including strengthening legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks to incorporate diverse data types beyond traditional statistics. Building capacity, especially for translating and using gender data. Raising awareness of what comprehensive gender data entails. Improving coordination and partnerships to align gender priorities. Enhancing data systems, digital tools, and platforms for broader access. Promoting better analysis, packaging, and dissemination of existing data. Securing more funding specifically for translation and decision-making. Leveraging ongoing digital initiatives to maximize resources.

Promoting Gender Data Use: collective action for greater impact

Ms. Elizabeth Hedge from Data2X and Miriam Ait Ouyahia from Open Data Watch discussed frameworks for enabling gender data use, emphasizing the importance of making data usable, building capacity, and securing funding. Highlighted that while we often understand why gender data matters, the real challenge is how to ensure it is used. Stressing that data has little value if it remains invisible or inaccessible. Urged a shift from simply sharing data to making it compelling and actionable, by creating stories and tailored messages that resonate with policymakers, civil society, and communities. Noting that data uptake and impact require a sustained effort and involvement from all stakeholders across the data value chain, from production to reuse. Stressed data openness goes beyond static tables to provide data that can be easily downloaded, analyzed, and reused. Promoting gender data use demands active commitment from all actors including data producers, decision makers, civil society advocates, and funders. This collective effort can build a virtuous cycle where data leads to policies and interventions that, in turn, identify new data needs, ultimately driving more equitable outcomes.

Recommendations. Countries should embrace additional enabling elements that include policies and practices that explicitly promote gender data use, like Ghana's parliament fostering a culture of evidence use. Capacity building, to strengthen both statistical skills and understanding of gender

issues, with examples from Vietnam where policymakers became more comfortable using sensitive data on domestic violence. Funding, not only for data production but also for translation, communication, and policy engagement.

Promoting gender data use: Recommendations from across the value chain

Ms. Liliana Suchodolska of PARIS21 shared insights from a multi-country study by PARIS21, conducted with academic experts and national partners across countries including Mexico, Rwanda, Kenya, the Maldives, Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Assam (India). The study used focus group discussions and research over two years to explore how policymakers approach gender data, with Burkina Faso highlighted as a detailed case.

Taking note of challenges around data accessibility and interpretation. A dual challenge: There are both gender-specific issues (different understandings of what “gender data” means among institutions) and data system issues (varying capacities to produce and use data). Policymakers often value official statistics but lack time and turn to quick sources — underlining the importance of making official data accessible, timely, and relevant for decision-making. Data is often not packaged in ways aligned with policymaker needs, making it harder for them to integrate it into policy processes like budgeting and planning.

Burkina Faso. The humanitarian situation poses unique challenges to collecting and using gender data. Gender concepts are understood differently across government institutions, and gender dynamics vary greatly by community — requiring more localized data and user-driven survey design. Simple tools like the “publication leaf”, which compiles key gender indicators in one place, proved helpful for improving data dissemination and use.

Recommendations. Produce timely, relevant gender data, tailored to real policy needs. Ensuring early and continuous engagement of policymakers across the data value chain (including design and collection phases) is critical, so data doesn’t just arrive as an unexpected product. Strengthen data sharing and coordination across institutions. Translate data into clear, actionable policy insights, ensuring it reaches users in formats they can understand and act on. Continued targeted capacity building and advocacy, link findings to new gender strategies and national statistics plans (like Burkina Faso’s upcoming gender strategy and NSDS).

Session 7: Social protection

Chair: William Muhwava, UNECA

Session Organizer: Michele Seroussi, UN WOMEN

Harnessing social protection for gender equality, resilience and transformation

Ms. Silke Luise STAAB of UN Women virtually presented findings from a recent UN Women report on gender-responsive social protection. Exploring the importance of social protection and data needs. She emphasized that social protection is a human right and a critical enabler of development, with the potential to promote gender equality by addressing risks and vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. Despite progress in coverage, significant gender gaps remain, particularly in lower and middle-income countries. She highlighted barriers to women's access to social protection, including labor market

inequalities, siloed interventions, and delivery challenges. She concluded by stressing the importance of investing in social protection and gathering better data on coverage, adequacy, and impacts.

How social safety protection is impacting on the GEWE agenda

Panel Discussion moderated by Mr. Yeboua Kouassi Economist of UN Women.

Panelist 1: Dr. Isaiah K. Byegon demonstrated social protection in practice in Kenya. He pointed out the key social protection programs in Kenya including their challenges. Such as some eligible beneficiaries remain unenrolled. Demand for social assistance is rising, while transfer values are declining. Many households are large or include multiple people with disabilities, leading to extra care costs and limiting caregivers' ability to earn income. He further recommended an urgent shift from a household-based to an individual-based approach, increased program resources to cover more deserving individuals, and adjustments to the stipend amount based on household size and disability type. Additionally, it recognizes the need to support caregivers in their roles.

Panelist 2: Ms. Linet Miriti, AfDB on scaling up financing for social protection and care systems in Africa. She pointed out that social protection systems are vital in Africa for reducing poverty and fostering inclusive growth, especially for women who shoulder most unpaid care work and face barriers to economic participation. Despite their critical role, many women lack access to contributory benefits and care services. Unpaid care work restricts women's opportunities for education and employment. Adequate investment in care infrastructure (childcare, eldercare, and essential services) would help unlock productivity and human capital development. Gender-responsive social protection boosts female labour force participation, reduces poverty, and strengthens resilience.

To address reduced financial resources, a multi-strategy approach is needed: integrate social protection into general budgets, using improved tax administration and gender-responsive budgeting. Policy-based lending and results-based financing can support expansion. Mainstream care into infrastructure projects (urban development, transport, energy) to reduce women's unpaid care and promote economic inclusion. Utilize blended finance mechanisms such as public-private partnerships to mobilize additional funds for care infrastructure. Issue social bonds targeting specific outcomes, drawing from successful global examples.

Accurate, disaggregated data is critical for identifying needs, targeting support, and scaling responses during crises. Integrated databases like social registries and digital IDs improve efficiency and responsiveness of social protection programmes. Together, these strategies offer sustainable solutions for financing gender-sensitive social protection and care across Africa.

Panelist 3: Mr. Bobo Diallo Mamadou, UN Women on how UN Women is assisting countries in their efforts to mobilize resources for investing in social protection and care systems. UN Women's work on financing dates back from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was the outcome of the 2015 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was adopted by heads of state and government on 15 July 2015. He noted that the mainstream definitions of fiscal space are inadequate; debt focused, have short-term time frame, focus on borrowing capacity and public expenditure is viewed as discretionary.

Overview of quantitative and qualitative approaches to measuring Social Protection

Ms. Isabella Schmidt of UN Women highlighted key social protection indicators from gender perspective categorized into coverage, adequacy and benefit, time use and unpaid care work, empowerment and decision-making, impact, institutional and system-level. Data sources can be a mix of quantitative indicators and statistical methods that help assess coverage, adequacy, and impact. Additionally qualitative data helps us understand the why and how the lived experiences behind the numbers.

Panel Discussion moderated by Ms. Oley Cole of AfDB. The panel discussed various approaches to collecting data for social protection measures in different African countries. The experiences shared highlighted the importance of data integration, digitalization, and balancing detail with respondent burden in collecting social protection data. Panelists addressed challenges in funding and implementing national surveys, with some countries struggling to secure resources for regular data collection.

Panelist 1: Mr. Massa Diakité from Mali highlighted that in Mali, household surveys are the primary source of data, providing information on poverty, living conditions, and vulnerable groups, though challenges include financial constraints and security issues in certain areas.

Panelist 2: Ms. Linda Shitenga from Namibia indicated that in Namibia relies on administrative data from different ministries and institutions, but faces challenges with fragmentation and lack of integration, which they are working to address through a centralized beneficiary register and data exchange platform.

Panelist 3: Ms. Caroline Faturoti from Nigeria shared preliminary findings from Nigeria's first time use survey, which revealed significant gender differences in time spent on unpaid domestic and care work. The survey was conducted in four states due to resource constraints, aims to inform gender responsive policies and social protection measures.

Panelist 4: Ms. Mary Gwaligwali from Malawi indicated that Malawi has implemented the ILO's time use survey module, provided more detailed data on unpaid work and informal labor, though it is faced challenges with respondent fatigue and compatibility with existing survey instruments.

Recommendations. Countries were argued to have a systems approach to make social protection more gender-responsive, including reforms to contributory systems, better coordination with employment policies and public services, and improved delivery mechanisms. There is need to reconceptualize fiscal space using a developmental approach that goes beyond financial sustainability to include environmental and social sustainability., includes longer time frame which recognizes investment-like character of spending on gender equality that stimulates productivity, economic growth, and revenues. Macro-level policies and regulations contribute to fiscal space, by reducing demands on the public sector budget that can be reallocated to gender equality. The importance of clearly defining and communicating the purpose of time use surveys to policymakers was emphasized to ensure their effective use in policy design.

Session 8: Social safety nets

Chair: Liliana Suchodolski, PARIS 21

Evidence briefs to support sustainable investments and reforms in the care economy in West and Central Africa

A representative from UN Women, Dr Muriel Ametoglo introduced the care facts as briefs that contain assessment of the state of women's unpaid care work and its impacts on countries' inclusive development, assessment of the drivers of care needs and the provision of paid care services, give country progress towards an enabling policy environment on care (reforms, norms, services, investments, infrastructure, data, social protection), provide socio-economic case for investing in the care economy and return on investment, identify care-climate nexus in the context of green transition and provides practical pathways to build transformative care systems.

Harnessing time-use data for social protection policy

Ms. Samantha Watson from ILO showcased the international statistical standards for the measurement of own-use provision of service work (unpaid domestic and care work) in national labour force surveys (LFS), the new tools and guidance for unpaid domestic and care work statistics, the LFS add-on light time-use module, and an overview of the new statistical standards for care work. She also highlighted among the policy relevance of own-use provision of services work that it allows for more comprehensive national accounts beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP), including the scale and contours of shifts from household to market-based service provision (and vice versa), as well as innovative accounting approaches, such as time transfer accounts.

Plenary discussion. Questions are raised about survey representativeness, the classification of employment, and the collaboration between national statistics offices and human rights organizations.

Day three – 2nd July 2025 - Gender based violence statistics

Day three focused on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) statistics in Africa, with presentations on data collection challenges, intervention strategies, and research findings on masculinity and its relationship to violence against women and girls. Panel discussions covered how GBV data is used to inform prevention programs and policies across different countries, including experiences with surveys like MICS and DHS. The meeting also explored technology-facilitated violence and the implementation of statistical frameworks for measuring gender-related homicides, with participants sharing their experiences and challenges in data collection and analysis.

Session 9: Enhancing GBV Data in Africa

Chair: Isabella Schmidt, UN WOMEN

Session Organizer: Pamela Kakande, UNECA and Isabella Schmidt, UN WOMEN

Overview of GBV statistics in Africa

Ms. Pamela Kakande, UNECA presented an overview of available GBV data sources, highlighting the need for more comprehensive and up-to-date information. She noted that the availability of data on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) has improved considerably in recent years but is not available in a one stop centre. Data is out of date and not available annually, even over a period some countries are still missing data. She noted a lack of GBV indicators, which are appropriate to the national context especially for GBV reporting, response, prevention and support. GBV data that are available are most of the time not disaggregated.

Recommendations. Called upon all data producers to collect and disseminate their GBV data in a sex-disaggregated format. Encourages regional entities to address the need to work together and update a one stop GBV database. Consider providing guidance on how to develop national contextualised indicators on GBV reporting, response, prevention and support.

Interventions on ending violence against women & girls (EVAWG)

Ms. Angela Muruli of UN Women discussed interventions to address GBV in West and Central Africa region, that focus on building stronger laws and policies, capacitating and coordinating women's movements, and transforming social norms. She emphasized the importance of using data to inform policy and programming. The key data needs on EVAWG include disaggregated data, longitudinal research, strengthened administrative data systems, real-time data, and community-generated evidence. She also highlighted the challenges in accessing and using data on EVAWG.

Masculinity and GBV Prevention Strategies

Mr. Frederick Okwayo of UNFPA, virtually presented research findings from a qualitative study on positive masculinity and male involvement in preventing GBV in Malawi and South Sudan. He highlighted masculinity and its links to violence against women and girls in South Sudan and Malawi. The study explored stakeholders' perspectives on masculinity, factors facilitating or hindering positive masculinity, and effective interventions. The study emphasized the importance of engaging men and boys in preventing GBV while also empowering women to drive their own agenda. The study highlighted country specific recommendations for addressing GBV.

Plenary discussion. The participants agreed on the need for better data collection and dissemination to improve efforts to combat GBV in the region.

Recommendations. Policy integration, communication strategies, and intergenerational dialogues. Participants discussed data collection challenges, the importance of services for GBV survivors, and the need for consistent gender indicators across countries.

Interface between GBV prevention, support and data needs

Panel Discussion moderated by Ms. Pamela Kakande, UNECA. The panelists discussed challenges around data availability, particularly at subnational levels, and the need for current and disaggregated data to inform targeted interventions.

Panelist 1: Ms. Helen Namirembe Nviiri from Uganda described their recent standalone survey on violence against women and girls, which was influenced by stakeholder input and used to shape policies and programs.

Panelist 2: Dr. Isaiah Byegon from Kenya highlighted how GBV data has informed their national policy and legal framework, including targeted programs in specific counties with high prevalence rates.

Panelist 3: Ms. Nelly Maina, representing the African Development Bank, shared how the bank used GBV data to justify investments and develop gender action plans across sectors in prevention and response. Highlighting the critical gap of limited localized, sub-national GBV data and lack of current data on GBV.

Session 10: GBV data collection

Chair: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

Session Organizer: Michele Seroussi and Isabella Schmidt, UN WOMEN

Overview of MICS7

Mr. Frederic Unterreiner of UNICEF virtually focused on the importance and challenges of collecting data on gender-based violence and the role of statistical operations like the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in addressing these issues. MICS and DHS are global household survey programmes focused on generating social statistics. He highlighted the value of MICS data in influencing national policies and planning, with several countries sharing their experiences on how these surveys have been used to inform strategic decisions and budget allocations. He stressed that MICS collects almost all the DHS modules but has some possibility to integrate them as well as other modules from other questionnaires. From the viewpoint of generating data on children's well-being, MICS offers a broader, comprehensive menu of options by integrating the under 5 and 5-17 questionnaires (in addition of all the other modules on households, women and men).

Plenary discussion. Participants discussed the need for targeted and well-structured data collection methods, including existing surveys and new initiatives, to better understand and influence policy decisions regarding children, women, and gender issues. Concerns were raised about the sustainability

of these surveys due to budget constraints and the need for continued investment in data collection and analysis.

Recommendations. Piggybacking MICS modules on DHS is not a sustainable strategy, it is limited in terms of covering children's indicators, poses methodological challenges, and may "leave some children behind". Countries should ideally alternate MICS and DHS for a balanced and more robust approach for increasing coverage and closing data gaps.

Closure of DHS program - implications for planned surveys and indicator measurement

Panel Discussion moderated by Mr. Frederic Unterreiner from UNICEF to better understand the dynamics underway in the different countries affected by closure of the DHS program, and possibly to identify avenues for collaboration or support following the discontinuation of US funding for DHSs to maintain similar household surveys.

Panelist 1: Ms. Pricilla Munezero from Burundi noted that the prospects of the country will include to maintain a budget line to conduct a similar survey using DHS methodology and contact new partners for funding.

Panelist 2: Mr. Lionnel Boussa from Gabon said the prospects of the country will include developing an empowerment strategy based on a transfer of skills from the University of Southern California and the Directorate General of Statistics of Gabon. In concrete terms, the processing and analysis of data will be done at all levels with experts from the General Directorate of Statistics of Gabon. The objective is to achieve an autonomous national system for production of DHS indicators. They will leverage on South-South cooperation with the ANSD of Senegal, which has been producing priority indicators of the DHS for several years.

Panelist 3: Mr. Rodrigue Mare from Burkina Faso affirmed that Burkina Faso is committed to continuing to produce reliable, comparable and sustainable indicators, within the framework of a strengthened statistical ecosystem, in the service of public policies and human development. See further finding options and compliment the indicators with administrative data sources.

Panelist 4: Mr. Edmond Yao from Cote d'Ivoire indicated that a MICs will be undertaken and funding will be sought from new partners to ensure continuity of indicators previously obtained from the DHS

Plenary discussion. Senegal and Benin shared their country experiences around the DHS and MICs undertaking including conducting further analysis. Urged the meeting to come up with a recommendation on how to sustain the MICs based on country experiences.

Recommendations. With the suspension of the DHS global program, it is acknowledged that country-led DHS-style surveys help sustain the production of essential data on women and some data regarding children but may reduce international comparability. This highlights the urgent need to work together using continental (Africa group on gender statistics, Africa expert group on child-related statistics, Africa Gender Program, etc.) and regional (Regional economic commissions, Africa statistical commission etc.) platforms to promote a coordinated approach to household surveys on women and children (such as the MICS, etc.). There is need to reaffirm dedication to using survey findings to advance evidence-based policies that uphold children's and women's rights and accelerate the implementation of the leave no child behind agenda. Together, this will ensure household surveys

remain central to Africa's data ecosystem, delivering timely, high-quality data to drive impactful action, and report on progress with filling data gaps about women's and children.

Gender Data and Statistics in Zimbabwe

Mr. Tinashe Mwadiwa from Zimbabwe highlighted the efforts, challenges, and opportunities in improving gender data collection and analysis. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat) discussed their frameworks and institutional arrangements for producing gender statistics, including collaboration with other government departments and the use of administrative data and surveys like the DHS and MICS. The presenter also shared progress on digitizing data collection systems, such as at the National Prosecution Authority, to improve timeliness and accuracy.

Latest development in GBV administrative data work in Zimbabwe

Mr. Nicolas Jonga of UN Women and Ms. Foelane Muronda from Zimbabwe made a presentation on strengthening administrative data systems in Zimbabwe. Highlighted the existing capacity building initiatives and show cased the SGBV Case Management System of the National Prosecuting Authority of Zimbabwe.

Recommendations and lessons learned. For GBV data quality capacity building. GBV administrative data in-house training requires informed strategic decisions by staff holding strategic positions in institutions. They simply need to understand the thrust of the training and its practical relevance to the institutions. Having the NSO (ZIMSTAT) at the centre of capacity building initiatives (e.g. administrative data strengthening) is a cost-effective way of enhancing sustainability. Not much is required for stakeholders to have a strong-buy-in for any training. Simply, letting the training address their day-to-day challenges is good enough. Mapping data sources serves to identify key beneficiaries of capacity building initiatives. Zeroing down to 5 core institutions enhanced the cost effectiveness of the project [by targeting priority institutions addressing GBV data needs].

In-house training is an objective assessment of institutional needs [e.g ICT infrastructure]. [compares better to other subjective assessments]. In-house training cuts on costs, but disruptions are eminent. It is not uncommon for a participant to be summoned to attend to an issue during the training. Training on handling data in MS Excel requires participants to have at least a basic training in MS Excel. Otherwise, bridging training must be integrated into the main training.

To strengthen individual and institutional capacities to use GBV data. Teamwork is key to scaling heights with capacity building initiatives. - a team of workshop facilitators (UN Women CO) performed. Sending stakeholders' invitation letters timeously to meet procurement requirements navigate bureaucratic processes involved is essential

Plenary discussion. Participants from other countries, including Mozambique and Morocco, shared their experiences and asked questions about prioritizing indicators, harmonizing data, and compiling comprehensive gender statistics. The discussion emphasized the importance of sustainable systems, capacity building, and collaboration between national statistics offices and other stakeholders to enhance gender data reporting and analysis.

Session 11: Technology facilitated violence

Chair: Meriem Ait Ouyahia, Open Data Watch II

Session Organizer: Isabella Schmidt, UN WOMEN

Measurement of technology facilitated violence

Panel Discussion moderated by Ms. Grace Bulenzi, UN Women. The main objective was to share experiences in producing data on measures of technology-facilitated violence. Specifically, discussing the mechanisms that could be adapted to be able to produce this data.

Panelist 1: Ms. Angela Nakafeero from Uganda described their recent standalone survey on shared findings from their 2020-2022 national survey showing 49% of citizens experienced technology-facilitated violence, particularly on social media and WhatsApp, with 62% of children being victims of online sexual content sharing. The discussion highlighted legislative responses, including Uganda's amended Computer Misuse Act and proposed sexual offenses bill.

Panelist 2: Ms. Egnés Nhengo from Zimbabwe indicated that the country introduced the Cyber and Data Protection Act to address cyber violence. GBV has multiplied in all forms of which the government is aware of this. The country needs other specialized services to support the police regarding this phenomenon since this phenomenon is at the level in the country.

Panelist 3: Mr. Atoumane Fall from Senegal mentioned that a baseline survey on violence against women and girls carried out in 2023-2024 has informed the authorities on this issue. It appears in this study that 8.1% of women said they had been victims of digital violence and violence from those around them (insults, threats, rumours and the creation of web pages). He also stressed that in Senegal, young people are more exposed to violence than other groups

Panelist 4: Mr. Ahar Deman Landry from Côte d'Ivoire noted that mechanisms have been put in place to help the criminal police manage all violence against children online. This system makes it possible to report cases reported by social workers to the level of the competent authorities, and the latter has facilitated the disaggregation of the figures by sex. There is the GPROTECT system, which is an information system for the protection of vulnerable populations. Its objective is to standardize the typology of violence and harmonize the collection of routine data, to help actors to better understand, prevent and respond to cases of violence against children and adult victims, to have strategic information to support decision-making (Prevention and/or Care), improve monitoring and evaluation of the protection of vulnerable populations, including children in Côte d'Ivoire.

Panelist 5: Ms. Linet Miriti from AfDB, online emphasized the need for digital safety integration in transformation programs and supporting tech-based solutions to combat technology-enabled violence. She also spoke of the need to use this same technology to address technology-related violence in favor of women

Panelist 6: Ms. Claudia Cappa from UNICEF, online

MICS module on technology facilitated violence

Ms. Claudia Cappa from UNICEF presented on the International Classification of Violence Against Children (ICVAC), explaining its development and importance for standardized data collection. She

detailed the classification's definition of violence and its application to technology-facilitated violence. In her remarks, she noted that UNICEF and UN Women have worked extensively to establish a standard (international roadmaps for developing classification and methodology) to harmonize data collection on technology-facilitated violence.

Mr. Tinashe Mwadiwa from Zimbabwe discussed Zimbabwe's efforts to include technology-facilitated gender-based violence in their Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), including questionnaire content and challenges in implementation.

Recommendations. In Senegal, authorities have been asked to run a platform to access data on gender-based violence. Noted the need to conduct an awareness campaign on violence against women and girls online and use the same technologies to combat violence against women and girls online. A standard set up by UNICEF will be shared with countries for the collection of data related to technology-facilitated violence.

Session 12: Femicide

Chair: Aberash Tariku Abaye, AUC

Session Organizer: Michele Seroussi, UN WOMEN

Femicide statistical framework

Ms. Cecilia Rossa from UNODC presented on the UNODC and UN Women statistical framework on femicide, providing global and regional data on gender-related homicides and explaining the statistical definition and measurement of femicide. Cecilia presented on the femicide statistical framework and its implementation in various countries, highlighting challenges such as the absence of a shared definition of femicide, limited capacity for data collection, and underreporting due to stigma. She explained that UNODC and UN Women have been piloting the framework in countries like Senegal, Lesotho, and Kenya, with the goal of improving data collection and accuracy.

UNDC presented a report developed in 2023 on femicide in collaboration with UN Women. In this report, it appears that in the world 51100 women were killed either by an intimate partner or by a family member, including 21700 women in Africa and 18500 women in the Asian continent. For example, the homicide dimension shows that 80% are men and 60% of cases are women involved in homicide, either by an intimate partner or family member. The statistical framework of the report is available in the different languages. A statistical framework has been created by UN Women and UN DC. There are several criteria to define what a homicide is. A multiplicity of data, types of data and the sources of this data.

Testing of the femicide statistical framework

Panel Discussion moderated by Ms. Isabella Schmidt, UN Women. The panelists discussed their experiences implementing the framework, including the need for harmonized definitions, better coordination between agencies, and increased awareness and training for law enforcement.

Plenary discussion. Participants raised questions about data sharing, the authenticity of police statistics, and the need to address gender-based violence in all its forms, including women killing their husbands.

Recommendation. UN Women was asked to clarify the concepts related to femicide and homicide so that information could be easily collected.

Day four – 3rd July 2025 - Gender statistics normative frameworks and gender profiles

Session 13: Enhancing Africa Gender Index Dimensions

Chair: Pamela Kakande, UNECA

Session Organizer: Doria Deza, Côte d'Ivoire

Ms. Doria Deza from Côte d'Ivoire presented ANStat current work on gender statistics. She highlighted that the country intends to obtain funding for the implementation of the national statistics strategy in which they intend to introduce gender statistics. They will start to collect administrative data from the courts on divorce including who initiates divorce, the length of marriages and marriage regimes. They will also conduct the first time use survey.

Session 14: Africa Gender Index 2026 edition

Chair: Pamela Kakande, UNECA

Session Organizer: Marc Kouakou, AfDB and Rosalie Gonzaque, UNECA

2026 AGI Methodology and process

The presentation by Mr. Marc Kouakou of AfDB discussed the Africa Gender Index (AGI) jointly developed by the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank including its dimensions, including social, economic, and empowerment indicators. The speaker outlined plans to add a fourth dimension on ICT, energy, climate, and environment for the 2026 edition. New indicators were proposed across various dimensions, such as financial inclusion, education, and land ownership. The timeline for developing the 2026 AGI was presented, including data collection, validation, and report writing stages. Challenges in collecting AGI data were highlighted, including lack of political engagement, inoperative sectoral statistical services, data unavailability, and outdated information. Possible solutions were suggested, such as involving high-level authorities and establishing regular data collection mechanisms. The importance of disaggregated data and the need for funding to support data collection efforts were emphasized.

Emerging gender issues for the AGI

Panel Discussion moderated by Ms. Oley Cole of AfDB to identify relevant indicators and share field experiences from previous editions of the Africa Gender Index. The panelists included Dr. Sadananda Mitra of UN Women, Mr. Bouassa Lionnel from Gabon, Ms. Akoto-Bamfo Gloria from Ghana, Ms. Brima Abdulai Salia from Sierra Leone, Ms. Yadjindjin Corine from Central Africa Republic, and Mr. Sakinatou Balde of AfDB.

The panelists highlighted the need to focus on new indicators that reflect current issues like climate change impacts on women, rather than areas where progress has already been made. They emphasized the importance of involving gender experts and priority area specialists from the start to harmonize definitions and processes. They also stressed the importance of capturing the stories behind the statistics through case studies. Overall, the panelists emphasized the importance of comprehensive stakeholder involvement, prioritizing relevant indicators, and improving data collection and dissemination to advance gender equality measurement in Africa. They noted that the AGI is a

powerful mirror for assessing gender equality. To realize its full potential, we must address the systemic, institutional, and technical challenges that hinder comprehensive gender data.

Plenary discussion. Questions were raised about specific indicators like digital literacy skills and cyber violence, with clarifications provided on their definitions and measurement. The discussion touched on financial inclusion data collection efforts in some African regions and the challenges of defining household headship in surveys.

Recommendations. The AGI 2026 presents an important opportunity to capture the complexity and intersectionality of gender issues across Africa. With strategic enhancements particularly the integration of qualitative, legal, and policy-based indicators AGI can become an even more powerful tool for advocacy, policymaking, and accountability. Key Suggestions:

- Inclusion of Policy and Legal Indicators- while the current proposal predominantly focuses on quantitative data, it is essential to incorporate qualitative and legal/policy indicators. These can provide a more holistic view of gender equality and institutional commitments.
- Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement - beyond National Statistics Offices (NSOs), it is recommended to involve gender experts, civil society, and sectoral ministries in the indicator review process. Their insights can ensure that critical gender issues are neither missed nor misrepresented.
- Balancing Indicator Quantity and Data Availability -increasing the number of indicators raises the risk of data gaps, potentially affecting the reliability of the index. To address this NSO involvement from the early stages is vital. Consider a trade-off approach between indicator availability and thematic relevance. Use Principal Component Analysis (PCA) or similar techniques to identify the most impactful indicators.
- Adopt a Diverse Indicator Typology, the AGI 2026 framework should include quantitative and qualitative indicators, policy and legal framework indicators. Reference can be made to the SIGI index, which effectively integrates legal, policy, and cultural dimensions.

Other suggestions included integrating emerging themes into AGI 2026 included climate change, renewable energy / clean cooking, time poverty, domestic and unpaid care work.

Session 15: African Gender Statistics Regional Initiatives

Chair: Pamela Kakande, UNECA

Session Organizer: Isabella Schmidt, UN Women

Gender statistics strategies of regional bodies

The session focused on gender statistics strategies of regional bodies in Africa. Representatives from various regional economic communities, including WAEMU, EAC, and IGAD, shared their initiatives to support gender data and statistics for member states. These included developing gender statistics strategies, harmonizing indicators, conducting capacity building, and integrating gender perspectives into data collection and analysis. The regional bodies are working to align their efforts with continental and international frameworks while addressing specific regional needs.

Recommendations. There was an emphasis on improving coordination, enhancing data quality and availability, and promoting the use of gender statistics for policymaking and decision-making across the continent.

Session 16: Main streaming gender perspectives

Chair: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

Session Organizer: Liliana Suchodolska, PARIS21

Mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical legislation

Ms. Liliana Suchodolska, PARIS21 and Mr. Mantue Sunday Reeves from Liberia presented the Liberia case study on mainstreaming gender in statistical legislation including analysis, recommendations. They noted that current statistical legislation fails to support gender data capacity. currently only 30% of Statistics Laws in Africa stipulate the disaggregation of data by sex or gender. Most of these laws focus only on gender data production. Other instruments supporting support gender data capacity include decrees or gender equality laws. However, the Liberia Statistics Act took deliberate steps to embed gender considerations. With valuable technical and financial support from UN Women and Statistics Sweden, UNICEF and PARIS21 Liberia is now translating these legal commitments into action.

Recommendations. The following are statistical capacity areas where gender can be mainstreamed include the enabling environment, production, accessibility and use. Gender data capacity should be supported by Statistics Laws.

Mainstreaming gender perspective into National Strategies for the Development of Statistics

Ms. Liliana Suchodolska, PARIS21 presented the caveats in gender mainstreaming into National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) non-inclusion of civil society actors, dissemination as a mean of uptake is undervalued and gender data capacity critically being underfunded.

Recommendations. Gender mainstreaming must take place from the onset of strategic planning for statistics: through the instrument of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Mainstreaming gender in the NSDS requires a more proactive empowerment of civil society actors in the preliminary and design stage of the NSDS process.

Session 17: Gender Data Outlook

Chair: Marc Kouakou, AfDB

Session Organizer: Sylvia Maina, UN Women

Ms. Sylvia Maina, Caroline Mutwiri and Khady Ba of UN Women launched the Gender Data Outlook 2025 report for Africa, presenting findings on gender data capacity across 33 African countries. The report measured countries' ability to produce, disseminate and use gender data based on four dimensions: enabling environment, data production, data accessibility, and data use. Overall, the African region achieved an index score of 0.516, indicating it has reached just over half of its full

potential in gender data capacity. While this is slightly lower than the global average, some African countries are performing better than the global average individually.

The report highlighted that high performance on gender data capacity is not limited to high-income countries, as some low-income countries like Uganda and Rwanda are doing well. The report aimed to help identify gaps and opportunities in national statistical systems to promote evidence-based decision making and targeted investments in gender statistics.

Recommendations.

1. Targeted interventions are needed to move the needle as demonstrated with the successes of UN Women/Women Count intervention countries most of which have performed well despite economic and other constraints.
2. Holistic and integrated investments that promote balanced capacity across all dimensions are therefore essential to enable resilient gender data ecosystems that are not only effective but also sustainable.
3. Deliberate and intentional investments beyond broad investments in the general statistical capacity are needed since gender data often demands unique approaches that are typically not embedded in standard statistical operations. In the absence of this focused attention, even well-performing overall statistical systems may fall short in delivering availability and usability of quality gender data.
4. Sustained and sustainable domestic and international funding means that countries must prioritize domestic resource mobilization for gender data and institutionalize gender data financing in national budgets and national statistical development frameworks. At the same time, development partners should transition to longer-term, sustainable financing models that foster national ownership and capacity rather than reinforcing donor dependency.
5. Methodology to measure gender data use is needed to better understand gender data use to inform action is needed. This remains a persistent challenge in many national statistical systems. The GDO framework can be used as a tool to identify context-specific barriers to gender data use by addressing critical interconnected aspects such as gender data availability, data accessibility, data openness, data quality, end-use and user satisfaction.
6. Stronger together – more and sustained collaboration within and between countries and with RECS and other agencies is needed on all components to accelerate progress towards strong gender data systems in Africa.

Session 18: Mainstreaming child statistics in National Statistics Development Strategies

Chair: Khady Ba, UN Women

Session Organizer: Hrayr Wannis, UNICEF

Strengthened National Data and Statistical Ecosystems for Children

Mr. Hrayr Wannis, UNICEF focused on mainstreaming child rights into national statistical planning processes. He discussed opportunities, challenges, and recommendations for integrating child rights considerations into statistical systems and data collection efforts. Key points raised included the need

for capacity building on human rights-based data analysis, improved coordination between institutions, resource mobilization, and ensuring child rights are considered at all stages of statistical planning. He also emphasized the importance of engaging relevant stakeholders, including child rights organizations, and addressing children's specific needs in data collection and analysis. The discussion highlighted the complexity of statistical ecosystems and the need to bridge gaps between statisticians and child rights experts to effectively mainstream child rights in national statistical strategies. He noted that child Rights agenda not well socialized among statisticians. The concepts of strategic planning in official statistics not well-understood by Child Rights/inclusive data stakeholders. He introduced the toolkit for mainstreaming child rights into strategic planning for official statistics.

Recommendations. To address the challenges in articulating a strategy versus a workplan, the African Roadmap has good potential to improve strategic planning, particularly via related maturity assessments Together as an inter-partner group including the Africa expert groups (on gender statistics, and on child-related statistics), it is important to commit to joint advocacy, resource mobilization, and capacity building to protect and enhance these household survey's data quality and use.

Session 19: Gender Data in Migration Statistics

Chair: Khady Ba, UN Women

Session Organizer: Michele Seroussi, UN Women

Why gender needs to be considered in the field of migration

Ms. Inkeri von Hase of UN Women, online presentation focused on the importance of considering gender in migration statistics and the need for better data on migrant women. UN Women developed a survey instrument to collect gender data on migration, which was implemented in Niger and Ethiopia. Key findings from these surveys included challenges that migrant women face such as lack of documentation, reliance on smuggling networks, exposure to exploitation and abuse, and limited access to services. The presenter emphasized the need to strengthen national statistics offices' capacity to collect gender-disaggregated migration data and enhance cross-country data sharing.

Recommendations. For improving gender statistics in migration governance, there is need to strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices to collect, use and disseminate sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data. To provide adequate tools and resources (both human and financial) to support the collection and use of gender data. To improve collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data on SGBV, including all forms violence against migrant women and girls. To strengthen gender statistics that reflect differences and inequalities in the situations of migrant women and men. To enhance cross-country data sharing and management to identify trends and close protection gaps. To establish firewalls to prevent the sharing of data of migrant women and girls with immigration enforcement agencies.

Women on the move

Ms. Luisa Freita of IOM, online presentation focused on migratory trends related to women on the move in West and Central Africa in 2024. Data showed an increase in female migration, with 21% of travelers being women compared to 13.5% in 2020. The majority of women migrants were between 25-59 years old, single, and traveling for economic reasons. Nigeria stood out as a major country of

origin, potentially due to human trafficking networks. Climate change was identified as an important factor influencing migration decisions, especially for short-term movements. The presentation also highlighted the vulnerabilities faced by women migrants, including a higher likelihood of having their IDs confiscated and being victims of trafficking. Voluntary return programs assisted migrants, with a focus on providing reintegration support through various means such as economic assistance and counseling.

Children on the move

Mr. Hrayr Wannis of UNICEF presented strategies for strengthened statistics for children on the move. He also covered the complexities of defining and measuring statistics on children on the move, including both migrant and displaced children. Various data sources and survey modules for collecting this information are outlined, along with recommendations for minimum indicators to capture. He presented the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) a cross-sectoral global coalition that aims to improve data and statistics and support evidence-based policymaking for migrant and displaced children. It is funded by the European Union and jointly led by Eurostat, IOM, OECD, UNHCR and UNICEF. IDAC brings together governments (including experts from national statistical offices and migration- and displacement-related ministries), international and regional organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academics, civil society and youth.

Recommendations. Use the MICS module for collecting data for children on the move including migration flows (last place of residence, length of time and place of current residence- Internal & International); migration stocks (country of birth, and country of citizenship).

Day five – 4th July 2025 - Africa Group on Gender Statistics (AGGES)

Retirement Tribute and Gender Statistics

The meeting paid tribute to Ms. Michele Seroussi of UN Women, who is retiring, highlighting her contributions to gender statistics and her role in capacity building and partnerships across Africa. The discussion also acknowledged the work of Dr. Sadananda Mitra and other key figures in advancing gender statistics.

Session 20: Africa Programme on Gender Statistics

Chair: Khady Ba, UN Women

Session Organizer: Michele Seroussi, UN Women

Progress of the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics

Ms. Pamela Kakande of UNECA presented an overview of the Africa Program on Gender Statistics (APGS), outlining its strategic plan for 2022-2026, which aims to develop national capacities for collecting, compiling, and disseminating gender statistics. While progress has been made in capacity building and research, more efforts are needed in reporting, storage, dissemination, and advocacy of gender statistics. Noted the need for establishment of a secretariat for monitoring, evaluating and communication.

Progress of the AGGES 2025-2026 work program

Mr. Stanley Wambua from Kenya on behalf of the AGGES discussed its work plan for the next two years, focused on operationalizing the group, implementing monitoring, and forming task forces. He presented a review of progress on previous activities and identified areas where they were lagging, particularly in dissemination and advocacy. The group agreed to strengthen these activities and emphasized the importance of documenting their work through a knowledge management system. He also discussed the need to co-opt representatives from various organizations and prepare for upcoming elections.

The group discussed the structure and composition of international organizations and civil society representatives to be involved in gender statistics initiatives in Africa. They agreed to form two groups: a smaller technical group for handling specific issues and a larger group including development partners and civil society organizations. The timeline for implementing the APGS was set to begin in the last quarter of 2025, with the new leadership to be elected in early 2026. The group also agreed to develop a knowledge management portal by December 2026 and to prepare biennial progress reports for submission to the AU Statistics Commission in October 2026.

The group discussed the need to finalize and detail reports on gender statistics for Africa, including an annual report and a project report, before October 2026. They emphasized the importance of setting clear target dates and activating the gender subgroup of the AUC- STG 8 to address these tasks. The meeting also covered mainstreaming of gender statistics into national plans and the preparation for the SHaSA 3 period from 2027 to 2036. Additionally, the group addressed the process of electing regional representatives for a statutory body, ensuring balanced representation across Africa's five regions.

The meeting participants discussed the allocation of resources and responsibilities, including elections and mission assignments. They addressed issues related to funding, pandemic challenges, and the need

for coordination among team members. The group planned to conclude the elections by allocating specific roles. The conversation also touched on government-related matters and the importance of communication and follow-up actions.

Elections of additional members for AGGES

Mr. William Muhwava of UNECA led the session for election of new leadership positions for the AGGeS. The outgoing chair handed over the microphone to the in-coming as a symbol of their new role. The conversation ended with a message of commitment to reducing gender inequalities and a call for continued support from all members.

The outcome of the elections was as follows for regional representation:

Central:	Gabon and Central African
East:	Uganda and DRC
North:	Mauritania and Morocco
South:	Lesotho and Mozambique
West:	Nigeria and Ivory Coast

The bureau of the AGGeS would be represented as follows, based on the elections:

Chair:	Cote D'Ivoire
Vice-chair:	Lesotho
Secretary:	Morocco/Nigeria
1 st Rapporteur:	Gabon
2 nd Rapporteur:	Uganda

Closure

Ms. Pamela Kakande of UNECA presented the key meeting outcome document from the five-day session including recommendations and draft resolutions for consideration and adoption. See annex 1 of this report including the meeting recordings.

Closing remarks were made by the various organizations as follows

Mr William Muhwava of UNECA

Ms Adjaratou Ndiaye of UN Women, Cote D'Ivoire)

Ms Aberash Tariku Abaye of the Africa Union STATAFRIC)

Ms. Nathalie Gahunga of AfDB

Mr Thiekoro DOUMBIA from ANSTAT, Côte d'Ivoire

Annex 1: Abidjan outcomes and recommendations

Recognizing the importance of quality gender statistics is paramount in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, adopt the following declaration on key focus areas:

I. Africa Program on Gender Statistics

The seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum,

- Reviewed progress in implementation of gender-related regional frameworks including the 3rd Africa Program on Gender Statistics (APGS III) and the Africa group on gender statistics (AGGeS).
- Recognized the recommendations from the 9th Africa STATCOM and the existing work on gender statistics at the African Union Commission (AUC) - STATAFRIC and the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) to identify efficient and effective synergies to ensure sound gender statistics.
- Recognized the need to re-constitute membership of the Bureau of the AGGeS that will work as a subgroup of the AUC Specialized Technical Group 8. The member States additionally adopted the detailed workplan of the AGGeS for the years 2025 and 2026 with slight modifications.
- Noted that implementation of the APGS III activities is currently skewed to capacity building and research.
- Appreciated that there is notable progress in all thematic areas, and all pending activities were incorporated into the two-year workplan of the AGGeS that was approved at the same forum with minor edits.
- Therefore, more work needs to be done on the APGS III thematic areas on reporting, storage and dissemination, and advocacy.
- Encouraged member States and partners of the APGS to support NSOs to explore using citizen data to fill gender data gaps underpinned by a strong data quality assurance framework based on the Copenhagen Framework.

II. Monitoring and use of gender statistics

The seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum,

- Suggested that in a bid to improve monitoring and reporting of gender statistics, member States should take advantage of high-level events and programmes to advance the Beijing+30 action agenda. As well as use the lessons learned from the Beijing+30 process to improve future gender equality and women's empowerment monitoring reviews.
- Recognized the need to strengthen methodology for monitoring gender data use to inform action.

- The Gender Data Outlook framework was proposed to be used as a tool to identify context-specific barriers to gender data production and use in Africa.

III. Methodological developments

Regarding the latest methodological developments and best practices in production, dissemination and use of gender statistics, the seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum discussed the following areas:

- Civil registration and vital statistics - Member States were encouraged to enhance birth registrations through decentralization, digitalization, and interoperability of systems with other sectors, as well as integrate all types of marriages, including customary, religious, and traditional marriages, in the marriage registry.
- Social protection - Member States were encouraged to digitize systems to promote the use of administrative data on social protection, combined with the production and use of quality qualitative data.
- Migration - Member States were urged to adapt the survey instrument developed by IOM and UN-Women to collect sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics to understand the experiences, needs, situations, and challenges of migrant women, with safeguards to prevent the sharing of data with immigration enforcement agencies.
- Gender-based violence – Member States were advised to collect national GBV data using standardized methods and disseminate sex-disaggregated data. Introduce and leverage GBV Information Management Systems to address the challenges of fragmented data sources and the lack of centralized repositories of GBV data at the national and regional levels.
- Technology-Facilitated Violence (TFV) - Member States were advised to continuously advocate for and collect comprehensive data on TFV based on globally standardized definitions, including those in the International Classification of Violence against Children, to inform appropriate laws and policies to protect and support victims.
- Femicides – Noted the efforts to test the UNODC-UN Women femicide statistical framework in various countries. Fragmented data systems and a lack of harmonized definitions for data collection continue to be a problem. Countries are encouraged to test the framework and adapt as needed for their own contexts.

IV. Household surveys

The seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum,

- Recognized the vital role of household surveys—like Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) methodologies—in providing reliable, disaggregated, comparable data essential for monitoring children’s and women’s rights and well-being in Africa.
- Acknowledge that with the suspension of the DHS global program, country-led MICS and DHS-style surveys help sustain the production of essential data on women and children but

may reduce international comparability. This highlights the urgent need to work together using continental expert groups (AGGeS, Africa expert group on child-related statistics etc.) and regional economic commissions through the APGS to the Africa statistical commission to promote and adopt a coordinated approach to household surveys on women and children (such as the MICS, etc.).

- Therefore, stressed the importance of maintaining data quality and comparability through collaborative technical support, given that uncoordinated efforts risk undermining data credibility.
- Called upon member States to lobby for increased domestic funding and sustained donor support, with resources directed to national institutions to strengthen ownership and capacity, and allocated in sufficient amounts for the timely production, analysis and dissemination of data on women and children.
- Proposed that as an inter-partner group including the Africa expert groups (on gender statistics, and on child-related statistics) to commit to joint advocacy, resource mobilization, and capacity building to protect and enhance these household survey's data quality and use.
- Reaffirm the dedication to using survey findings to advance evidence-based policies that uphold children's and women's rights and accelerate the implementation of the leave no child behind agenda. The group noted that household surveys remain important to Africa's data ecosystem, by delivering timely, high-quality data to drive impactful action, and report on progress with filling data gaps about women's and children.

V. Gender data issues

The seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum,

- Advised member States to establish standards for multiple disaggregation of data throughout the data value chain of official statistics.
- Noted that gender data production has recently increased, member States and partners agreed to develop strategies on how to improve access to available data, while respecting data protection and privacy requirements.
- Encouraged member States to promote gender data use through developing advocacy toolkits and the capacity of NSOs while recognizing that citizen data has the potential to fill gender data gaps despite persistent concerns regarding data quality and statistical capacity of data producers rather than NSOs.
- Noted that currently, only 30% of statistics laws in Africa stipulate the disaggregation of data by sex, with most of these focusing on data production.

VI. Resource Mobilization

The seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum,

- Encourage member States to mobilize funding for gender data use at national and international levels, focusing on all stages of the data value chain, including methodological work, data production, data communication, and data use.
- Modernize statistical production to reduce the cost of production and the need for external resources.
- Acknowledged that sustained and sustainable domestic and international funding means that countries must prioritize domestic resource mobilization for gender data and institutionalize gender data financing in national budgets and national statistical development frameworks. At the same time, it was affirmed that development partners should transition to longer-term, sustainable financing models that foster national ownership and capacity rather than reinforcing donor dependency.

VII. Recommendations

The seventh session of the Africa Gender Statistics Forum noted the following implications and recommendations for the Africa Programme on Gender Statistics:

1. Encourage and expand sustained collaboration within and between member States and with RECs and other agencies. This is needed across the statistical value chain to accelerate progress towards stronger gender data systems in Africa.
2. Support the AGGeS to draft the APGS IV for 2027-2031 for consideration at the 8th session of the AGSF in 2026, and subsequent approval of STATCOM-Africa-10 in 2026.
3. AfDB and ECA should begin preparations of the 3rd edition of the Africa Gender Index (AGI) for publication in 2027, in collaboration with member States.
4. Support STATAFRIC and RECs to consider using the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (MSGIA) for Africa to guide their interventions and harmonize gender statistics indicator frameworks across member States.
5. Strengthen gender data capacity of member States through statistic legal reviews to stipulate the disaggregation of data by sex, and closer collaboration between NSOs and MDAs (civil registration, courts, police, ...) including judicious use of formal data-sharing agreements.
6. Collaborate with partners to support development of centralized repositories of GBV data for national one stop GBV databases, and harmonise standards on contextualized indicators for GBV reporting, response, prevention and support.
7. Support member States to advocate for, test and adapt the femicide statistical framework towards greater harmonization of femicide measurement and reporting on the continent.
8. Support member States to adopt a common definition of femicides, and a common statistical framework for collecting data on femicides.

9. Continue with existing efforts to mainstream gender in National Statistics Development Strategies and promote the increased involvement of Civil Society Organisations throughout the process.

Annex 2: Meeting recordings

Day 1

https://zoom.us/rec/share/MVVIXk72lYOEKykHDTTeTVBYnyf_fDCy38zAFvKJ5aJ4ZHMo37XtVw8lnDgNQLdVO.9lrGxWrXJIvS1WIZ

Passcode: b=fpi.0h

Recording Summary

The Africa Gender Statistics Forum 2024 brought together representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other organizations to discuss the importance of gender statistics in decision-making and development across the continent. The meeting covered various topics including the African Gender Index, birth and marriage registration systems, and the Beijing+30 review process, with participants emphasizing the need for improved data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Discussions highlighted ongoing challenges in gender equality initiatives, including financial constraints and technical capacity gaps, while also exploring opportunities for collaboration and resource mobilization to strengthen gender statistics and advance women's empowerment in Africa.

Day 2

https://zoom.us/rec/share/av6R1RTJ9dCNiK9nnXRTZeGrR-YwHFrli9qyxKPazO-0uPk8KFoHpCno5jtiOwA.Q0_jDia8sbPqOi3n

Passcode: ^bS#6PzC

Recording Summary

The meeting focused on gender-inclusive data systems and policymaking, with discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to data collection, particularly in African contexts. Participants explored citizen engagement, statistical capacity building, and the role of international institutions in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and social protection programs. The panel addressed various aspects of data use and policy implementation in different countries, including financing challenges, social norms, and the importance of evidence-based decision-making in development efforts.

Day 3

https://zoom.us/rec/share/OIK2z2s1_QDbADuzvWBYse3AZULF-hwr7sLnTczalCTpqyy9Yoxd2n7_siWNJqv.eHuJ6EXHiU0tGqdb

Passcode: 8&Otzy=i

Recording Summary

The meeting focused on statistics and data collection related to gender-based violence in Africa, discussing various surveys, frameworks and initiatives to address this issue. Participants explored the challenges and opportunities related to the collection and analysis of gender data, including the use of blended, demographic and health surveys, as well as specialized frameworks to measure femicide. The discussion also focused on the importance of technology-facilitated violence, the need for sustainable funding mechanisms, and the role of international organizations in addressing gender-based violence.

Day 4

https://zoom.us/rec/share/CP7G-AigcBrBhAUC2M-gZcCthz3aHY_pM7jvkwFwkOuvwoxvTuIcvuH3bxd3Uxqx.LPBYmzskO784kJ9D

Passcode: a.78jLGZ

Recording Summary

The meeting focused on various aspects of gender statistics and data collection across Africa, including discussions about the Africa Gender Index, regional economic communities' roles, and national statistical systems. Presentations covered experiences and challenges in data collection, with particular attention to financial inclusion, climate change, and unpaid care work, while highlighting the importance of political will and capacity building. The session concluded with discussions on child rights integration into statistical systems, migration trends affecting women, and the development of new tools for collecting gender-disaggregated migration data.

Day 5

https://zoom.us/rec/share/zf4x5MoKsQ5bJcYIJrE828ZZ5YsEHu53R7LcT9wm0CTRIws_wjCWecm5qbgt54Q.W3PJ-a_8ODXBEIzx

Passcode: 49&9p&6?

Recording Summary

The meeting honored Mishka's retirement and acknowledged other key figures' contributions to gender statistics in Africa, while also reviewing the progress of the Africa Program on Gender Statistics (APGS) and its strategic plan for 2022-2026. The group discussed future work plans for the Africa Gender Statistics Group, including leadership elections and the development of a knowledge management system. The conversation ended with discussions on regional representation and nominations, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and data collection improvements across African countries.

Annex 3: Meeting agenda

Annex 4: Photo Gallery



Draft Outcome and Achievements