

Date: 27 August 2024
Ref: ACS/ADM01-03-03-02-11-23

Dear Director General,

Subject: Theme of African Statistics Day in 2024

As you are aware, on 18 November of every year, the African statistics community celebrates the African Statistics Day (ASD) with the aim of raising public awareness on the importance of statistics in the social and economic development of the continent. The decision to celebrate ASD on 18 November every year was made by the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the sixteenth meeting of African Ministers responsible for economic planning and development in May 1990. Since then, the day has been celebrated across Africa with varying themes.

The African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in close collaboration with Member States, coordinated the process leading to the selection of the theme for ASD in 2024:

“Supporting education by modernizing production of fit for purpose statistics”

The theme for ASD is in alignment with the African Union theme of 2024 *“Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century”* and calls for modernizing data ecosystems in the continent for production and utilization of high-quality official statistics and seize the opportunities of big data.

Supporting education through the modernization of the production of fit-for-purpose statistics is crucial for informed decision-making and effective policy implementation. By leveraging advanced data collection and analysis techniques, educational institutions and policymakers can obtain accurate, timely, and relevant information that reflects the current needs and challenges within the education sector. This modernization effort ensures that statistical data is not only comprehensive but also tailored to specific educational outcomes, enabling the identification of gaps in access, quality, and equity. Investing in the modernization of educational statistics is therefore essential for driving progress and achieving sustainable development goals related to education.

To celebrate Africa Statistics Day 2024 from an enlightened position, you will receive a media advisory on the theme, as well as posters to use for advocacy in due course.

On behalf of the Pan-African institutions, ECA wishes you every success in all the activities you undertake in commemoration of African Statistics Day 2024.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

for 

Oliver J. M. Chinganya
Director
African Centre for Statistics