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**African Thematic Conference: Managing a
statistical organization in times of change**

**REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR
STRENGTHENING AFRICAN STATISTICAL
SYSTEMS**

**Pretoria, South Africa
7-9 October 2019**

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African Centre for Statistics**

1. **Background**
2. **Past initiatives**
3. **SHASA**
4. **ECA actions**

Vision of the African Union Agenda 2063:

“An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa led by its people and representing a dynamic force on the international scene.”



Vision of the African Statistical System:

“An efficient statistical system that generates reliable, harmonized and timely statistical information covering all dimensions of political, economic, social, environmental and cultural development and integration of Africa.”

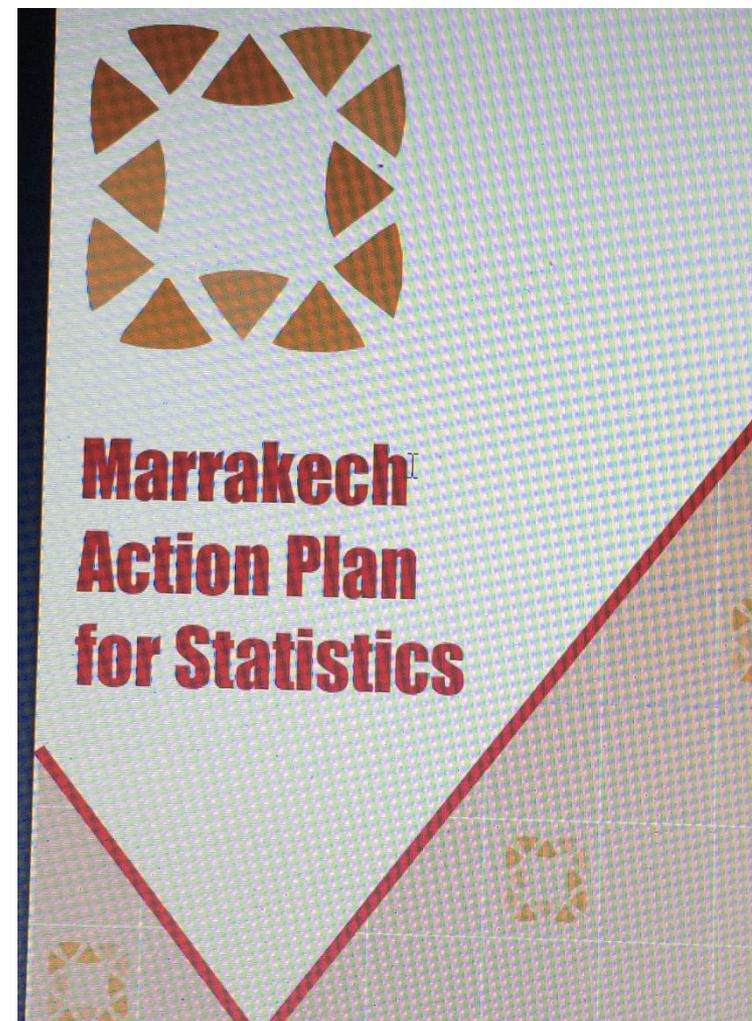
- Many development initiatives have been undertaken in recent years to scale up the African Statistical System.
- These include:
 - Frameworks
 - Systems
 - Fora
 - Coordination mechanisms

Frameworks

Past initiatives



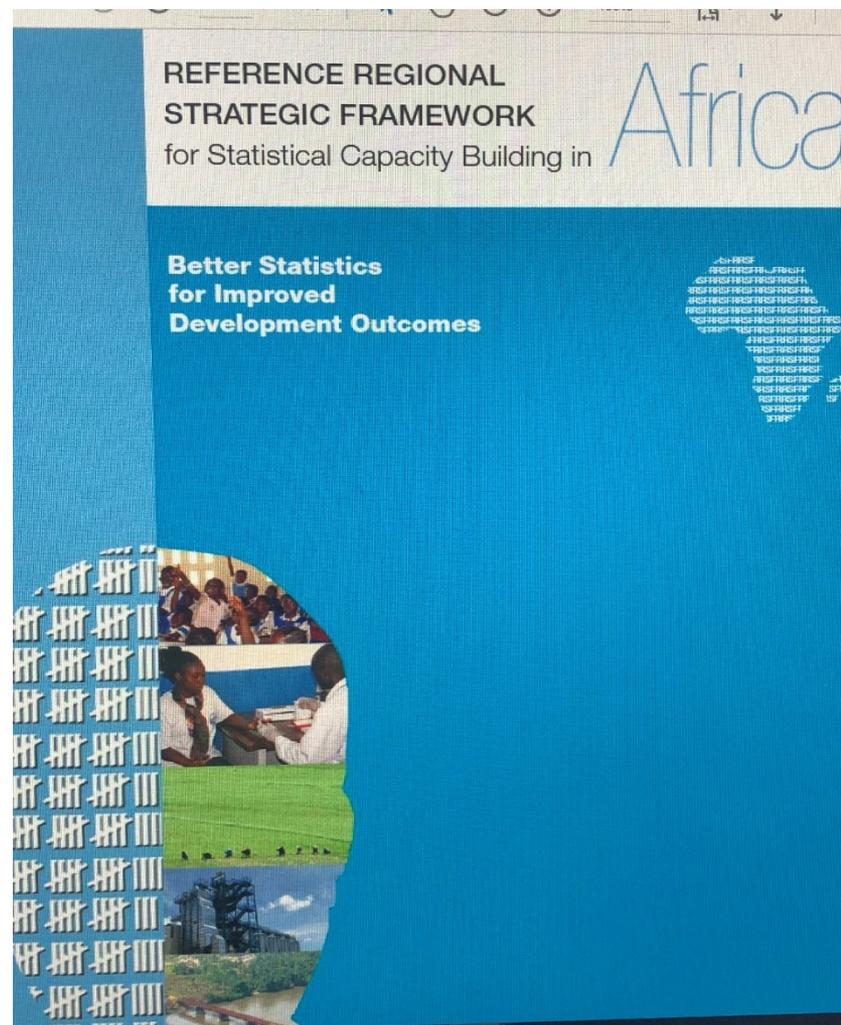
- **2004: The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS)**
- Leadership : World Bank
- Action Plan for Improving Development Statistics as...
 - Action 1: Mainstream Strategic Planning of Statistical Systems
 - Action 2: Prepare for the 2010 Census Round
 - Action 3: Increase Financing for Statistical Capacity Building
 - Action 4: Set Up an International Household Survey Network
 - Action 5: Undertake Urgent Improvements Needed for MDG Monitoring by 2005
 - Action 6: Increase Accountability for the International Statistical System





Past initiatives

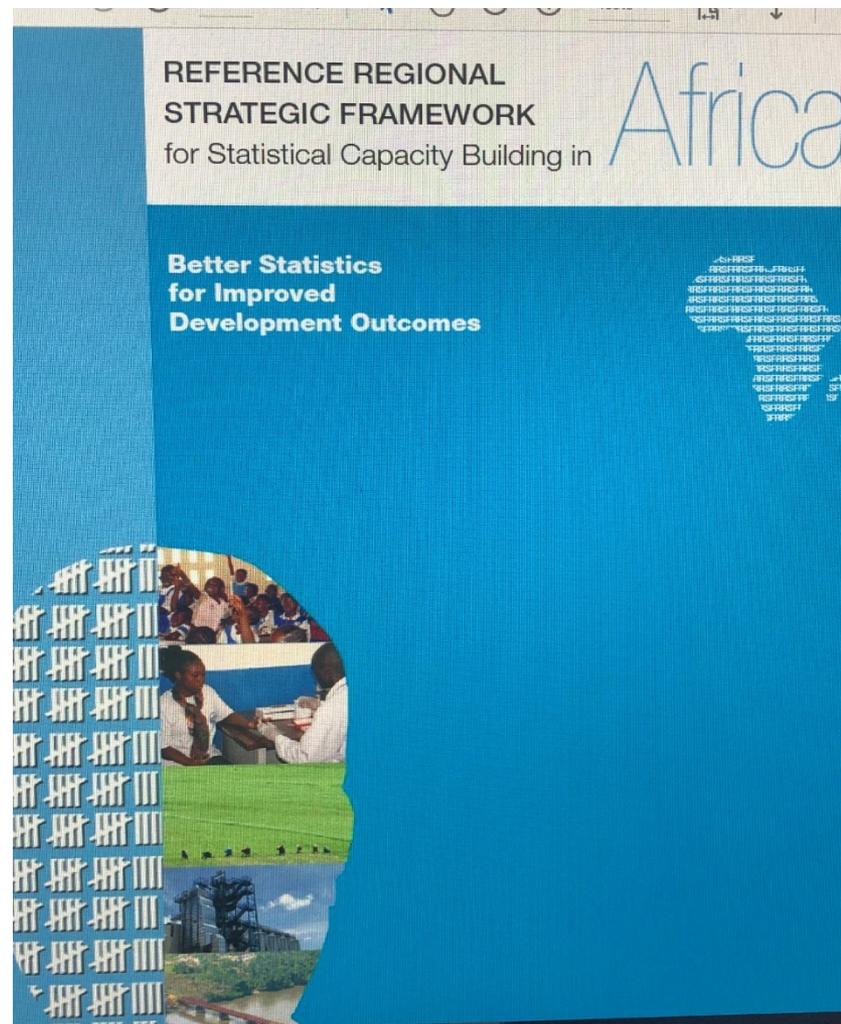
- **2006: Regional Reference Strategic Framework (RRSF);**
- Partners: ECA, AfDB, Paris21, World Bank
- Coherent framework, designed to improve development outcomes and governance by strengthening NSSs in Africa.



Past initiatives



- RRSF main goals:
 - to raise **societal awareness** of the role of statistical information;
 - to increase **user satisfaction** by enhancing the quality and usability of statistical information;
 - To promote **greater use** of statistical information; and
 - To achieve **synergy, cost-effectiveness and sustainability** in statistical information systems.



SHASA

Strategy for
the Harmonization
of Statistics in Africa



Strategy for
the Harmonization
of Statistics in Africa

2017-2026



**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON
STATISTICS AND THE STRATEGY FOR THE HARMONIZATION
OF STATISTICS IN AFRICA (SHASA)**

The Assembly,

1. **COMMENDS** countries which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and calls on those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;
2. **INVITES** countries to incorporate the principles of the Charter into statistics law and into national strategies for the development of statistics;
3. **CALLS ON** countries and regional economic communities to incorporate the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa into national and regional strategies for the development of statistics, and invites all stakeholders to mobilize resources for implementation of the Strategy and its sectoral strategies;
4. **ENDORSES** the institutionalization of a biennial meeting of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration within the framework of a relevant Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;
5. **INVITES** the Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and partners to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics secretariat to enable it to respond to the ever-growing demand for assistance in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa;
6. **URGES** the Commission to coordinate all activities on labour market information systems at the continental level and to reinforce its capacity with suitable staff and adequate resources, and calls on the Economic and Statistical Observatory for sub-Saharan Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and other partners, to support this effort;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission, the ECA, the ADB and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to mobilize the necessary resources for the operationalization of the Africa info database initiative and provide the necessary support to enable countries to develop effective data management and dissemination systems aimed at enabling full public access to official statistics;
8. **RECOMMENDS** that the Commission in collaboration with ECA, and the ADB follow up the work of other statistical institutions on strengthening the capacity of national and regional training centres, **ENDORSES** the creation of an African Statistical Training Centre including adopting the proposed document on the strategy for alignment of training initiatives to SHASA, and **SUPPORTS** empowerment of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources and its secretariat, to coordinate statistical training programmes in Africa.

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE HARMONISATION OF STATISTICS IN AFRICA (SHASA)

Executive Council,

COMMENDS the progress made since the inception of the SHaSA in rallying a countries to give priority to statistical development, especially in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, Economics Statistics, among others;

WELCOMES the efforts by the Commission and the African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with the African Capacity Building Foundation, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to develop a draft of Second strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA II);

ADOPTS the Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA II) as the Continental Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Africa for the next 10 years; and its action plan, financing plan and resources mobilisation strategy;

REQUESTS AfDB with the support of Commission, UNECA and ACBF to lead the preparation of resource mobilisation strategy in support of SHaSA II; and mobilise the sustainable financial resources for the effective implementation of SHaSA II;

REQUESTS:

- i. Member States to allocate 0.15% of their National budgets to finance statistics;
- ii. The Commission to coordinate with UNECA, AfDB and other relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Second Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA II), and report regularly to the Assembly on the progress made.

- Four strategic areas:
 - Strategic theme 1: produce **quality statistics** for Africa
 - Strategic theme 2: **Coordinate** the production of quality statistics for Africa
 - Strategic Theme 3: develop the **sustainable institutional capacity** of the African statistical system
 - Strategic theme 4: promote a **culture of policy and quality decision-making**

Code	Strategic Theme	Objectives
1	Strategic Theme 1	To produce quality statistics for Africa
1.1	Strategic Objective 1.1	To expand the statistical information base.
1.2	Strategic Objective 1.2	To transform existing statistics for comparability
1.3	Strategic Objective 1.3	To harmonize the standards and methods of statistical production
2.	Strategic theme 2:	To coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa
2.1	Strategic Objective 2.1	To establish effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms
2.2	Strategic Objective 2.2	To define statistical priorities to implement the integration and development agendas
3.	Strategic theme 3:	To build sustainable institutional capacity in the African Statistical System
3.1	Strategic Objective 3.1	To reform and enhance National Statistical Systems
3.2	Strategic Objective 3.2	To reform and enhance regional and continental statistical systems
3.3	Strategic Objective 3.3	To develop sustainable statistical capacities
3.4	Strategic Objective 3.4	To establish an effective technological environment
4.	Strategic theme 4:	To promote a culture of quality policymaking and decision-making
4.1	Strategic Objective 4.1	To drive evidence-based decisions through the use of statistics
4.2	Strategic Objective 4.2	To improve the communication of statistical information

- **Specialized Technical Groups**

1. STG-GPS (Governance, Peace and Security)
2. STG-ES. External Sector (External Trade and Balance of Payments)
3. STG-MF (Money and Finance)
4. STG-NA&P (AGNA) (National Accounts and Price Statistics)
5. STG-II&T. (Infrastructure, Industries & Tourism)
6. STG-PFPS&I. (Public Finance, Private Sector and Investment)
7. STG-STE. (Science, Technology & Education)
8. STG-So. Demography, Migration, Health, Human Development, Social Protection & Gender
9. STG-Env. (Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change)

- **Specialized Technical Groups**

10. STG-CB (AGROST). Statistical Training and Capacity Building.
11. STG-Labor and Informal Sector Statistics
12. STG-Classification
13. STG-Statistics on Civil Registration
14. STG-Sustainable Development
15. STG-ICT for Statistical Production
16. STG-Mobilization of Political Will
17. STG-Emerging Statistical Issues
18. STG-National Strategies for the Development of Statistics

- Key objectives
 - To serve as **policy framework** for statistics development in Africa, especially the production, management and dissemination of statistical data and information at national, regional and continental levels;
 - To serve as **advocacy tool** and instrument for statistics development in the continent;
 - To ensure **improved quality and comparability of the statistics** required to monitor the economic and social integration process in the continent;
 - To promote **adherence to fundamental principles** of production, storage, management, dissemination and use of statistical information in the African continent;

- Key objectives
 - To contribute to **enhancing coordination** of statistical activities and statistics institutions in Africa, including coordination of partners' interventions at national, regional and continental levels;
 - To build **institutional capacity** of Statistics authorities in Africa thus ensuring their autonomy in operations, while paying particular attention to adequacy of human, material and financial resources;

- Promote 6 principles namely:
 - Professional Independence;
 - Quality;
 - Mandate for the collection of data and resources;
 - Dissemination;
 - Protection of individual data, sources of information and respondents; and
 - Coordination and cooperation.

Systems

- *The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)*: established in 1996 to guide members that have, or that might seek, access to international capital markets in the provision of their economic and financial data to the public.
- *The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)*: established in 1997 for member countries with less developed statistical systems as a framework for evaluating their needs for data improvement and priority setting.

Fora

- In Nov. 2005, evaluation of the progress made toward the implementation of the 2010 round of PHCs. In accordance with the MAPS, which encouraged the full participation of all countries in the PHC rounds.
- Since 2006, series of ASSD on PHCs, CRVS, Economic Statistics
- Main achievements:
 - Best participation of African countries in the 2010 Round of PHCs
 - High policy awareness on the importance of CRVS: series of Ministerial Conferences
 - Big Momentum on rebasing NA

- StatCom-Africa established by ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as the main inter-governmental process in charge of statistics on the continent.
- Members include experts and policymakers in the field of statistics and is responsible for providing strategic direction on statistical development in Africa.
- Main responsibilities of StatCom-Africa:
 - Work for the development of NSSs in the region and improve the quality and comparability of the statistics they produce;
 - Ensure coordination with the UN StatCom,
 - Ensure the coordination and implementation of works carried out on the continent by the various actors and mechanisms used in the domain of statistics;
 - Monitor the progress made in the field of statistics and determine the problems encountered;
 - Promote the exchange of experiences;

- Responsibilities of StatCom-Africa:
 - Advocate for the mobilization of resources and technical cooperation, and support for the development of statistics in Africa;
 - Examine the work program of the ACS and make recommendations;

- The Committee of Directors-General of National Statistics Offices is composed of Heads of NSOs to report to the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF).
- CoDG plays a paramount role in the implementation of SHaSA as it has the remit to approve all its actions and supervise the overall implementation of the strategy.
- It also plays the role of the Board of Directors of the AU Institute of Statistics and of the Pan-Africa Center for Statistics Training.
- ToRs address issues related to the development and harmonization of statistics on the continent.

Coordination mechanisms

- ASCC Members: AUC, AfDB, ECA, ACBF, AFRISTAT and RECs.
- ToRs of the Committee:
 - Promote general coordination, integration and complementarity;
 - Promote and coordinate the implementation of SHaSA;
 - Ensure that the Specialized Training Groups (STGs) are functional;
 - Coordinate the mechanisms to facilitate the use of international systems;
 - Promote good practices.

Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

- Development of Sectoral Strategies on Agricultural Statistics;
- Capacity building : workshops and development of methodologies and guidelines;
- Through AGROST: Support given to statistical training: scholarships, equipment of STCs

PARTNERSHIP FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS FOR WELFARE ANALYSIS

Through AGROST

- Partnership with: World Bank, Italian Cooperation, ENSEA-Abidjan and EASTC-Dar es Salam
- Series of training of trainers;
- Series of workshops NSOs experts organized in collaboration with STCs;
- Harmonisation of curricula

Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data

- 2030 Agenda on SDGs:
- Programme: new and innovative approach that brings 10 implementing entities of the Secretariat together,
- Capitalizing on their individual technical capacities and comparative advantages,
- Common objective to help developing countries face the data challenges of the new development agenda.

Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data

- Five components including:
 - Means of implementation: **evaluation of NSS, development of NSDS, national workshop on user engagement in Official Statistics, assessment of institutional environment and production process**
 - Gender
 - Population & Demographic : PHCs & Poverty Statistics
 - Economic statistics
 - Environmental statistics
 - Peaceful and inclusive society

Statistical Leadership Training Programme for African Statistical System

- Programme will:
 - Deliver leadership training focused on five key principles: integrity, strategy, knowledge, leading people and communication
 - Provide training that inspires improvements and changes within an organisation at the senior and middle management level
 - Establish a legacy leadership training programme
 - Bring together key players in the ASS

Leadership Training Programme

1. Engage with NSO

Engage with NSO
confirm dates, agree needs and structure of training course; identify potential speakers and other logistical consideration

Pre-course Learning/Assessment
Make digital learning available
Begin 360-degree process with individuals

5-day training course
Delivery of modules, including presentations, exercises, group work and guest speakers

Individuals develop action plans

Post-course work project
Presentation to line managers

Digital learning and support available

On-going mentoring scheme

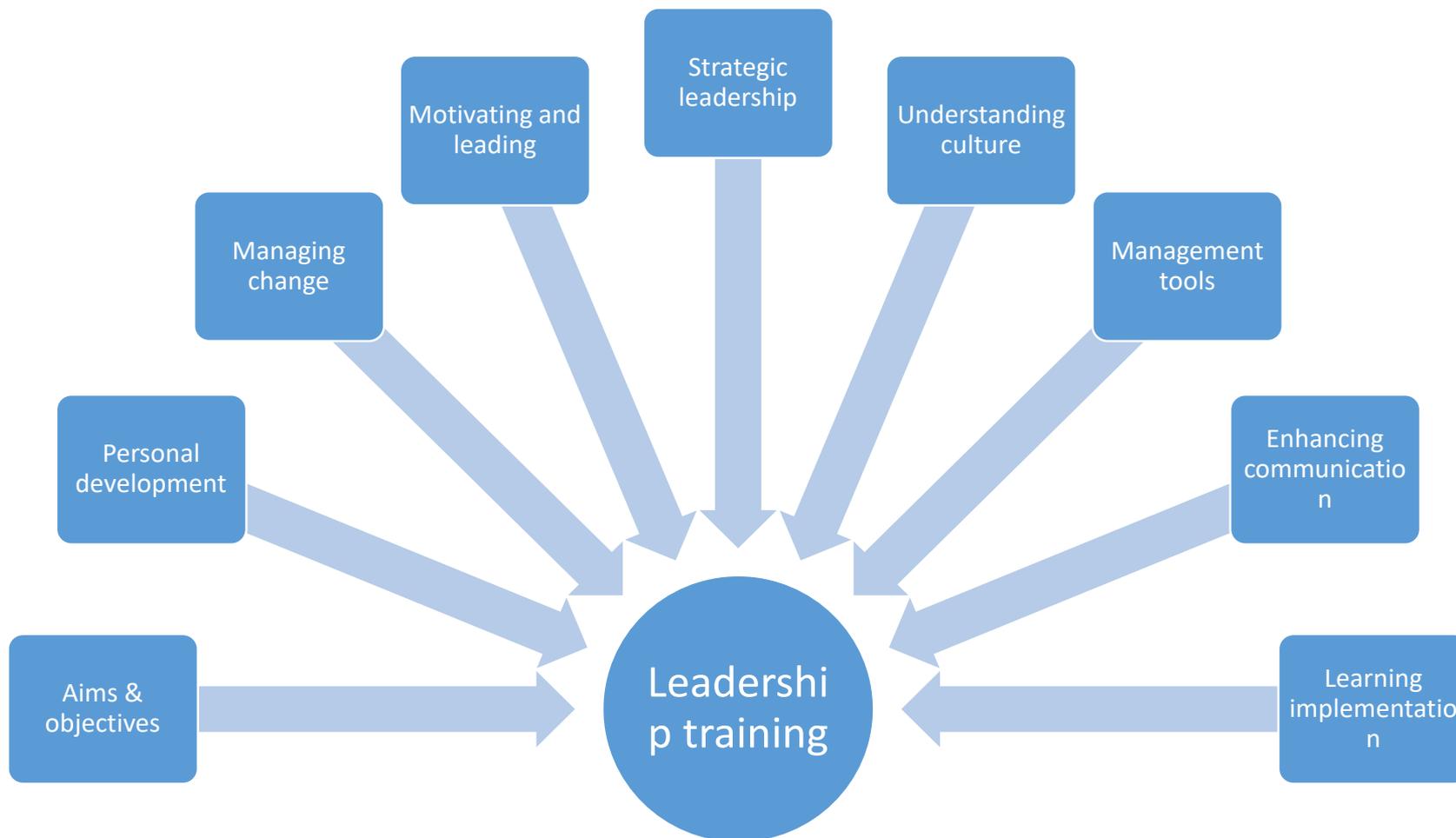
5. Evaluation

Evaluation
Full evaluation report produced for Curriculum to enable amendments to be made to enhance training.

2. Pre-course learning /assessment

4. Post-course work project

Leadership Training Programme: Modular approach



Leadership Training Programme: Outcomes

- Following the programme, attendees will be able to:
 - Grow their personal expertise and awareness
 - Drive engagement and better results from their teams
 - Improve their influencing skills
 - Champion learning and cultural change within the Organisation.

Leadership Training Programme: What's next?

Further work with partners to garner support and necessary resources for programme implementation, such as:

African Union

Expertise France

Member States NSSs

AfDB

ACBF

FAO

Paris 21

UN agencies

Leadership Training Programme: Taking Programme forward

- Continuing piloting the events – two more pilots being planned
- Partnership with Expertise France to facilitate a pilot in a French-speaking African country
- Discuss the strategy and content of the programme with Paris 21 to align our Leadership Programmes, develop synergy and ensure consistency of key messages

Statistical Leadership Training Programme

What is expected from this short introduction of the programme?

- To raise awareness of the statistical leadership programme and its content;
- To seek support from country NSS's; and
- To gather feedback on the general programme and approach.



Key questions

How NSS should take into consideration BIG Data and their data sources ?

How to ensure open data?

How to increase human resources in quality and quantity via statistical training policy?

How to finance statistics activities?



THANK YOU

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