Capacity Building Programme on the Compilation of Supply-Use Tables (SUTs) in Africa
Phase I: e-Training on the Compilation of SUTs

Concept Note

Economic Statistics and National Accounts Section
African Centre for Statistics
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Background
One of the most important tools in the System of National Accounts (SNA) are Supply-Use Tables (SUTs). SUTs are recommended as a part of the minimum requirement data set (MRDS) and the first step and the core in the compilation of national accounts. By integrating all the components of production, income, and expenditure approaches, it helps to cross-check and ensure the coherency and consistency of the calculation of GDP and the national accounts. A current and complete SUT in accordance with the 2008 SNA, namely by following its concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodologies, signifies a country’s accomplishment in moving towards the 2008 SNA.

Through revealing the whole economy by industries, products, and their linkages between components of gross value added, inputs and outputs of industries, supply and use of products, the SUTs are widely used not only for analysis of the national economy and the regions within a nation, but also in analysis of the inter-linkages of different economies at a global level, including the global value chain and trade in value added. It provides information that facilitates policy making for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by detailing compensation of employees and illuminating economic structural transformations. By taking into account environmental statistics, SUTs are instrumental in supporting African countries as they develop more sustainable patterns of consumption, production, and more resource efficient economies.

Over the past several years, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has worked with the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) to compile three handbooks/guidebooks, namely Handbook on Supply and Use Tables, Guidebook on Using Administrative Data in National Accounts, and Accounting for Informal Sector for the Compilation of National Accounts. During the process, experts and subject specialists from countries of the continent have been actively engaged in the discussion of the international statistical standards and recommendations as well as the sharing and exchange of good country practice and experience through various workshops, seminars, and expert group meetings in the compilation and application of the SUTs.

About half the countries in Africa have not yet compiled SUTs. To support countries in revising, updating, and applying SUTs for economic policy research and analysis, UNECA, jointly with the World Bank, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) has initiated and is going to undertake a Capacity Building Programme on the Compilation of SUTs in Africa. The programme consists of a series of
capacity building activities in three phases: an e-training module, a face-to-face seminar, and follow-up national workshops and on-site technical assistance.

**Purpose and Objectives**
The purpose of the capacity building programme is to strengthen the capacities of national accountants in compiling SUTs by taking into account the informal sector, global trade and making good use of administrative data sources so that countries are able to provide quality, timely, and comparable economic statistics in support of good economic governance, regional integration and sustainable development of Africa.

The specific objectives of the e-training are: at the completion of this e-training, it is expected that the participants will have (a) a good understanding of the related concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting framework, and data sources that are important for the compilation of SUTs; (b) a well-acquired knowledge and skills of related techniques in the compilation of SUTs with informal sector, global trade and use of administrative data; and (c) a platform to exchange and share their experience and practice in compiling SUTs and national accounts.

**Activities and Timeline**
To achieve the objectives, the e-training will be conducted as follows:

**Topics and Contents**
The e-training will be organised with 12 sessions over the course of six weeks in addition to an opening session, with below topics and contents:
(a) The topics include SUT (four sessions), use of administrative data (four sessions), informal sector (two sessions), and global trade (two sessions).
(b) Under each topic, international standards and recommendations will be introduced with concepts and methodologies.
(c) Experience and practice in compilation of SUTs and national accounts will be shared.

**Organisation of Training Sessions**
The training sessions will be organised as below:
(a) There will be two sessions on Tuesday and Thursday respectively during the period. Each session will take one hour. The first session will be in English and the second one in French.
(b) During each session, the trainer will give presentation for 45 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A that gives opportunity for participants to raise questions and problems which will be interactively addressed and responded.
(c) At the end of each session, one or two papers or chapters will serve as a reading assignment and several questions for participants to review what has been learnt from the e-training presentations. Submissions of answers before deadlines will be assessed and commented and solutions to the questions will be provided after the deadlines.
(d) At the completion of the 12 sessions, a final assessment will be conducted in about two to three hours to evaluate the level of technical knowledge and skills that participants have gained from the e-training.
(e) The training materials (presentation files, recordings of the e-training, all the reading assignments, questions, exercises, and answers will be posted on the designated e-training website for continuous learning beyond the completion of the e-training.
Indicative Timeline of the e-training is summarized in the following schedule:

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Training dates  Final assessment date

**Beneficiaries**

The e-training module is open to any professionals from national statistical offices (NSOs) and related line ministries who are interested in the compilation of SUTs, and will be conducted in both English and French on every Tuesday and Thursday from 14 Sep to 26 Oct, 2017 through the online platform of WebEx. Participants of the e-training module who are going to perform well and have successfully passed the assessment on technical knowledge and skills acquired from the e-training module at its completion will be invited to attend the second phase of the face-to-face seminar to be held in December 2017. Countries with participants who will have successfully completed both the first and second phases of the programme will be invited to continue to the third phase of the programme, i.e. national workshops and on-site technical assistance from the programme.

**Contact Persons**

Issues related to the organisation and administrative arrangements of the project, please contact:

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