EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

DRAFT EAC STATISTICS POLICY

October 2014
EAC STATISTICS POLICY STATEMENT

The East African Community (EAC) is cognizant of the importance of harmonized and comparable data in the regional integration process as well as in policy, planning, decision-making, governance, monitoring and evaluation of EAC projects and programmes. In particular, harmonised and comparable statistics is critical for monitoring observance of macroeconomic convergence criteria and is important for informing key policy and decision-making processes that impact various socio-economic and cultural programmes of the community. However, the production of harmonized and quality statistics in the region requires a robust, effective and efficient statistical system in place. Ensuring that a statistical system is effective requires among others a supportive policy or legal framework and clear definition of the components and interplay among the components of the system. Therefore the EAC hereby establishes a policy for Community statistics and shall revise it in line with any relevant changes that impact the production of statistics in the EAC partner states.

The EAC statistics policy provides the EAC with a framework underpinning the Community statistical system and regional statistical activities in East Africa. It explicitly defines the Community Statistical System which is comprised of the East African Statistics Bureau (EASB) and the national statistical system and provides structures of the system. Therefore the EASB together with the National Statistical System (NSS) shall adhere to the EAC statistics policy. They shall work together in a consistent and integrated manner, with the overall objective of providing harmonized and comparable data to support the regional integration process. Close coordination between the EASB and the NSS is therefore critical for the production of harmonized and comparable statistics.

Compliance with the policy shall be with respect to production and dissemination of all community statistics. This policy shall be implemented by the EASB, NSBs and relevant MDAs. The CSP shall be reviewed regularly to reflect the current developments in the area of statistics in line with international best practice.

Signed by

BURUNDI     KENYA     RWANDA     TANZANIA     UGANDA
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### Acronyms

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>EASB</td>
<td>East African Statistics Bureau</td>
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<td>EASBB</td>
<td>East African Statistics Bureau Board</td>
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<td>MDA</td>
<td>Ministries, Departments and Agencies</td>
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<td>NSBs</td>
<td>National Statistics Bureaus</td>
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<td>NSS</td>
<td>National Statistical Systems</td>
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<td>RSDP</td>
<td>Regional Statistical Development Plan</td>
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<td>CSP</td>
<td>EAC Statistics Policy</td>
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<td>CSS</td>
<td>Community Statistical System</td>
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## Definitions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term/Concept</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Community statistics</td>
<td>‘Community statistics’ shall mean official qualitative and quantitative, aggregated and representative information taken from the collection and systematic processing of data, produced by the national authorities and the Community authority in the framework of implementation of EAC integration.</td>
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<td>2. Statistics development</td>
<td>‘Statistical development’ means the activities aiming at setting up, strengthening and improving the statistical methods, standards and procedures used for the production and dissemination of statistics as well as at designing new statistics and indicators.</td>
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<td>3. Production of statistics</td>
<td>‘Production of statistics' shall mean the process encompassing all the activities necessary for the collection, storage, processing, compilation, analysis and dissemination of the statistical information.</td>
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<td>4. National authorities</td>
<td>'National authorities' shall mean national statistical offices and other bodies responsible in each Member State for producing Community statistics.</td>
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<td>5. Statistics</td>
<td>Means qualitative and quantitative, aggregated and representative information characterizing a collective phenomenon in a considered population.</td>
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<td>7. Data collection</td>
<td>‘Data collection’ means surveys and all other methods of deriving information from different sources, including administrative sources.</td>
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<td>8. Confidential data</td>
<td>‘Confidential data’ means data which does not allow statistical units to be identified, either directly or indirectly, thereby disclosing individual information. To determine whether a statistical unit is identifiable, account shall be taken of all relevant means that might reasonably be used by a third party to identify the statistical unit.</td>
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<td>9. Use for statistical purposes</td>
<td>‘Use for statistical purposes’ means the exclusive use of statistics for the development and production of statistical results and analyses.</td>
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<td>10. Direct identification</td>
<td>‘Direct identification’ means the recognition of a statistical unit from its name or address, or from a publicly accessible identification number.</td>
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<td>11. Indirect identification</td>
<td>‘Indirect identification’ means the recognition of a statistical unit by any means other than by way of direct identification;</td>
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<td>13. Community</td>
<td>Means the East African Community</td>
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<td>14. Regional</td>
<td>Means the geographical boundaries of the EAC Partner States</td>
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<td>15. Council</td>
<td>As defined in the Treaty establishing the East African Community</td>
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<td>16. Board</td>
<td>The Board of Bureau</td>
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1. Introduction
The East African Community (EAC) is a regional organization mandated by the Governments of the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to spearhead the East African economic, social and political integration agenda. The key building blocks towards economic, social and political integration of the East African Community as articulated in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community include the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and ultimately the Political Federation.

As the regional integration agenda progresses, the demand for data to inform the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EAC programs and projects is vital. In order to respond to this demand, the development of a Community Statistical System (CSS) is underway anchored on the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the Partner States.

A well-defined strong and effective CSS is a pre-requisite for efficient and effective production of Community statistics. However, to have a strong and effective CSS requires a policy and a legal framework to reinforce its structure and inter-relations of the different actors. The EAC statistics policy aims at providing such a framework for the CSS.

The basis of the CSS is drawn from Article 8 of the protocol for the establishment of a customs union, Article 41 of the common market protocol, and Article 17 of the protocol for the establishment of a monetary union which identify the need for cooperation in statistical activities as well as harmonization following internationally accepted best practices of methods, concepts, definitions and classifications for compiling analyzing and disseminating the statistics. Further the Regional Statistical Development Plan (RSDP) for 2013 to 2017 provides for the formulation of a regional statistics policy as one of the key outputs intended to enhance greater commitment to statistics. This policy therefore addresses the requirement for a basis for the legal framework underpinning the CSS in accordance with the strategic objective of enhancing legal frameworks of the RSDP (2013 – 2017).
2. Scope of the EAC Statistical Policy
The statistical policy provides the framework underpinning the CSS. It highlights the activities that are to be coordinated by the East African Statistics Bureau (EASB) within the framework of the CSS. The policy therefore offers guidelines for defining the procedures, coordination mechanisms, and conditions for production and dissemination of Community statistics. It will serve as a reference point with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the different parties in the CSS and other international stakeholders involved in statistical activities. In addition, the policy also sets out the minimum standards benchmarked to international best practice to be followed during the production, compilation and dissemination of statistics. Further, the statistics policy provides for national and regional programmes for capacity building and institutional development; processes and systems for leveraging the national and international statistical systems and competencies and modalities of integrating statistics on emerging issues; and defines the governance structures, surveillance and funding mechanisms.

3. Objective of the EAC Statistical Policy
The main purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for the systematic and programmed development, production and dissemination of EAC statistics that support the formulation, application, monitoring and assessment of the development strategies and programmes of the EAC against set benchmarks and timelines. The policy therefore supports the strategic themes of improving the institutional environment for production of regional statistics; enhancement of internal business processes for production of harmonized and quality statistics; and enhancement of user satisfaction.

The specific objectives of the EAC statistical policy that address the main objective include:

Objective 1
Establishment of a Community Statistics Bureau

Policy statement
A body designated by the Council to develop, produce and disseminate EAC statistics, shall be established and shall be referred to as ‘the East African Statistics Bureau (EASB)’. It shall be headed by the Director General who shall be its chief executive and accounting officer and shall
serve for a term of five years. At the Community level, the EASB shall ensure the production of EAC statistics according to established rules and statistical principles aligned to international best practice. In this respect, it shall have the sole responsibility for deciding upon the processes, statistical methods, processes, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases. The EASB shall coordinate the statistical activities of the institutions and bodies of the Community, in particular with a view to ensuring consistency and quality of the data and minimizing reporting burden. To that end, the EASB may invite any institution or body of the Community or relevant regional/international agencies to consult or cooperate with it for the purpose of developing methods and systems for statistical purposes in their respective field of competence. The Bureau shall also provide support and technical advice to Partner States directly or through competent authorities to build capacity to produce harmonized and comparable statistics, and promote professionalism, ethics and integrity in undertaking statistical activities in the region. It shall be the authoritative source of regional statistics and any institutions or bodies which propose to produce statistics in the region shall consult the EASB and take into account any recommendations it may make to this effect.

The EASB together with the National Statistics office shall form an EAC Statistical System where the national statistical offices shall be responsible for the implementation of standards set by the EASB. The EASB shall exercise its powers and carry out its duties independently and within the limits of its mandate and under conditions specified in the Act establishing it. As part of the statistical system, the national statistical systems shall maintain the principle of independence in the production of official statistics.

The EASB shall carry out its activities according to the principle of scientific independence, particularly vis-a-vis the political authorities or any interest group; this means that the methods, concepts and nomenclatures used in statistical operation shall be selected only by the EASB without any interference whatsoever and in accordance with the rules of ethics and good practice.

**Objective 2**
Establishment of a Board to govern the EASB

Policy statement

The East African Statistics Bureau Board (EASBB) hereafter referred to as the Board shall be established to govern the EASB. The Board shall be appointed by the Council and shall comprise one representative from each partner state nominated by the Minister responsible for statistical matters, Heads of National Statistics Offices as ex-officios and the Director General of the EASB. All Board members, other than the Director General shall serve for a period of three (3) years and shall be eligible for reappointment once. The Chairmanship of the Board shall be rotational, with the chair being the member from the Partner State chairing the Summit. All meetings shall be held in accordance with the rules of procedure for conducting EAC meetings.

Nominated board members shall have a minimum of ten years’ experience in a statistics related area at a senior position and shall have proven integrity, impartiality and independence. The EASBB shall meet once every quarter but may hold special meetings as it may consider necessary. There shall be a EASB’s Human Resource Development (HRD) manual, consistent with the Community procedures, detailing out functions, procedures and processes.

The Board shall provide oversight functions that include exercising general control of the performance and affairs of the Bureau and providing general direction on the implementation and achievement of the objectives and functions of the EASB. In addition, the Board shall consider the reports submitted by the management of the EASB; propose staff terms and conditions of service for council’s approval; oversee the implementation of decisions of Council; approve standards, policies and guidelines for production and dissemination of statistics; promote professional ethics in statistical production and dissemination; approve annual activity reports, work plans and the budget of the EASB for submission to Council; and exercise any other functions assigned to it by the Treaty, protocols and other related instruments. The Board shall appoint, promote and discipline professional staff of the Bureau with the exception of the Director General.

Objective 3
Establishment of Committees or other entities considered necessary for the functioning of the EASB

Policy statement
The EASB Board shall set up Committees or other entities comprising of technical experts from partner states to provide advice on statistical issues. The committees or entities will provide advice on:

a. the measures which the EASB intends to take for the development, production and dissemination of EAC statistics, their justification on a cost-effective basis, the means and timetables for achieving them, and the response burden on survey respondents;
b. proposed developments and priorities in the regional statistical development plan;
c. issues concerning statistical confidentiality;
d. the further development of the Code of Practice; and
e. any other issues, on methodology, arising from the establishment or implementation of statistical development plans.

Objective 4
Adoption of internationally accepted statistics principles in the production and dissemination of EAC statistics

Policy statement
The development, production and dissemination of EAC statistics shall be governed by the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics. These shall include among others the following:

a. ‘Professional independence’, meaning that statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner, particularly with regard to the selection of techniques, definitions, methodologies and sources to be used, and the timing and content of all forms of dissemination, free from any pressure from political or interest groups or from Community or national authorities, without prejudice to institutional settings, such as Community or national institutional or budgetary provisions or definitions of statistical needs;
b. ‘Impartiality’, meaning that statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a neutral manner, and that all users must be given equal treatment;

c. ‘Objectivity’, meaning that statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in a systematic, reliable and unbiased manner; it implies the use of professional and ethical standards, and that the policies and practices followed are transparent to users and survey respondents;

d. ‘Reliability’, meaning that statistics must measure as faithfully, accurately and consistently as possible the reality that they are designed to represent and implying that scientific criteria are used for the selection of sources, methods and procedures;

e. ‘Statistical confidentiality’, meaning the protection of confidential data related to single statistical units which are obtained directly for statistical purposes or indirectly from administrative or other sources and implying the prohibition of use for non-statistical purposes of the data obtained and of their unlawful disclosure;

f. ‘Cost effectiveness’, meaning that the costs of producing statistics must be in proportion to the importance of the results and the benefits sought, that resources must be optimally used and the response burden minimized. The information requested shall, where possible, be readily extractable from available records or sources.

g. ‘Transparency in information dissemination’- means sharing with the public the methodology used in the production of official Community statistics including disclosures on any shortcomings

The statistical principles set out above shall further be elaborated in a Code of Practice.

Objective 5

Promote coordination of statistical activities among different stakeholders and effective distribution of roles and responsibilities

Policy statement

A CSS shall comprise of a partnership between the EASB, and the National Statistics Bureaus (NSBs) and other national authorities responsible in each partner state for the development, production and dissemination of EAC statistics. The NSB of each Partner State shall be designated as the body having the responsibility for coordinating all activities at national level
for the development, production and dissemination of statistics (the NSB) and shall act as the contact point for the EASB on statistical matters within the CSS.

The EASB shall maintain and publish on its website a list of NSBs and other national authorities comprising the NSS responsible for the development, production and dissemination of EAC statistics as designated by partner states. The NSS members included in the list will be responsible for the statistical activity of production and dissemination of national statistics. They will receive grants without a call for proposals to support and strengthen statistical activity intended to meet EAC policy maker’s needs.

Objective 6
Promote cooperation with other local and international bodies for purposes of strengthening EAC statistics

Policy statement
Other relevant specialist committees and bodies of the EAC as well as international organizations involved in the development of statistics shall be consulted in accordance with their respective competences. The EASB shall focus on issues of particular relevance to Community statistics at international level as well as the specific arrangements for representation in the international statistical bodies on issues of Community statistics. On the other hand, the NSS shall focus on issues of particular relevance to national statistics at international level as well as the specific arrangements for representation in the international statistical bodies on issues of national statistics.

Objective 7
Establish and follow the EAC statistics Code of Practice for all statistical activities of the EASB

Policy statement
A code of practice will be established aimed at ensuring public trust in EAC statistics. It shall spell out how EAC statistics shall be developed, produced and disseminated in conformity with
the statistical principles as set out in Objective 4 and in line with best international statistical practice. The Code of Practice shall be reviewed, updated and published by the EASB.

Objective 8
Develop a Regional Statistics Development Plan

Policy statement
In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty, the Council shall adopt 5-year Community statistics development plans as the framework for the production of all Community statistics for monitoring and assessing the impact of EAC regional integration programmes. In addition, the NSSs should integrate the regional statistical needs as agreed within the CSS.

Objective 9
Ensure quality prerequisites are met for all EAC statistics governance, processes and products

Policy statement
To guarantee quality, EAC statistics shall be developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of uniform standards and harmonized methods. The Bureau shall therefore advocate for the implementation of the regionally agreed statistical framework across the Partner States NSSs. In this respect, the following quality criteria shall apply:

a. **Assurances of integrity**: The principle of objectivity in the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics is firmly adhered to.

b. **Methodological soundness**: The methodological basis for the statistics follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.

c. **Accuracy and reliability**: Source data and statistical techniques are sound and statistical outputs sufficiently portray reality.

d. **Serviceability**: Statistics, with adequate periodicity and timeliness, are consistent and follow a predictable revisions policy.

e. **Accessibility**: Data and metadata are easily available and assistance to users is adequate.
In addition to the criteria set above, the EASB shall apply any other internationally accepted criteria for the assessment of quality of statistics produced as deemed necessary.

**Objective 10**

*Identify the core set of statistics indicators to be compiled and disseminated and the relevant internationally accepted standards to be followed*

**Policy statement**

Partner States shall focus on the provision of core set of comparable economic, social and demographic statistics for purposes of supporting compilation and analysis of EAC aggregates. The core statistics shall be selected on the basis of their relevance with regard to the operation of the Common Market; social policy, economic and social cohesion and consumer protection; Economic and Monetary Union; relations between the Community and the rest of the world; and the development of statistical technologies and human resources. They shall constitute all indicators deemed important for providing the EAC institutions and the governments of the Partner States with the information needed to implement, monitor and evaluate Community policies in the following core areas:

- a. Demographic and Social statistics
- b. National Accounts
- c. Agriculture statistics
- d. Foreign Investment statistics
- e. Monetary and Financial statistics
- f. Price statistics
- g. Intra and International Trade statistics
- h. ICT statistics
- i. Transport and Construction statistics
- j. Balance of Payments Statements statistics
- k. Tourism and Environment statistics.
- l. Government Finance Statistics (GFS)

To this end a set of standards, methods and organizational structures which allow comparable, reliable and relevant statistics in line with internationally accepted best practice to be produced throughout the Community shall be developed and implemented among Partner States. The dissemination of the statistics in the core areas shall be to the public and to all economic and
social agents involved in decision-making. Subsequently, the EAC together with Partner States shall develop and implement common classifications, methods and definitions that are directly applicable in all the Partner states and backed by Community legislation; conduct common statistical surveys based on harmonized methods; prepare, analyze and disseminate Community statistics, including comparisons from country-to-country and region-to-region comparisons; and promote the convergence in national statistical practices by means of common training activities to ensure harmonization in the core areas.

Objective 11

Develop and implement a framework for surveillance, compliance and enforcement mechanism of agreed of standards, methods and organizational structures

Policy statement
The EASB shall develop and implement a framework for the surveillance, compliance and enforcement of agreed standards, methods and organization structures for the collection and compilation of comparable, reliable and relevant statistics in line with internationally accepted best practice. The framework shall be based upon information compiled and analyzed from partner states; external reviews from independent experts; internal reviews taking into account both the views of users and producers of statistics; execution of the statistical programs regarding implementation of standards and methods; provision of statistical services to EAC institutions and partner States; and dissemination of statistical information and statistical support among others.

Objective 12

Ensure easily accessible, impartiality and timely dissemination of Community statistics

Policy statement
Dissemination shall be carried out in such a way that access to Community statistics is made easily accessible and impartial. It shall be carried out by the EASB and national authorities within their respective spheres of competence. Statistical results at Community level shall be disseminated with the same periodicity as the transmission to the EASB of the results available at national level. As far as possible and without compromising quality at Community level, the
dissemination will take place in a timely manner before the next transmission of national results to the EASB is due. A data release calendar for the CSS and NSS shall be made available to the public indicating the release dates for different types of statistics and shall be updated to indicate the actual release date throughout the year corresponding with the dates in the data release calendar.

Objective 13
Anonymize community statistics for public use during dissemination

Policy statement
Data on individual statistical units may be disseminated in the form of a public use file consisting of anonymized records which have been prepared in such a way that the statistical unit cannot be identified, either directly or indirectly, when account is taken of all relevant means that might reasonably be used by a third party. If the data have been transmitted to the EASB the explicit approval of the NSB or other national authority which provided the data shall be required. A policy on statistical disclosure control governing the anonymization of data shall be prepared by the EASB.

Objective 14
Promote data confidentiality

Policy statement
Confidential data obtained exclusively for the production of EAC statistics shall be used by the NSBs and other national authorities and by the EASB exclusively for statistical purposes except where consent have been unambiguously granted by the statistical unit for the use of reported data for any other purposes. Subsequently, statistical results which may make it possible to identify a statistical unit shall be disseminated by the NSBs and other national authorities and the EASB in only the following exceptional cases:

a. where specific conditions and modalities are determined by an act of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the Council and the statistical results are amended
in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality whenever the statistical unit has so requested; or

b. where the statistical unit has unambiguously agreed to the disclosure of data

Within their respective spheres of competence, the NSBs and other national authorities and the EASB shall take all necessary regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to ensure the physical and logical protection of confidential data (statistical disclosure control).

Access to confidential data which does not allow for direct identification of the statistical units may be granted to researchers carrying out statistical analyses for scientific purposes by the EASB or by the NSBs or other national authorities, within their respective spheres of competence. Where the data shall have been already transmitted to the EASB, the approval of the NSB or other national authority which provided the data shall be required. The modalities, rules and conditions for access at Community level shall be established by the EASB. Further, the EASB shall only in exceptional cases grant access to confidential data to its other staff and to other persons working for the EASB under contract within their specific domain of work. All persons having access to confidential data shall use these data exclusively for statistical purposes and shall be subject to this restriction even after cessation of their functions.

Objective 15
Maintain the quality and integrity of the data through data revisions as and when they are required while ensuring transparency of the process of revising data

Any revisions of Community statistics shall be conducted by the community authorities in consultation with the NSS and the EASBB shall be informed of the revisions made and shall provide advice on the revisions where necessary. Similarly, any revisions of national statistics shall be conducted by the national authorities in consultation with the EASB and the EASBB shall be informed of the revisions made and shall provide advice on the revisions where necessary. The reasons for the revisions made shall be clearly identified during dissemination to the public along with any explanatory notes. A revisions policy detailing the situations that shall warrant revisions and the revision procedures to be followed shall be prepared by the EASB.
Objective 16
Funding of the EASB

Policy statement

The Council shall consider and approve the funding requirements of the EASB based on budgeted expenses submitted by the EASB. The funding shall come from the Community budget being the contributions from partner states and grants from development partners which shall be deposited into an account maintained by the EASB.

Partner States shall ensure that resources available to the National Statistics Offices are adequate and stable to enable them meet statistics needs at national and regional levels. Governments of the Partner States shall have the primary responsibility to provide such resources.

Objective 17
Review of the EAC statistical policy

Policy statement

This policy shall be subject to regular review by the EASBB and Council and shall be amended (as appropriate) to reflect best practices and ensure ongoing relevance to EAC statistical activities.

4. Implementation of the Policy

The EASB together with the NSBs and relevant MDAs shall be responsible for the implementation of the EAC statistical policy on behalf of the council. Compliance with the policy shall be established through quality assurance measures that shall include among others peer reviews and statistical audits initiated by the EASB. In addition, the internal audit department of the EASB shall conduct periodic audits to establish the extent to which the internal business processes that affect statistics production at the EASB adhere to the Community Statistical policy (CSP) and shall report to the head of the EASB. Operationally, all department heads at the EASB shall take responsibility for ensuring that the policy is followed
according to their respective work together with heads of NSBs and relevant MDAs. They shall therefore design and implement a sound system of ensuring the day-to-day compliance with the policy. Short-term specialists may also be engaged to support departments to adhere to the policy.