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## AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY WORKSHOP

# Data for development - Opportunities and Challenges

Intercontinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava fort, 16 Nov 2018

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### Background

The African Statistics Day (ASD) was adopted in May 1990 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Conference of African Ministers responsible for Planning and Economic Development. The day is celebrated on November 18 each year in order to “increase public awareness about the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life” of our countries and the continent.

### ASD 2018 workshop in Mauritius

Statistics Mauritius is conducting a workshop on the occasion of the 2018 African Statistics Day with the theme *Data for development - Opportunities and Challenges*. The goal of the workshop is to engage all producers and users of data about the importance of statistics for development.

The main items on the agenda after the opening ceremony are:

- National Strategy for Official Statistics  
A National Strategy for Official Statistics (NSOS) for the period 2019 to 2023 is currently being designed by Statistics Mauritius in a participatory approach with expert guidance from Prof Ben Kiregyera, AfDB consultant. To date, an assessment of the current state of statistics in priority sectors such as Health, Environment, Labour, Tourism and Education as well as in Statistics Mauritius and Bank of Mauritius has been completed. Prof Kiregyera will present the cross-cutting issues and will invite reactions from the audience about how the National Statistical System should look in 5 years.
- Data initiatives in Mauritius  
In 2015, the Government of Mauritius embarked on the Open Data initiative to create economic value out of the releases of Government datasets as Open Data. Open Data is considered as the bedrock of innovation which will be the driving force of the Mauritian economy in the next few years. We will hear more on this ongoing initiative from the Chief Technical Officer of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation today.  
He will also present the Information Highway, a project being deployed among Government agencies for secure data transmission to improve operation efficiency in public administration and business operations. This project has received international recognition at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in March 2018.
- Challenges in acquiring data for official statistics.  
During this panel discussion, the producers of official statistics in Mauritius will share experiences on data acquisition from censuses, surveys and administrative sources. They will discuss the challenges they are facing and the coping mechanisms in place in their respective institutions to face the challenges.

### Participants of the workshop

Representatives of Ministries/Departments and the private sector as well as those of regional and international organisations.