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BIG DATA AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN AFRICA
MAXIMIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES

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Introduction

One of the Characteristics of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Industrial revolution is the internet of things.

Before this era, official data are generated largely from sample survey, censuses and administrative methods.

Big data burst upon the scene in the first decade of the 21\textsuperscript{st} century.

From the dawn of civilization until 2013, humankind generated 5 Exabyte's of data. Now the world is producing 5 Exabyte's of data every two days...and the pace is accelerating.

Big data comes from everywhere.

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Human-sourced data

- Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
- Blogs and posted comments, Pictures, Videos (Youtube, ...)
- Search engine queries
- Mobile data content (text messages, ...)

E-Transaction data

- Commercial transactions, Banking/stock prices records, E-commerce, Telephone Call Detail Records, Credit cards, Medical records from Public Health

Machine generated data

- Tracking devices e.g GPS systems, Mobile phone location, Satellite images

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In Africa most NSOs and Research Institutes are still facing the challenges of obtaining official statistics using traditional methods.

In Europe and Developed country Big data is been used to obtain official statistics. Agencies such as: Eurostat, the European Statistical System (ESS), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and UNSD have started incorporating big data in obtaining official statistics.

In Asia and the Pacific Big data is at experimental stage.

Currently in Africa more than half of the SDGs indicators have no or insufficient data for its monitoring.

- For Africa development NSOs and research institutes need to incorporate big data in obtaining OS.
Five speakers, Four Continents

1. Harnessing the full power of Timely Data for Official Statistics in Africa
2. Importance of Data in Africa Development
3. Big data and the modernization of statistical Systems in Africa
4. Challenges of Big Data for official statistics in Africa and The way out
5. Building public trust in the use of big data for official statistics