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### **YASA Statement on World Statistics Day 2025**

Across Africa, young statisticians are reclaiming statistics as more than arithmetic, but as instruments of justice, insight, and accountability. On this World Statistics Day 2025, we celebrate how far we've come and reaffirm our shared duty to ensure that data continues to serve truth, inclusion, and development for all.

Born from the ISibalo Young African Statisticians (YAS) Programme, YASA has, in just two years as a registered volunteer association, built a vibrant network across more than 25 African countries and the diaspora, creating platforms that showcase youth-led research, mentorship, and collaboration. These milestones reflect a growing recognition that Africa's future in data and evidence will be shaped by its youth, who have the courage to innovate, question, and lead with integrity.

As we mark this day, we recognise that young statisticians are not only data users but the very architects of Africa's data systems. We are the bridge between tradition and innovation, between data and decision-making. Our active involvement ensures that African statistics are grounded, inclusive in scope, and ethical in intent. When young people are empowered to participate in all stages of the statistical process (from data collection to communication), statistics gain life, meaning, and legitimacy.

On this World Statistics Day, YASA makes the following commitments and calls to action:

- **As YASA**, we commit to continue expanding peer mentorship, leadership, and learning opportunities that equip young statisticians with the technical skills needed to navigate the ever-changing data world; to nurturing country chapters that promote diversity, inclusion, and innovation; and to continuing our role as a continental platform for collaboration and advocacy.
- **To our partners**, we call for deeper investment in youth-driven statistical capacity, research funding, and policy engagement, ensuring that young African voices help shape data systems that serve communities equitably.
- **To our collaborators**, we invite continued cooperation in building data literacy, sharing knowledge, and harmonising statistical standards that strengthen Africa's global data presence.
- **To our members and fellow YAS**, we urge continued dedication, curiosity, and courage. Let us lead with integrity and use our skills to build solutions: through rigorous methodology, transparency, and accountability.

We honour every YAS and young statistician, who continues to make data a tool for transformation, from classrooms to national offices, from research labs to community projects. Today and every day, YASA stands with the global call that reliable data are not optional, but essential for democracy, for health, for education, and especially for Africa's youth. Africa is counting on you.