

DIRECTION DE LA COORDINATION STATISTIQUE ET DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

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Dear Sir,

Referring to the document "National Quality Assurance Framework" of statistics Canada and to the points for discussion mentioned on page 16, INSEE would like to make the following comments.

1- First of all, we welcome Statistics Canada's very interesting draft report.

We admit there is no national Quality Framework which is internationally accepted. Indeed, there is no standard model for quality management at national level, be it for concepts, policies or processes. But many countries have already developed quality framework at national level some of them more producers-oriented, some others more users-oriented, the submitted NQAF seeming to be a compromise between the two approaches. In this respect, we welcome Statistics Canada report and encourage UNSD's secretariat efforts.

2- We approve of the list of guidelines in the draft report while yet noting at the same time that this list is not as complete as the one in The European Statistics Code of Practice : it actually puts more focus on management of core statistical functions rather than on management on human resources and communications.

It also seems rather unclear whether such a NQAF would be a valuable reference for training.

However, we acknowledge the guidelines as far as they would help assessing the numerous concepts linked to quality and enable communication as well. But we consider that more emphasis should be put on the need for NSI's to provide users with more precise indicators referring to statistics quality.

3- While acknowledging the importance of a common approach, we would like to draw the UNSD's secretariat attention to the fact that any submitted Quality Assurance Framework should take into consideration the specific situations of each National Statistical Institute. It is therefore difficult to recommend the same framework for all National Statistical Institutes even if the draft proposal for the

generic template should allow for NSI's to map their quality approaches along the various headings.

Our last remark is that various international efforts should be closely coordinated. France is strongly involved in Eurostat's Sponsorship on Quality and cannot participate in several working groups with different objectives and schedules.

Thus, France will insist that UNSD's secretariat efforts remain closely coordinated with Eurostat initiatives.

Best regards,

Le Directeur de la Coordination Statistique et des
Relations Internationales

Signé

Philippe CUNEO

