



The Statistical System: The Role of the Chief Statistician

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Addis Ababa, 9 Dec 2003

Who is the Chief Statistician?

- Handbook of Statistical Organization (2003):

“If there is an agency that can be called the central statistical agency, it is the head of that agency that is referred to here as the chief statistician. The chief statistician should be the highest authority in the government statistical system with respect to substantive statistical matters.”

The chief statistician as a civil servant

- **The chief statistician’s superiors:**
formal superior and day-to-day contact
- **The chief statistician’s term of office:**
 - limited to executive term (Latin America)
 - (non-)renewable fixed term (New Zealand, UK)
 - unlimited term (Canada)
- **The chief statistician’s colleagues:**
users and producers

The chief statistician as a manager

- Leadership
- Vision
- Ability to mobilize resources

The chief statistician as a professional

- Statistical authority
- IT knowledge ?
- Professional integrity:
threatening resignation
- Presence on the international arena

For conclusion and discussion:

- Managing vs. substantive skills:

Which is more important?

In what situations?