



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# The Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems

4th Edition of the Handbook of Statistical Organization

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## Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems

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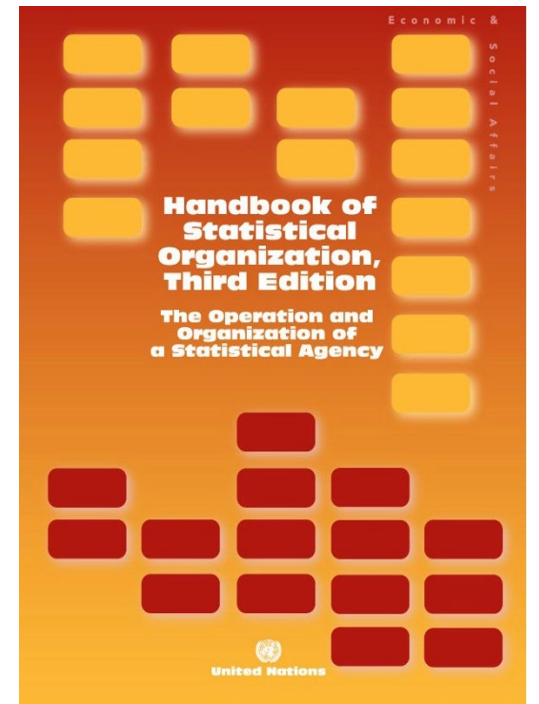
Global Network Webinar — 24 January 2023

- Genesis
- Drafting modalities
- Structure and Content
- Features
- Keeping the Handbook up-to-date



## Handbook series of Statistical Organization

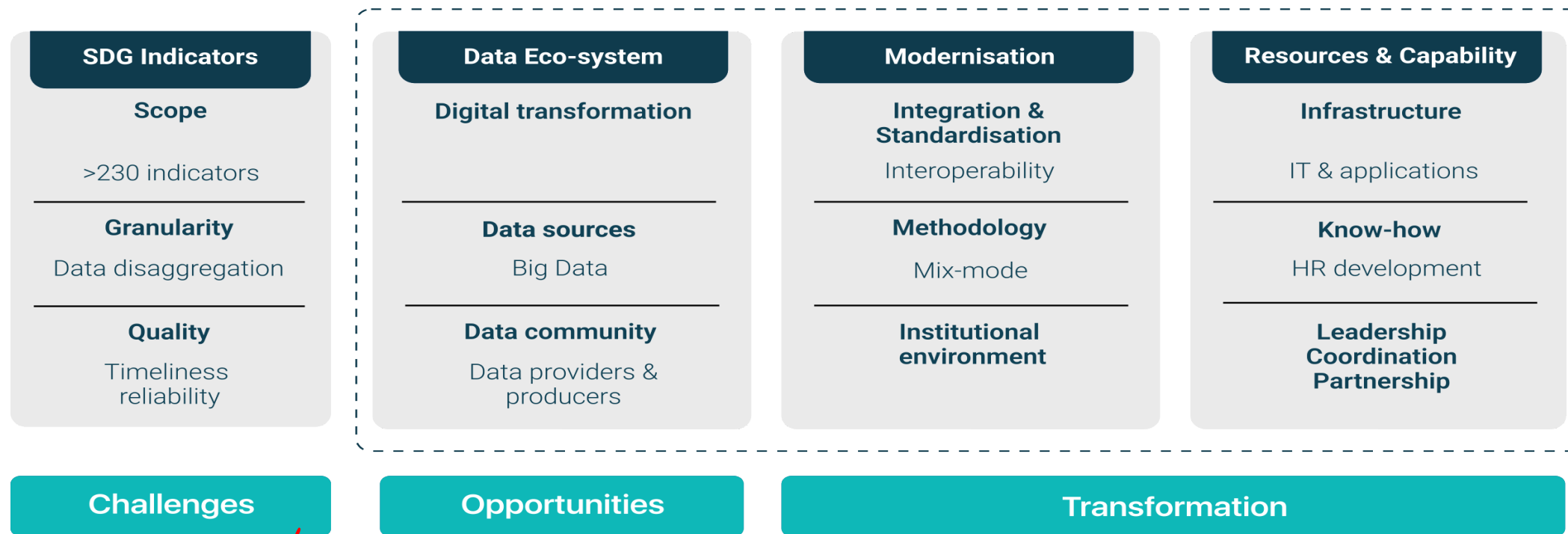
- Primary objective:  
*“to guide chief statisticians and senior managers of national statistical organizations in developing and maintaining statistical capacity that is fit for purpose”*
- First edition published in 1954
- Second edition (1980): A study on the organization of national statistical services and related management issues
- Third edition (2003): Operation and Organization of a Statistical Agency





## What has changed since 2003?

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and related regional and national development policies
- + *COVID-19 and the need to measure the impact of the pandemic and monitor recovery policies*





## The Statistical Commission

- **48<sup>th</sup> session UN StatCom (2017)** requested a revision of the 2003 edition of the Handbook
- **49<sup>th</sup> session UN StatCom (2018):**
  - Commented outline endorsed ([E/CN.3/2018/5](#))
  - Insisted on the strategic development areas articulated in the [CT-GAP](#) and the outcome of the Transformative Agenda Initiative
- **51<sup>st</sup> session UN StatCom (2020):**
  - Endorsed a slightly revised structure of the Handbook
  - Proposed to name the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition: Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems





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The Handbook is conceived as a non-prescriptive “living compendium” available electronically

Individual Chapters and the whole Handbook are available in a printer-friendly format

References, country examples and related materials in the Handbook are as much as possible available through weblinks

While each chapter is a stand-alone chapter, they are linked together through hyperlinks where relevant.

The Handbook is regularly updated and revised to address in a timely manner changes and challenges in the environment within which data are collected, processed, and disseminated

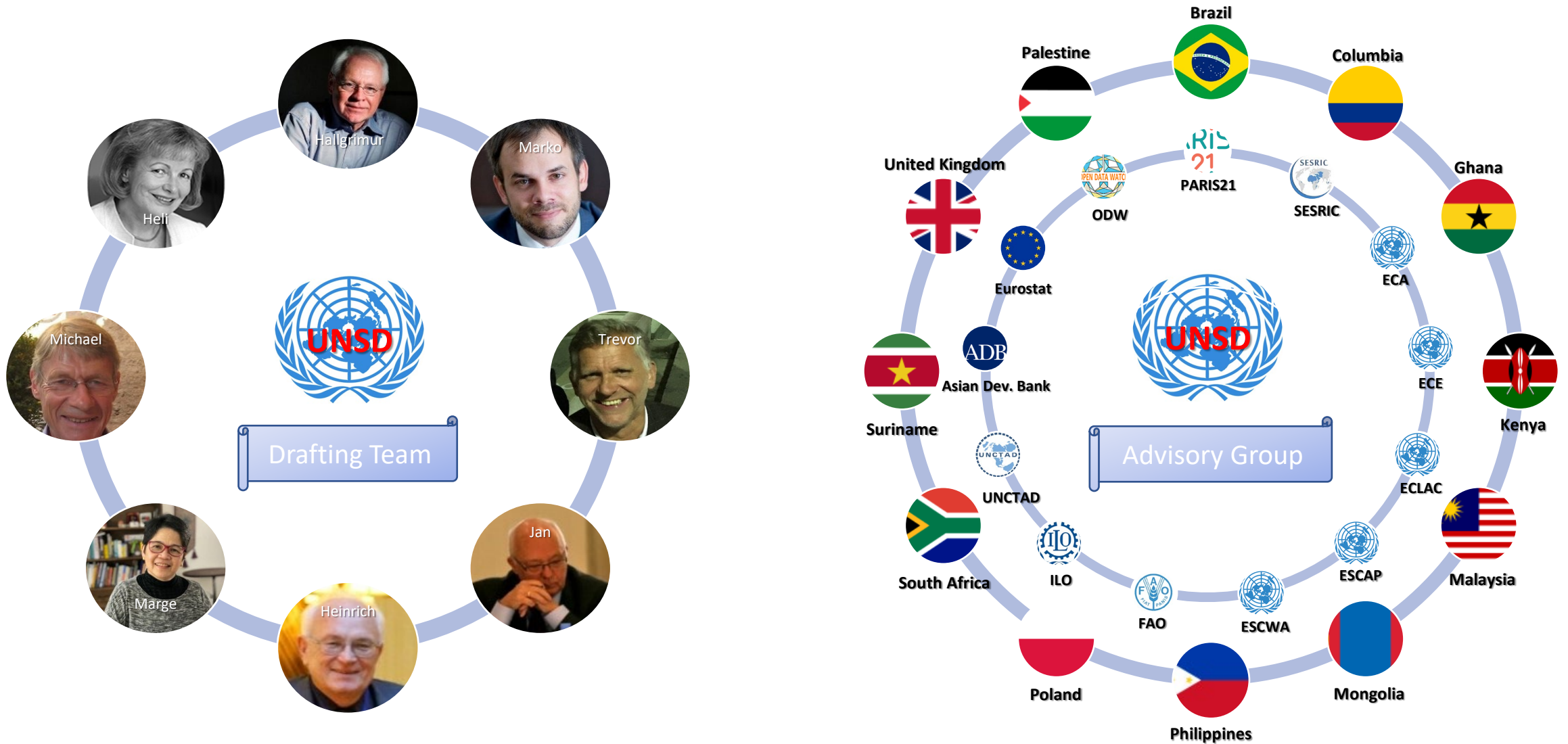






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## Underlying Generic Models

**GAMSO - Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations [governance]**

Strategy and Leadership

Capability Development

Corporate Support

**GSBPM - Generic Statistical Business Process Model [production]**

Specify the needs

Design

Build

Collect

Process

Analyse

Disseminate

Evaluate

**GLOS – Generic Law for Official Statistics**

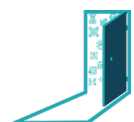






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## Chapter 1

Introduction



## Chapter 7

Quality Management



## Chapter 13

Data, Information, and Knowledge Management



## Chapter 2

Official Statistics - a general overview



## Chapter 8

Data Sources, Collection and Processing



## Chapter 14

Information Technology Management



## Chapter 3

The Basis of Official Statistics



## Chapter 9

Analysis and Analytical Frameworks



## Chapter 15

Managing of Buildings, Physical Space and Finance



## Chapter 4

The National Statistical System



## Chapter 10

Dissemination of Official Statistics



## Chapter 16

The International Statistical System



## Chapter 5

The National Statistical Office



## Chapter 11

Common Statistical Infrastructure



## Glossary

Definitions and explanatory notes



## Chapter 6

Users and their Needs



## Chapter 12

Human Resources Management and Development



## Annexes





## Illustrative Reading Roadmaps by User Group

Chapter	Title	User*						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Introduction	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	Official Statistics – a general overview	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	The Basis of Official Statistics	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	National Statistical System	x	x	x	x	x		
5	National Statistical Office	x	x	x	x	x		
6	Users and their Needs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	Quality Management	x	x		x	x		
8	Data Sources, Collection and Processing	x			x	x	x	
9	Analysis and Analytical Frameworks	x		x	x	x	x	
10	Dissemination of Official Statistics	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11	Common Statistical Infrastructure	x	x		x	x		
12	Human Resources Management and Development	x			x	x		
13	Data, Information and Knowledge Management	x	x		x	x		
14	Information Technology Management	x	x		x	x		
15	Management of Buildings, Physical Space and Finance	x	x	x		x		
16	The International Statistical System	x	x	x	x	x	x	



- 1 - Chief statistician
- 2 - NSO governing/advisory council member
- 3 - Ministers with statistics in their portfolio
- 4 - Other NSS members/producers
- 5 - Organizations in the international statistical system
- 6 - Other international and regional agencies
- 7 - General reader/public





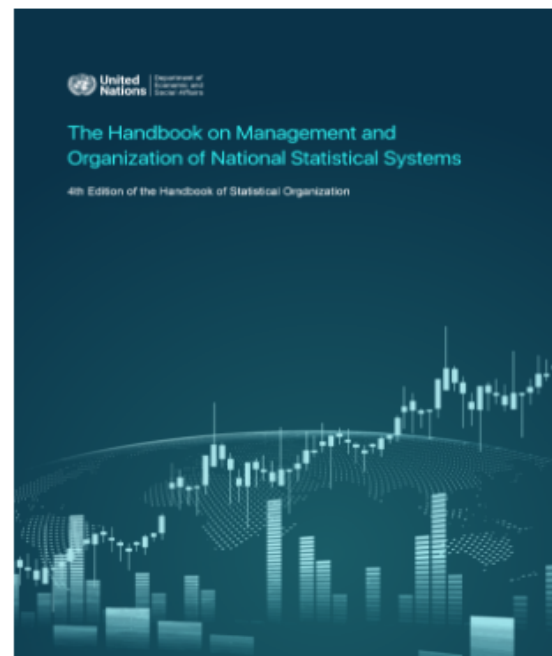
## Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems

The Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems, the 4th edition of a series of publications on the management of statistical organizations, was endorsed by the 52nd session of the UNSC in March 2021 as a non-prescriptive compendium targeting chief statisticians, senior managers, and staff members of statistical organizations. The Handbook provides guidance on how to develop and maintain national statistical capacity that is fit for purpose and appraises critical issues and topics, including the integration of innovative data sources and technologies in the production of statistics and indicators. To remain relevant in a rapidly changing data ecosystem, the Handbook has been designed as a "living document" to be regularly updated and revised under the guidance of an Advisory Group composed of national and international chief and senior statisticians.

The Handbook is available as a **live, mobile-device compatible document** and as a printer-friendly PDF version (see below). The Handbook has been conceived as a "living document", and readers are welcome to share comments and suggestions directly through the **UNSD wiki platform** or by email to **statistics-handbook@un.org**.



[BROWSE THE HANDBOOK](#)



Printer-friendly PDF versions





## Modalities and mechanisms to keep the Handbook alive [\[see also here\]](#)

- **52<sup>nd</sup> session UN StatCom (2021) endorsed the Handbook and proposed:**
  - Regular updates (2-3 times/year) such as adding new success stories or regional initiatives, updating internet links and adjusting some factual and non-controversial information
  - Revisions such as in-depth modifications of the coverage, substance or structure of the chapters/sections to be conducted every 2-3 years under the guidance of the Advisory Group
  - Inform revisions of the Handbook through regional Thematic Conferences and/or other regional and sub-regional mechanisms and events
- **54<sup>th</sup> session UN StatCom (2023) to discuss:**
  - Adding a new chapter on Governance of the National Data Ecosystem to discuss various options for the National Statistical Office to steer partnership and collaboration with the data community beyond official statistics and eventually improve data interoperability
  - Streamlining a few chapters if a bit too technical or detailed for the intended audience





- Is the Handbook missing something important?
- How could the Handbook be further improved?
- What could be additional mechanisms to inform future updates and revisions?
- ...

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