UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION **THE CAPACITY DEVELOPN**

Sound Institutional and Organizational Frameworks for Official Statistics

Chapters III – IV – V of the next edition of the Handbook of Statistical Organization

Asian Thematic Conference : Managing a Statistical Organization in Times of Change

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Data – Statistics - Knowledge



- 90% of the data in the world today has been created in the last two years
- But data is raw information that does not speak to most of us
- Statistics convert raw data into knowledge

From Data Sources to Users



Chapter III – Basis of Official Statistics

Chapter III provides a common basis for understanding what should be covered by the designation of official statistics:

- Introduction
- UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- Other ethical principles and standards (e.g. Regional Code of Good Practices)
- Legislative frameworks

Value of Official Statistics



UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

adopted by the General Assembly in 2014 (A/RES/68/261)

- Principle 1 Relevance and impartiality of and equal access to official statistics
- Principle 2 Professional standards, principles and ethics of official statistics
- Principle 3 Accountability and transparency of official statistics
- Principle 4 Prevention of misuse of official statistics
- Principle 5 Sources of official statistics
- Principle 6 Confidentiality of official statistics
- Principle 7 Legislation concerning of official statistics
- Principle 8 National coordination of official statistics
- Principle 9 Use of international standards
- Principle 10 International cooperation in statistics



GA Resolution on the SDG Indicator Framework (A/RES/71/313)

- Official statistics and data from national statistical systems (NSS) are the basis for the SDG indicator framework
- All activities of the NSS to be conducted in full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- National statistical offices are the coordinator of the NSS
- NSS to explore ways to integrate new data sources to satisfy new data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Acknowledge the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data that promotes and supports the transformation of national statistical systems

Mandate for Data Collection and Confidentiality

- Data for the production of official statistics may be drawn from all type of sources, be they statistical surveys (primary sources) or other sources (secondary sources)
- Producers of Official Statistics choose the data sources based on professional considerations and in particular with regard to quality, costs and the burden on respondents



- Producers of Official Statistics have the sole responsibility for deciding on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing and storage of data sources
- Individual data/micro-data from natural and legal persons held by Producers of Official Statistics are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes
- The principle of confidentiality applies to all data sources, be they statistical surveys (primary sources) or secondary data sources (e.g. administrative records, big data).

Chapter IV – National Statistical System [NSS]

Chapter IV provides a description of the national statistical system and its governance, programmatic and coordination mechanisms and tools:

- A. Introduction
- B. Structure of the NSS
- C. Models of NSSs
- D. Coordination of the NSS
- E. National Statistical Council / Executive Board

- F. Multiannual (e.g. NSDS) and annual planning and priority setting
- G. Branding Official Statistics
- H. Financing the NSS

Chapter IV was identified by the Organizing Committee as high-priority for Africa

National Statistical System [NSS] and other producers/providers of data



National Statistical System or Producers of Official Statistics

National Statistical Office:

- Main producer of Official Statistics
- Professionally independent body
- Coordinates the development, production and dissemination of statistics within the NSS
- Not to be assigned responsibilities or getting instructions conflicting with the Principles

Other Producers of Official Statistics (OPOS):

- Operate in compliance with the Statistical Law and adopted standards
- Professionally independent entities within their respective organizations
- Responsible for their assigned activities in the statistical programmes

Administrative data, records and statistics and other non-traditional data sources (secondary data sources):

- Secondary data are primarily collected for non-official statistical purposes, in general by a public authority implementing an administrative regulation or a private company for management/commercial purposes
- The authority that supplies the secondary data to producers of official statistics and the unit to which the data relates (observation unit) are different: third-party data

Coordination instruments across the NSS and beyond

- National statistical programmes cover the entire NSS, including development, production and dissemination activities related to the SDG indicators
- National statistical programmes to be used for the budget appropriation
- The programmes to be submitted by the Chief Statistician to the Government / Executive Board for approval

Multiannual statistical programme:

- Master plan, NSDS
- Strategic development of NSS
- Vision and priorities

Annual statistical programme / Work Programme:

- Annual operational translation of multiannual programme
- List of producers of official statistics and their respective deliveries
- List of major surveys, and other data sources (administrative), registers

Governance of the NSS Main Models discussed in the next edition of the Handbook



Chapter V – National Statistical Office [NSO]

Chapter V covers the key features of an NSO:

- A. Introduction
- B. Vision and goals of the NSO
- C. NSO as an organization
- D. Statistical Business Architecture
- E. Governance and leadership

F. Capability

- Planning and development
- Implementation
- Monitoring

Capability means the ability to combine capacities or production factors - tangible and intangible – to perform or achieve certain actions/outcome

Chief Statistician

- Highest Statistical Authority and often the executive manager of the NSO
- Mandate cannot be terminated for any reasons compromising the implementation of the Law and the Principles



- Fosters and monitors the compliance of all producers of official statistics with the Law and the Principles
- Issues standards and guidelines for the entire NSS on the development, production and dissemination of official statistics
- Promotes the use of official statistical standards and classifications beyond the NSS (e.g. admin. data and Big Data through partnerships and dialogue)

Statistical Business Architecture: GAMSO and GSBPM



Questions to be addressed in the breakout session

- What are the main incentives for strengthening the institutional and organizational frameworks of your respective NSSs?
- What role might coordination play in strengthening the institutional and organizational frameworks of national statistical systems in general? How important might it be in your respective NSSs?
- What challenges and deterrents have you faced/do you expect to face in improving the institutional and organizational frameworks of your respective NSSs?
- Have you identified in your group some success stories new initiatives or best practices related to adapting the NSS framework in response to challenges discussed in Session 1? Please explain shortly.
- What kind of support is missing from bilateral and multilateral partners in that respect?
- What is missing from the discussion on this session that should be covered in the Handbook?

Questions and comments

- Publicly available drafts of the Handbook on Statistical Organization can be found at: <u>https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/HSO/Handbook+Statistical+Organization</u>
- Please provide inputs to: <u>statistics-handbook@un.org</u>

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