Governance of the NSS and Beyond

Thematic Conference for the South-East and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region

Managing a statistical organization in times of change

Armaty, Kazakhstan  5-7 December 2023
Advantages of sound Governance and Coordination

Coordination: within a system, activities, responsibilities, command and control structures are synchronized, harmonized and, when appropriate, integrated

The advantages of a coordinated NSS are the following:

• **Efficiency** and **synergies** of operations by avoiding overlapping efforts, duplication of work and reducing the response burden through data sharing

• **Effectiveness** by addressing demands for statistics in an organized and timely manner through the capability to jointly produce expected outputs

• **Quality, coherence, comparability** and **accessibility** of official statistics within and across statistical domains through the harmonization of methodology, classifications and dissemination channels

• Develop a corporate **identity**, and secure **trust** in Official Statistics (branding)
A legal framework shall regulate and establish the following:

- Delineation of the NSS (producers of official statistics)
- Principles governing the development, production and dissemination of official statistics
- Mandate and authority of the National Chief Statistician/Government Statistician, in general CEO of the NSO
- Statistical Advisory Council or Board representing main user groups within and outside the government and the public sector
- NSS Coordination Committee consisting of the producers of official statistics
- Integrated strategic programmes (multi-annual) and operational programmes (annual) covering the entire NSS
The Handbook on Management and Organization of NSS also proposes:

- Coordination through data acquisition, collection and sharing [MoUs]
- Coordination through methodology, technology and standards
- Coordination through dissemination and communication of official statistics
- Coordination through quality (National Quality Assurance Framework)
- Coordination through international cooperation and capacity building
- Coordination through training and development of statisticians and data specialists and improving data literacy among users and the public at large
The entire network of data collectors, data producers, data analysts and other data users that directly or indirectly collect, process disseminate, analyze and/or otherwise consume data and associated services within a specified country or region.
Traditional and New Data Ecosystem

**Traditional Data Ecosystem**
- Statistical sources
  - Statistical surveys / censuses
  - Administrative sources

**New Data Ecosystem**
- Statistical sources
  - Statistical Surveys / Censuses
  - Secondary Data Sources
    - Administrative sources
    - Other sources
      - Private / NGOs
General Assembly Resolutions about Governance

• **Principle 8 - UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics (FPOS):**
  
  Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system

• **General Assembly Resolution on the SDG Indicator Framework**
  
  National Statistics Offices are the coordinators of the NSS, … all activities of the NSS to be conducted in full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

• **COVID-19: Call of the 75th session of the General Assembly**
  
  To build inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems under the leadership of National Statistical Offices to respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster
NSS Challenges and Opportunities

**SDG Indicators**
- Scope: > 230 indicators
- Granularity: Data disaggregation
- Quality: Timeliness reliability

**Data Eco-system**
- Digital transformation
- Data sources: Geo-spatial
- Data community: Data providers & producers

**Modernisation**
- Standardisation & Interoperability
- Methodology: Mix-mode
- Institutional environment

**Resources & Capabilities**
- Infrastructure: IT & applications
- Know-how: HR development
- Data stewardship: Leadership, Coordination, Partnership

**Challenges**

**Opportunities**

**Transformation**
• The National Data Ecosystem encompasses institutions and organizations responsible for collecting, processing, disseminating, analyzing, and consuming data in a country.

• The National Data Ecosystem is broader than the NSS.

• **Data Stewardship** is a governance approach that focuses on **servicing the data ecosystem** rather than exerting control.

• Data Stewardship aims to **foster collaboration**, improve data interoperability, enhance production processes, and advance data literacy, technology, and communication across the ecosystem.

• Data stewardship centres on **leadership** initiatives rather than authority.

• As the data steward, the NSO must be acknowledged as the coordinator of the NSS and a trusted **hub of excellence** for data and statistics.
National Statistics Office [NSO]
• The Chief Statistician leads the National Statistical Office

Other Producers of Official Statistics [OPOS]
• The Chief Statistician may issue standards and guidelines to be applied across the National Statistical System for the development, production, and dissemination of official statistics

Administrative data/statistics producers (third-party public data)
• If providers of administrative data plan to develop a new data collection or carry out a major revision in their data collection or processing … they shall consult the NSO …

Third-Party private data (Big Data …)
• The Chief Statistician may promote the use of standards, terminology, classifications, and technology applied in official statistics among public and private data providers and operators (data ecosystem)
Impediment to Data Stewardship [within the administration]

- Absence of horizontal governance and authority
- Lack of adequate digital infrastructure to manage large volumes of data
- Lack of data literacy
- Resistance of the administration to break silos
Transforming government’s use of data to drive efficiency and improve public services:

• Fitness-for-purpose: the quality of the data is sufficient, available, accessible, interoperable, reusable, resilient …

• Data skills: developing and maintaining skills across the administration and agencies that are needed to acquire, process and analyse data

• Centralised and/or federated system that allows the deployment of common infrastructure, technology and services

• Data sharing: promote the data exchange and access

• Data Ethics: lawful, secure, fair, ethical, sustainable and accountable
Revitalizing Statistical Legislation

Legislative response:

• Strengthening Governance, transparency, and trust in the National Statistical System and beyond

• Securing access to administrative records and registers at the micro-level, including identifiers

• Engaging with users and data communities (data ecosystem)

• Leveraging Innovative Data Sources for Enhanced Statistical Production

• Expanding provisions on statistical confidentiality and data protection
## Principles, Codes and Normative Frameworks

### National Data Ecosystem

**Privacy and Data Protection Commissioner / Officer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Framework</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Privacy and Data Protection Act</td>
<td>Governs personal data collected, processed and/or shared by public and private operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Information access Act</td>
<td>Governs the procedure which ensures free access to and right to reuse information held by public authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archiving Act</td>
<td>Rules the procedure for archiving data of national interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Ethics</td>
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### National Statistical System

**Chief Statistician**

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<tr>
<td>UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics</td>
<td>(A/RES/68/261)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN National Quality Assurance Framework</td>
<td>(UN-NQAF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Statistics Code of Good Practices</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Legal Framework and/or national code of practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Guidelines, Methodology and Technology applying to the NSS and promoted beyond the NSS</td>
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Thank you for your attention!

For questions and comments:

Gabriel Gamez | Inter-regional Adviser
Organisation and Development of NSS  | Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  | United Nations
2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1656 | New York, NY 10017, USA
Email: gamezg@un.org