Empowering Official Statistics:

*Upholding the Fundamental Principles to Stay Relevant*

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

Managing a statistical organization in times of change

Almaty, Kazakhstan  5-7 December 2023
From Data to Knowledge:
In an era where 90% of the world's data has been created in the last two years, official statistics play a crucial role in converting raw data into meaningful knowledge, making it accessible and understandable to a broader audience.

Foundation in Trust, Relevance, and Rigor:
Anchored in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS), they secure trust, relevance, and scientific rigor.

Comprehensive Overview across domains:
Offers coherent and multidimensional insights into the economic, social, and environmental aspects of a nation, extending beyond the narrower focus of most other data sources.

Responsive to Diverse User Needs:
Adapted to meet the diverse requirements of various stakeholders, including governments, businesses, research institutions, and the public.
From Data to Statistics
Values of Official Statistics

- Regional Codes of Practice (ASEAN)
- UN National Quality Assurance Framework (UN-NQAF)
- National Statistical Legislation (GLOS)
- International Guidelines, Methodology and Nomenclatures
UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics /1
adopted by the General Assembly in 2014 (A/RES/68/261)

**Principle 1: Relevance, Impartiality, and Equal Access**
Ensures statistics serve democratic society needs with relevance, impartiality, and equal access

**Principle 2: Professional Standards, Scientific Principles, and Professional Ethics**
Commits to excellence in standards, scientific rigor, and ethics in statistical practices

**Principle 3: Accountability and Transparency**
Focuses on accountability in quality and integrity and transparency in methodologies and processes

**Principle 4: Prevention of Misuse**
Aims to prevent statistical misuse, ensuring clear, accurate presentation and responsible usage

**Principle 5: Sources of Official Statistics**
Prioritizes judicious selection of diverse, high-quality, and efficient data sources
Principle 6: Confidentiality
Centers on protecting individual data and ensuring their exclusive use for statistical purposes

Principle 7: Legislation
Emphasizes clear, transparent legal frameworks aligning with international standards

Principle 8: National Coordination
Highlights the need for coordination among statistical authorities for consistency and efficiency

Principle 9: Use of International Standards
Encourages adherence to international standards for comparability and efficiency across borders

Principle 10: International Cooperation
Stresses the importance of global collaboration for improving and harmonizing statistical practices
Genesis of the FPOS

1991: Conference of European Statisticians (CES) developed and adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
1992: Adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
2013: Adopted by the UN Economic and Social Commission
2014: Adopted by the UN General Assembly
Definition of Official Statistics:

• Statistics produced in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by a national statistical office or by another producer of official statistics mandated by the national government or certified by the National Statistical Office.

Explanatory Notes:

• Official statistics are produced and disseminated in compliance with the respective national statistical legislation and are identified as such in the national statistical programmes.

• All statistics produced by a national statistical office are assumed to be official aside from those explicitly stated by the national statistical office as not official.
Delineation of the National Statistical System

National Statistical Office (NSO):
- 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 public organizations
- Responsible for their assigned activities in the statistical programmes

Non-traditional data sources (secondary data sources):
- Data collected and compiled by public authorities or private businesses for managerial, regulatory, administrative, and commercial purposes is a priori not considered Official Statistics but might be reused (acquired) for official statistical purposes by the NSO or any other producer of official statistics
Traditional and New Data Sources

Traditional Data Ecosystem

- Statistical sources
  - Statistical surveys / censuses
  - Administrative sources

New Data Ecosystem

- Administrative sources
- Other sources
  - Private / NGOs

- Statistical sources
  - Statistical Surveys / Censuses
  - Secondary Data Sources
    - Administrative sources
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related regional and national development policies
+ Emerging data needs for addressing health crises, climate change, and economic turmoils

Challenges and Opportunities for Official Statistics

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and related regional and national development policies
- **Emerging data needs for addressing health crises, climate change, and economic turmoils**

**Challenges**
+ Resilience and Agility

**Opportunities**
+ Competitors vs. Partners

**Transformation**
- Trusted
- Relevant
Recognition of FPOS Importance: The Commission acknowledged the vital role of the FPOS in ensuring official statistics stay trusted and relevant amidst modernization challenges.

Role of Friends of the Chair Groups: Acknowledged their significant contribution in promoting and monitoring FPOS implementation and enhancing global understanding despite the growing complexity of the Implementation Guidelines.

Independent Advisory Board Proposal: Viewed the proposal for establishing an advisory board to strengthen FPOS implementation and address non-compliance as a positive step.

Modernization of FPOS Implementation Guidelines: Welcomed the initiative to review and refine the guidelines for clarity, user-friendliness, and improved compliance in the lead-up to the 2024 commemorations.

Inclusive Approach to 2024 Activities: Emphasized inclusivity in the regional activities leading to the 2024 FPOS celebrations, requesting collaborative organization of events, including discussions on the Board's Terms of Reference and refinement of the Implementation Guidelines.
Global engagement for the 55th session of the Commission:
• Broad and inclusive engagements through various initiatives, including expert consultations, webinars, workshops, and international conferences to deepen FPOS understanding
• Focus on discussing the Independent Advisory Board's Terms of Reference and revitalizing FPOS Implementation Guidelines

Preparation of commented outlines for two sets of guidelines:
• **Guidelines for Statisticians:** Tailored to provide statisticians and practitioners with actionable advice and practical tools, addressing strategic, managerial, and operational aspects of applying the FPOS in a changing data landscape
• **Guidelines for Policymakers:** Designed to foster support and advocacy for the FPOS, these guidelines aim to create environments conducive to transparency and informed decision-making, enhancing the understanding and implementation of FPOS across various domains
Submission of the ToR of the FPOS Independent Advisory Board:

- **Advocacy and Implementation Focus**: The Board will actively advocate for FPOS, guiding their implementation and ensuring adherence across statistical practices.

- **Composition for Independence and Accountability**: Comprised of diverse experts, including former Chief Statisticians and legal and ethical professionals, to guarantee unbiased operations and uphold statistical integrity.

- **Engagement in Emerging Statistical Issues**: Engaged in continuous discussions and reviews of statistical challenges and compliance with the FPOS, providing a dynamic approach to modern statistical governance.

- **Annual Reporting for Transparency**: Tasked with preparing a publicly accessible annual report detailing activities, findings, and recommendations, enhancing global transparency and contributing to the FPOS's effective implementation.
Conclusions and the Way Forward

• **FPOS Milestones and Importance:** Celebrating the evolution and significance of Official Statistics as we approach the 2024 FPOS anniversaries.

• **Core Values of Official Statistics:** Emphasizing integrity and trust, Official Statistics stand out for their reliability in a data-rich world.

• **SDGs Monitoring Role:** Highlighting the indispensable role of accurate Official Statistics in tracking Sustainable Development Goals.

• **Adaptive Initiatives for the Future:** Focusing on enhancing adaptability and relevance through the Independent Advisory Board and updated guidelines.

For questions and comments:

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