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## **CCSA Survey on the Implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities**

**Prepared by FAO and UNSD**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The CCSA endorsed the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities (the Principles hereafter) at its 6<sup>th</sup> session in September 2005. These Principles are inspired by the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its Special Session in 1994, and provide a list of good practices to help International Agencies in their implementation. Almost all the members of the CCSA have officially subscribed to the Principles.
2. In 2012 the UNSC established a “Friends of the Chair” group in order to revise and update the preamble of the UN Fundamental Principles, and to assess how their implementation could be strengthened. Furthermore, a global review of the implementation of the UN Fundamental Principles among national statistical authorities was carried out in 2012 by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), and the results were reported to the UNSC in February 2013.
3. Following this review, the CCSA members agreed that International Agencies should also undertake an in-depth assessment to provide a strong signal to the international statistical community regarding their commitment to implementing the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities within their own organizations. Therefore, at the twenty-second session of the CCSA, held in Ankara in September 2013, it was agreed that a survey on the implementation of the Principles would be conducted among its members. Moreover, the CCSA reaffirmed the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities with a new preamble at its twenty-third meeting in New York in March 2014.
4. The survey was designed to both assess the degree of implementation of the good practices and to identify the barriers encountered by each organization in their implementation, as well as to suggest additional good practices to be included in the Principles. In addition, the survey also aimed at verifying the adoption of a practical framework, including tools and procedures, to support the implementation of the Principles by International Agencies. A further objective was to encourage the endorsement of the Principles at the highest level of the Organizations.
5. FAO took the lead in developing the questionnaire and in preparing a plan for the collection and analysis of the survey results. A first version of the questionnaire was discussed at the twenty-third session of the CCSA in New York. On the basis of the comments provided by many members, a revised questionnaire was then prepared. In revising the questionnaire the need to refine and reformulate some of the good practices, in many cases involving multiple dimensions with different degrees of implementation by an international agency, as well as the need to reallocate some of the good practices which could be aligned to more than one Principle, was recognized. Moreover, the need to complement questions on the adoption of good practices, which were sometimes of a rather abstract nature, with a list of concrete instruments ensuring implementation was acknowledged.

### **II. Overview of the main results**

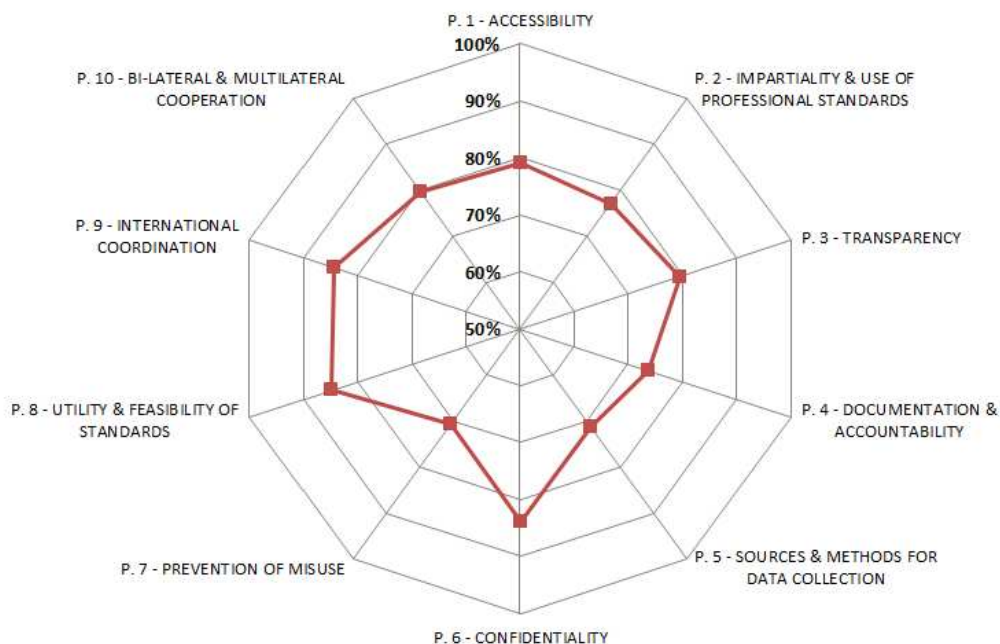
6. Between May and June 2014 all CCSA members were asked to fill in the web-based questionnaire for the global assessment on the Implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities. A total of 37 CCSA members out of 43 (86%) completed the survey. Many of them also provided valuable contributions to the identification of barriers to the implementation of the Principles, as well as additional good practices to complement the existing ones. This high response rate underlines the importance attached to the exercise by the International Agencies and their commitment to further improving the level of implementation of the Principles in the future.

**Table 1: Distribution of responses by modality**

	distrib of responses by modality	n. valid responses [1-5]	Not applicable	n. total responses [1-5; NA]	% FULL and HIGH over valid responses	% LOW and NOT IMPL over valid responses	% Not applicable over total responses	% with barriers over total responses	% with add. good practices over total responses
P. 1 - ACCESSIBILITY		33.5	2.8	36.3	79%	7%	8%	44%	33%
P. 2 - IMPARTIALITY & USE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS		33.5	3.5	37.0	77%	11%	9%	38%	16%
P. 3 - TRANSPARENCY		34.0	3.0	37.0	79%	6%	8%	32%	24%
P. 4 - DOCUMENTATION & ACCOUNTABILITY		33.6	3.1	36.7	74%	9%	9%	38%	14%
P. 5 - SOURCES & METHODS FOR DATA COLLECTION		29.9	7.0	36.9	71%	13%	19%	38%	24%
P. 6 - CONFIDENTIALITY		12.5	24.5	37.0	84%	12%	66%	11%	16%
P. 7 - PREVENTION OF MISUSE		34.0	3.0	37.0	71%	16%	8%	22%	22%
P. 8 - UTILITY & FEASIBILITY OF STANDARDS		31.0	6.0	37.0	85%	6%	16%	32%	19%
P. 9 - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION		34.6	2.2	36.8	84%	3%	6%	33%	14%
P. 10 - BI-LATERAL & MULTILATERAL COOPERATION		34.6	2.4	37.0	80%	9%	6%	24%	22%
IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUMENTS		30.6	6.4	37.0	27%	54%	17%		

7. Almost 80% of the 37 International Organisations that completed the survey assessed their level of implementation of the Principles as either **‘high’** or **‘full’**. However, with regard to the practical framework in place to support the implementation of the Principles, about 55% of the organizations considered adoption of instruments to be **‘low’** or **‘not implemented’**.

8. While the overall results regarding the implementation of the Principles are very positive, the discrepancy between the assessment of high levels of implementation, yet low usage of tools and procedures to actually aid implementation is notable. The rather abstract nature of many of the good practices could explain the contrast between the positive perception of respondents undertaking the self-assessment, and the de-facto operational situation - including the weakness of the tools and procedures- which are currently in place.

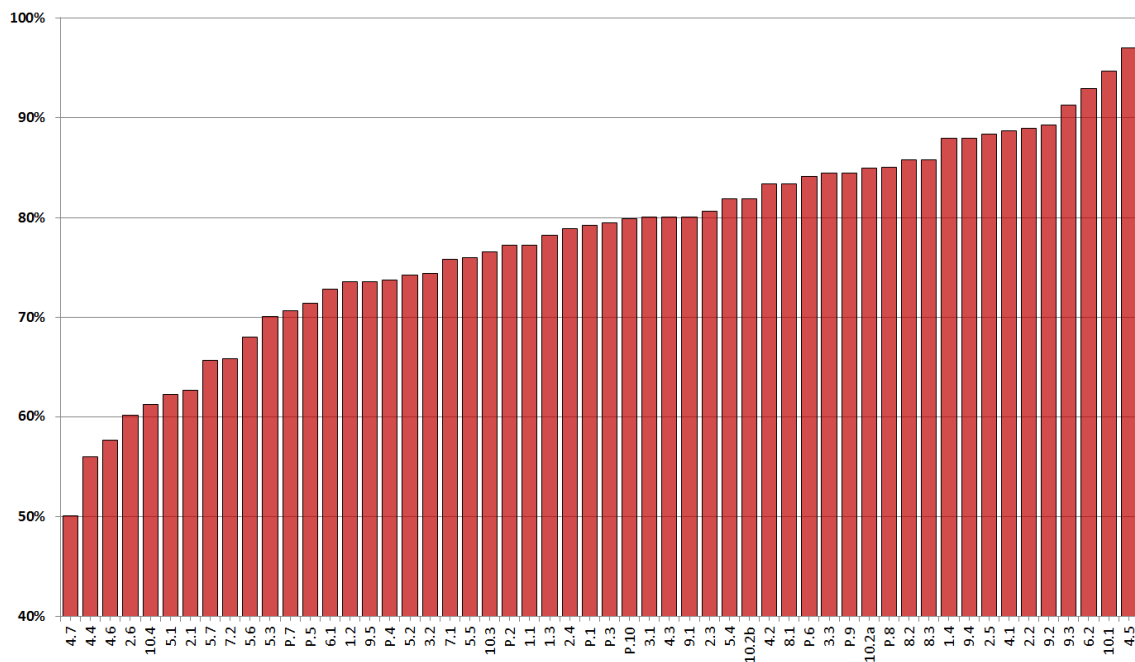


**Figure 1: Proportion of IOs with “Full” and “High” implementation by PRINCIPLES**

9. According to the overall results, Principle 8 (Utility and feasibility of standards) was reported to have the highest level of implementation (85% of respondents with high or full implementation), followed closely by Principle 9 (International coordination), and Principle 10 (Bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation). It seems, therefore, that the Principles which should shape/regulate the relationships with partners are the ones with the strongest commitment to implementation by IOs. Principle 1 (Accessibility), Principle 2 (Impartiality and use of professional standards) and Principle 3 (Transparency), which are meant to shape the relationships with users, are also quite well rated (around 79% of respondents with high or full implementation). The Principles with the lowest level of implementation are Principle 5 (Sources and methods for data collection) and Principle 7 (Prevention of misuse): only 71% of the IOs assessed their level of implementation of these Principles as high or full. The results concerning Principle 6 (Confidentiality) although rather high are not entirely significant, as about 70% of the IOs who responded to the survey do not collect/maintain micro-data.

10. The degree of implementation among individual good practices varies greatly, even within the same Principles, with a proportion of IOs with high or full implementation ranging from 50% to 97%. In particular, over 90% of the IOs:

- (a) (g.p. 4.5.) Give credit, in the dissemination of international statistics, to the original source and use agreed quotation standards when re-using statistics originally collected by others;
- (b) (g.p. 10.1.) Cooperate and share knowledge with international organisations and with countries and regions to further develop national and regional statistical systems;
- (c) (g.p. 9.3.) Work systematically towards achieving international agreements about common concepts, classifications, standards and methods.



**Figure 2: Proportion of IOs with “Full” and “High” implementation by PRINCIPLES and good practices**

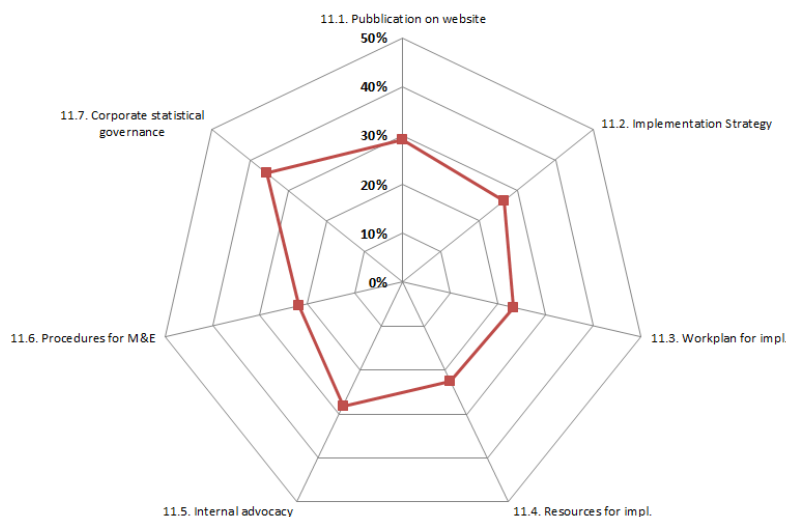
11. By contrast, the implementation of some good practices of Principles 4 (Documentation and accountability) and Principles 5 (Sources and methods for data collection), which should regulate the internal processes for the production of statistics is relatively low:

- (a) (g.p. 4.4.) Documenting and publishing how data are collected, processed and disseminated by your organisation (including information about editing mechanisms applied to country data and aggregation methods to calculate regional and global estimates);
- (b) (g.p. 4.6. and 4.8.) Monitoring and regularly reporting the implementation of agreed standards by the organisation;
- (c) (g.p. 5.1.) Facilitating the provision of data by countries by offering different data collection modalities;
- (d) (g.p. 5.3.) Reviewing periodically statistical procedures in order to minimise the burden on data providers;
- (e) (g.p. 5.6.) Publishing data collection plans, questionnaires and organisational focal points for each data domain;
- (f) (g.p. 5.7.) Having mechanisms in place to promote the use of the most suitable methods and sources by national statistical offices and other national organisations.

12. The lack of internal statistical coordination mechanisms, as we will see later, hampers the implementation of the Principles in various ways. In this regard it is worth noting that only 58% of respondents were able to answer the survey on behalf of their whole organization, whilst the remaining 42% were only able to provide input on behalf of their respective unit. It is possible that those who responded on behalf of their unit may lack a functional corporate governance system that would have enabled consolidation of answers for the whole organization. The lack of effective internal coordination mechanisms is apparent in the fact that only 70% of respondents can implement good practice 2.6 (“Ensuring that all data published by the Organisation are endorsed by the internal statistics governance”) fully or to a high degree.

13. As noted above, the results demonstrate a considerable contrast between the perceived high

level of implementation of the Principles, and the much lower levels of adoption of the practical tools and procedures which support this. A low level of implementation (a proportion of respondents with high or full implementation lower than 30%) applies both to rather straightforward instruments - such as the publication of the Principles on the Organisation’s website and the action to inform and sensitize staff on their importance – and to more demanding tools - such as the development of a strategy and work plan for the implementation of the Principles, the allocation of adequate resources and the establishment of procedures for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).



**Figure 3: Proportion of IOs with “Full” and “High” implementation by INSTRUMENTS**

14. It is notable that a number of agencies responded that several questions were not relevant for them. The reasons for this outcome may be diverse. For example, it is possible that the phrasing of the questions may not have been clear to all respondents, and that further questions would have been necessary to understand better the situation of all agencies. On the other hand, some CCSA members that are not involved in regular data collections (e.g. regional organizations) have probably not responded to a large number of questions that mainly refer to these activities. Lastly, IOs with a thematic focus whose core business is not statistics, may have an internal decision making process that makes it difficult for them to implement some of the good practices.

### III. Barriers to the implementation of the Principles

15. As anticipated in the Introduction, the CCSA survey was also designed to collect information on the main barriers that IOs face in the implementation of the Principles. The information from this section of the survey is meant to be used by the CCSA to inform discussions on how the Principles can be strengthened, and which practical tools, procedures or support frameworks are needed to assist IOs to overcome these challenges.

16. On average 23% of respondents indicated that at least one major barrier to the implementation of the Principles exists. The highest proportion of responses (35%) was received for Principle 1 (Accessibility). In addition, over 25% of IOs provided details on barriers for Principle 2 (Impartiality and use of professional standards), Principle 4 (Documentation and accountability), Principle 5 (Sources and methods for data collection) and Principle 9 (International coordination).

17. The complete list of barriers provided by the CCSA members is presented in Annex 3. The most common and reoccurring barrier relates to the lack of human and financial resources to fully implement the Principles. This is consistently identified across Principles and organizations. The lack of a formal internal governance system is also highlighted as a further common barrier across all of the Principles. Decentralized statistical systems are identified as creating barriers to full implementation as

organizations do not have the mechanisms in place to support the full implementation or the monitoring of the application of the Principles.

18. A very important challenge that was highlighted across more than one Principle by various IOs whose core business is not statistics, is that their statistical department does not take the final decisions on the data access and data dissemination policy of the agency, highlighting the possibility that these activities can be influenced by political pressure. The lack of a formal internal statistics governance mechanism and of a corporate quality assurance framework exposes these IOs to higher risks in this regard.

19. Another important challenge for some IOs is the overlapping mandates with other International and/or Regional Organizations, and the insufficient coordination between them. This challenge contributes to creating duplications in data collection, and consequently creates an unnecessary burden on country respondents, inconsistencies in data dissemination, and inefficient delivery of technical assistance to national statistical offices (NSOs).

20. Lastly, the barriers linked to the lack of an open data policy and of a fully developed communication strategy, which prevents some IOs from fully implementing Principle 1 and 3 (Accessibility and Transparency) are worth mentioning. Moreover, the reluctance of many NSOs to make micro data and other data covered by confidentiality arrangements available, as well as quality metadata documentation, hamper IOs in adopting improved data dissemination practices and an open data policy.

#### **IV. Improved formulation and additional good practices**

##### **A. *Improved formulation of some good practices***

21. At its twenty-second session in Ankara, the CCSA reaffirmed the Principles as still valid and decided to slightly revise the preamble to reflect the fact that the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were recently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the UN General Assembly.

22. When designing the CCSA survey, however, the possible need to revise the formulation of some good practices was noted. For the purposes of the questionnaire, considerable overlap and duplication was identified in some good practices. For example, it may be noted that Principles 2 (Impartiality and use of professional standards), 4 (Documentation and accountability) and 8 (Utility and feasibility of standards), and to some extent 5 (Sources and methods for data collection) partially overlap in terms of content. Principle 2 is rather comprehensive in scope, whereas the other Principles listed above refer to elements of the application of the professional standards in specific stages of the production of statistics. The good practices listed under these Principles can therefore often be associated to more than one Principle.

23. Moreover, in various cases good practices are rather generic, involving multiple dimensions with different degrees of implementation by an International Agency. For this reason, in the CCSA questionnaire several amendments were introduced to the formulation of good practices, including their reallocation across Principles.

##### **B. *Additional good practices***

24. Many IOs provided valuable input in identifying additional good practices to complement the existing ones: on average 17% of the respondents made at least one proposal. The highest proportion of responses (28%) was received for Principle 1 (Accessibility). In addition, over 20% of the respondents provided supplementary good practices for Principle 3 (Transparency) and Principle 5 (Sources and methods for data collection).

25. A list of the main additional good practices provided by the CCSA members is presented in Annex 4. In many cases the proposals were duplicative of already existing good practices (sometimes

listed under different Principles), highlighting important achievements of the respondent Organisation. For this reason, not all the suggestions provided were taken into account in compiling Annex 4.

26. Regarding Principle 1 (Accessibility), the most common suggestions included alternative modalities for the publication of new data, the adoption of an open data policy, the adoption of new technologies to facilitate user access (including corporate data warehouse), the establishment of peer review mechanisms of data by statistical committees or dedicated technical working groups. The use of new technologies and social media is also suggested for ensuring more effective implementation of Principles 3 (Transparency) and 7 (Prevention of misuse). Moreover, statistical governance mechanisms, when present, are also used to discuss/endorse the statistical work plan and budget of the IOs (Principle 3), to discuss/endorse new statistical standards (Principle 3), to facilitate international coordination with other Agencies (Principle 9) and bilateral cooperation with countries (Principle 10). Lastly, the adoption of internal audit mechanisms (corporate quality assurance framework) for monitoring the implementation of agreed standards, is identified as essential for the effective functioning of Principle 4 (Documentation and accountability).

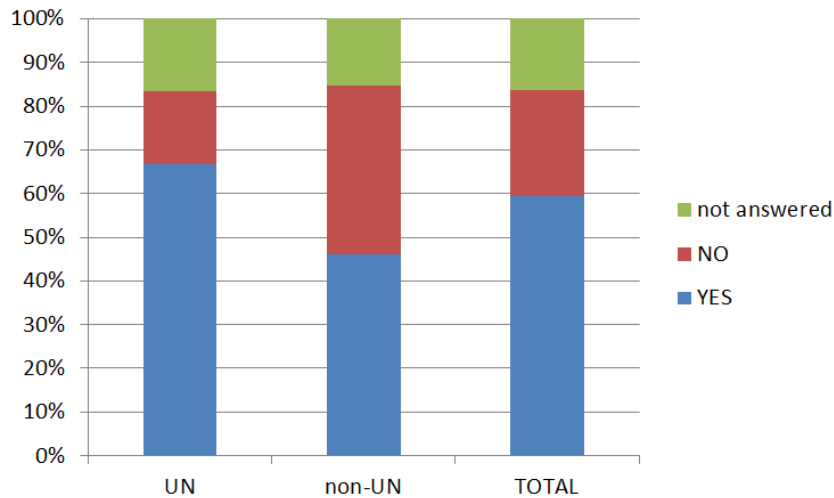
27. It is proposed that the CCSA reviews the formulation of the current good practices, and evaluates the additional good practices proposed, with a view to providing stronger guidance to its members in the implementation of the Principles.

## **V. Strengthening the implementation of the Principles**

28. As already stated, the results demonstrate that while self-perceptions of the degree of implementation are positive, the concrete tools and procedures needed to ensure the successful implementation of the Principles are generally not in place. Organizations underline difficulties with the development of strategies and work plans which focus on practical implementation, as well as the absence of monitoring and evaluation procedures. In several cases the need for a better internal governance mechanism to support the implementation of the Principles is also made clear. These findings highlight the potential role for the CCSA to act as a forum for International Agencies to discuss the key challenges faced and to showcase good practices.

29. Another area of particular interest relates to the question on whether respondents were in favour of endorsing the Principles at the highest level of the organization. It is well known that the Fundamental Principles were recently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2013 (Resolution 2013/21) and by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 January 2014 (Resolution A/RES/68/261) providing strong support to the independence of national statistical institutions and to the credibility of the statistics published by them. A similar endorsement at executive level by the IOs, especially the ones whose core business is not statistics, would help the Statistical Departments to strengthen their authority and influence as well as to avoid possible political interference in data dissemination.

30. In the CCSA survey the majority of the respondents (61%) were in favour of this approach, while 22% were contrary and 17% did not reply, probably judging the question as not applicable to their organizational context. A key distinction in this regard is notable between respondents from UN and non UN Organizations, which suggests that adoption of the Principles at the highest level is more difficult in non UN agencies.



**Figure 4: Proportion of IOs which support a high level endorsement of the PRINCIPLES**

## **VI. Points for discussion**

31. The CCSA members are invited to provide their feedback on the questionnaire and their comments on the analysis of the survey results. In this regard, it is particularly important to gain a common understanding of the reasons for the identified discrepancies between the perceived level of implementation and the operational reality. The CCSA may discuss how to communicate the results of the survey to various international forums, including the UN Statistical Commission, and in which modalities.

32. The CCSA is also invited to discuss:

- (a) How to address the barriers to the implementation of the Principles;
- (b) Whether the formulation of some good practices needs to be revised and whether additional good practices should be included in the Principles;
- (c) Whether the Principles should be endorsed at the highest level of the CCSA organizations.



## **Annex 1 – List of CCSA members that have participated in the survey**

African Development Bank (AfDB)  
Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)  
Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
Bank for International Settlements (BIS)  
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  
European Central Bank (ECB)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT)  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Paris 21 (P21)  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) -  
Statistical Center for the GCC member states (GCCSTAT)  
Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT)  
Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)  
The Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (Afristat)  
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
United Nations Population Division (UNPD)  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)  
United Nations Women (UNW) -  
Universal Postal Union (UPU)  
World Bank  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)  
World Trade Organization (WTO)

## Annex 2 - Principles Governing International Statistical Activities (Abbreviated)

- 1. Accessibility:** High quality international statistics, accessible for all, are a fundamental element of global information systems
- 2. Impartiality and use of professional standards:** To maintain the trust in international statistics, their production is to be impartial and strictly based on the highest professional standards
- 3. Transparency:** The public has a right to be informed about the mandates for the statistical work of the organisations
- 4. Documentation and accountability:** Concepts, definitions, classifications, sources, methods and procedures employed in the production of international statistics are chosen to meet professional scientific standards and are made transparent for the users
- 5. Sources and methods for data collection:** Sources and methods for data collection are appropriately chosen to ensure timeliness and other aspects of quality, to be cost-efficient and to minimise the reporting burden for data providers
- 6. Confidentiality:** Individual data collected about natural persons and legal entities, or about small aggregates that are subject to national confidentiality rules, are to be kept strictly confidential and are to be used exclusively for statistical purposes or for purposes mandated by legislation
- 7. Prevention of misuse:** Erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics are to be immediately appropriately addressed
- 8. Utility and feasibility of standards:** Standards for national and international statistics are to be developed on the basis of sound professional criteria, while also meeting the test of practical utility and feasibility
- 9. International coordination:** Coordination of international statistical programmes is essential to strengthen the quality, coherence and governance of international statistics, and avoiding duplication of work
- 10. Bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation:** Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contribute to the professional growth of the statisticians involved and to the improvement of statistics in the organisations and in countries

## Annex 3 - Main results

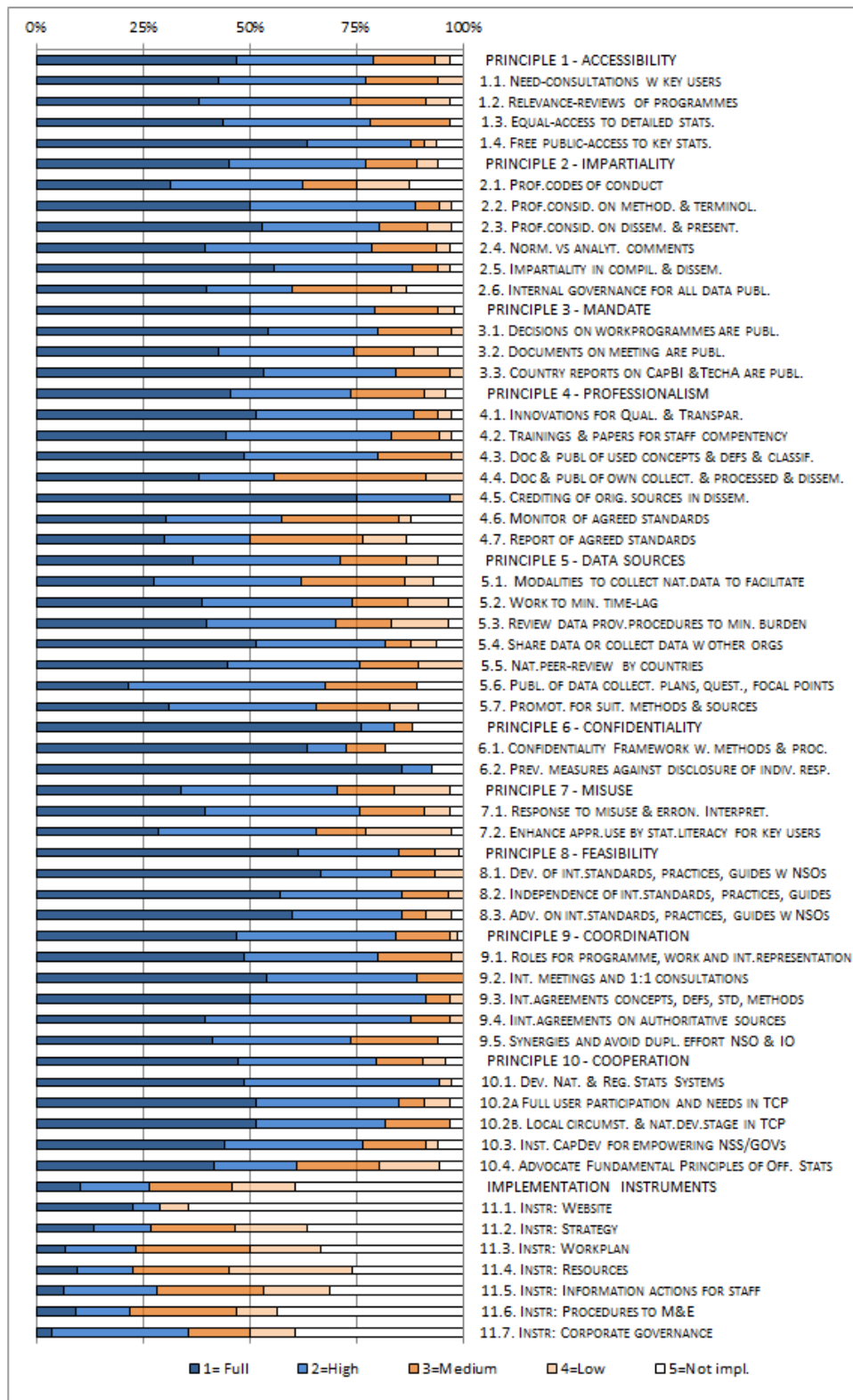


Figure 5: Distribution of responses by Principle and good practices

**Table 2 (part 1 of 2): Distribution of responses by Principle and good practices**

	distrib of responses by modality	n. valid responses [1-5]	Not applicable	n. total responses [1-5; NA]	% FULL and HIGH over valid responses	% LOW and NOT IMPL over valid responses	% Not applicable over total responses	% with barriers over total responses	% with add. good practices over total responses
<b>P. 1 - ACCESSIBILITY</b>		33.5	2.8	36.3	79%	7%	8%	44%	33%
1.1. Regular consultations		35	2	37	77%	6%	5%		
1.2. Reviews of programmes		34	2	36	74%	9%	6%		
1.3. Equal access to detailed stats.		32	4	36	78%	3%	11%		
1.4. Free public access to key stats.		33	3	36	88%	9%	8%		
<b>P. 2 - IMPARTIALITY &amp; USE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS</b>		33.5	3.5	37.0	77%	11%	9%	38%	16%
2.1. Prof. codes of conduct		32	5	37	63%	25%	14%		
2.2. Prof. consid. on method. & terminol.		36	1	37	89%	6%	3%		
2.3. Prof. consid. on dissem. & present.		36	1	37	81%	8%	3%		
2.4. Advocacy vs analysis		33	4	37	79%	6%	11%		
2.5. Impartiality in compil. & dissem.		34	3	37	88%	6%	8%		
2.6. Internal governance for data publication		30	7	37	60%	17%	19%		
<b>P. 3 - TRANSPARENCY</b>		34.0	3.0	37.0	79%	6%	8%	32%	24%
3.1. Workprogrammes are public		35	2	37	80%	3%	5%		
3.2. Documents on meetings are public		35	2	37	74%	11%	5%		
3.3. Country reports on Stat Cap are public		32	5	37	84%	3%	14%		
<b>P. 4 - DOCUMENTATION &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY</b>		33.6	3.1	36.7	74%	9%	9%	38%	14%
4.1. Innovations for Qual. & Transpar.		35	2	37	89%	6%	5%		
4.2. Training for staff prof. competency		36	1	37	83%	6%	3%		
4.3. Publication of definitions/classif.		35	2	37	80%	3%	5%		
4.4. Publication of how data collected & processed		34	3	37	56%	9%	8%		
4.5. Crediting of orig. sources in dissem.		32	5	37	97%	3%	14%		
4.6. Monitoring agreed standards		33	3	36	58%	15%	8%		
4.7. Reporting on agreed standards		30	6	36	50%	23%	17%		
<b>P. 5 - SOURCES &amp; METHODS FOR DATA COLLECTION</b>		29.9	7.0	36.9	71%	13%	19%	38%	24%
5.1. Different data collection modalities		29	8	37	62%	14%	22%		
5.2. Minimize time-lag		31	6	37	74%	13%	16%		
5.3. Minimize burden		30	7	37	70%	17%	19%		
5.4. Data sharing		33	4	37	82%	12%	11%		
5.5. Peer-review by countries		29	8	37	76%	10%	22%		
5.6. Publication of data collection info		28	8	36	68%	11%	22%		
5.7. Promot. for suit. methods & sources		29	8	37	66%	17%	22%		

**Table 3 (part 2 of 2): Distribution of responses by Principle and good practices**

	distrib of responses by modality	n. valid responses [1-5]	Not applicable	n. total responses [1-5; NA]	% FULL and HIGH over valid responses	% LOW and NOT IMPL over valid responses	% Not applicable over total responses	% with barriers over total responses	% with add. good practices over total responses
<b>P. 7 - PREVENTION OF MISUSE</b>		34.0	3.0	37.0	71%	16%	8%	22%	22%
7.1. Response to misuse & erroneous interpret.		33.0	4	37	76%	9%	11%		
7.2. Stat.literacy for key users		35	2	37	66%	23%	5%		
<b>P. 8 - UTILITY &amp; FEASIBILITY OF STANDARDS</b>		31.0	6.0	37.0	85%	6%	16%	32%	19%
8.1. Development of int. standards with NSOs		30	7	37	83%	7%	19%		
8.2. Independence of int.standards		28	9	37	86%	4%	24%		
8.3. Support implementation of int.standards		35	2	37	86%	9%	5%		
<b>P. 9 - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION</b>		34.6	2.2	36.8	84%	3%	6%	33%	14%
9.1. Roles for programme, work and int.representation		35.0	1	36	80%	3%	3%		
9.2. Participation in int. meetings		37	-	37	89%	0%	0%		
9.3. Int.agreements on definitions/standards		34	3	37	91%	3%	8%		
9.4. Int.agreements on authoritative sources		33	4	37	88%	3%	11%		
9.5. Coordination of TC		34	3	37	74%	6%	8%		
<b>P. 10 - BI-LATERAL &amp; MULTILATERAL COOPERATION</b>		34.6	2.4	37.0	80%	9%	6%	24%	22%
10.1. Knowledge Sharing		37	-	37	95%	5%	0%		
10.2a User needs in TC projects		33	4	37	85%	9%	11%		
10.2b. TC projects in line with statistical capacity		33	4	37	82%	3%	11%		
10.3. Institutional CapDev for empowering NSS/GOVs		34	3	37	76%	9%	8%		
10.4. Advocate Fundamental Principles of Off. Stats		36	1	37	61%	19%	3%		
<b>IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUMENTS</b>		30.6	6.4	37.0	27%	54%	17%		
11.1. Publication on website		31	6	37	29%	71%	16%		
11.2. Implementation Strategy		30	7	37	27%	53%	19%		
11.3. Workplan for impl.		30	7	37	23%	50%	19%		
11.4. Resources for impl.		31	6	37	23%	55%	16%		
11.5. Internal advocacy		32	5	37	28%	47%	14%		
11.6. Procedures for M&E		32	5	37	22%	53%	14%		
11.7. Corporate statistical governance		28	9	37	36%	50%	24%		

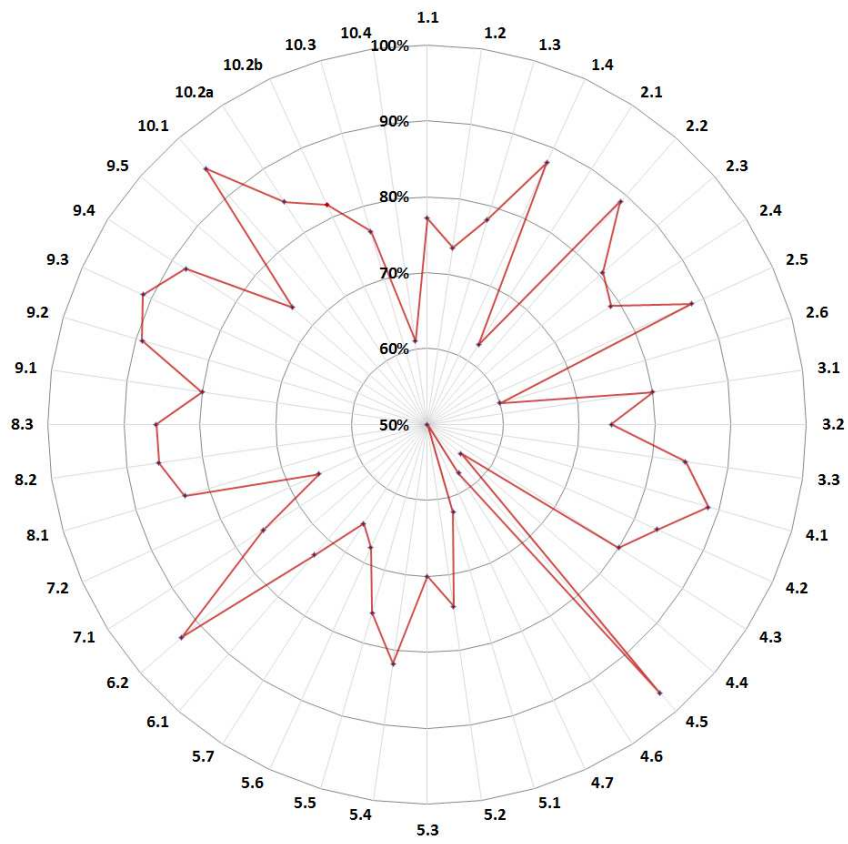


Figure 6: Proportion of IOs with “Full” and “High” implementation by good practices

## **Annex 4 - Barriers to the implementation of the Principles**

The barriers to the implementation of the Principles indicated by the survey respondents are summarized below by Principle.

### **Principle 1 - Accessibility**

1. Insufficient quality of data/documentation provided by countries
2. Political pressure to share data with some important stakeholders before their publication (lack of equal access)
3. Statistics Department not responsible for data dissemination
4. Quality affected by pressure to produce and disseminate data quickly
5. Lack of resources for undertaking regular consultation
6. Difficulty in identifying key users
7. Lack of open data policy
8. Confidentiality issues

### **Principle 2 - Impartiality and use of professional standards**

1. Lack of internal coordination/governance within organizations prevents adoption of corporate standards
2. High/senior level policy endorsement of statistical monitoring reports makes application of professional standards and impartiality difficult
3. Political pressure: compilation of data done according to statistical standards, but publishing and final dissemination is out of the control of the statistical department

### **Principle 3 - Transparency**

1. Lack of visibility of the IO at national level
2. Communication strategy not fully developed
3. Communication policy hinders access to the public at large
4. Discrepancy in practices between statistical unit and other units
5. Lack of resources

### **Principle 4 - Documentation and accountability**

1. Lack of a statistical quality assurance framework
2. Decentralized statistical system and lack of internal coordination/governance
3. Lack of regular monitoring/documentation
4. Lack of financial and human resources

### **Principle 5 - Sources and methods for data collection**

1. Different data publication calendars
2. Inefficient technologies used for data collection
3. Limited support to countries available
4. Lack of resources

### **Principle 6 - Confidentiality**

1. Reluctance of NSOs to make micro data available
2. Micro data is only used internally
3. Lack of resources

### **Principle 7 - Prevention of misuse**

1. Lack of resources, especially for capacity development activities
2. Lack of knowledge of how data are used at local level
3. Lack of coordination/governance
4. Volume of data published

### **Principle 8 - Utility and feasibility of standards**

1. High/senior level policy endorsement of statistical outputs does not necessarily mean

- standards applied by statistical department are upheld
2. Overlapping mandate with other International Organizations
  3. Lack of resources
  4. Organization concerned is not a standard-setting entity

**Principle 9 - International coordination**

1. Lack of coordination between International Organizations and Regional Organizations in data collection
2. Lack of resources

**Principle 10 - Bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation**

1. Lack of coordination between International Organizations and Regional Organizations
2. Lack of resources



## **Annex 5 - Additional good practices**

The additional good practices proposed by the survey respondents are summarized below by Principle.

### **Principle 1 Accessibility**

1. Publication of data release calendar (could be added to good practice 5.6)
2. Press releases for new data
3. Communication of new data through new publications
4. Protocol for impartial/equal access in place
5. Open data policy
6. Establishment of a users committee
7. Procedures in place for identifying demands for new data
8. Use of new technologies for increased accessibility
9. Providing different modalities and formats for data downloads
10. Establishment of a corporate data warehouse (consolidation of all statistical databases within the organization)
11. Peer review of data by dedicated statistical committee/technical group. Peer review by all official stakeholders, not only reporting national authorities (could be added to good practice 5.5)

### **Principle 2 - Impartiality and use of professional standards**

1. Independence of statistical functions from political interventions established by law
2. Public commitment to impartiality and use of professional standards by organization to be made

### **Principle 3 - Transparency**

1. Discussion and endorsement of statistical work plan and budget by governing bodies
2. Use of various media channels to target different audiences (blogs, social media etc.)

### **Principle 4 - Documentation and accountability**

1. Use of internal audit to monitor the implementation of agreed standards

### **Principle 5 - Sources and methods for data collection**

1. Publication of data release calendar
2. Undertaking new surveys in collaboration with national statistical institutions (could be added to good practices under Principle 10)
3. List of focal points/data coordinators for each country

### **Principle 6 - Confidentiality**

None.

### **Principle 7 - Prevention of misuse**

1. Setting up a help desk to answer external user queries
2. Establishment of a users forum for discussion
3. Use of social media
4. Dedicated group established to focus on statistical literacy

### **Principle 8 - Utility and feasibility of standards**

1. Establishment of global working groups on standards for member countries
2. Discussion of standards through internal statistics governance mechanisms
3. Close coordination with other international agencies to ensure information shared with countries is coherent and reflects agreed standards
4. Establishment of dedicated working groups and task forces on new standards

### **Principle 9 - International coordination**

1. Establishment of internal coordination mechanisms, which permit the discussion of responsibilities, methodologies, concepts and common standards at both senior and technical levels

**Principle 10 - Bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation**

1. Regular reviews of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by member countries

## **Annex 6 - CCSA Survey on the Implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities**

### **Please select your Organisation:**

African Development Bank (AfDB)  
Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)  
Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
Bank for International Settlements (BIS)  
European Central Bank (ECB)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT)  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Paris 21 (P21)  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) -  
Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT)  
Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) \*  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
United Nations Population Division (UNPD)  
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)  
United Nations Women (UNW) -  
Universal Postal Union (UPU)  
World Bank  
World Health Organization (WHO)\*\*  
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)  
World Trade Organization (WTO)

\* The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, which is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), also replied to the survey.

\*\* The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), replied to the survey.

### **Is this questionnaire filled-in on behalf of:**

Your unit

Your entire Organisation

**PRINCIPLE 1: High quality international statistics, accessible for all, are a fundamental element of global information systems**

Good practices of Principle 1: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

- 1.1 Having regular consultations with key users both inside and outside the organisation to ascertain that their needs are met
- 1.2 Periodic review of statistical programmes to ensure their relevance
- 1.3 Providing equal access to detailed statistics for all users
- 1.4 Ensuring free public access to key statistics
- 1.5 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below
- 1.6 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 1 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 1 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 1 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 2: To maintain the trust in international statistics, their production is to be impartial and strictly based on the highest professional standards**

Good practices of Principle 2: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

2.1 Adapting and using professional codes of conduct, such as the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics

2.2 Using strictly professional considerations for decisions on methodology and terminology

2.3 Using strictly professional considerations for decisions on data dissemination and presentation

2.4 Making a clear distinction, in statistical publications, between statistical and analytical comments on the one hand and policy-prescriptive and advocacy comments on the other

2.5 Compiling and disseminating international statistics based on impartiality

2.6 Ensuring that all data published by the Organisation are endorsed by the internal statistics governance

2.7 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

2.8 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 2 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 2 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 2 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 3: The public has a right to be informed about the statistical programme of work and activities of the organisations**

Good practices of Principle 3: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

3.1 Making decisions about statistical work programmes publicly available

3.2 Making documents for and reports of statistical meetings publicly available

3.3 Making reports of statistical capacity building initiatives, and technical assistance projects in countries publically available

3.4 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

3.5 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 3 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 3 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 3 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 4: Concepts, definitions, classifications, sources, methods and procedures employed in the production of international statistics are chosen to meet professional scientific standards and are made transparent for the users**

Good practices of Principle 4: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

- 4.1 Striving continuously to improve the quality and transparency of statistics by introducing methodological and systems innovations
- 4.2 Enhancing the professional competency of staff by encouraging them to attend training courses, to publish scientific papers and to participate in seminars and conferences.
- 4.3 Documenting and publishing concepts, definitions and classifications used by your organisation
- 4.4. Documenting and publishing how data are collected, processed and disseminated by your organisation (including information about editing mechanisms applied to country data and aggregation methods to calculate regional and global estimates)
- 4.5 Giving credit, in the dissemination of international statistics, to the original source and using agreed quotation standards when re-using statistics originally collected by others
- 4.6 Monitoring the implementation of agreed standards by the organisation
- 4.7 Regularly reporting on the implementation of agreed standards by the organisation
- 4.8 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below
- 4.9 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 4 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 4 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 4 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 5: Sources and methods for data collection are appropriately chosen to ensure timeliness and other aspects of quality, to be cost-efficient and to minimise the reporting burden for data providers**

Good practices of Principle 5: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

5.1 Facilitating the provision of data by countries by offering different data collection modalities

5.2 Working systematically towards minimising time lag between the reference period and publication date of international statistics

5.3 Reviewing periodically statistical procedures in order to minimise the burden on data providers

5.4 Sharing collected data with other organisations and collecting data jointly where appropriate

5.5 Ensuring that national data are reviewed by countries before their publication

5.6 Publishing data collection plans, questionnaires and organisational focal points for each data domain

5.7 Having mechanisms in place to promote the use of the most suitable methods and sources by national statistical offices and other national organisations

5.8 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

5.9 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 5 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 5 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 5 within your Organisation?**



**PRINCIPLE 6: Individual data collected about natural persons and legal entities, or about small aggregates that are subject to national confidentiality rules, are to be kept strictly confidential and are to be used exclusively for statistical purposes or for purposes mandated by legislation**

Good practices of Principle 6: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable) - (if your Organisation does not disseminate micro-data please select "N.A.")

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

6.1 Developing and implementing a framework describing methods and procedures to provide sets of anonymous micro-data for further analysis by bona fide researchers, maintaining the requirements of confidentiality

6.2 Putting measures in place to prevent the direct or indirect disclosure of data on persons, households, businesses and other individual respondents

6.3 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

6.4 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 6 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 6 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 6 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 7: Erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics are to be immediately appropriately addressed**

Good practices of Principle 7: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

7.1 Responding appropriately to perceived erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics

7.2 Enhancing the appropriate use of statistics by increasing statistical literacy for important user groups where needed

7.3 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

7.4 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 7 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 7 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 7 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 8: Standards for national and international statistics are to be developed on the basis of sound professional criteria, while also meeting the test of practical utility and feasibility**

Good practices of Principle 8: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

8.1 Systematically involving national statistical offices and other national organisations for official statistics in the development of international statistical standards, including good practices and guidelines for implementation.

8.2 Ensuring that decisions on such standards are free from conflicts of interest and from political influence

8.3 Advising countries on issues and good practices in the implementation of international standards

8.4 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

8.5 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 8 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 8 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 8 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 9: Coordination of international statistical programmes is essential to strengthen the quality, coherence and governance of international statistics, and avoiding duplication of work**

Good practices of Principle 9: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

9.1 Designating clear responsibilities in the organisation for the implementation of the statistical programmes, the coordination of the statistical work and the representation in international statistical meetings

9.2 Participating in international statistical meetings and bilateral and multilateral consultations whenever necessary

9.3 Working systematically towards achieving international agreements about common concepts, classifications, standards and methods

9.4 Working systematically towards achieving international agreements about which sources should be considered as authoritative for each important set of statistics

9.5 Coordinating technical cooperation activities with national and international partners to avoid duplication of efforts and to encourage complementarities and synergies

9.6 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

9.7 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 9 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 9 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 9 within your Organisation?**

**PRINCIPLE 10: Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contribute to the professional growth of the statisticians involved and to the improvement of statistics in the organisations and in countries**

Good practices of Principle 10: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

10.1 Cooperating and sharing knowledge among international organisations and with countries and regions to further develop national and regional statistical systems

10.2 Ensuring that technical cooperation projects are based on user requirements, and promote full participation of the main stakeholders

10.2 Ensuring that technical cooperation projects take into account local circumstances and the stage of national statistical development

10.3 Empowering national statistical systems and governments through institutional capacity development

10.4 Advocating the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in countries

10.5 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 1 below

10.6 Other good practices - pls. specify as case 2 below

**Other good practices of Principle 10 (case 1 description)**

**Other good practices of Principle 10 (case 2 description)**

**What are the major barriers to the implementation of Principle 10 within your Organisation?**

**Do you think that the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities should be formally endorsed by your Organisation, i.e. by your Director-General or equivalent?**

Yes

No

**Instruments for the Implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities in your Organisation**

Overall implementation: Degree of implementation in your organisation (1 = Full implementation, 2 = High implementation, 3 = Medium implementation, 4 = Low implementation, 5 = Not implemented, N.A. = Not Applicable)

1 2 3 4 5 N.A.

11.1 The PRINCIPLES are published on your Organisation's website

11.2 A strategy for implementing the PRINCIPLES is in place

11.3 A workplan for implementing the PRINCIPLES is established

11.4 Resources for implementing the PRINCIPLES are available

11.5 Information and advocacy actions for managers and staff on the PRINCIPLES and their implementation are undertaken

11.6 Monitoring and evaluation procedures for implementing the PRINCIPLES are in place

11.7 An internal corporate statistics governance mechanism for implementing the PRINCIPLES is in place

11.8 Any other instruments for implementing the PRINCIPLES are in place (if applicable pls. specify below)

**Other instruments for the Implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities in your Organisation:**

**General comments on the PRINCIPLES and/or on the SURVEY:**

**Please indicate your e-mail address if you wish get a copy of your filled-in questionnaire (optional)**