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National Quality Assurance Framework: initial comments on the discussion paper

In general, we support the development of a generic National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) for statistics, and appreciate very much the contribution of Statistics Canada.

The objectives are good: to provide stimulus to NSO's not having an overarching quality framework for introducing one, and to provide a basis framework to consider ways in which it could be enhanced.

For future preparation of the work we would like to present the following comments:

It is important that we do not create overlapping and competing systems. The Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) of IMF should be linked to this framework. An approach based on building connections might overall be a reasonable way to progress. Already the assertion of the common terminology as such is very important.

The benefits of the presented NQAF are very similar to those of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) by UNECE. In some ways, the GSBPM could be seen as a more comprehensive and practically oriented framework, which also includes the quality framework.

Regarding the outlined contents of the NQAF, the statistical process and its phases could be made more visible, to avoid creating a system which is not linked to statistical production.

One specific remark from the quality management point of view concerns the characteristics of the statistics production. The sustainability of the statistics production could also be considered here. The official statistics should be able to anticipate the coming data needs of the society, and e.g. not break short-sighted the time series, or not only to lean on instant feedback.

We look forward to the next version of the NQAF.