

## **Country practice on harmonization recommendation of international organisations, especially UN fundamental principles of official statistics with the legislation (Republic of Azerbaijan)**

The main legislative document on official statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan is the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Statistics" was adopted on 18 February 1994.

Adoption of the Law played an important role in ensuring the legalization of statistical activities. For the first time in the history of Azerbaijan the main concepts in the field of statistics, the rights and obligations of the subjects and main parameters of the statistical activities determined by the legislation.

The corresponding changes is being made in the Law in accordance with reforms implementing in the country and resolutions on statistics adopted by the international organisations. Biggest changes have been made by the document which signed in 23.12.2005. The main purpose of the changes were widening of the available legal basis on production of the statistical materials, to correspond the law of the country with the law of the statistical bodies of the EC countries and recommendations of the Eurostat. Implementation of changes in the law has strengthened the processes of coordination of statistics in Azerbaijan with international standards and provision of international comparability of data. Different articles such as "Statistical Council", "Principles and autonomy of official statistics", "Access to administrative statistical information", "Relation of official statistics with administrative statistics", "Use confidential statistical data", "Scientific research", "Access to confidential statistical data", "Protection measures", "Dissemination of confidential statistical data" were added to Law and the Article "Statistical confidentiality" has changed into the Article "Statistical confidentiality and data from public sources". In connection with that the relevant changes were made in Articles related to duties, rights and responsibilities of state statistical bodies. These changes and additions gave possibility to strength existed legal basis of Azerbaijan statistics and its coordination with international requirements.

Last changes based on proposals related with definitions on "Official statistics", "administrative statistics" and "administrative statistical data" in Article 1 of the Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been made in 2011

according to recommendations of the Global Assessment of Azerbaijan's statistical system implemented in 2010 by Eurostat, EFTA and UNECE.

Taking into account requirements of national legislation, the Law covered international calls and recommendations, including basic elements of UN "Fundamental Principles of official statistics".

**Covering situation of theses of the Fundamental principles of official statistics in the Law on "Official Statistics" of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

<b>Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics</b>	<b>Corresponding Articles of Law on "Official Statistics" of the Republic of Azerbaijan</b>
<p><b><u>Principle 1:</u></b> Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.</p>	<p><b><u>Preamble (paragraph 2):</u></b> Official statistics shall provide - on an impartial basis-accurate and qualitative (representative) information about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation in the country to government institutions, social and economic agents, academic circles, the general public, international organisations and other users.</p> <p><b><u>Article 2 (paragraph 4):</u></b> Official statistics have to provide real reflection of situation, justified dissemination of data among users, selection of factors having decisive importance for corresponding executive authorities, besides, respect of the rights of citizens in obtaining clear data by taking into consideration the relation between expenditures and the burden on respondents on one hand and priorities on the other hand.</p>

**Principle 2:** To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

**Article 2 (paragraph 3):** Official statistics shall furthermore be aimed at creating a single statistical information system ensuring the objectiveness and reliability of statistical data, comparability with international statistics and transparency of aggregated statistical material. With this purpose it should improve and rise effectiveness of the principles and methods of collecting, processing, saving, submitting and disseminating of data as well as applying most advanced statistical traditions and scientific achievements in the field of official statistics within the requirements of the Law.

**Article 10:** The state and non-government organisations shall not interfere to the implementation of powers of the state statistical bodies and not influence the staff of the statistical authorities in the performance of their tasks.

When implementing the Programme, the state statistical bodies are autonomous and shall not seek or take instructions from state and local bodies notably in the selection of data sources, statistical methods, in the contents, form and time of dissemination and in the application of statistical confidentiality.

**Principle 3:** To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

**Article 6 (item 2):** Working out the methodology, classifications and standards being more comparable with standards accepted in international practice and methodical assistance for the production of official statistical materials and carrying out observations neatly that are entrusted to other authorities by this program.

<p><b><u>Principle 4:</u></b> The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.</p>	<p><b><u>Article 6 (item 6):</u></b> Providing explanation with the purpose to avoid erroneous interpretation of the statistical results by users, appearance in the mass media;</p>
<p><b><u>Principle 5:</u></b> Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.</p>	<p><b><u>Article 11 (paragraph 2):</u></b> While conducting state (regional) statistical observations, if no other case is considered in the legislation, the type, methodology, programs and objects of statistical observations, acquisition of data from all sources for carrying out official statistics, using assessment on the base of administrative registers or the data of state statistical bodies, are determined by the state statistical bodies by taking the recommendations of international organizations and the Council into consideration. After deciding the selection of source to be used, special attention is paid to its quality, on time submission, expenditures and burden on respondents related with this.</p> <p><b><u>Article 13:</u></b> All state and local bodies shall give the SSC of Azerbaijan access to administrative statistical information collected, processed and stored in the domain of their respective competencies, notably to registers and other data files, to the extent that is necessary for the production of statistics, thus avoiding the imposition of response burdens on the units concerned, and shall be submitted to the SSC of Azerbaijan by established deadline and form according to the Program of statistical works.</p> <p><b><u>Article 14 (paragraph 2):</u></b> The state statistical bodies shall have the right to</p>

	<p>access the statistics and to disseminate them in accordance with Article 22 of this Law. In this connection Producers of administrative data shall be obliged to transmit the said data on demand to the state statistical bodies.</p>
<p><b><u>Principle 6:</u></b> Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.</p>	<p><b><u>Article 15 (paragraph 2):</u></b> Primary statistical data shall be based on reliable primary records and used only for aggregated statistical work, compilation of collections and socio-economic analysis.</p> <p><b><u>Article 16 (paragraph 1):</u></b> Data collected, processed and stored for the production of official statistics shall be confidential when they allow statistical units to be identified, either directly or indirectly, thereby disclosing individual information, primary statistical data of legal and natural persons.</p>
<p><b><u>Principle 7:</u></b> The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.</p>	<p><b><u>Article 3 (paragraph 3):</u></b> The SSC of Azerbaijan shall function in the system of the central executive bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and organise official statistics within the “Programme of statistical works” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in the republic. The Programme shall be published in defined rule in order to inform government bodies, enterprises, organisations, institutions and the public.</p>
<p><b><u>Principle 8:</u></b> Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.</p>	<p><b><u>Article 3 (paragraph 1):</u></b> The system of official statistics shall be a single, centralised, country-wide system.</p>
<p><b><u>Principle 9:</u></b> The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods</p>	<p><b><u>Article 6 (item 2):</u></b> Working out the methodology, classifications and standards being more comparable with standards</p>

<p>promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.</p>	<p>accepted in international practice and methodical assistance for the production of official statistical materials and carrying out observations neatly that are entrusted to other authorities by this program;</p> <p><b><u>Article 6 (item 11):</u></b> Preparing national classifications of necessary technical, economic and social information for organising the statistical works on the base of classifications applied in international practice and by taking into consideration the requirements of legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan</p>
<p><b><u>Principle 10:</u></b> Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries</p>	<p><b><u>Article 5 (last paragraph):</u></b> The SSC of Azerbaijan shall, by the established procedure and in accordance with international legal standards, establish links with the statistical authorities of foreign countries and with international organisations on matters within its competence, conclude cooperation agreements with them, acting as a representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, organise conferences, meetings and seminars at international level and take part in the meetings organised by intergovernmental and non-governmental international organisations, according to international agreements, receive statistical information from foreign countries with a view to compare the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with that of other countries.</p>