



UN Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks

Comments on NQAFs (received in response to the questions in the 13 August 2010 EG launch letter/e-mail):

IMF: Mohammed El-Qorchi, 14 September 2010

We highly appreciate the opportunity for the IMF to participate in the UN Expert Group on developing a National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF), and we look forward to a successful cooperation in that group to the benefit of both data compilers and data users. As an international institution, we will be happy to contribute by sharing our expertise in the development and usage of the Data Quality Assessment Framework, which has been created by the Fund's Statistics Department as a main tool not only for the preparation of the Data Modules of the Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC), but also for structuring the metadata in the Fund's Data Dissemination Initiatives - the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). In that reference, we welcome the hyperlinks to DQAF and GDDS already placed on the specially launched website of the UN Expert Group on NQAF <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/QualityNQAF/nqaf.aspx>, but would also like to advise to complement them with a link to the SDDS home page (<http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/Home.aspx>).

Regarding the questions for discussion included in your e-mail, we have the following comments:

- the first three questions are country related, and therefore cannot be commented by us as an international institution;
- regarding the suggested 3 templates for generic NQAF in the fourth question, the IMF has a preference for the second template based on the DQAF. Using it could help countries directly link their quality management to the recommendations of Data ROSCs done by the Fund. SDDS metadata are also already structured using the DQAF, and GDDS metadata are also starting to follow this structure. Over 100 data ROSCs have been already done for developed and developing countries, the reports are public, and are regularly updated (see <http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp?sort=topic#DataDissemination>).

Best regards,
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