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3 September 2009

Dear Colleague,

**Re: National Quality Assurance Framework**

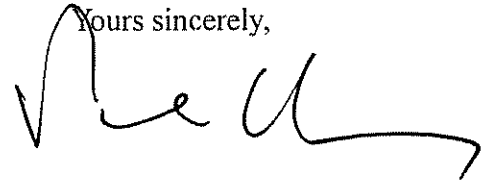
Quality of official statistics is a central concern for all national statistical offices. A number of countries and international organizations have developed detailed concepts and procedures of quality control. Whilst there is considerable overlap in these various quality frameworks, as of yet no generic national quality assurance framework (NQAF) exists which could be utilized by a country to introduce new quality assurance procedures or to systematize those it currently uses. Such a generic NQAF would have to be based on a broad consensus regarding the notion of quality and build on the experiences developed so far.

As a first step in the direction of developing a generic NQAF, the UN Statistical Commission has put the issue of developing an internationally agreed national framework on its agenda for the 2010 session. Statistics Canada has kindly agreed to prepare a discussion paper for this purpose. I am pleased to send you the attached draft paper for your review and comments.

I would appreciate receiving your comments as soon as possible. Please kindly send your comments to me at [paul.cheung@un.org](mailto:paul.cheung@un.org). A copy of the paper is also posted at the UNSD website at <http://unstats.un.org>. Based on your inputs, the report will be finalized by Statistics Canada in close consultation with my office. An expert group meeting will be held to discuss the comments and to give further guidance, if deemed necessary. The process of evolving an internationally agreed National Quality Assurance Framework will naturally take time. It is expected that further consultations will take place after the discussion at the 2010 Statistical Commission session. I would be grateful if you could send me papers or reports issued by your office on this issue for onward dissemination to facilitate discussion.

I look forward to receiving your views and comments.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Cheung  
Director  
Statistics Division/DESA