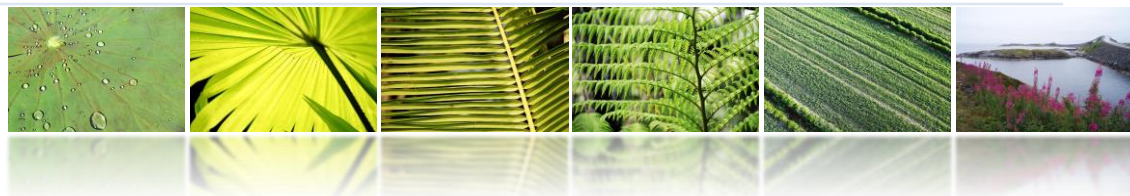




United Nations
Statistics Division

Framework and Institutions



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Introduction

- Individual countries adopt different approaches in producing energy (and other) statistics.
- But in all countries, for the process of producing quality statistics to work, there needs to be:
 - a strong legal framework
 - effective institutional arrangements
 - adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics endorsed by the United Nations.



Legal Framework

Legal Framework

- Essential elements of the legal framework include:
 - a data collection entity with legal authority to collect, compile and disseminate statistics;
 - the confidentiality of information collected;
 - legally enforceable penalties;
 - the privacy of respondents.
- Decree n° 1793 (Feb 22, 1979) gives CAS the authority and responsibilities described above,
 - And to work with involved administrations to collect different kinds of statistics (e.g., MEW for energy).
- Decree n° 2728 (Feb 28, 1980), in its Article 7, assigns the responsibility of compiling energy statistics to CAS Production Statistics Department, "in cooperation with competent administrations" (e.g., MEW).

Legal Framework: Oath of secrecy

- All staff should be required to take a formal oath to keep data secure and confidential.
 - Included in Article 8 of decree n° 1793
- This oath should extend beyond the period of employment with the statistical agency – typically for life.
- There should be provision for fines or criminal prosecution for any breach of confidentiality.
- This helps in building trust with respondents.



Legal Framework: Compliance

- Laws are required to make reporting mandatory;
 - Covered by decree 1793
- The statistics agency should engage in 'public outreach' to educate respondents about the importance of reporting;
- Where individuals or businesses refuse to report, there should be selective action.
 - The decree 1793 already allows for fines, but if this is not enforced, people/businesses may not take it seriously





Institutional Arrangements

Institutional Arrangements

- Not all countries collect and compile statistics in the same way.
- It is appropriate, of course, for the institutional framework to reflect national norms and organizational structures.
- In general, however, statistical operations are characterized by two different approaches:
 - centralized statistical systems; and
 - decentralized statistical systems.

Centralized Approach: Advantages

The advantages of a centralized approach tend to consist of:

- Economies of scale;
- Centres of expertise;
- Centrally-managed tools;
- Promoting links between subject areas;
- Coordinated data dissemination;
- Independence and Data Quality.

Decentralized Approach: Advantages

Under a decentralized statistical system, advantages may include:

- Enhanced subject-matter expertise;
- Closer collaboration with respondents and energy experts;
- Practical considerations;
- Closer links to administrative data sources



Institutional Collaboration

Institutional collaboration can improve the functioning of the national statistics program through:

- Formal arrangements (i.e. specified in legislation)
 - Data-sharing
 - Use of administrative data (Decree 1793, article 5)
- Informal arrangements (through Working groups/Committees):
 - Priority setting
 - Harmonization of concepts (IRES facilitates it)
- Data validation and analysis
- Coordination of data dissemination

Institutional arrangements in Lebanon

- What are the formal and informal arrangement for energy statistics in Lebanon?
- Are there cross validation of statistics if different entities produce similar information?
- What are the opportunities for news kinds of cooperation that could create synergies?



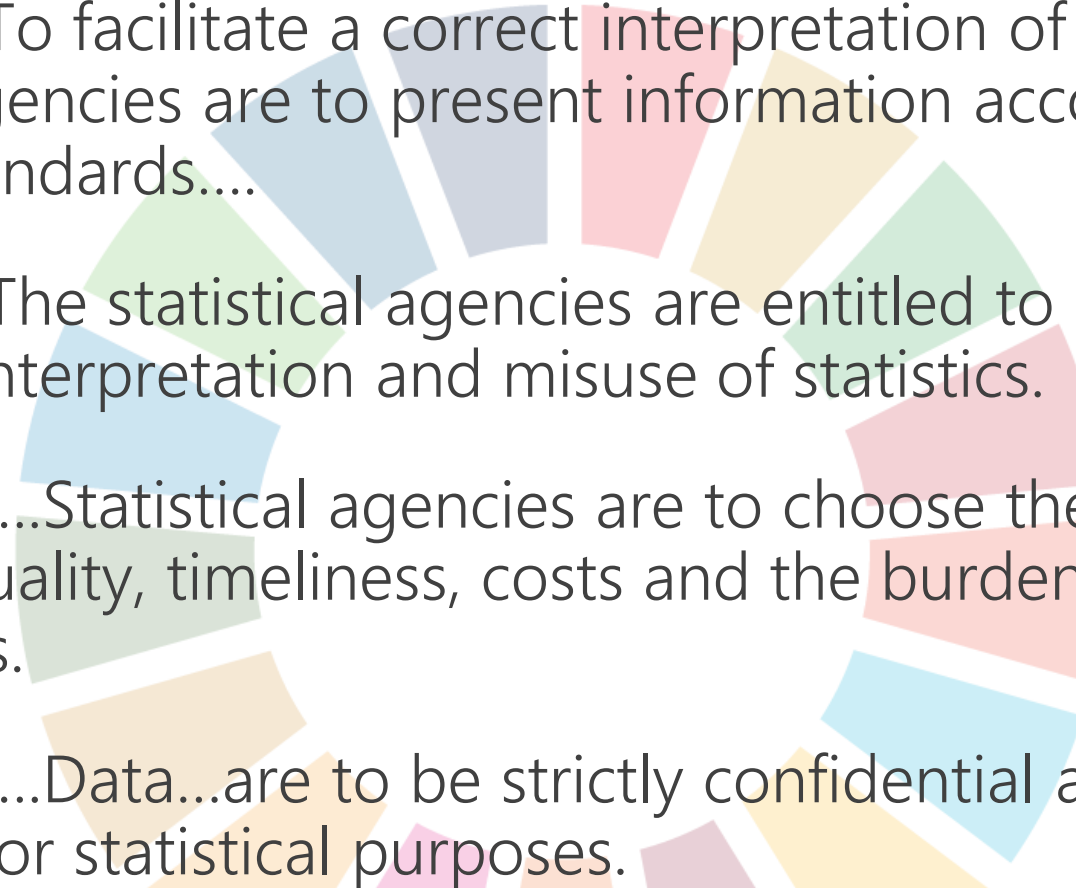
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Ten fundamental principles of official statistics, to which a country's statistical operations should conform, were enunciated by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on January 29, 2014.

- **Principle 1:** Official statistics...are to be compiled on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies.
- **Principle 2:** Statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations...the methods and procedures (to be used).

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

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- **Principle 3:** To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards....
 - **Principle 4:** The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.
 - **Principle 5:**Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.
 - **Principle 6:**Data...are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

- **Principle 7:** ...laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.
- **Principle 8:** Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential...
- **Principle 9:**...use of international concepts, classifications and methods...
- **Principle 10:** Bilateral and multilateral cooperation...

Conclusion

- Improved institutional arrangements are necessary (but not sufficient) to improve energy statistics in Lebanon and allow for the compilation of full energy balances.
- This can only be achieved if all stakeholders get involved and work together towards this common goal.





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