

Workshop on the Implementation of a National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics in countries of the Eastern-Europe / Central Asia Region Belgrade, Serbia, 10-13 December 2019

#### Session 4.1/ 4.2: Implementation of NQAF throughout the NSS (and relevant core recommendations)

Matthias Reister, Chief Development Data Section Statistics Division, Development Data and Outreach Branch United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### **Relevant core recommendations**

#### Core recommendation #3

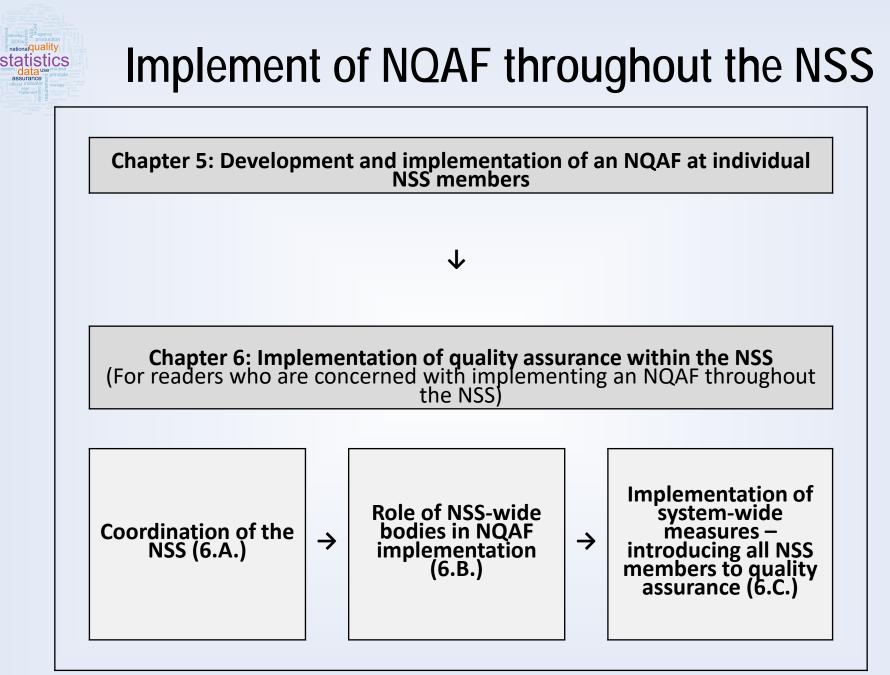
It is recommended that countries <u>establish</u> a national quality assurance framework for official statistics and that all members of the national statistical system <u>commit to</u> continually assessing, improving and reporting on the quality of official statistics, as well as on the quality of data and statistics used in the production of official statistics as required.

#### **Core recommendation #5**

**It is recommended** that the national quality assurance framework <u>be</u> <u>implemented</u> at the national statistical office and throughout the entire national statistical system. Furthermore, **it is recommended** that the national quality assurance framework <u>be applied</u> to all data and statistics produced outside of the national statistical system that are disseminated with the help and support of a member of the national statistical system or that are used for government decision-making, as deemed appropriate and required.

## Highly relevant principles regarding NSSwide implementation

- Principle 1: Coordinating the national statistical system
- Requirement 1.1: Statistical law establishes responsibilities
- Requirement 1.2: There is a body and mechanism for coordination
- Principle 3: Managing statistical standards
- Requirement 3.1: All statistical agencies cooperate in development and implementation of standards
- Requirement 3.2: NSO provides support to others and guidance to all data providers and producers of official statistics in the implementation of statistical standards



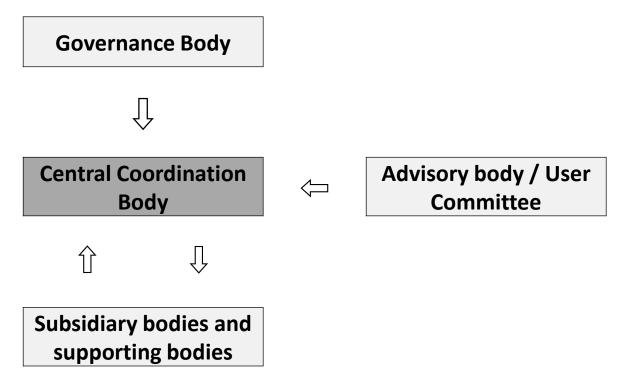
## Implement of NQAF throughout the NSS

#### To recall: Importance of coordination in the NSS:

- Harmonization of concepts, definitions, classifications and sampling frames
- Avoiding duplication of effort and undue burdening of respondents; fostering of efficient and effective data collection and proper data sharing;
- 3. International representation and coordination;
- Establishment of system wide policies and programs, including quality assurance;
- 5. Capacity-building; reporting on progress regarding the SDGs.

#### Implement of NQAF throughout the NSS Depending on the national institutional arrangements, there can be several bodies involved in the coordination of different aspects of the NSS.





## Implement of NQAF throughout the NSS

#### Tasks of the Central Coordination Body

- (a) Oversee the development and adoption of NQAF
- (b) Promote the NQAF and support its implementation by members of the NSS, for example by providing training or a template for quality reporting and assessment;
- (c) Establish additional supporting bodies as required, for example to address specific quality issues
  - i. for SDG indicator data and statistics;
  - data and statistics from other and new data sources, new data providers and new statistics producers;
  - iii. data and statistics produced by entities outside the NSS when they are intended for use in production of official statistics.

## Implement of NQAF throughout the NSS

For many members of the NSS the production of official statistics is not their primary purpose. For example, for government ministries, the production of statistics is a byproduct of and input to their policymaking tasks.

## Introducing all national statistical system members to quality assurance

- (a) Emphasize the obligation of all members of the NSS to assure the quality of the statistics they produced
- (c) Identify the quality assurance focal point at the statistical agencies;
- (d) Conduct staff training on the NQAF;
- (e) Introduce the essential tools for quality assurance
- (f) Focus on actions with visible pay-off

# Special challenge: Quality assurance of SDG indicators (Chapter 8)

- 1. Challenges of assuring quality of data and statistics for the SDG indicators
- 2. Roles of the different entities participating in this task
- 3. Presents requirements and elemente to be assured that are of special importance for assuring the quality of SDG data and statistics according to the four UN NQAF levels:
  - Managing the NSS
  - Managing the statistical environment
  - Managing the statistical processes
  - Managing statistical outputs

**Note:** Chapter 8 is primarily directed at the central coordinating body (typically the NSO) with overall responsibility for SDG monitoring and aims at assuring the quality of SDG data and statistics across the NSS and not of individual SDG indicators.

## Special challenge: Quality assurance of SDG indicators (Chapter 8)

#### Level A: Managing the NSS as part of assuring the quality of the SDG indicators

Requirements / elements to be assured*	Rationale for inclusion and description of the responsibilities
Principle 1: Coordinating the national statistical system	
3. As appropriate, review the legal and/or regulatory framework underpinning data collection activities of the NSS members and draft proposals for amendments, as necessary, to facilitate access to administrative and other data needed for the compilation of the SDG indicators. (1.1, 1.3 and 2.4 - 2.6).	Rationale:The data collection by the individual NSS members is regulated by applicable legislation and/or government regulation; they may need to be amended to allow for the compilation and sharing of data required for the efficient production of the SDG indicators.Responsibility:Individual NSS members.
4. Review and update the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) (1.4 and 9.1)	<ul> <li><u>Rationale</u>: The NSDS needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the additional requirements for the monitoring of the SDGs.</li> <li><u>Responsibility</u>: The central coordination body (NSO) should initiate the review and update of the NSDS; all NSS members should actively participate in the work as required.</li> </ul>



## THANK YOU