

Workshop on the Implementation of a National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics in countries of the Africa Region

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-18 October 2019

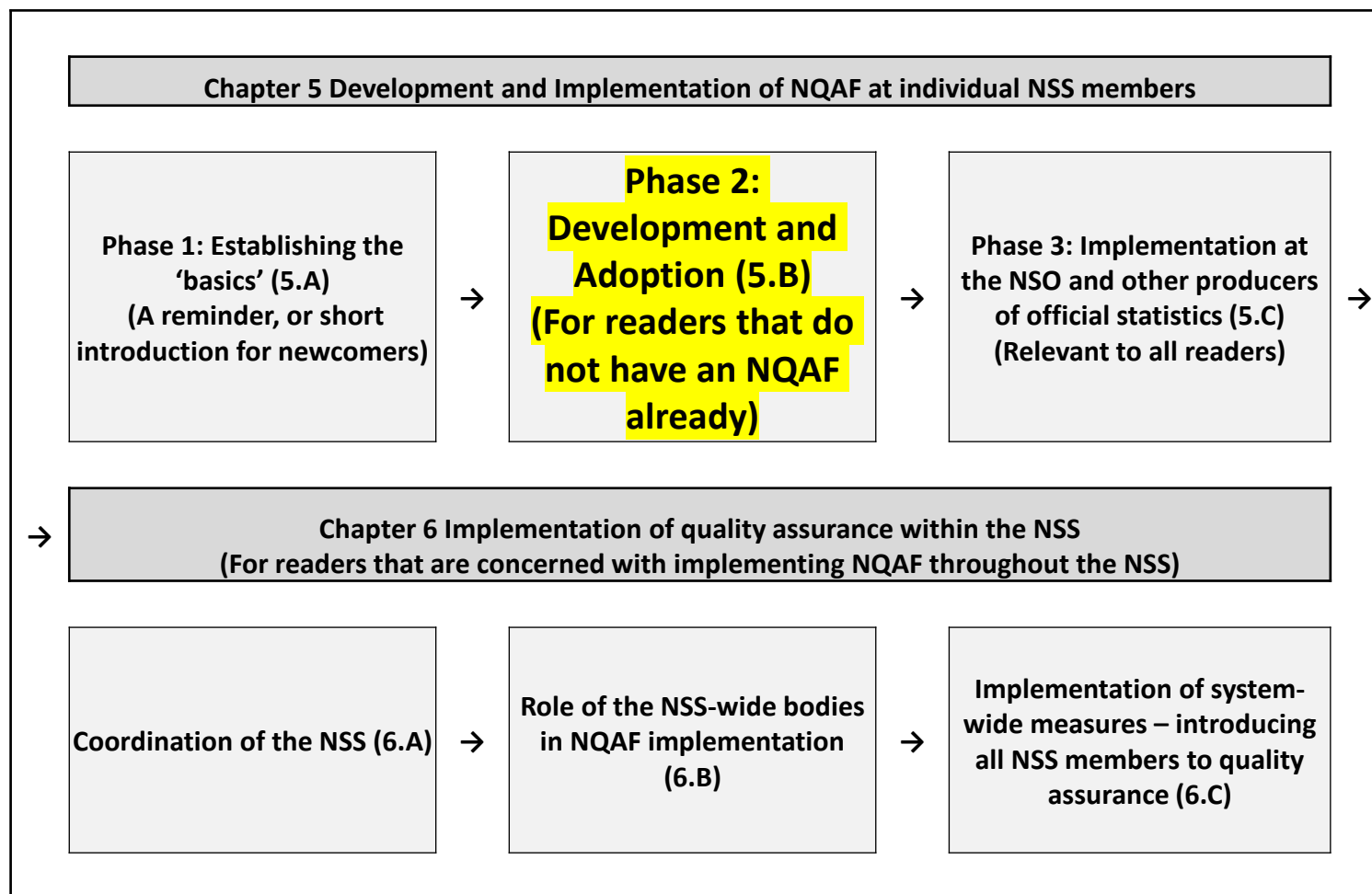
Session 4.1: Development of NQAF

Zin Kyaw Lin
Development Data Section
Statistics Division, Development Data and Outreach Branch
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs





Relationship between Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 - institutional arrangements and specific actions at different phases of NQAF development and implementation





Development of NQAF

- Process of NQAF development and adoption**
 - Institutional arrangements**
 - Activities**

- Assumes that the NSO is leading the development of NQAF for the entire NSS - although specific arrangements in countries may vary.**



Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **High-level commitment**
- **Establishment of a quality unit at the NSO responsible for quality assurance**
- **Establishment of a quality task force (or working group).**
- **The role of the NSS-wide governance body**
- **The role of the NSS-wide advisory body**
- **Establishment of a legal framework for quality assurance**



Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **High level commitment**
 - From the leadership of the NSO and members of NSS that are producers of Official Statistics.

- **Establishment of a quality unit at the NSO responsible for quality assurance**
 - To lead, coordinate and conduct the required conceptual work.
 - Typically located in the division/department that is responsible for the cross-divisional/cross-departmental statistical work, coordination and/or statistical methodology.



Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Establishment of a quality task force (or working group)**
 - **The head of the NSO would establish a quality task force which is given the responsibility to develop a NQAF.**
 - **Consists of subject matter experts from NSO and NSS - to ensure the broad involvement of the subject matter expertise.**
 - **NSO as chair and the secretariat of the working group.**

- **Role of the NSS-wide governance body**
 - **Development of the NQAF could benefit from the establishment of the NSS-wide governance body – that can agree on a common NQAF and implementation guidelines.**
 - **E.g. Statistical Councils or Statistics Board.**
 - **More details in Chapter 6.**



Institutional arrangements for the development and adoption of NQAF

➤ Role of the NSS-wide advisory body

- Typically consists of users from government, private sectors, NGOs, researchers and the general public.**
- To advise on the user needs and concerns on emerging issues of the quality of data and statistics.**

➤ Establishment of a legal framework for quality assurance

- The requirement and process to include/reflect NQAF in the national statistical laws or legislations should be evaluated early on so that steps can be taken to include quality assurance in the national statistical legislation.**
- This will ensure the Manual's core recommendation #1 (to guarantee the fundamental values and principles for development, production and dissemination of official statistics by the legal and institutional framework) and core recommendation #2 (to include the requirement of quality assurance in the national statistical legislation).**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

☐ The process may include the following :

- Establishment of a timetable for development and implementation.
- Review and analysis of national circumstances and practices.
- Identify Uses and users of NQAF and NQAF implementation plan.
- Compilation, review and analysis of materials available at the international level.
- Decision on the reference framework for NQAF.
- First draft of NQAF and its contents.
- Quality requirements, elements to be assured and indicators.
- Consultation and review process of the draft NQAF.
- Finalization and adoption.
- Communication and dissemination.



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Establishment of a timetable for development and implementation**
 - **Quality unit together with quality working group should set up the initial timeline for development and implementation of NQAF – and regularly review and update as needed.**
 - **Typically the development of NQAF may be undertaken over a minimum of one year – including the review, revision and approval.**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Review and analysis of national circumstances and practices.**
 - **Quality unit together with quality working group should review all relevant national documents on:**
 - **Statistical laws, regulations and guidelines;**
 - **National statistical strategies or plan that may be of relevance.**
 - **Also compile the existing quality assurance frameworks that are already used within the country.**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Identify uses and users of NQAF and NQAF implementation plan.**
 - **And countries may want to do deeper analysis of their needs – such as SWOT analysis (which stands for Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of their NSOs and NSSs.**
 - **Initial plan for implementation of NQAF should be developed so that NQAF is developed with the view of its implementations.**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Compilation, review and analysis of materials available at the international level.**
 - **No need to start from scratch.**
 - **Quality Unit together with Quality working group should review various existing global, regional and thematic quality assurance frameworks:**
 - **UN NQAF**
 - **European Code of Practices**
 - **IMF's DQAF**
 - **OECD recommendations on Good Statistical Practices**
 - **African Charter on Statistics.**
 - **Other relevant guidelines such as GSBPM**
 - **Practices of other countries.**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Decision on the reference framework for NQAF.**
 - **Quality working group, potentially together with NSS-wide governance body, should decide whether:**
 - **To adopt or adapt an existing NQAF (or)**
 - **To develop an own NQAF from the combinations of existing NQAFs (or) by identifying specific quality principles themselves.**
 - **Considerations should be given to UN NQAF Core Recommendation #4 (the NQAF is being developed in consideration or in alignment with the UN NQAF or similar existing quality assurance framework)**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **First draft of NQAF and its contents.**
 - **Quality Working Group will develop the first draft.**
 - **NQAF typically consists of description and definition of quality concepts and quality principles – which may be complemented by initial implementation guidelines.**
- **Quality requirements, elements to be assured and indicators.**
 - **Draft NQAF may or will need to be complemented – at a later stage – with requirements and elements to be assured – in order to provide guidelines for implementation.**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Consultation and review process of the draft NQAF.**
 - **First – internal review and approval process within the organizations that are part of the Quality Working Group –**
 - **Then followed by wider consultations with all concerned stakeholders in order to**
 - **Create awareness**
 - **Create ownership**
 - **Ensure that NQAF fits difference circumstances and reflect the quality aspects.**
 - **Then draft NQAF may now be put out for public consultations**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Finalization and adoption.**
 - **Draft NQAF maybe updated based on the inputs received during the consultation processes**
 - **Then undergo final review at the management level of participating organizations**
 - **Then submit for the adoption at the NSS-Wide Governance body**
 - **Then NQAF may also be adopted at the political level or reflected in the national statistical legislation.**



Activities for the development and adoption of NQAF

- **Communication and dissemination.**
 - **Should be distributed to all producers of official statistics and announced to all users of statistics.**
 - **Should be introduced to the staff at the statistical agencies.**

