



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# The African Charter on Statistics and the **UN Fundamental Principles** of Official Statistics

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# Warm-up

## Case Study 1: What efficiency?

### Extract from a speech of a Head of State



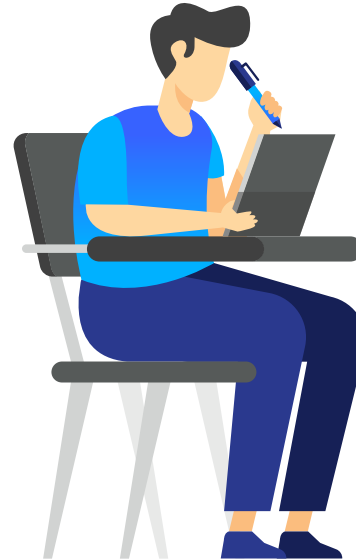
"The actions implemented during my mandate have contributed to a significant reduction in poverty. The population living below the poverty line dropped from around 92% to almost 70%."

### The real facts

**92% - National poverty line**

**70% - International poverty line**

**The two statistics are not comparable!**



What do you think?

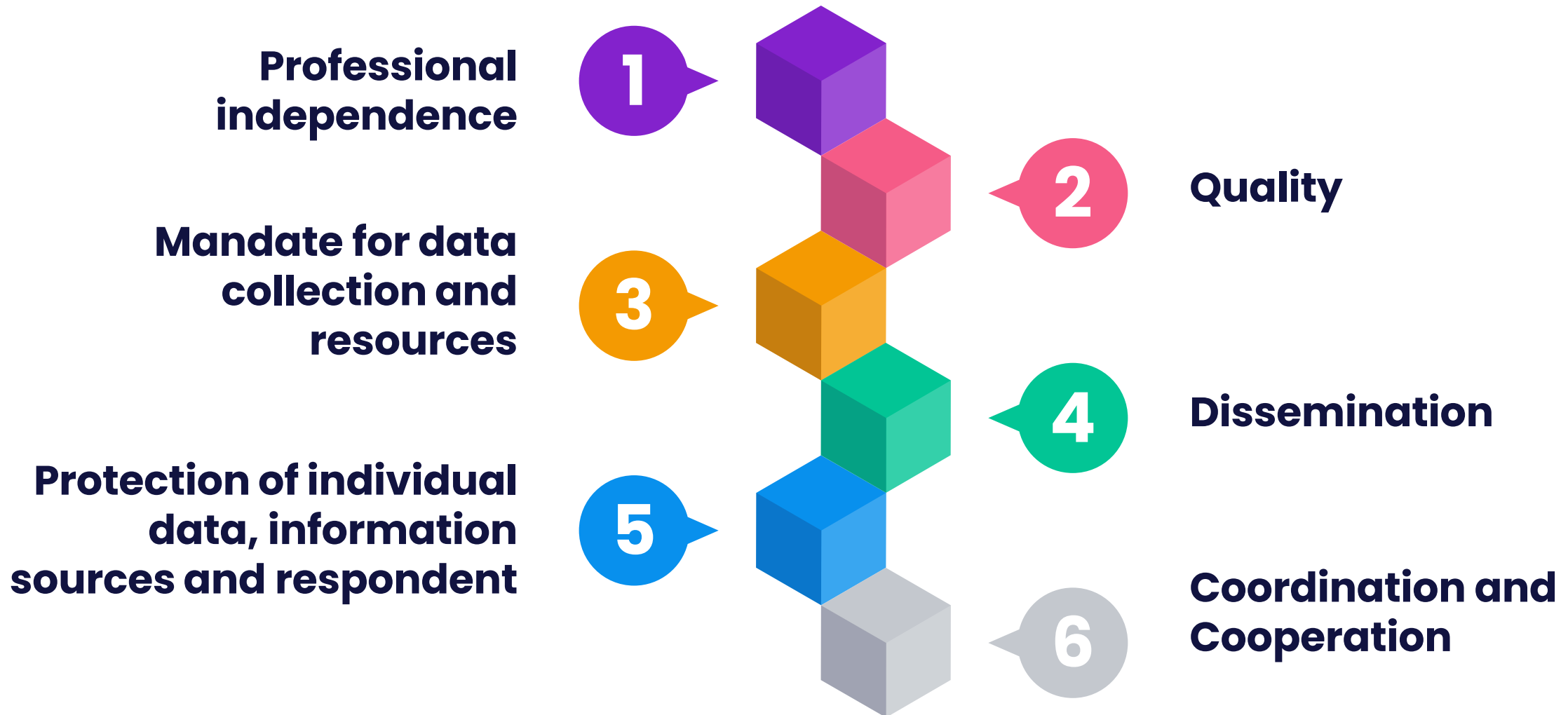
## Case Study 2: Delay in dissemination

The Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines' statistical yearbook is produced annually. We are in Y, and the yearbook for year Y-1 is being finalized. The one for year Y-2 is not yet published because the forward of the Minister is not yet signed.

### Case Study 3: Data archive lost

Following a political and civil crisis in a country, the NSO was vandalized: computers and servers were stolen or destroyed, and the NSO's data centre was set on fire. All data stored there is lost.

# The Charter's six principles



# Principle 1: Professional Independence

## Scientific independence

Methods, concepts and nomenclatures selected without any interference

## Responsibility

Employ unambiguous and relevant methods. Make observations on erroneous interpretation and misuse



## Impartiality

Produce, analyze, disseminate, and comment in an objective, professional and transparent manner

## Transparency

provide information on sources, methods and procedures used. Statistics legislation made public

# Principle 2: Quality

## Relevance

African statistics shall meet the needs of users

## Accuracy and reliability

African statistics shall be an accurate and reliable reflection of the reality

## Timeliness

African statistics shall be disseminated in good time and according to pre-determined calendar

## Sustainability

African statistics shall be conserved in as detailed as possible a form to ensure their use by future generations

## Continuity

Statistics authorities shall ensure continuity and comparability of statistical information over time

## Topicality

African statistics shall reflect current and topical events and trends

## Awareness-building

Sensitization of the public on the importance of statistics.

## Data source

Data used for statistical purposes may be collected from diverse sources: quality, topicality, ~~Costs~~

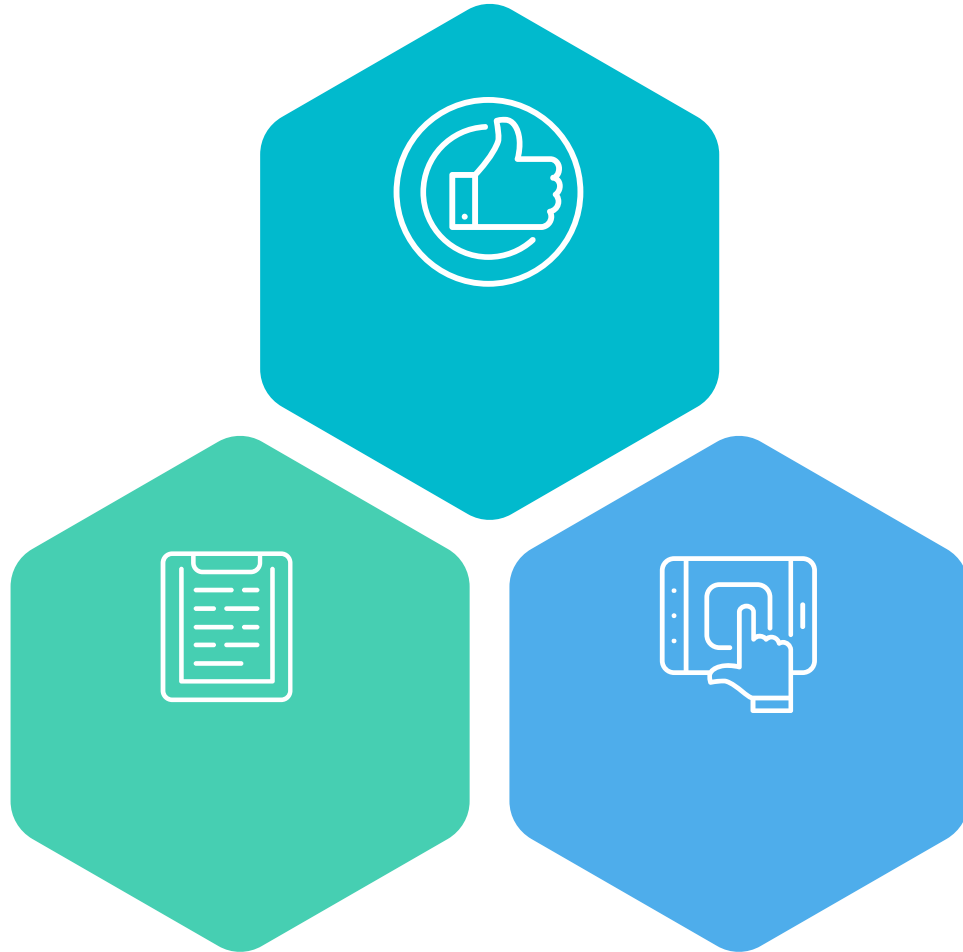
## Coherence and comparability

Internal coherence in data guaranteed internally coherent over time and comparison between regions and countries

## Specificities

Statistical data production and analytical methods shall consider African peculiarities

# Principle 3. Mandate for data collection and resources



**A**

## **Mandate**

A clear legal mandate empowering to collect data, Access to data used for statistical purpose

**B**

## **Resource Adequacy**

Adequate and stable to resources, primary responsibility of Governments

**C**

## **Cost-effectiveness**

Use of resources provided effectively and efficiently

# Principle 4: Dissemination

## Accessibility

Concomitant right of access for all users without restriction. Confidentiality maintained for microdata.



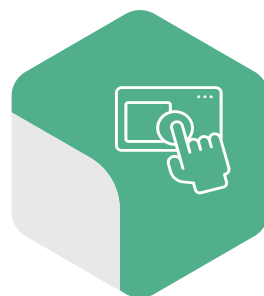
## Dialogue with users

Mechanisms for consultation with users without discrimination in place.



## Clarity and understanding

Statistics presented in a clear and comprehensible form with metadata and analytical commentaries



## Correction

Correct publications containing significant errors using standard statistical practices. Suspend dissemination in various serious cases.

## Simultaneity

Simultaneous access to all users. Public announcement shall be made when certain authorities receive advance information under embargo

# information sources and respondents

## Confidentiality

Ensure the confidentiality of the information collected and use such information for STRICTLY statistical purposes

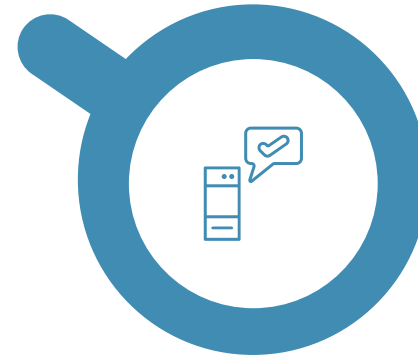
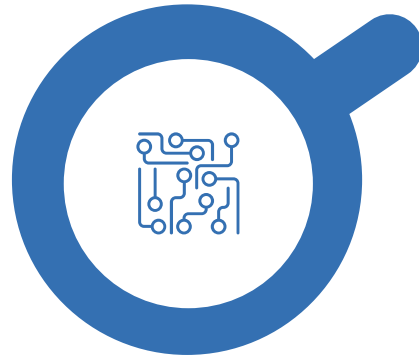


## Giving assurances to Data providers

Inform interviewees of the objective of interviews and the measures put in place to protect the data provided

## Objective

Data concerning individuals or entities collected shall be used EXCLUSIVELY for statistical purposes

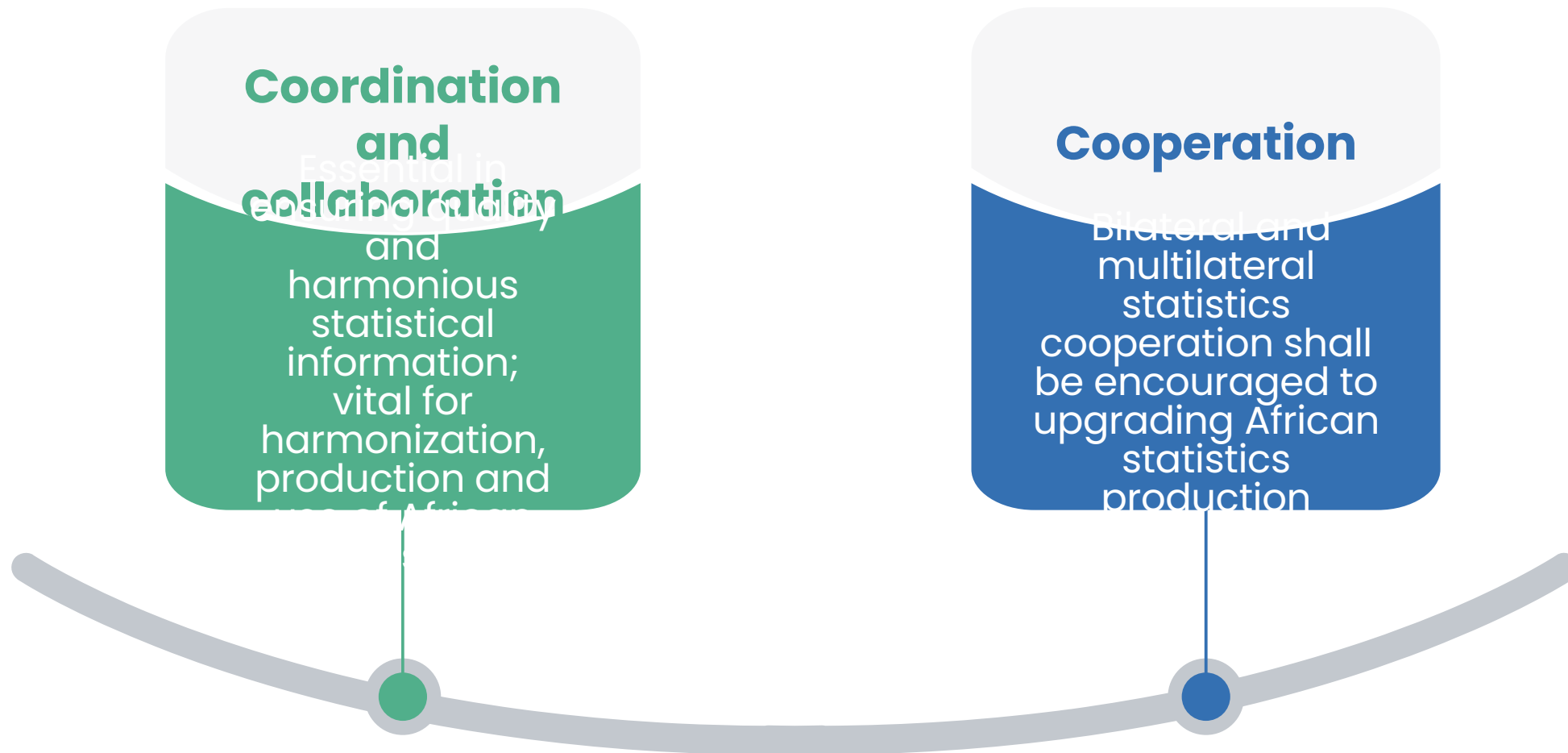


## Rationality

Embark in a statistical surveys only when pertinent information is unavailable from administrative records, or the quality of such information is inadequate



# Principle 6: Coordination and Cooperation



# UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

**1**

**Relevance,  
Impartiality, and  
Equal Access  
Professional  
Standards,**

**2**

**Scientific Principles,  
and  
Professional Ethic**

**3**

**Accountability  
and Transparency**

**4**

**Prevention of  
Misuse**

**5**

**Sources of Official  
Statistics**

**6**

**Confidentiality**

**7**

**Legislation**

**8**

**National  
Coordination**

**9**

**Use of  
International  
Standards**

**10**

**International  
Cooperation**



Thank you!

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Ideas  
to  
Action