
Workshop on the Implementation of a National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics in Countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Region
Bogota, Colombia, 22-24 November 2023

Concept note and tentative agenda
(as of 14 November 2023)

In March 2019, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (Manual¹), including the recommendations contained therein (Decision 50/106²). The Statistical Commission welcomed the Manual as an important contribution in guiding countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework, including for new data sources, new data providers, and for data and statistics of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

The development of the Manual greatly benefitted from a country survey conducted in 2017 by the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks.³ The survey showed that many countries had yet to implement a national quality assurance framework (NQAF). The Statistical Commission at its 52nd session in March 2021 tasked the Expert Group to conduct a follow-up survey to assess progress in the implementation of national quality assurance frameworks by national statistical systems. The results of this follow-up survey were made available to countries as background document to the 54th session of the Commission.⁴ The Commission took note of the results of the survey and the progress achieved, but also acknowledged the fact that many countries have yet to implement a national quality assurance framework

In addition to the Manual, the Expert Group released a self-assessment checklist to support NQAF implementation.⁵ Also, an e-learning module⁶ and a revamped website with electronic versions of the Manual and the checklist⁷ have been made available. Furthermore, at its 54th session in March 2023, the Statistical Commission welcomed and endorsed a Roadmap for the implementation of a national quality assurance framework developed by the Expert Group.⁸ At this session, the Commission also expressed its support of the work programme of the Expert Group for the period of 2023-2024 with a special focus on quality assurance when new and administrative data sources are used. The recent survey specifically asked countries about their practices in this area.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/un-nqaf-manual/>.

² <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/decisions-ref/?code=50/106>.

³ The results of the survey are available here: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/BG-Item3d-NQAF-E.pdf>.

⁴ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/nqaf_survey_2022.

⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/tools/>.

⁶ Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/e_learning/.

⁷ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/data-quality>.

⁸ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/roadmap>.

The workshop will train participants from national statistical offices on quality assurance and its implementation throughout the national statistical system. It will also support the development of additional guidelines on quality assurance. Specifically, the workshop will provide an overview of the contents of the Manual, the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework, the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, and ECLAC's Guide for the implementation of a quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs. It will review and discuss the implementation of quality assurance in participating countries. A special focus will be on quality assurance when administrative and other data sources (such as big data or citizen generated data) are used for producing official statistics. Other topics will include quality culture and data stewardship. The sharing of experiences will be a central element of this workshop and support the development of additional guidance on some of the above-mentioned topics.

The workshop is organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) in cooperation with the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE).

In general, morning sessions will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and afternoon sessions from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. On Friday, the meeting will conclude at 3 pm. There will be a short break in the morning and afternoon.

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Opening of the Workshop

- 08:30-09:00 Registration of participants
09:00-09:30 Opening and Objectives of the workshop

Session 1: Recommendations on quality assurance and international and regional guidance on quality assurance for official statistics

- 09:30-10:15 Session 1.1: Introduction to the UN NQAF Manual and its recommendations, Results of the global survey on implementation (*presentation by UNSD*)

10-minute coffee/tea break

- 10:25-11:10 Session 1.2: The United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework and the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (*presentations by UNSD and ECLAC*)

- 11:10-11:55 Session 1.3: ECLAC Guide for the implementation of a quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs (*presentation by Colombia and discussion*)

- 11:55-12:20 Session 1.4: The Checklist, the Roadmap for NQAF implementation and other tools and guidance (*presentation by UNSD*)

- 12:20-12:30 Summary and conclusions

Lunch break

Session 2: National Quality Assurance in practice

- 13:30-15:00 Session 2.1: Self-assessment based on the UN NQAF checklist, group and review panel discussion (*by UNSD*)

10-minute coffee/tea break

- 15:10-16:40 Session 2.2: Peer review mechanism in Latin America and the Caribbean (status and progress), group discussion (*by ECLAC*)

- 16:40-17:00 Summary and conclusions: Identifying and addressing common challenges

Thursday, 23 November 2023

Session 3: Quality assurance of administrative and other (new) data sources

09:00-09:30 Session 3.1: Introduction of topic and the work of the EG-NQAF Subgroup on administrative and other data sources (*by UNSD*)

09:30-10:30 Session 3.2: Country case studies (5) – quality assurance of administrative and other data sources

Chile

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Jamaica

Peru

10-minute coffee/tea break

10:40-12:30 Session 3.3: Review of applicable principles, requirements, and elements to be assured, and their mapping to UN NQAF (*by UNSD*)

Lunch

13:30-14:40 Session 3.4: Discussion of implementation cases and review of available implementation guidance and options (*by UNSD, and example on ongoing efforts in the context of the ECLAC project for the development of data provider management systems, provided by Colombia*)

14:40-15:00 Summary and conclusions

10-minute coffee/tea break

Session 4: Quality Culture

15:10-15:20 Session 4.1: Introduction of topic and the work of the EG-NQAF Subgroup on quality culture (*by Colombia*)

15:20-16:00 Session 4.2: Country case studies (2) – quality culture

Brazil

Mexico

16:00-16:40 Session 4.3: Review of the draft guidance developed by the EG-NQAF Subgroup (*by UNSD*)

16:40-17:00 Summary and conclusions: Identifying and addressing common challenges

Friday, 24 November 2023

Session 5: Discussion of additional topics

09:00-10:30 Session 5.1: Data stewardship and quality assurance for statistics and data, and data access – ongoing processes and discussions, and national experiences*

- *Introduction by Colombia*
- *Costa Rica*
- *Paraguay*
- *Uruguay*

* *Country presentations should reflect on the impact of new statistical laws on the role of the national statistical office, and on what differences a role of data steward would bring as its concerns (i) quality assurance, (ii) the coordination of the national statistical system, (iii) the management of access to data sources for official statistics and (iv) the governance of data / national data strategies.*

10-minute coffee/tea break

10:40-11:25 Session 5.2: Quality assurance and ethics – introduction and roundtable discussion (*by DANE and UNSD*)

11:25-12:30 Session 5.3: Other topics (to be confirmed, depending on interest and suggestions):

- Quality assurance for household surveys (XII SCA decision) and when combining other sources and statistical sources (*by ECLAC*)
- GSBPM and GAMS0 implementation alongside NQAF implementation
- Quality assurance in local or decentralized statistical systems
- Quality assurance of sectoral statistics

Lunch break

Closing of the Workshop

13:30-14:30 Introduction of the draft conclusions of the meeting

14:30-14:45 Evaluation

14:45-15:00 Closing remarks
