United Nations | DESA Statistics Division

Session 1.4: The Roadmap for NQAF implementation and other tools and guidance

Harumi Shibata Salazar

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

Content

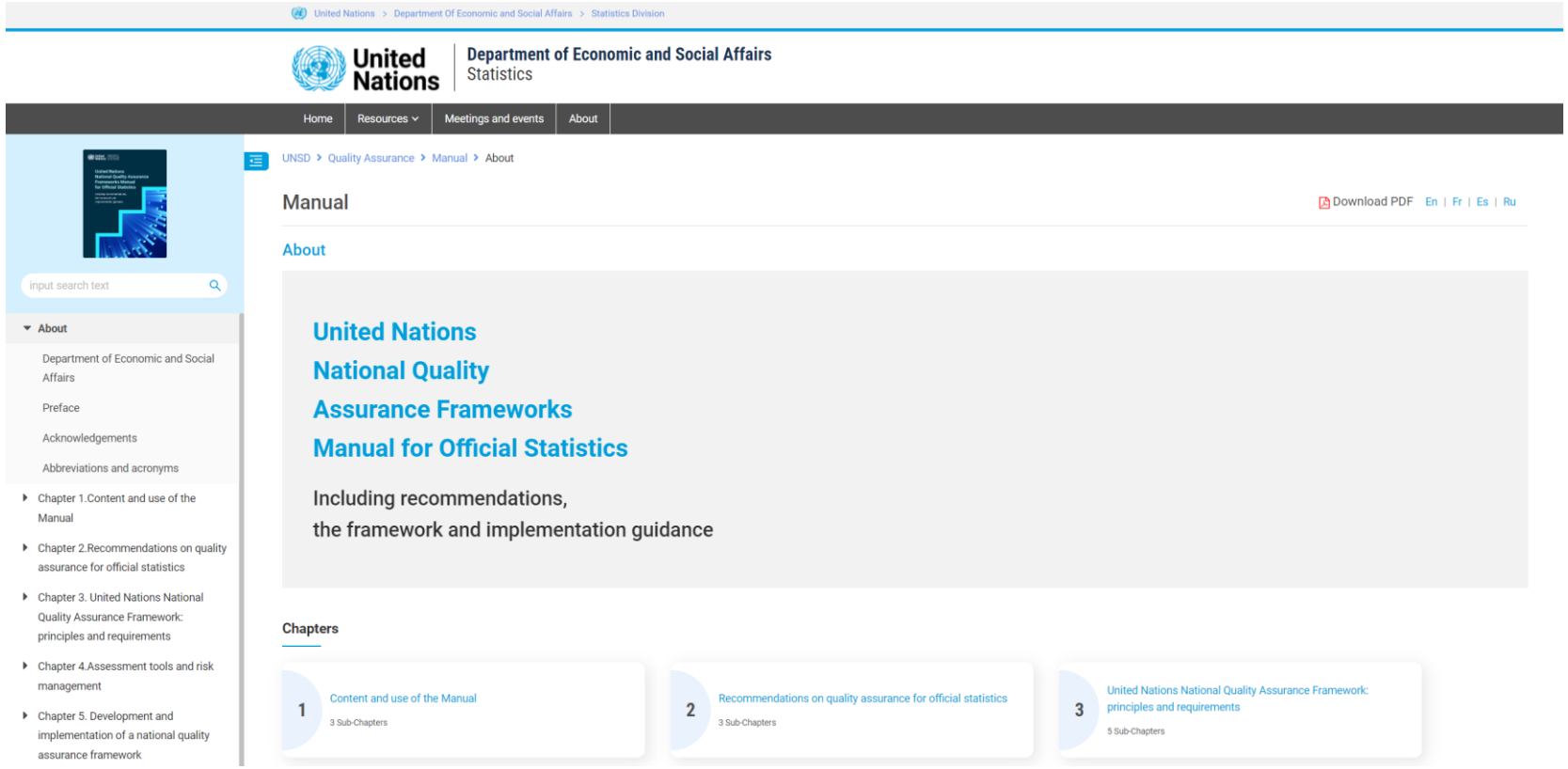
- Manual: web-version
- eLearning
  - 1. Access
  - 2. Content
- Self-assessment checklist: web-version
- Roadmap

Content

- Manual: web-version
- eLearning
  - 1. Access
  - 2. Content
- Self-assessment checklist: web-version
- Roadmap

Manual: web-version

- Available at: https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/data-quality/user-manual



Content

- Manual: web-version
- eLearning
  - 1. Access
  - 2. Content
- Self-assessment checklist: web-version
- Roadmap

e-Learning

https://learning.officialstatistics.org/course/index.php?categoryid=4

- Self-paced course consisting of six modules
- Developed by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- Aims at providing an overview of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (Manual). The Manual contains recommendations on quality assurance, the UN National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics (UN NQAF) and guidance for the development and implementation of a NQAF
- The course is intended for statisticians working on quality assurance and quality improvements in their countries and anyone interested in quality assurance of official statistics
- After successful completion, a certificate is provided

e-Learning

UNBigDataLearning UNGP LMS English (en)

You are not logged in. (Log in)

Other courses

Home / Courses / Other courses

Course categories: Other courses

This category contains courses on statistical topics not covered in other categories, as well as courses of a general nature, such as general prerequisites for more specialized courses.

Search courses Go

Towards the 2025 SNA

This e-learning material was designed to help users interested in the SNA update to access various resources related to the update process, some of the main topics included in the update, and country experiences with the new topics. The site provides material and links to some of the general webinars and topical webinars held for the SNA update. This is a joint UNSD, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNECA, and UNECE effort.

National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF)

This e-learning course is a self-paced course consisting of six modules developed by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), aimed at providing an overview of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN-NQAF Manual) - the recommendations on data quality, the principles and requirements of the UN national quality assurance framework and guidelines for its implementation. The course is intended for statisticians working on quality assurance and improvement in their countries or anyone interested in quality assurance of official statistics.

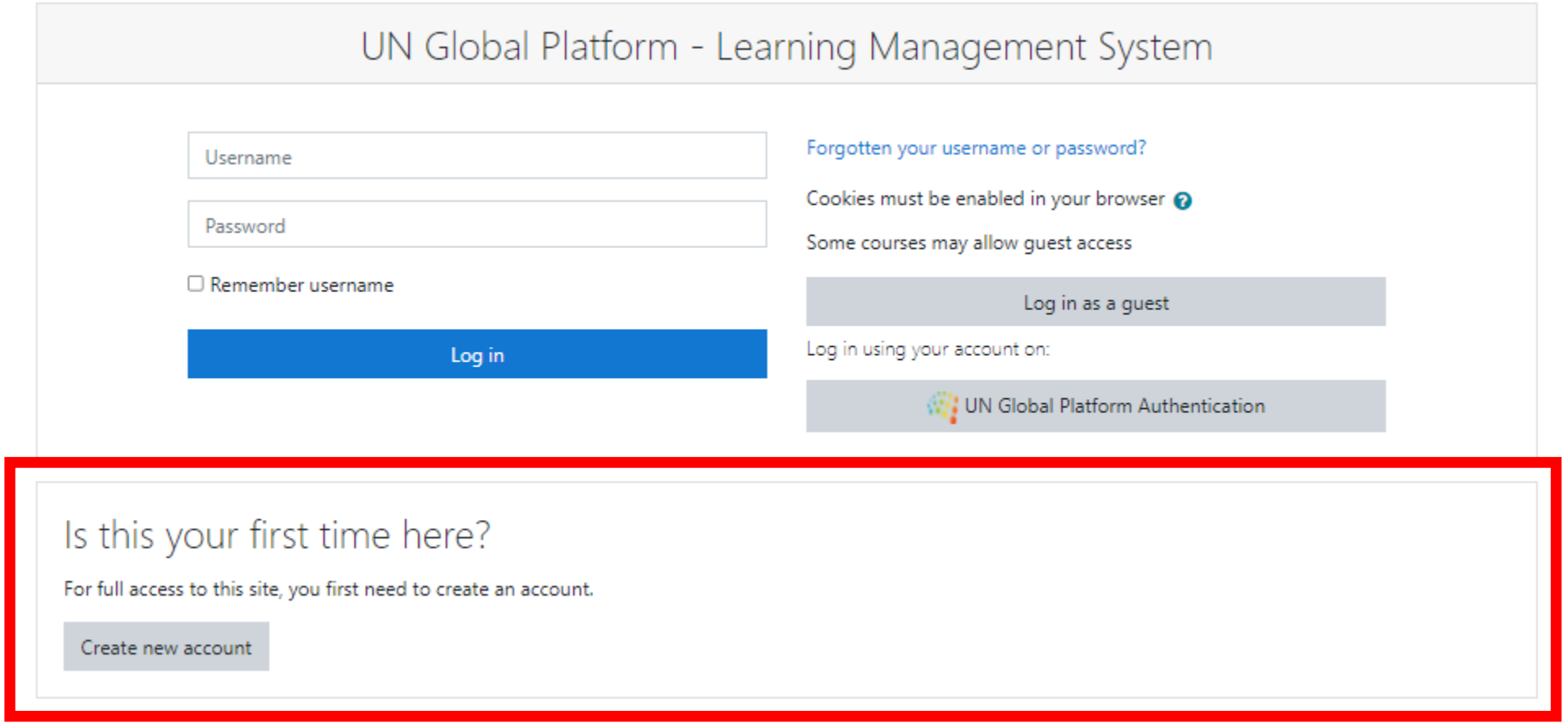
How to Prepare an Impactful Media Release

This microlearning provides guidance, practice and resources on preparing a press release in order to help increase the impact of official statistics in informing decision making and public debate.

Using Social Media for User Engagement

This microlearning is for those who want guidance in using social media to support their engagement with users of official statistics and data.

e-Learning


UN Global Platform - Learning Management System
Username
Password
Remember username
Log in
Forgotten your username or password?
Cookies must be enabled in your browser
Some courses may allow guest access
Log in as a guest
Log in using your account on:
UN Global Platform Authentication
Is this your first time here?
For full access to this site, you first need to create an account.
Create new account

UNBigDataLearning UNGP LMS English (en)

Home
Dashboard
Calendar
Private files
My courses
NQAF

UN Global Platform - Learning Management System

Search courses Go

Course categories

- Big Data
  - What is Big Data? (1)
  - Automatic Identification System (AIS) (2)
  - Scanner data (1)
  - Mobile phone data (1)
  - Privacy preserving techniques (3)
- Energy Statistics (5)
- System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) (16)
- Social and Demographics Statistics (3)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (7)
- Other courses (6)

The National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) e-learning is under “Other courses”.

e-Learning: content

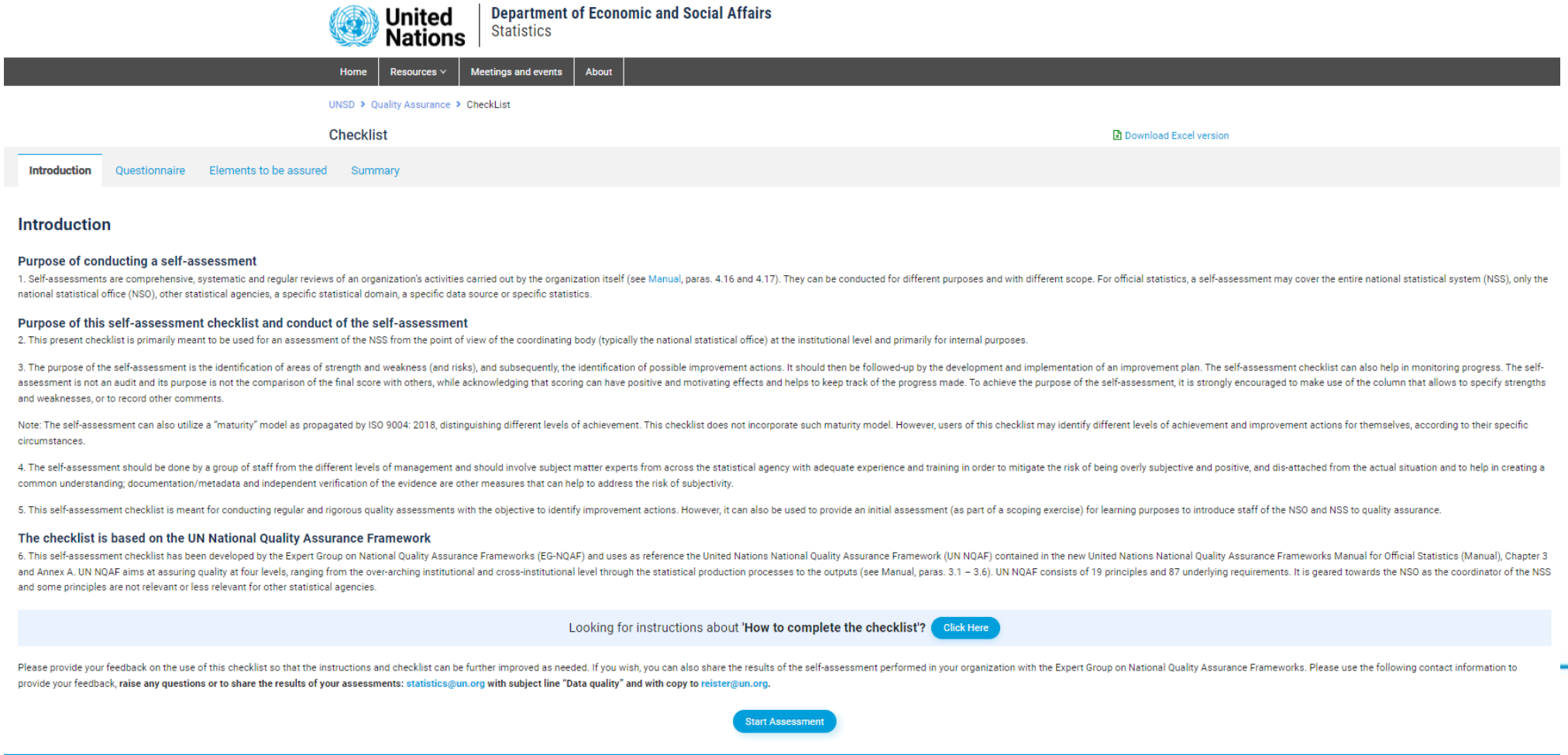
- General: course introduction
- Module 1: Introduction to the UN-NQAF Manual and its recommendations
- Module 2: UN-NQAF: Principles and requirements
- Module 3: Assessment tools and risk management
- Module 4: Development and implementation of NQAF
- Module 5: QA - Statistics from different data sources
- Module 6: Quality assurance for SDG indicators
- Final Assessment
- Feedback survey
- Conclusion

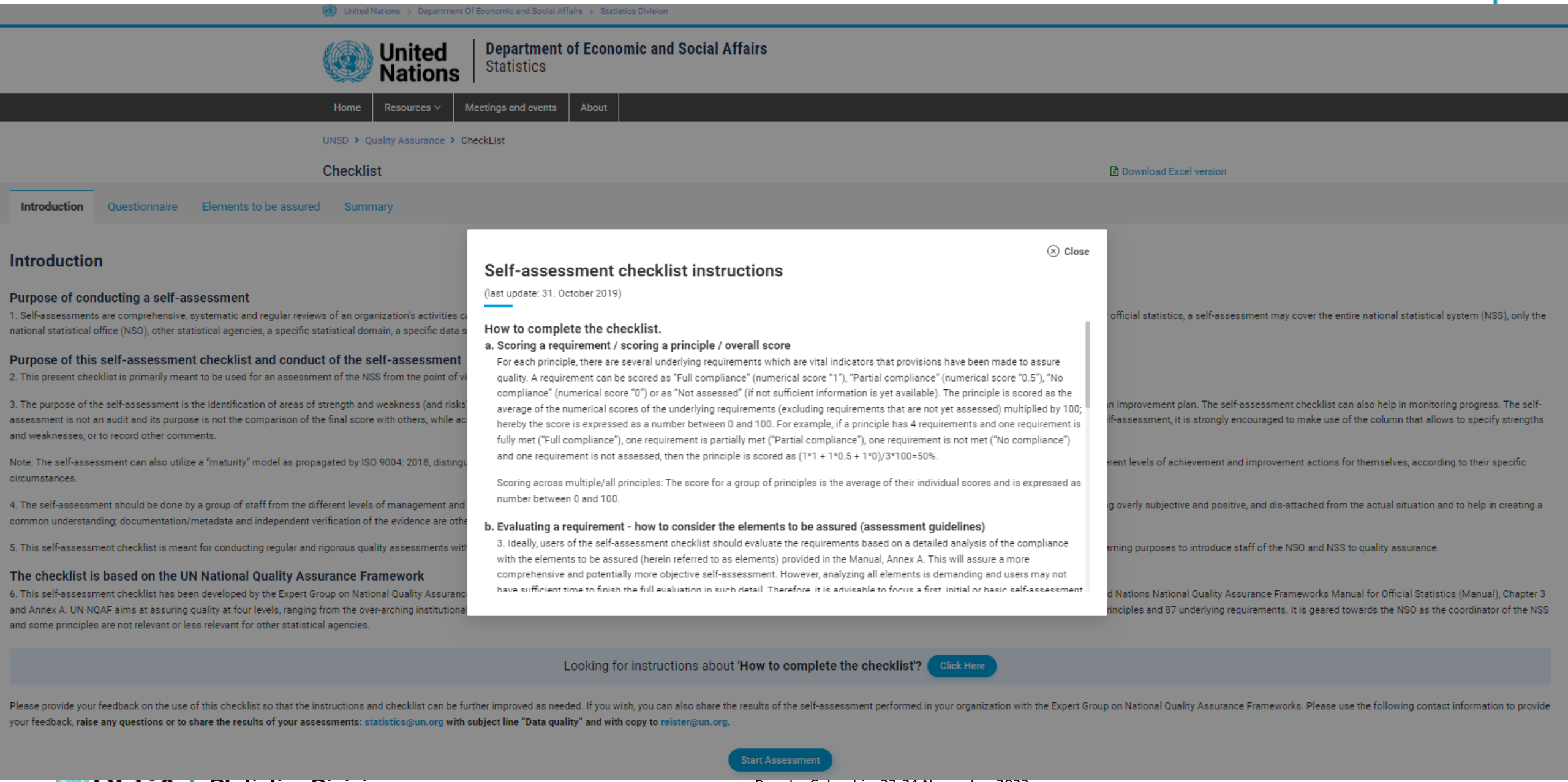
Content

- Manual: web-version
- eLearning
  - 1. Access
  - 2. Content
- Self-assessment checklist: web-version
- Roadmap

Self-assessment checklist: web-version

https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/data-quality/check-list




United Nations > Department Of Economic and Social Affairs > Statistics Division
United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics
Home
Resources
Meetings and events
About
UNSD > Quality Assurance > CheckList
Checklist
Download Excel version
Introduction
Questionnaire
Elements to be assured
Summary
Introduction
Purpose of conducting a self-assessment
Purpose of this self-assessment checklist and conduct of the self-assessment
The checklist is based on the UN National Quality Assurance Framework
Close
Self-assessment checklist instructions
(last update: 31. October 2019)
How to complete the checklist.
a. Scoring a requirement / scoring a principle / overall score
For each principle, there are several underlying requirements which are vital indicators that provisions have been made to assure quality. A requirement can be scored as "Full compliance" (numerical score "1"), "Partial compliance" (numerical score "0.5"), "No compliance" (numerical score "0") or as "Not assessed" (if not sufficient information is yet available). The principle is scored as the average of the numerical scores of the underlying requirements (excluding requirements that are not yet assessed) multiplied by 100; hereby the score is expressed as a number between 0 and 100. For example, if a principle has 4 requirements and one requirement is fully met ("Full compliance"), one requirement is partially met ("Partial compliance"), one requirement is not met ("No compliance") and one requirement is not assessed, then the principle is scored as (1*1 + 1*0.5 + 1*0)/3*100=50%.
Scoring across multiple/all principles: The score for a group of principles is the average of their individual scores and is expressed as number between 0 and 100.
b. Evaluating a requirement - how to consider the elements to be assured (assessment guidelines)
3. Ideally, users of the self-assessment checklist should evaluate the requirements based on a detailed analysis of the compliance with the elements to be assured (herein referred to as elements) provided in the Manual, Annex A. This will assure a more comprehensive and potentially more objective self-assessment. However, analyzing all elements is demanding and users may not
Looking for instructions about 'How to complete the checklist'?
Click Here
Please provide your feedback on the use of this checklist so that the instructions and checklist can be further improved as needed. If you wish, you can also share the results of the self-assessment performed in your organization with the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks. Please use the following contact information to provide your feedback, raise any questions or to share the results of your assessments: statistics@un.org with subject line "Data quality" and with copy to reister@un.org.
Start Assessment

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics

Search

Home | Resources | Meetings and events | About

UNSD > Quality Assurance > CheckList

Checklist

Download Excel version

Introduction | **Questionnaire** | Elements to be assured | Summary

Assessment of compliance with the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework (2019)

- **Instructions:** Assess the degree of compliance for each of the requirement and describe strengths/weaknesses, include other comments.
- For each of the requirements you can refer to the detailed list of elements to be assured (please, use the link next to the requirement).
- **All requirements are applicable. The only case where "not assesed" can be used, is if there is a not enough information. In this case a special note is displayed in the summary of the assessment saying that the assessment is not fully complete.**

Degree of compliance Full Compliance | Partial Compliance | No Compliance | Not Assessed

Your Progress
0% 0/87

Save Draft | Retrieve Draft | Instructions | Export

Level A Managing the statistical system

Principle	Requirement	Elements	Compliance	Specify strengths, weaknesses, other comments
1. Coordinating the national statistical system	1.1 A statistical law establishes the responsibilities of the members of the national statistical system including its coordination. Its members are identified in a legal or formal provision.	Pending View		Type here
	1.2 There are a body and mechanisms for the coordination of the national statistical system for activities at the local, national, regional and international level.	Pending View		Type here
	1.3 There is a mechanism for considering statistics produced outside the national statistical system, and if appropriate, for these statistics to become official.	Pending View		Type here
	1.4 There is a national plan or program for the development and production of official statistics.	Pending View		Type here
2. Managing relationships with data users, data providers and other stakeholders	2.1 Stakeholders are identified and consulted regarding their interests, needs and obligations.	Pending View		Type here

Content

- Manual: web-version
- eLearning
  - 1. Access
  - 2. Content
- Self-assessment checklist: web-version
- Roadmap

The Roadmap for NQAF implementation

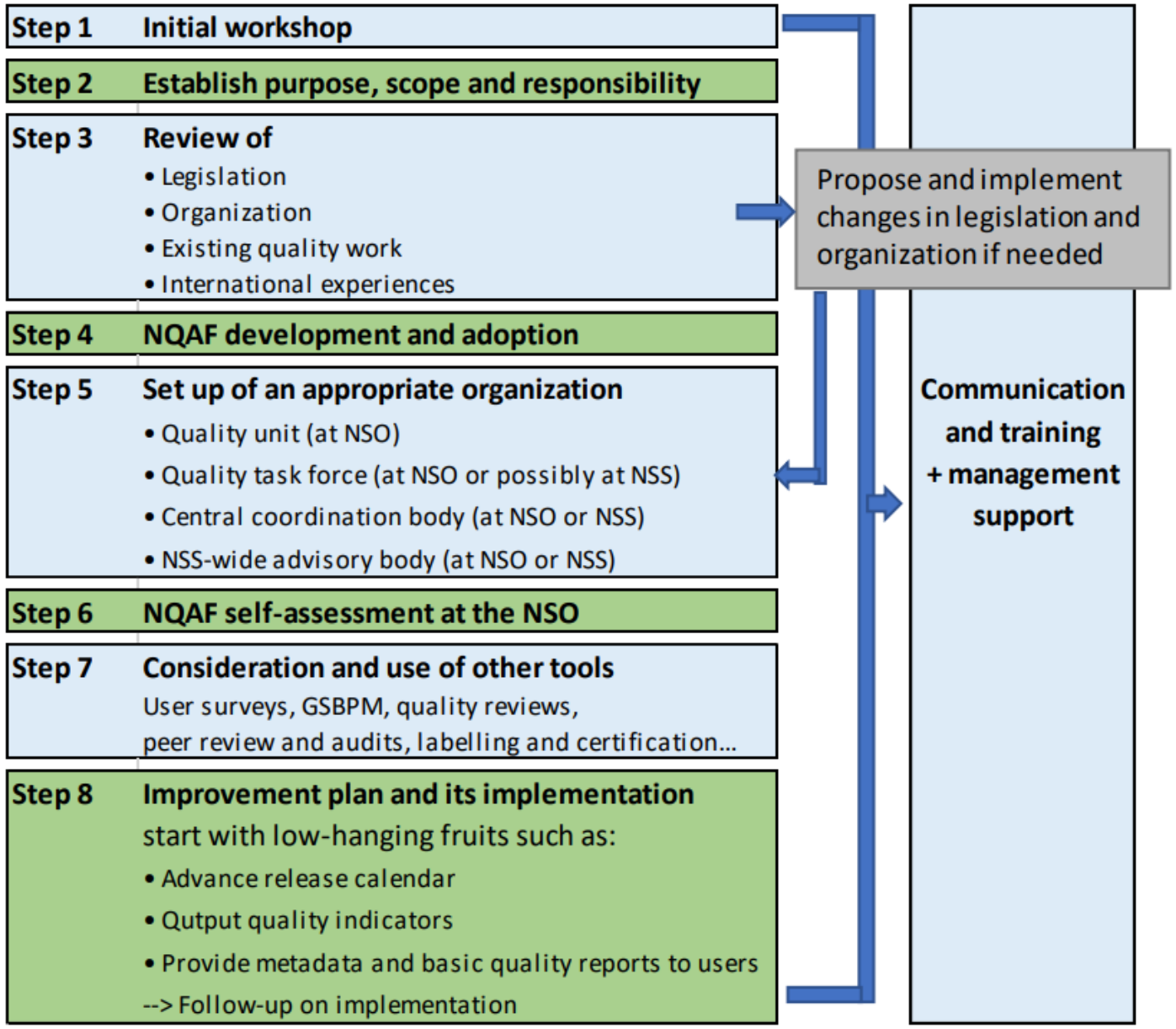
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/references/BG-3m-Roadmap-for-NQAF-implementation.pdf

- Aims to support statistician and managers that are tasked with implementing a national quality assurance framework or considering doing so in their own or other statistical organizations

- Emphasizes the main steps and tools in the development and implementation of an NQAF based on chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the Manual

National circumstances are different, and flexibility is necessary!

A Roadmap for the Development and implementation of



Important milestones

Step 1: Initial workshop

Conduct an initial workshop, typically by the NSO or the agency responsible for the coordination of the NSS; the workshop is usually conducted by an initial quality team as determined or established by management.

- **Introduce NQAF to senior and middle management** at NSO and other statistical agencies (as applicable) and the staff directly responsible for supporting the work on quality.
- **Cover the basics**: quality concept, quality management, quality management in statistics and quality management frameworks for official statistics, UN NQAF, the Manual and tools.

Note: **High-level commitment** and **basic staff resources** in terms of time commitment are absolute prerequisites for the introduction of an NQAF.

Step 7. Use of other tools (aside self-assessment)

The tools can be used at different levels, such as

- ❑ for individual statistics, in individual statistical domains, at individual statistical units, the entire NSO or the entire NSS with all its statistical products.
- ❑ Typically, the management at the respective level decides on the use of the different tools, unless it is decided at higher level or externally.

1. Use the essential tools for quality assessment such as **quality indicators**, **quality reports** and **user surveys** which constitute the basic level of quality assessment.
2. Use more advanced assessment tools such as
   - ❑ Internal audit or quality review (done by someone independent within your organization)
   - ❑ External peer review (done by a peer or a team of peers that are independent and from outside of your organization)
   - ❑ External audit (done by someone independent and outside of your organization, but not a peer)

Step 7. Use of other tools (aside self-assessment)

3. Introduce the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).
   - ❑ The improvement in the quality of statistical products requires the improvement of statistical processes.
   - ❑ The GSBPM describes and defines the set of business processes needed to produce official statistics, and thereby provides a framework for process quality documentation, assessment and improvement. (WARNING: This may be very resource intensive)

→ **See Manual, Chapter 4 Assessment tools and risk management**

Step 7. Use of other tools (aside self-assessment)

Note on the use of tools:

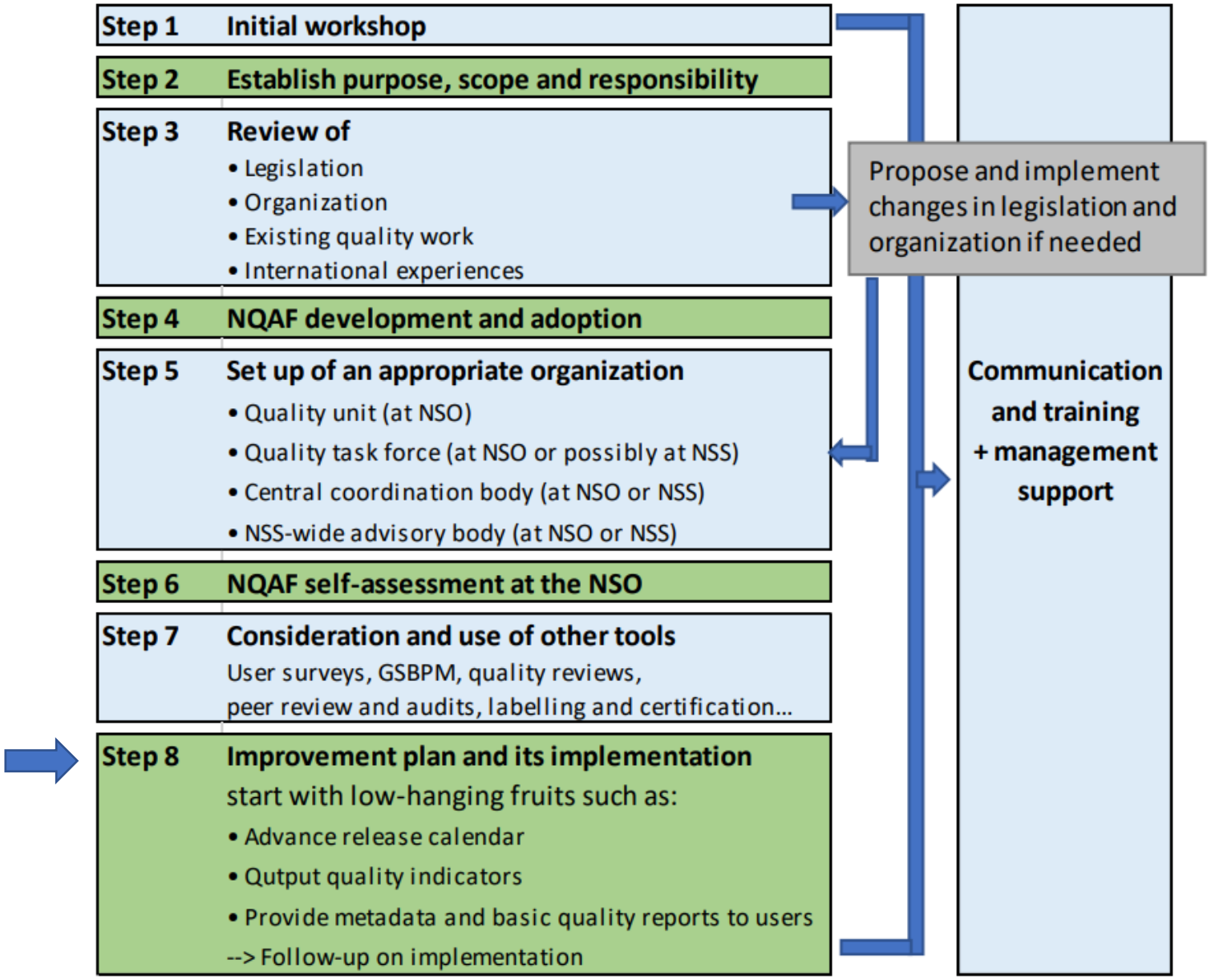
1. Sequence of application:

- Some of the possible measures are sequential, some can be carried out in parallel.
- Internal reviews of selected statistics carried out by a team with participants who are not responsible for working with these statistics may be a natural first step.
- User surveys, GSBPM, the use of quality indicators and quality reports for users can be implemented or utilized in parallel.

2. If not already used, the GSBPM should be introduced at the NSO together with the NQAF

3. Audits

- Are typically carried out by a third-party and may result in a certification, such as an ISO certificate to the relevant organization.
- The ISO-standards are general and apply to any organization. Therefore, it does not necessarily assure the quality aspects specific for official statistics. The certification process required is quite time-consuming and costly.
- However, a key word is documentation, which is just as important for statistical organizations as for any other.



A Roadmap for the Development and implementation of NQAF

See also Chapter 5 and 6 of the Manual

Step 8. Improvement plan – overview of the process

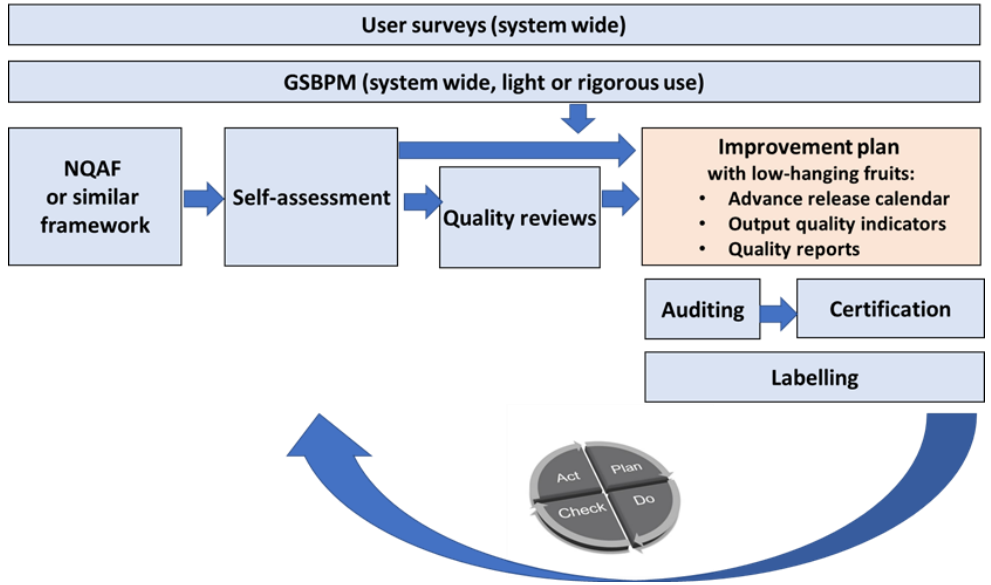
1. Develop an improvement plan based on self-assessments, possible reviews and audits.

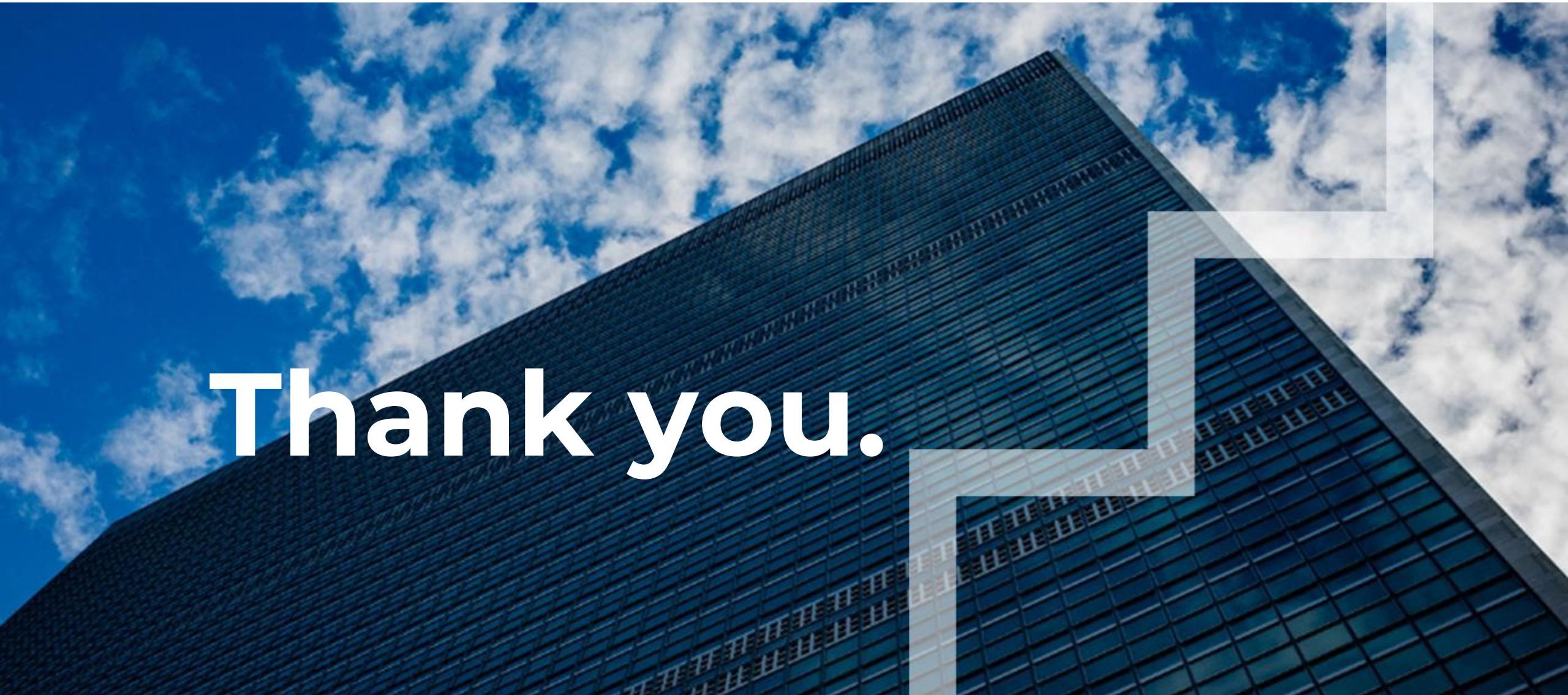
2. Catch low-hanging fruits: Experiences show that there are some low-hanging fruits with quick/visible pay-off. These show ongoing commitment and can be relatively easily implemented not only at the NSO but other producers of official statistics. These are:

1. Establish an advance release calendar
2. Establish and publish some output quality indicators
3. Provide metadata and quality reports for users.

Step 8. Improvement plan – overview of the process

3. Follow-up: Improvement plans should be regularly followed up and monitored, and regularly revised, in line with the PDCA-cycle (Plan-Do-Check-Act). The figure shows how quality assurance should follow the PDCA-cycle, by following up on the improvement plans and possibly repeat the self-assessment and reviews.




Thank you.