Designing of Quality Framework for the Statistics Produced by the Statistical Centre of Iran

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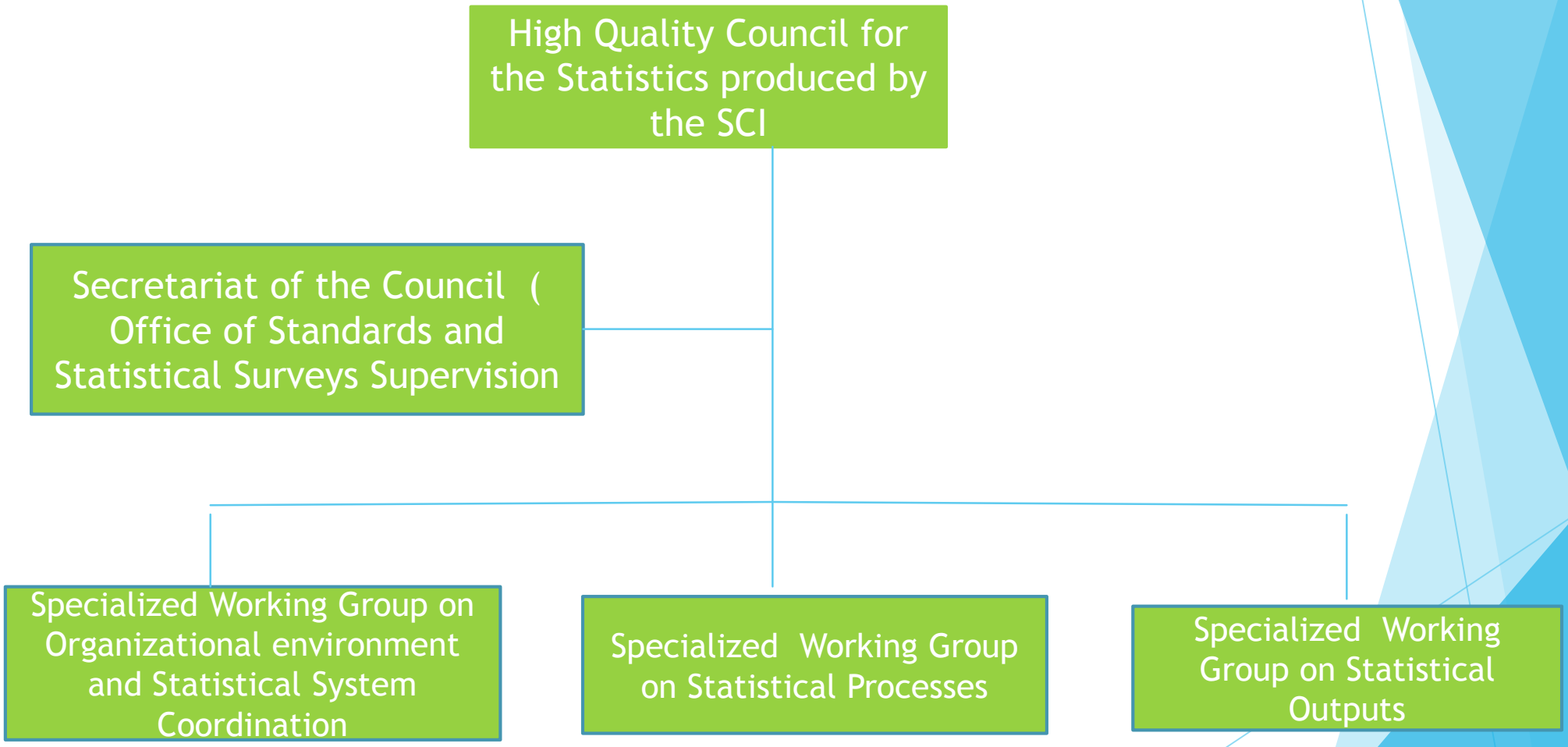
After approving the NQAF in the 43th Commission of UNSD in 2012, the process of designing the “Quality Framework” for the statistics of the I.R. Iran was started.

According to the studies conducted and the country’s situation, it was decided that at the first phase, the quality framework of the statistics produced by the SCI be prepared and based on this framework, the “National Quality Framework” be prepared.

For policy making, planning, and monitoring the related activities, the following organizational structure under the supervision of the Head of the SCI was formed:

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTATION, AND CONTINUOUS APPLICATION OF THE QUALITY FRAMEWORK IN THE STATISTICAL CENTRE OF IRAN



The Structure of Quality Framework for the Statistics produced by the SCI

- Areas (4 areas)
- Principles (18 principles)
- Indicators (111)
- The indices for assessing the quality framework and guidelines for completing them (760 indices)

Areas and Principles of the SCI's Quality Framework

- **Area 1: Managing the Statistical System**

Principle 1: Coordination and Cooperation

Principle 2: Relationships with data users and data providers

Principle 3: Statistical standards

Area 2: Institutional environment

Principle 4: Professional independence

Principle 5: Mandate for data collection

Principle 6: Impartiality and transparency

Principle 7: Statistical confidentiality and security of statistics

Principle 8: Quality commitment

Principle 9: Adequacy of resources

Domains and Principles of the SCI's Quality Framework (Continued)

- **Areas 3: Statistical processes**

Principle 10: Methodological soundness

Principle 11: Cost-effectiveness

Principle 12: Soundness of implementation

Principle 13: Managing the respondent burden

Area 4: Statistical Outputs

Principle 14: Relevance

Principle 15: Accuracy and reliability

Principle 16: Timeliness and punctuality

Principle 17: Accessibility and clarity

Principle 18: Coherence and comparability

Area	Principle	Number of Indicator	Number of Index
Managing the Statistical System	Principle 1: Coordination and Cooperation	3	31
	Principle 2: Relationships with data users and data providers	13	30
	Principle 3: Statistical standards	6	17
Institutional environment	Principle 4: Professional independence	3	38
	Principle 5: Mandate for data collection	3	32
	Principle 6: Impartiality and transparency	7	62
	Principle 7: Statistical confidentiality and security of statistics	5	28
	Principle 8: Quality commitment	6	27
	Principle 9: Adequacy of resources	4	32
Statistical processes	Principle 10: methodological soundness	16	212
	Principle 11: Cost-effectiveness	5	19
	Principle 12: Soundness of implementation	11	95
	Principle 13: Managing the respondent burden	5	21
Statistical Outputs	Principle 14: Relevance	5	17
	Principle 15: Accuracy and reliability	5	26
	Principle 16: timeliness and punctuality	4	28
	Principle 17: *Accessibility and clarity*	5	28

Weight Determining

- In order to determine the quality score at the SCI level by each area and principle, we need to determine the weight of each index, indicator, principle, area, and output. For doing this, the weights are determined as follows:
- The weights of areas and principles were determined via AHP method (by using the Expert Choice software)
- The weights of indicators were determined by using SAW method.
- The weights of indices were considered the same.
- The weights of outputs were considered the same.

Weight Determining

- Three choices namely as “Yes”, “ Somehow”, and “No” are used to assess each index.
- The score of each choice:

“Yes”: 100

Choice “Somehow”: 50

Choice “No”: Zero

The Score of Areas and Principles

Area	Topic	Weight	Ratio of incompatibility
Quality Framework	Area 1: Managing the Statistical System	0.365	0.02
	Area 2: Institutional environment	0.213	
	Areas 3: Statistical processes	0.222	
	Area 4: Statistical Outputs	0.200	
Managing the Statistical System	Principle 1: Coordination and Cooperation	0.438	0.03
	Principle 2: Relationships with data users and data providers	0.241	
	Principle 3: Statistical standards	0.321	
Institutional environment	Principle 4: Professional independence	0.179	0.0084
	Principle 5: Mandate for data collection	0.220	
	Principle 6: Impartiality and transparency	0.150	
	Principle 7: Statistical confidentiality and security of statistics	0.154	
	Principle 8: Quality commitment	0.171	
	Principle 9: Adequacy of resources	0.125	

The Score of Areas and Principles

Area	Topic	Weight	Ratio of incompatibility
Statistical processes	Principle 10: methodological soundness	0.396	0.01
	Principle 11: Cost-effectiveness	0.215	
	Principle 12: Soundness of implementation	0.238	
	Principle 13: Managing the respondent burden	0.151	
Statistical Outputs	Principle 14: Relevance	0.161	0.02
	Principle 15: Accuracy and reliability	0.352	
	Principle 16: Timeliness and punctuality	0.221	
	Principle 17: Accessibility and clarity	0.135	
	Principle 18: Coherence and comparability	0.131	

Other Activities

*** Promoting the National Quality Assurance Framework**

Holding one seminar(August 2013) and four training courses for the staff of the SCI and other government agencies(Feb 2014, August 2014, April 2015 and August 2016)

- Developing a system for documentation of the High Council for Quality and Specialized working groups
- Developing a system for the Quality Framework of the statistics produced by the SCI
- Designing the website http://iqaf.ir/

Testing the “Quality Framework”

- In order to test the implementation of the Quality Framework, assessing of five outputs of the SCI was put into the agenda. These outputs are:

- Iran Statistical Yearbook
- CPI survey
- Survey of Operating Mines
- Survey of National Tourists
- Survey of Modern livestock

Next Activities

- Studying current situation and revising Quality Framework based on the results of the test
- Recognizing the strong and weak points of the SCI based on the results of the test
- Planning and determining of the prerequisites for implementing of the Quality Framework in the processes and outputs of the SCI
- Planning for preparation and formulation of " The Quality Framework of the National Statistical System"