

Questionnaire to countries

23rd August 2022

The following questionnaire is the printable version of the online questionnaire accessible under the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NQAF2022>.

Welcome page

Background information

In March 2019, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/un-nqaf-manual/>), including its recommendations contained therein (Decision 50/106) (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/decisions-ref/?code=50/106>). The Manual also includes the updated United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework (UN NQAF) and guidance for implementation. The Manual does not aim to replace any of the existing statistical quality assurance frameworks and guidelines for official statistics. Countries and individual producers of official statistics that are already fully engaged in quality assurance and are following one of the existing quality frameworks may view this Manual only as an additional reference point that supports what they are already doing, and a source of information on the application of quality assurance in different situations.

The development of the Manual greatly benefitted from a country survey on the implementation of national quality assurance frameworks conducted in 2017 by the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks. The survey results (available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/BG-Item3d-NQAF-E.pdf>) showed that many countries had yet to implement a national quality assurance framework. 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.

We invite the agency responsible for the coordination of the statistical system and/or for producing and disseminating official statistics in your country (typically the national statistical office or national statistical institute) to participate in this survey that has been developed by the Expert Group. We further invite you to share information on your national practices as indicated in the questionnaire.

Please complete the survey on behalf of the whole national statistical system. There should be only one response per country. **Please submit your response by 30th September 2022.**

The results of the survey will inform the Commission about the status of implementation of quality assurance in countries, and materials shared will be used to update the repository of quality assurance practices (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/quality-references/>)

Introduction

A Quality Assurance Framework is the structure for implementing quality assurance activities within an organization. It is ranging from generally applicable systems for different businesses (for example ISO

9000), to systems or models developed for the concrete areas such as production of statistics. The UN NQAF is an example of the latter. It is a generic framework, i.e. a framework that can be adapted to national conditions.

There are several other quality frameworks for statistics. Those developed in cooperation by international or regional statistical organizations include the [Common quality framework of the European Statistics System, including the European Statistics Code of Practice](#), [OECD Good Statistical Practice](#), [African Charter on Statistics](#), [ASEAN Community Statistical System \(ACSS\) Code of Practice](#) and [Code of good practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean](#). The basic principles are common for all these systems and to a large extent based on the [UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#). The various quality frameworks are typically more detailed and elaborated and geared towards a specific regional context.

Definitions

To unify the terminology the following definitions are used throughout the questionnaire:

National statistical office (NSO): the leading statistical agency within a national statistical system. National statistical office and national statistical institute mean the same thing. In general, the NSO has a coordination role within the national statistical system, and is responsible for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics across multiple statistical domains.

National statistical system (NSS): the ensemble of statistical organizations and units (statistical agencies) within a country that develop, produce and disseminate official statistics on behalf of the national Government (and other levels of government). It is the responsibility of each country to define the scope of its NSS.

NQAF or National Quality Assurance Framework: a coherent and holistic system for statistical quality management that assures trust in and the quality of official statistics. The NQAF generally applies to all producers of official statistics in a country. However, some producers may apply a specialized quality assurance framework, or there may be separate quality assurance frameworks for specific purposes.

UN NQAF: The United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework developed by Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks and approved by the Statistical Commission in March 2019. The UN NQAF is contained in Chapter 3 and the Annex of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (Manual), accessible under the following link: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/un-nqaf-manual/>.

Note: Required questions are marked with an asterisk sign ().*

General information

* Country _____ [short text]

* Name of responding organization _____ [short text]

* Name of respondent _____ [short text]

* Position _____ [short text]

* Email address _____ [short text]

* Telephone number _____ [short text]

Quality assurance framework

* 1. Do you have a National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) for official statistics in your country?

- Yes
- No

Note: The respondent will be asked to fill different sections depending on the answer to the question above.

For "Yes" the order is the following:

Details about NQAF

Additional questions on implementation

Sharing of national practices

EG-NQAF current and future work

For "No" the order is as follows:

Information related to not having implemented NQAF

EG-NQAF current and future work

Details about NQAF

* 2. Was UN NQAF considered when creating the NQAF that is used in your country?

- Yes
- No

* 3. Which framework is this NQAF based on? (Select all that apply)

- UN NQAF
- Common quality framework of the European Statistics System, including the European Statistics Code of Practice
- African Charter on Statistics
- ASEAN Community Statistical System Code of Practice
- Code of good practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Other quality assurance frameworks for statistics (international or national)
If other, please specify: _____ [short text]

4. Is the framework mentioned above adopted as it is or adapted to national conditions?

- Adopted as it is
- Adapted to national conditions
If adapted, please specify: _____ [long text]

* 5. What is the coverage of your NQAF?

- The whole national statistical system (all official statistics)
- Only the production of the national statistical office
- Other, please specify: _____ [long text]

Additional questions on implementation

6. Are quality principles or a reference to quality included in your national statistical legislation and/or other legislation mandating the production of statistics for official use?

- Yes
- No

7. Is there a quality policy or a statement of the NSO's commitment to quality, which is publicly available?

- Yes
- No

* 8. Since 2018, have you conducted a comprehensive quality assessment (self-assessment, internal or external audit, or peer review) of your national statistical office covering all aspects including coordination and institutional arrangements, statistical processes and statistical outputs? If your country does not have a NSO, please answer this question for your entire NSS, i.e. whether you did an assessment for large or major parts, or the entire NSS. (Select all that apply)

- Self-assessment (done by those responsible for the work, i.e. by management)
- Internal audit (done by someone independent within your organization)
- External audit (done by someone independent and outside of your organization, but not a peer)
- External peer review (done by a peer or team of peers that are independent and from outside of your organization)
- Other, please specify. _____ [long text]

* 9. Are you aware that any individual other producers of official statistics in your country conducted a comprehensive assessment of their system to produce and disseminate official statistics in the last 5 years (since 2018)?

- Yes
- No
- Please provide further details. _____ [long text]

10. Have you implemented the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) at your NSO?

- Yes
- No

Sharing of national practices

Questions 11 and 12 ask about practices when data from other than statistical data sources are being used for the production of official statistics. The UN-NQAF applies to all data and statistics regardless of the source, but compliance can be different depending on the data source. Please refer to Manual, Chapter 7 for further information and for a distinction of different data sources as applied in this questionnaire, which distinguishes statistical, administrative and other data sources. Please reply on behalf of your national statistical system and not only the national statistical office.

* 11. Do you use any special quality assurance frameworks, guidelines, methods or tools for the quality assessment of administrative data used for the production of official statistics? (Select all that apply)

- No, only use generic NQAF
- Use a special quality assurance framework
- Use special guidelines
- Use special methods and tools
- Use special quality indicators

If yes, please describe, and share your experiences. _____ [long text]

- Not applicable, we do not have or do not use any of the above for administrative data sources.
- Not applicable, we do not use administrative data sources in our national statistical system.

* 12. Do you use any special quality assurance frameworks, guidelines, methods or tools for the quality assessment of data from other data sources (such as, for example privately held data, geospatial, big data or citizen generated data, etc.) used for the production of official statistics? (Select all that apply) – Para. 7.6 of the *Manual* provides an illustrative list of other data sources. The list does not aim to be exhaustive nor to provide a classification of other sources. Also, there may be differences in the understandings of certain terms. In the context of this survey, other data sources are understood as all data sources that are not created primarily for the purpose of official statistics or primarily for administrative purposes of government.

- No, only use generic NQAF
- Use a special quality assurance framework
- Use special guidelines
- Use special methods and tools
- Use special quality indicators

If yes, please describe, and share your experiences. _____ [long text]

- Not applicable, we do not have or do not use any of the above for other data sources.
- Not applicable, as we do not use other data sources in our national statistical system.

13. Please share your current practices by providing a description, reference materials and links, including (i) information on which organizations and entities are covered and apply the NQAF, and (ii) information on your quality practices regarding the use of administrative and other data sources, unless already described in question 11 and 12. Alternatively, or in addition, you can provide up to 4 reference documents below. The information provided for this question will be used to update the repository of national practices. _____ [long text]

Reference document 1 (please limit your file size to 16 MB) [file upload question]

Reference document 2 (please limit your file size to 16 MB) [file upload question]

Reference document 3 (please limit your file size to 16 MB) [file upload question]

Reference document 4 (please limit your file size to 16 MB) [file upload question]

* 14. Please share any issues, challenges and lessons learned while implementing NQAF both for the national statistical office and the national statistical system. _____ [long text]

Information related to not having implemented NQAF

* 15. Is your country planning to develop and implement NQAF?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, please indicate who will lead the process and by when: _____
[short text]

* 16. Please cite reason(s) why your country does not have NQAF. (Select all that apply)

- Not a priority
- Lack of financial and/or human resources
- Lack of training resources
- Lack of subject matter support
- Other, please specify: _____ [long text]

17. What assistance does your country need to develop and implement NQAF? (Select all that apply)

- Hands-on technical material and guidance on quality assurance and its implementation
- Workshops or specific advisory services according to the country needs
- Technical assistance to assess the current situation of the country
- Technical assistance to design quality assurance instruments and support to implement the instruments designed
- Additional financial resources
- Additional human resources
- Other, please specify: _____ [long text]

EG-NQAF current and future work

18. Please indicate what issues should be addressed or further elaborated by the EG-NQAF. The current work programme of the EG NQAF is available in Report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks, Statistical Commission document ([E/CN.3/2021/26](#)), *Section V. Programme of work of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks for 2021–2022* which refers to promoting the Manual, support for implementation of a NQAF and building a community of experts.

_____ [long text]