

Statistical Commission
Forty-fourth session
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Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda

Background document
Available in English only¹

Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Draft Revised Preamble to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Prepared by the Friends of the Chair on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

¹ It should be noted that the text of the revised preamble contained in this note is almost identical with the text contained in paras. 8 and 9 in E/CN.3/2013/3 and translation in all UN languages of this document is of course available.

1. This background note is to be read in conjunction with the report on the work of the Friends of the Chair (FOC) group on the Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) E/CN.3/2013/3, in particular its section II.

2. Subsequent to the drafting of the above report, the FOC group had a final round of exchanges on the proposal for a revised preamble. The version below represents the agreed upon recommendation that the Friends of the Chair wish to put forward to the Statistical Commission for consideration and adoption.

The Statistical Commission,

- ***Recalling recent decisionsⁱ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental importance of official statistics for the national and global development agenda;***
- ***Bearing in mind the critical role of high quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency;***
- ***Bearing in mind that essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depends to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society that seeks to understand itself and respect the rights of its members; in this context, professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial;***
- ***Stressing that statistical principles, in order to be effective, have to be enshrined in the institutional and preferably constitutional frameworks that govern official statistical systems and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems.***

Reaffirms the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as adopted in 1994ⁱⁱ:

ⁱ E.g. General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/267 in 2010 proclaiming “World Statistics Day”, ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 entitled “Strengthening Statistical Capacity” as well as ECOSOC resolution 2005/13 proclaiming the “2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses”.

ⁱⁱ For the original preamble used on the occasion of the initial adoption of the Principles in 1994, refer to the “Report on the Special Session of the Statistical Commission 11-15 April 1994, document E/1994/29, Chapter V. (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/94report.pdf>). More information on the Fundamental Principles and their history can be found on the website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx>