

Information note on Fundamental Principles – proposed redrafted preamble (bullet point 4), after consultation of the Friends of the Chair group.

The Statistical Commission,

- Recalling recent resolutions¹ 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, in order to be effective, fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by the legal and institutional frameworks 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 1994.*²

¹ 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”.

² 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>