

Topic : Quality assurance as a tool for official statistics in the emerging data ecosystem

New York, March 4, 2020

**Development of national quality assurance frameworks
and quality assurance tools: the experience of Cameroon
with the technical support of STATCAN and AFRISTAT**



Presentation of National Institute of Statistics - Cameroon



Outline of Cameroon's NQAF presentation

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I. Presentation of Cameroon's NSIS

Cameroon in the world



I. Presentation of Cameroon's NSIS

The **National Statistical Information System (NSIS)** is the Cameroonian name for what is more generally known as a **National Statistical System (NSS)**. It rests fundamentally on **3 pillars**:

- the **National Institute of Statistics (NIS)**, a public administrative establishment, and its regional agencies,
- the **Central Bureau of Census and Demographic Studies (BUCREP)**,
- the **statistical entities of sectoral ministerial departments and other public administrations or bodies.**

The NSIS is supervised by the **National Statistics Council (NSC)**, an advisory body that guides and supervises its activities.

II. Purpose of the National Quality Assurance Framework

In view of the decentralized structure of the NSIS, it was essential to have an instrument that should :

- enable the statistics produced in the NSIS to meet the needs of users;
- make any statistics produced in or used by the NSIS an official statistic ;
- be used by all members of the NSIS and all producers producing the statistics for government decision-making.

III. Institutional Arrangements for the Development and Adoption of the NQAF

- **Government commitment from the beginning :**
 - April 2016 adoption of the **African Charter on Statistics**;
 - 2016, **agreement by the government to support the NSIS**, by STATCAN and AFRISTAT, for the production and implementation of a NQAF in Cameroon;
 - Since 2017, **presentation of the progress of the NQAF's work to the NSC**, chaired by a member of the government ;
 - **Adoption of the NQAF implementation plan in December 2019** by the National Statistics Council.
- **An NIS Division in charge of quality:**
 - the NIS organisation chart adopted by the NIS Board **in January 2016** gives responsibility for producing the NSIS data quality assessment report to **the NIS's Division of Cooperation, Revision and Applied Research**.
- **The NSC, the NSIS-wide advisory body ;**
 - **The National Statistical Council**, which includes all representatives of the **Presidency, parliamentarians, members of the government, universities, the private sector, etc.**, is responsible, among other things, for deciding on the methods used to compile official statistics and, as such, **validates the quality assurance instruments**.

IV. Activities for the development and adoption of the NQAF (1/3)

- *Establishment of a schedule for NQAF development.*

	Mai				Juin				Juillet				Août				Septembre				Octobre				Novembre				Décembre			
	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4	s1	s2	s3	s4
1. Training of an NQAF production team																																
2. Formalizing the composition of the team;	■	■																														
3. Finalization of the diagnosis (including analysis) ;	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																								
4. Internal NIS consultation (including BUCREP and MINADER) ;									■																							
5. Production of a version 1.0 of the NQAF ;									■	■	■	■																				
6. Internal NIS consultation (including BUCREP and MINADER) ;													■																			
7. NQAF 1.0 examination by AFRISTAT and STATCAN ;														■	■																	
8. Handling of the observations made ;															■	■																
9. Internal NIS consultation (including BUCREP and MINADER) ;																■																
10. NQAF 1.1 examination by AFRISTAT and STATCAN ;																	■	■														
11. Production of a version 1.2 of the NQAF ;																		■	■	■												
12. NQAF Technical Presentation Workshop 1.2 ;																													■			
13. Training of trainers workshop.																																

- *Multidisciplinary Working Group on Quality ;*

In order to ensure consistency of effort, broad participation and in-depth expertise were mobilized from the outset.

- *A multi-disciplinary working group on quality* composed of 10 experts in this field from all the directorates (technical, administrative, inspection...) has been set up. *This Working Group was enlarged during the consultations* on the documents produced to include representatives of **BUCREP** and **MINADER** who respectively carry out the Fourth General **Census of Population and Housing** (4th RGPH) and the General **Census of Agriculture and Livestock** (GCAL).

IV. Activities for the development and adoption of the NQAF (2/3)

- *Diagnostic analysis of the existing*

The Statistical Institute of Cameroon developed its quality assurance framework after an in-depth review of existing statistical quality assurance frameworks at the international, regional and national levels:

- **UN National Quality Assurance Framework,**
- **IMF Data Quality Assurance Framework,**
- **European Statistics Code of Practice and OECD Recommendation ;**
- **African Charter on Statistics,**
- **Statistics Canada's quality assurance frameworks, and -**
- **Burundi's National Quality Assurance Frameworks, from Statistics South Africa ;**
- **related documents such as the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the International Statistical Institute's Declaration on Professional Ethics.**

The following national/régional references relating to quality management were examined in depth by a study carried out in 2011 during an institutional audit of the NSIS and updated during the diagnostic phase of the development of the NQAF in 2017:

- **the Statistical Law** (Law 91/023 of 16 December 1991) and its implementing decree, including the establishment of the CNS (Decree 93/407 of 7 May 1993);
- **texts governing ministerial statistical services ;**
- **the decree creating the INS** (decree 2001/100 of 2 April 2001), **the decree creating the BUCREP** (decree 99/230 of 4 October 1999);
- **The 2015 - 2020 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics** which is based on **the African Union's SHaSA, the AFRISTAT Strategic Work Programme and the Reference Regional Strategic Framework** for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);

Filling out the United Nations checklist : All existing arrangements on system coordination, the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical products were reviewed on the basis of the United Nations checklist.

IV. Activities for the development and adoption of the NQAF (3/3)

- *NQAF Structure and Validation*
 - The framework uses the definitions set out in the [SDMX Glossary of 2016](#) to describe quality concepts;
 - **The structure of the Framework is based on the 19 principles** of the 2012 United Nations NQAF and is renewed in the 2019 United Nations NQAF;
 - In addition, **the framework sets out a set of ideals to be achieved by members of the NSIS**. These ideals are good practices drawn from existing frameworks at the international level and adopted or adapted to the national context;
 - For the **validation of Cameroon's NQAF**,
 - ✓ **On 15 November 2018**, the National Statistics Council adopted Cameroon's NQAF;
 - ✓ **On 16 December 2019** the National Statistical Council adopted the **Guidelines for Surveys and Censuses in Cameroon (Cameroonian version of the GSBPM)** and an action plan until 2023 for the progressive implementation of the NQAF.

V. NQAF Implementation Schedule

Tools and Instruments for NQAF Implementation	Production and validation	Training
· National Quality Assurance Framework		
· Guidelines for surveys and censuses		
· Establishment of specialised quality units in NSI structures and major statistical producers		2020
· Introduction of essential tools for quality assurance in large		
· Quality and performance indicators for statistical projects		
· Code of Professional Ethics Governing Statistical Practice	2020	2021
· Guidelines on transparency, objectivity and impartiality		
· Guidelines for the implementation of the Data Dissemination Policy		
· Management policy for other stakeholders: data providers, users, media		
· Guidelines for data exchange in the NIS	2021	2022
· Guidelines for archiving data		
· Guidelines for the management and dissemination of micro data		
· Methodological reference guide for each type of statistical operation (each type)	2022	2023
· Guidelines for detecting, controlling and correcting errors		

VI. Challenges

The main current challenge of the NSIS is the implementation of the law of 11 July 2018 on the code of transparency and good governance in public finance, which stipulates that **administrations in charge of statistical production must accompany them with methodologies (including metadata)**. This has direct implications:

- automating the production of metadata before, during and at the end of statistical operations ;
- production of accuracy and timeliness indicators for the key indicators of each statistical operation ;
- production and compliance with publication schedules of statistical products ;
- setting up a form of "after-sales service" for statistical products.

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