

**Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System
(CCS-UN)**

New York, 4 March 2018

15:00 – 18:00

**The Principles Governing International Statistical Activities: Commitment to the
Principles by principals: Status quo and follow up**

Report by UNSD

I. Background

1. On 29 January 2014, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, marking a historic moment for the global statistical community. These Principles represent the fundamental values that govern the statistical work for producing reliable high-quality statistics for analysis and decision making. Twenty years after the Principles were endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994, the GA resolution marks the first time the Principles receive the endorsement by the highest level of the intergovernmental process.

2. In 2005, the chief statisticians and principal coordinators of statistical activities in the UN agencies and other international organizations committed to a similar set of principles to guide their professional work in international statistics: the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities. This set of Principles was originally endorsed “only” by the chief statisticians and principal coordinators of statistical activities in the UN agencies and other international organizations. For endorsements see https://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/Principles_stat_activities/endorse.htm.

3. Following a similar approach to the GA endorsement of the Fundamental Principles, members of the newly formed Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UN) decided in September 2014 that it was time to bring the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities to the attention of the principals/chief executives and thus initiating their endorsement on the political level.

4. As a first step, USG Wu urged CEB members to adhere to the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities during the Chief Executive Board meeting on 18 and 19 November 2015.¹

1

<http://www.unsystem.org/CEBPublicFiles/Chief%20Executives%20Board%20for%20Coordination/Document/CEB-2015-2-CEB%202nd%20Reg%20Session.pdf>, page 19, para. 86.

5. As a follow up, a letter was sent from USG Wu to CEB members on 24 March 2017. Only two more entities committed since this topic was last discussed in September 2017 in Muscat. These are ESCWA and UN-Habitat. Below is the updated list of commitments received.

Status quo

As of 21 September 2017, commitments have been received from the heads of the following CCS-UN entities:

1. UNSD (DESA)
2. UNPD (DESA)
3. ESCAP
4. ESCWA
5. FAO
6. ICAO
7. UNEP
8. UNESCO
9. UN-Habitat
10. UNHCR
11. UNIDO
12. UNODC
13. UN-Women
14. WHO

Commitments have not been received from the heads of the following CCS-UN entities:

1. ECA
2. ECE
3. ECLAC
4. IAEA
5. ILO
6. ITU
7. UNICEF
8. UNCTAD
9. UNDP
10. UNFPA
11. UPU
12. UNWTO

The following two CCS-UN entities are not members of the CEB therefore did not receive the letter:

1. OCHA
2. OHCHR

Status of responses of members of the CEB that are not members of the CSS-UN:

1. WIPO (reply)
2. WB (no reply)

3. IMF (no reply)
4. WMO (no reply)
5. IMO (no reply)
6. IFAD (no reply)
7. WTO (no reply)
8. IOM (no reply)
9. UNRWA (no reply)
10. WFP (no reply)
11. UNOPS (no reply)

Replies received so far have been posted online by the secretariat
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/endorse-CEB.htm>.

II. The way forward

6. The Committee may wish to discuss the major challenges members have experienced in obtaining commitment of their principals and how to best overcome them.