

Draft letter from USG-DESA to CEB members

Dear

I am following up on our recent discussion at the Chief Executive Board meeting on 18 and 19 November 2015 where I urged you to adhere to the “Principles Governing International Statistical Activities” which I have the pleasure to transmit to you today in the attachment. Further information and practical guidelines for the implementation of these principles can be found on the website of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) which had first developed these principles in 2005 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/principles_stat_activities.htm). At that time all UN entities committed to these principles at the level of their respective Chief Statisticians.

As we all set out to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, this is a particularly opportune moment to manifest an even stronger commitment of the UN Statistical System to the implementation of the Principles. UN member states have recently elevated their commitment to a set of similar principles from the technical to the highest political level, by passing a resolution in the General Assembly on the “Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics” (FPOS) in 2014. I would, therefore, like to invite you, as chief executive of your organization to follow the lead of our member states.

As the Head of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, I would like to express my professional commitment to apply the “Principles Guiding Statistical Activities of International Organizations” and practices in the work of my department, in accordance with current UN Regulations and Rules and other administrative issuances. Whilst recognizing that these Principles may be used by agencies in different ways, depending on their institutional circumstances, I am convinced that our member states will appreciate a strong signal from the UN community to adhere to an explicit set of professional principles that are very much inspired by the FPOS.

I would therefore like to encourage you to express the same commitment in your response.