

26 February 2015

## **Meeting of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System**

New York, 1 March 2015  
United Nations Headquarters, DC-1684  
15:00 – 17:00

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### **Principles Governing International Statistical Activities Draft letter from USG of DESA to the head of agencies**

Prepared by UNSD

Dear ....

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.

Following the same approach, 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.

I have the pleasure today to transmit to you in the attachment the revised version of these Principles. I am convinced that our Member States having already endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics with the General Assembly resolution in 2014, will very much appreciate the commitment by the UN system to also adhere to a set of professional principles inspired by the same values and aspirations that govern statistical work at the global level.

I would like to express my firm commitment, in my capacity as the Undersecretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations, to uphold and apply these principles and practices in the work of my department and to invite you to express the same commitment on behalf of your organization.