



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director

31 May 2017

Dear Mr. Wu,

I would like to thank you for the letter of 23 March 2017 and to express my appreciation for your leadership in promoting within the United Nations system the “Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics” adopted by the General Assembly in 2014.

In this connection, I am pleased to follow the lead of Member States and to return to you a signed copy of the “Principles Governing International Statistical Activities” as a token of my personal commitment to promoting these principles within UNODC, in accordance with United Nations Rules and Regulations and other administrative issuances.

Over the years, UNODC has made good progress in enhancing the international statistical system on drugs and crime. With the ultimate goal of providing the international community with high quality, impartial and relevant statistical information, UNODC has worked to improve data collection and dissemination systems, produce methodological standards and provide technical assistance to strengthen national capacities in statistics. This has been recognised by Member States and other partners who have expressed support for UNODC statistical products, recognising their quality and scientific foundation.

The implementation of the statistical framework to monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a further challenge for the international statistical system and UNODC is fully committed to contribute in the areas under its responsibility.

I look forward to continuing our cooperation with your Office in this important aspect of our work.

all the best!
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yury Fedotov', written over the phrase 'all the best!'.

Attachment: Signed copy of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities

Mr. Wu Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General
Secretary-General for the UN Conference to Support
the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
New York

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

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Attachment:

**PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL
STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES²**

Bearing in mind that statistics are essential for sustainable economic, environmental and social development and that public trust in official statistics is anchored in professional independence and impartiality of statisticians, their use of scientific and transparent methods and equal access for all to official statistical information, the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations System assembled in the Chiefs Executive Board, agree that implementation of the following principles will enhance the functioning of the international statistical system.

In doing so, they note the endorsement of these principles by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on 14 September, 2005; these principles were reaffirmed by the Committee with a new preamble in March 2014. They further recall the adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in its Special Session of 11-15 April 1994; the Fundamental Principles were reaffirmed by the Statistical Commission with a new preamble in March 2013 and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2013 (Resolution 2013/21) and by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 January 2014 (Resolution A/RES/68/261).

- 1) High quality international statistics, accessible for all, are a fundamental element of global information systems.
- 2) To maintain the trust in international statistics, their production is to be impartial and strictly based on the highest professional standards.
- 3) The public has a right to be informed about the mandates for the statistical work of the organisations.
- 4) Concepts, definitions, classifications, sources, methods and procedures employed in the production of international statistics are chosen to meet professional scientific standards and are made transparent for the users.
- 5) Sources and methods for data collection are appropriately chosen to ensure timeliness and other aspects of quality, to be cost-efficient and to minimise the reporting burden for data providers.

² The identical text of these Principles, with appropriate modifications in the two preambular paragraphs has been adopted by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and subsequently been signed as a professional commitment by the Chief Statisticians of all UN System entities.

6) Individual data collected about natural persons and legal entities, or about small aggregates that are subject to national confidentiality rules, are to be kept strictly confidential and are to be used exclusively for statistical purposes or for purposes mandated by legislation.

7) Erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics are to be immediately appropriately addressed.

8) Standards for national and international statistics are to be developed on the basis of sound professional criteria, while also meeting the test of practical utility and feasibility.

9) Coordination of international statistical programmes is essential to strengthen the quality, coherence and governance of international statistics, and avoiding duplication of work.

10) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contribute to the professional growth of the statisticians involved and to the improvement of statistics in the organisations and in countries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. De Cecco', is located at the bottom left of the page.