

UN Fundamental principles of official statistics.

Compliance with them in the world

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The history of FPOS

- Discussed and written by UNECE and UNSC in the period 1991-1994
- UNSD Global Reviews 2003 and 2011. Member states
- New Preamble adopted UNSC 2013
- Adopted by UN General Assembly late 2013
- Other processes
 - IMF
 - Eurostat, Code of Practice and peer reviews, Also Compliance reports on subject matter statistics.
 - OECD
 - ISI Ethics in statistics, revised
 - At the national level, actions on the legal basis and quality commitments

Ongoing work-FOC

- Implementation Guide, draft discussed UNSC 2014.
- Formulating guidelines on how to ensure the independence of national statistical systems
- Exploring ways to effectively address perceived violations of the Fundamental Principles
- As of September: Draft Implementation guidelines. Will be discussed UNSC 2015

FPOS: some principles are visionary statements for official statistics

- *Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.*
- It is not easy to monitor worldwide the compliance for this. It is perhaps relevant to ask to what extent each NSO has made this vision their own vision.
- UNSC has no powerful body for international monitoring.
- The only answer is transparency, which is very important.
- See also FPOS 10 about international cooperation.

FPOS: some elements are vision for competence and staff

- Principle 2. *To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.*
- This reflects ambitions for institute and staff and cannot be examined with a yes or no answer.
- But we may ask about visions and ambitions and academic competence

FPOS: Some principles are sensitive or difficult

- The identification of erroneous interpretations may be difficult. If statistics are quoted with errors it may be easy but the interpretation may in some cases be more difficult

FPOS: Process descriptions

- FPOS 5,6,7,8,9 Are descriptions about data access, transparency on methods and confidentiality. Etc
- Fits well into evaluation of compliance

Reflections on official statistics

- Can trust in official statistics be created by monitoring or assessments?
 - Monitor quality by monitoring processes
 - Monitor Relevance, use and analytical capacity. Do statistics contribute to collective wisdom
- We need both, we have most experiences with the first
- Independency a tool to gain confidence. Not first of all right given to us by UNGA but an obligation. We have to behave professional and scientific in a setting where political interference is rejected by law.

Thank you

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