



High Level Seminar on integrating non-traditional data sources in the NSSs

Official statistics and National Statistical Systems:

Opportunities and challenges for non-traditional data sources

**ECLAC – Eurostat Regional Workshop
1-2 October 2018, Santiago, Chile,**



Value of Official Statistics

- Authoritative [decision-making]
- Independent, objective and transparent [trust]
- Highest professional standards and ethics [confidentiality]
- Fitness-for-purpose [user-oriented quality]
- Universal [equal access]
- Flexible and resilient [reliable]
- Efficient and effective [coordinated]





UN-FPS adopted by the UN StatCom in 1994 and the General Assembly in **2014**
([A/RES/68/261](#))

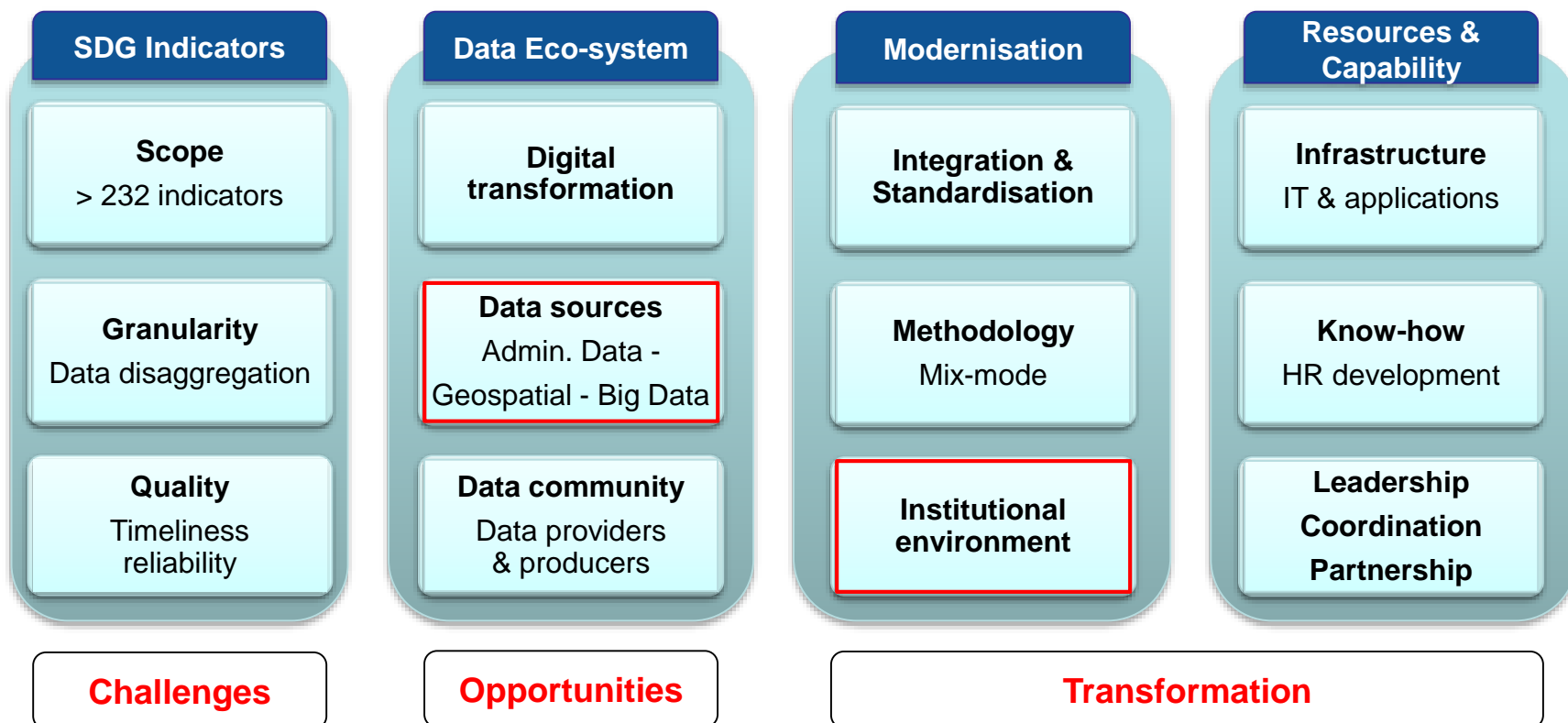
- Impartiality, objectivity and equal access
- Professional independence, ethics and methodology
- Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes
- Prevention of misuse and right to comment on erroneous interpretation
- Accountability and transparency
- Sources of official statistics and Non-excessive burden on respondents
- International cooperation and standards
- Relevance, accessibility, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality
- National coordination, coherence and comparability



 **Principles to be enshrined in the national statistical legislation and implemented**



SDG Indicators: challenges and opportunities





General Assembly Resolution from 6 July 2017

[A/RES/71/313](#)

- Official statistics (data from national statistical system - NSS) constitute the basis for the SDG indicator framework
- All activities of the NSS to be conducted in full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics - UNFPs ([A/RES/68/261](#))
- National statistical offices are the coordinator of the NSS
- NSS to explore ways to integrate new data sources into their systems to satisfy new data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- [Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data](#): Framework for discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical capacity-building for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Code of Good Practice (CoP)

- Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (CoP-LAC) adopted 2011
- CARICOM's Statistics Code of Practice adopted in 2011

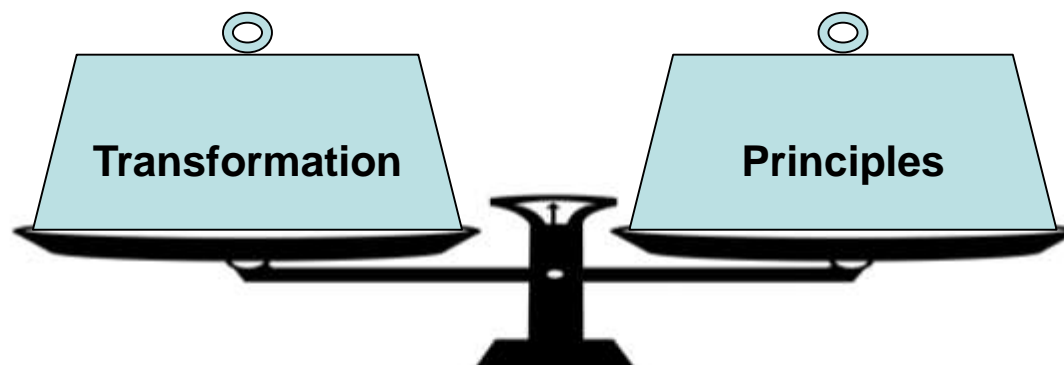
1. Professional independence
2. Mandate for data collection
3. Adequacy of resources
4. Quality commitment
5. Statistical confidentiality
6. Impartiality and objectivity
7. Sound methodology
8. Appropriate statistical procedure
9. Non-excessive burden on respondents
10. Cost effectiveness
11. Relevance
12. Accuracy and reliability
13. Timeliness and punctuality
14. Coherence and comparability
15. Accessibility and clarity

- ✓ **CoPs are operational extensions of the UN-FPs**
- ✓ **CoPs cover the 3 dimensions of Quality Assurance Frameworks**



The Law vs. Transformation

- The Law not a “corset” against transformation but to enable modernization while safeguarding the Principles
- Necessity to revise statistical legislations to raise the challenges and grasp the opportunities of non-traditional data sources





National Law on Official Statistics [the Law]

Main provisions of the Law:

- Delineation of the National Statistical System (NSS)
- National Statistical Office and other producers
- Parties to the Law
- Chief Statistician
- Statistical Council
- Coordination mechanisms and instruments
- Data sources and confidentiality
- Quality and other important provisions





Delineation of the NSS

The National Statistical System (NSS) is the ensemble of statistical organizations and units within a country that jointly develop, collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government

National Statistical Office (NSO)

- Main producer of Official Statistics
- Professionally independent body
- Coordinates activities for the development, production and dissemination of statistics within the NSS
- Not to be assigned responsibilities or getting instructions conflicting with the UN-FPs and the Law

Other Producers of Official Statistics (OPOS)

- Operate in compliance with the Law, the UN-FPs and adopted standards
- Professionally independent entities within their respective organizations
- Responsible for their assigned activities in the statistical programmes



Other parties to the Law

- But the Law also grants rights and imposes obligations on other parties:
 - Users: equal and simultaneous access to statistical releases
 - Respondents: obligation to provide information
 - National and local authorities: obliged to provide, free of charge, data and metadata in their possession
 - Statistical Council: composition, mandate and tasks
 - ...



Primary vs. Secondary Data Sources

- Primary data sources (statistical surveys/censuses):
 - Primary data are sources containing information which is exclusively collected for official statistics purposes
 - Primary data sources (statistical surveys) are collected exclusively by statistical authorities
- Secondary data sources (administrative data/Big Data/Geospatial):
 - Secondary data are primarily collected for non-statistical purpose, by public authorities and private business for specific monitoring purposes
 - The entity that supplies secondary data to statistical authorities and the unit to which the data relates (observation unit) are different

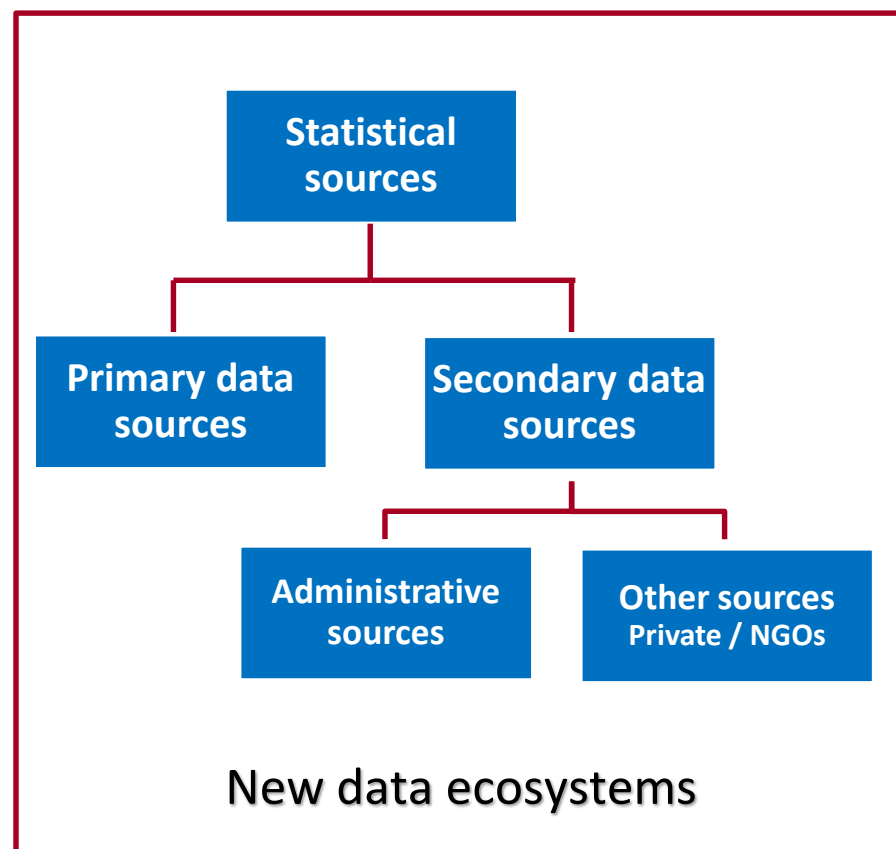
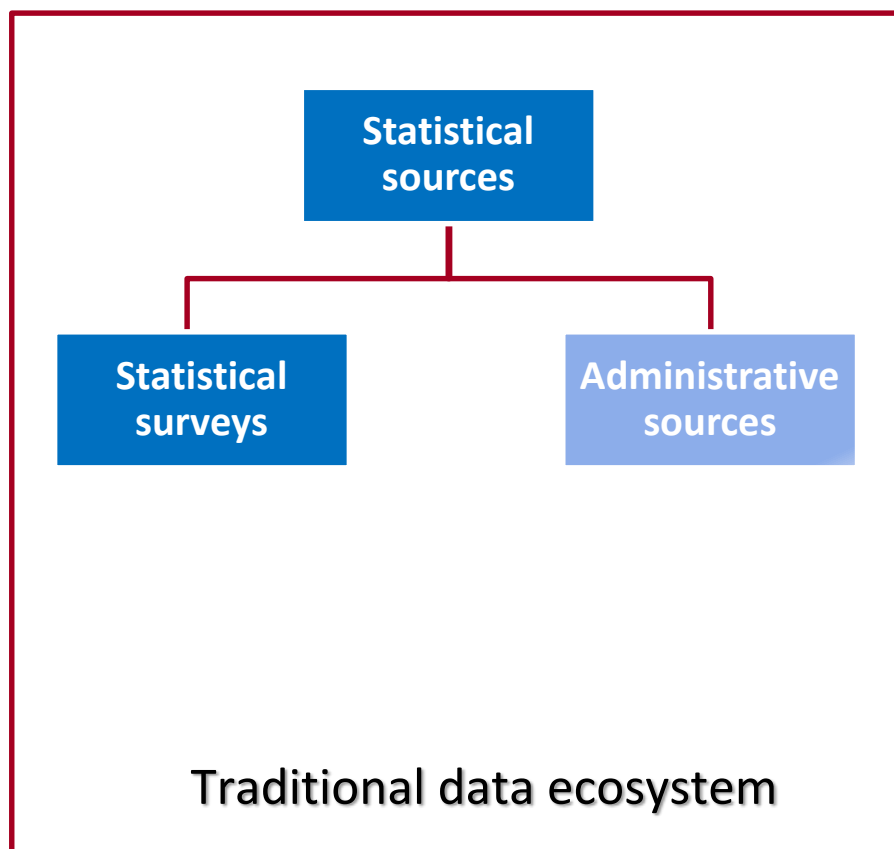


Mandate for Data Collection

- Data for the production of official statistics may be drawn from all type of sources, be they statistical surveys (primary sources) or other sources (secondary sources)
- Producers of Official Statistics choose the data sources based on professional considerations and in particular with regard to quality, costs and the burden on respondent
- Producers of Official statistics are allowed by national legislation to use administrative records for statistical purposes.
- Producers of Official Statistics have the sole responsibility for deciding on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing and storage of data sources



Primary data sources vs. Secondary data sources





Confidentiality

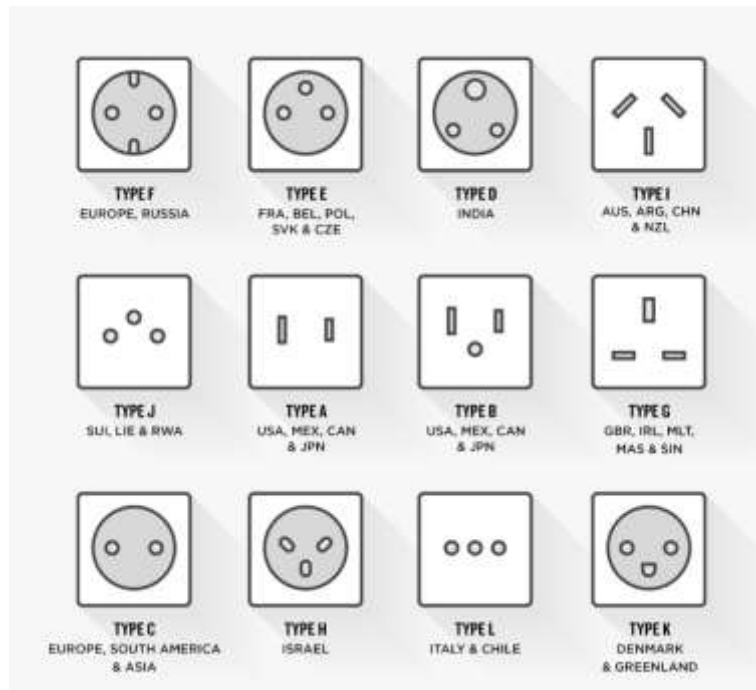
- Individual data/micro-data from natural and legal persons held by Producers of Official Statistics are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes
- The principle of confidentiality applies to all data sources, be they statistical surveys (primary sources) or secondary data sources (e.g. administrative records).
- Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed in the Statistical Law
- ↕ Confidential data can be shared between producers of official statistics exclusively
- ⊖ Confidential secondary data can not be shared back from producers of official statistics to the data providers (e.g. administrations)



Data ecosystems



Inter-operability & flexibility





Memorandum of Understanding with data providers

- Establishing MoUs with data providers (secondary data sources) is a good practice.
- MoUs should contain at least these elements:
 - Legal basis (law, statistical programmes, contractual obligations, ...)
 - Description of the purpose of the data transfer/data access
 - Detail description of data covered including frequency and timeliness
 - Quality standards and quality reports
 - Technical standards
 - Cooperation mechanisms for improving the adequacy of the data with statistical requirements (consultation and partnership mechanisms)
 - Contact persons
 - ...



Generic Law on Official Statistics:

Provides recommendation and guidance aiming at supporting further development of the legal and institutional frameworks for official statistics, based on international recommendations and findings from various peer reviews and global assessments



The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics was created in 2014 by the UN Statistical Commission to explore the benefits and challenges of the use of new data sources and technologies for official statistics and SDG indicators



For questions and comments:

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