

## **International Statistical Institute Intervention to the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNSC March 2017**

### **Item 3(f) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

1. ISI welcomes the FPOS Guidelines published in 2015 which provide a good source of teaching material on this subject. We recognise much that has been said on the difficulties of monitoring compliance, but there have been two important changes since the last assessment in 2012/13. One is the adoption of the FPOS by the General Assembly in 2014, and the other is the publication of the Implementation Guidelines in 2015.
2. The Fundamental Principles are the cornerstone of the UNSC. We must keep its profile high and show the world how important it is.
3. The ISI has its own Declaration of Professional Ethics, first adopted in 1985. The ISI Declaration deals with individual professionals and covers all areas of statistics, while the focus of the Fundamental Principles is on official statistics and on organisations. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of overlap between the two. However, a significant number of the concerns that the ISI receives on ethical issues are in fact breaches of the Fundamental Principles, as they relate to actions by governments rather than by individual statisticians.
4. The FRoCh would need to consider whether something in addition to a self-assessment questionnaire would be helpful. Some follow up studies asking for specific evidence of compliance could be developed. And to avoid high costs, rather than adopting a uniform approach, something more targeted depending on the perceived risk could be considered.
5. The ISI would be happy to contribute to a FRoCh group on this issue.