



The new United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual)

**United Nations Statistical Commission Lunchtime Seminar
Implementation of Quality Assurance for Official Statistics
using UN NQAF Manual as a guide**

7 March 2019



Structure of the UN NQAF Manual

Part	Chapter	Title
Introduction	Chapter 1	Contents and use of this Manual
Recommendations	Chapter 2	Recommendations on quality assurance for official statistics
UN NQAF	Chapter 3	The UN National Quality Assurance Framework: principles and requirements
Implementation	Chapter 4	Assessment tools and risk management
	Chapter 5	Development and implementation of a national quality assurance framework
	Chapter 6	Implementation of quality assurance within the national statistical system
	Chapter 7	Quality assurance for statistics compiled from different data sources
	Chapter 8	Quality assurance for SDG indicator data and statistics
References	Chapter 9	Quality assurance in the global statistical system
UN NQAF Annex	Annex A	Detailed Checklist of elements to be assured



Uses the UN NQAF Manual

Task	Manual part
Achieving an adequate mandate	Chapter 2
Developing NQAF	Chapter 5
Adopting or adapting framework for country needs	Chapter 3 and Annex A
Finding proper tools and instruments for NQAF implementation	Chapter 4
NQAF Implementation at the NSO	Chapter 5
NQAF implementation throughout the NSS	Chapter 6
Assuring quality for statistics from different data sources	Chapter 7
Addressing quality assurance for SDG indicators	Chapter 8
Finding references on quality assurance in the global statistical system (including the need for international comparability, especially for SDG indicators)	Chapter 9

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UN Overarching Core Recommendations on quality assurance for official statistics

- #1 Integrate Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the legal and institutional frameworks**
- #2 Include the requirement for quality assurance in the statistical legislation**
- #3 Establish national quality assurance framework (NQAF); all national statistical system (NSS) members to commit to quality assurance**
- #4 Base or align your NQAF with international or regional quality frameworks**
- #5 Implement NQAF at the NSO, throughout the NSS and to data and statistics produced outside the NSS as appropriate**



UN NQAF Principles

Level A: Managing the national statistical system (NSS)

- 1: Coordinating the NSS
- 2: Managing relationships with data users, data providers and other stakeholders
- 3: Managing statistical standards

Level C: Managing statistical processes

- 10: Assuring methodological soundness
- 11: Assuring cost-effectiveness
- 12: Assuring appropriate statistical procedures
- 13: Managing the respondent burden

Level B: Managing the institutional environment

- 4: Assuring professional independence
- 5: Assuring impartiality and objectivity
- 6: Assuring transparency
- 7: Assuring statistical confidentiality and data security
- 8: Assuring the quality commitment
- 9: Assuring adequacy of resources

Level D: Managing statistical outputs

- 14: Assuring relevance
- 15: Assuring accuracy and reliability
- 16: Assuring timeliness and punctuality
- 17: Assuring accessibility and clarity
- 18: Assuring coherence and comparability
- 19: Managing metadata



UN NQAF Principles, Requirements and Elements to be assured

Chapter 3: UN NQAF Principles and Requirements

Principle 1: Coordinating the national statistical system

Coordination of the work of the members of the national statistical system is essential for improving and maintaining the quality of official statistics. Principle 1 is mainly supported by FPOS 8.

Requirement 1.1: A statistical law establishes the responsibilities of the members of the national statistical system including its coordination. Its members are identified in a legal or formal provision.

Requirement 1.2: There are a body and mechanisms for statistical system for activities at the international level.

Requirement 1.3: There is a mechanism for considering national statistical system, and if appropriate, official.


Requirement 1.4: There is a national plan or program for the official statistics.

Annex A: Detailed checklist of elements to be assured (more detailed list of good practices, activities, methods and tools that can provide guidance)

Detailed checklist for Principle 1: Coordinating the national statistical system

Requirement 1.1: A statistical law establishes the responsibilities of the members of the national statistical system including its coordination. Its members are identified in a legal or formal provision.

- The coordination role of the national statistical office or other body is defined in a statistical law.
- The criteria for official statistics and membership in the NSS are specified in a statistical law.
- Members of the national statistical system are identified in additional regulations or provisions.
- Responsibilities for NSS members comprise quality assurance and the specification of their contribution to official statistics.

A circular word cloud logo in the top left corner. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'statistics' and 'data' being the most prominent. Other visible words include 'quality', 'assurances', 'system', 'production', 'agency', 'SDGs', 'national', 'develop', 'innovation', 'user', 'requirements', 'manage', 'principle', 'use', 'process', 'information', 'user', 'requirements', 'manage', 'principle', 'use', 'process', 'information'.

Quality assurance of SDG indicators (Chapter 8)

- **Challenges of assuring quality of data and statistics for the SDG indicators**
- **Roles of the different entities participating in this task**
- **Requirements and elements to be assured of special importance in this context according to the UN NQAF levels:**
 - **Managing the NSS**
 - **Managing the statistical environment**
 - **Managing the statistical processes**
 - **Managing statistical outputs**



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