



How can the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics strengthen in practice National Statistical Offices and statisticians — illustrated by scenarios/case studies?

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Professional and ethical frameworks, like the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics, are essential in order to give guidance to National Statistical Offices and statisticians from all over the world. Both have become an integral part and a common reference in the global and national statistical systems.

But what if infringements occur? A closer look at concrete scenarios/case studies enables to discuss possible solutions based on the implementation guidelines of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. More specifically the paper will focus on scenarios/case studies regarding Principle 4 of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics “Prevention of misuse” and the cross-cutting issue of “Independence”. These two issues have been chosen, because they are both covered by the frameworks mentioned above and they reflect the current discussion at international level.

These implementation guidelines, developed by an international Friends of the Chair group in early 2014, contain concrete recommendations of activities that enhance the practical implementation of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and ensure independence of national statistical systems. Concrete examples and experiences for the implementation from UN Member States and a collection of statistical laws have been integrated in this work. The Friends of the Chair group also dealt with the question of how the address perceived violations.

Keywords: implementation guidelines, prevention of misuse, independence.