



**United Nations Development Account 10th tranche Statistics and Data**

## **Institutional Framework:**

# **International principles and good practices**

*Sound institutional environment, cooperation, dialogue and partnerships  
for the production and utilization of SDG indicators*

**Arab Workshop**

6-8 February 2018, Tunis, Tunisia



## 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]





## The Journey to the Fundamental Principles



- Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice, American Statistical Association (ASA), adopted in **1979** and last revised 2016
- Declaration on Professional Ethics, International Statistical Institute (ISI), adopted in **1985** and last revised in 2010
- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, UNECE, adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians in **1991** and at political level in 1992
- United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UN-FPs) adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in **1994**
- UN-FPs adopted by the General Assembly in **2014** (A/RES/68/261)





## UN-FPs

- Impartiality, objectivity and equal access
  - Relevance, accessibility, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality
  - Professional independence, ethics and methodology
  - Prevention of misuse and right to comment on erroneous interpretation
  - Sources of official statistics and Non-excessive burden on respondents
  - Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes
  - Accountability and transparency
  - National coordination, coherence and comparability
  - International cooperation and standards
- ➔ **... values and principles governing statistical work to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks** (A/RES/71/313 from 6 July 2017)





## National Law on Official Statistics [the Law]

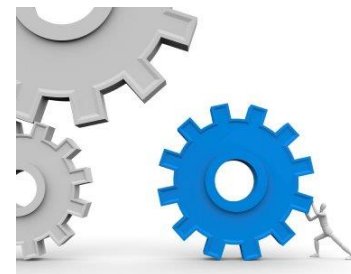
- Delineation of the National Statistical System (NSS) and parties to the Law
- National Statistical Office and other producers
- Chief Statistician
- Statistical Council (session 2)
- Coordination mechanisms and instruments (session 2)
- Mandate for data collection and statistical registers (session 4)
- Confidentiality and exchange of data within the NSS (session 4)
- Advanced release calendar and equal access (session 4)
- Open data and access to micro-data for research purposes (session 4)
- Other provisions ...





## Delineation of the NSS and other parties to the Law

- All producers of statistics that comply with the provisions of the Law and the Principles:
  - National Statistical Office (main producer)
  - Other producers of official statistics (listed in the statistical programme)
- 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
  - ...





- 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 Principles

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





## Chief Statistician

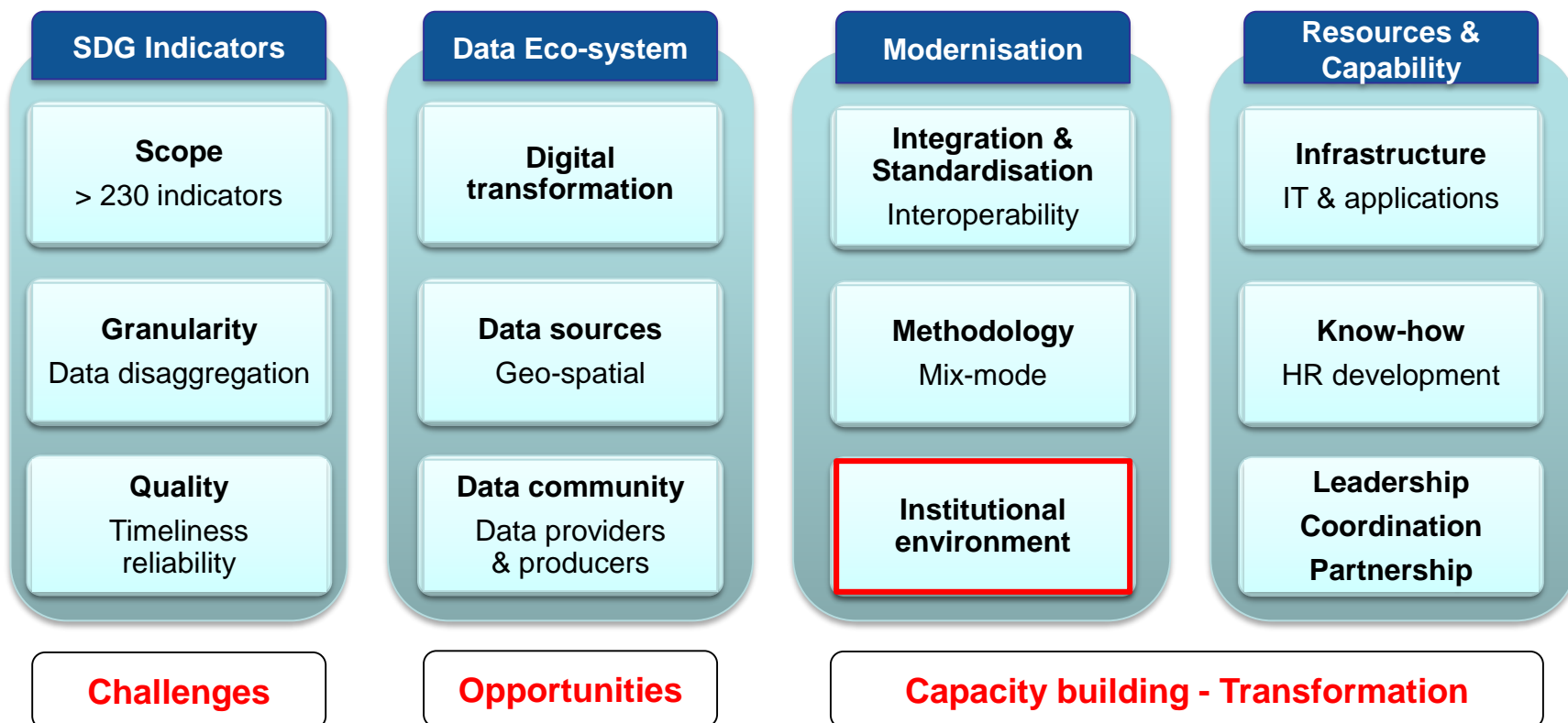
- Highest Statistical Authority and executive manager of the NSO
- Mandate cannot be terminated for any reasons compromising the implementation of the Law and the Principles
- Fosters and monitors the compliance of all producers of official statistics with the Law and the Principles
- Submits to the Government the statistical programmes after consultations with the Statistical Council and other producers
- Issues standards and guidelines for the entire NSS on the development, production and dissemination of official statistics
- Promotes the use of official statistical standards and classifications beyond the NSS (partnerships and dialogue)







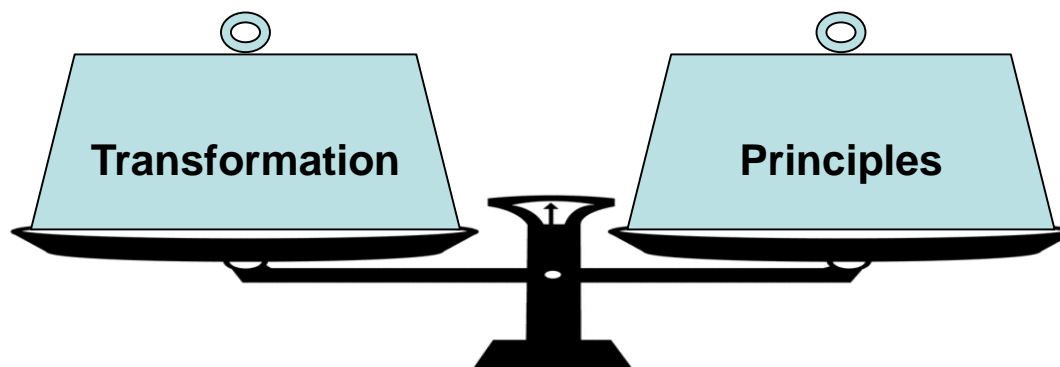
## SDG Indicators: challenges and opportunities





## 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
- ⚙️ Need to enhance the managerial autonomy of the Chief Statistician





## While revising/updating the Law

- Advocacy and consultation, not only with the Government but also the public, civil society, data community, media ...
- Identify “champions” to bring the message to all stakeholders
- Seek support from the international community
- Exchange experience with countries that are in the process or recently revised their statistical Legislations
- Identify early in the process other national legislation and by-laws that need to be aligned with the new Law



# Generic Law on Official Statistics

Generic Law on Official Statistics





## For questions and comments:

### Gabriel Gamez | Inter-regional Adviser

Organisation and management of NSS | Statistics Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs | United Nations  
2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1518 | New York, NY 10017, USA  
Email: [gamezg@un.org](mailto:gamezg@un.org) | Tel: +1-917-367-5443 | Cell: +1-646-944-3735

