

**Workshop on sound institutional environment,  
cooperation, dialogue and partnerships for the  
production and utilization of SDG indicators**

**Regional regulatory framework and  
results of self-assessment on  
statistical principle and regulatory  
framework section**

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# Outline

- **The Regional regulatory framework: the African Charter on Statistics**
- **Statistical principle and regulatory framework (result of self evaluation)**

## **The Regional regulatory framework: the African Charter on Statistics**

- The legal regulatory instrument of statistics activities and a tool for the promotion and development of statistics in Africa
- Adopted by the 12th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on 4 February 2009
- Came into force on 8 February 2015, 30 days after the deposit of the instruments for ratification by the 15th Member States of the AU
- 22 countries have already ratified

## The Regional regulatory framework: the African Charter on Statistics

- Underlines the respect of the principles enshrined in the Resolution on the fundamental principles of official statistics
  - Professional independence
  - Quality
  - Mandate for data collection and resources
  - Dissemination
  - Protection of individual data, information sources and Respondents
  - Coordination and Cooperation
- Commits member states of the AU to ensure the implementation of this Charter in their respective countries.

## Statistical principle and regulatory framework

- The self-assessment guidance questionnaire was used to collect data covering the overall National Statistical System
- This section presents the main results on statistical principle and regulatory framework part
- It is articulated around four topics:
  - 1.1 Statistical law
  - 1.2 Professional independence
  - 1.3 Mandate for collection
  - 1.4 Statistical confidentiality
- 31 countries have successfully responded

## Statistical law

- The fundamental principles of official statistics adopted in 1994
- The African Charter on Statistics 2009 (adoption) and 2015 (in force)
- All the 31 countries have a statistical law. 6 entered in force before or in 1994; 15 between 1995 and 2009; 6 between 2000 and 2012. 3 countries didn't provide data
- 9 countries have revised their statistical law
- National statistical law do not regulate statistical activities conducted by all producers of official statistics in Two countries while

## Statistical law

- Specific regulatory frameworks governing statistical activities conducted by other producers of official statistics than the NSO **always** make an explicit reference to the national statistical law in only 11 countries. Often in 11, Seldom in 4 and never in 4
- The national statistical law of 25 countries (80.6%) makes explicit reference to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official statistics
- The national statistical law of 21 countries (67.7%) makes explicit reference to the African Charter on Statistics and/or other regional/national statistics code of practice
- The specific role and responsibility of the NSO are explicitly stated in the national statistical law or in one of its by-laws of 29 countries (93.5%)

## Professional independence

- Professional independence of producers of official statistics from any political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating is secured by the statistical law in 27 countries (20 for the entire NSS and 7 only for NSO)
- This also applies to the development, production and dissemination of the SDGs indicators (23 for the entire NSS and 7 only for NSO)
- The appointment of chief statistician is regulated based on professional competences in 23 countries (74.2%)
- Position of the Chief Statistician has sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to political authorities and administrative public bodies in 27 countries (87.1%)



## Professional independence

- Chief Statistician has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner for 30 countries (19 for the NSS and 11 for only the NSO). This responsibility is regulated in 19 countries (73.1%)
- Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements, and are clearly identified as products of the NSO and, when relevant, of other producers of official statistics in 25 countries (18 for the NSS and 7 for only the NSO). This also applies to releases of SDG indicators in 24 countries.
- The NSO and, where appropriate other producers of official statistics, comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics as far as considered suitable in 27 countries (20 for the NSS and 7 for only the NSO).

## Mandate for collection

- The mandate of the NSO, and where appropriate other producers of official statistics, to collect data for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics is regulated in all the countries. However, the regulation covers only NSO in 6 countries.
- This mandate regulated in the statistical law of 26 countries (86.7%) and in another legal act in 4 countries (13.3%)
- On the basis of a legal act, producers of official statistics may compel response to statistical survey in 27 countries (in 20 for surveys from the NSS and 7 for survey from only the NSO)

## Mandate for collection

- In case of refusal to reply to a survey, there is a system of sanctions in place in 24 countries . The system is implemented in 11 countries and not in 13.
- On the basis of the national statistical law, producers of official statistics may request, under certain circumstances, to collect third-party data (e.g. Big Data) from private companies for statistical purpose in 24 countries. This is not true in 7 countries.

## Statistical confidentiality

- Clear provisions on statistical confidentiality do not exist in the statistical law and other relevant legislation of 4 countries (12.9%)
- There are provisions in place in the legislation of 26 countries (83.9) on administrative, penal and disciplinary sanctions for violation of statistical confidentiality. But, this information is publicly available and accessible to all in only 21 of these countries
- Names and addresses or other personal identifiers are generally kept for statistical purposes but only as long as necessary (29 countries)

**Thank you**