



State of Palestine  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

# **"Challenges in Implementing the UN FPOS, and Maintaining the Independency in Statistical Institutions in the Time of Instability- the Arab region"**

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**The common statistical principles and frames in National Statistical Institutions (NSIs) in Arab countries are:**



# Implementing the UN FPOS in the Arab Countries

## **Most of the NSIs in the Arab countries work on Applying the FPOS**

Most of the National Statistical Institutions (NSIs) in the Arab countries work on Applying the Fundamental principles of official statistics (FPOS), especially the principles related to impartiality, confidentiality, integrity, and adherence to professional standards and methodologies and scientific statistical methods, with a focus on the quality and consistency of statistical work at the national level

# Implementing the UN FPOS in the Arab Countries

## High Level of Awareness Regarding FPOS

NSIs have demonstrated a high level of awareness regarding FPOS, but there is still a need to improve the understanding and application of the principles by other members of the national statistical system NSS, particularly ministries or government agencies that are a reference and main data sources for statistical institutions.

# Implementing the UN FPOS in the Arab Countries

**More than 60% of the Arab countries FPOS are fully integrated into the statistical law**

FPOS are fully integrated into the statistical law or framework for more than 60% of the Arab countries, 27% are partially integrated, (According to Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics AITRS)

# Implementing the UN FPOS in the Arab Countries

## Arab Legislative Frameworks don't include the Latest Developments in the Statistics

Despite the outdated Arab legislative frameworks, given that they do not include the latest developments in the field of statistics such as: data governance, data stewardship, big data, open data ...etc), however, most Arab countries have adopted the FPOS of the United Nations. On the other hand, adopt regional frames or codes of statistical best practices.

# Implementing the UN FPOS in the Arab Countries

## **Some Arab NSIs have assessed the performance according to FPOS**

During the past ten years, some Arab NSIs have completed an assessment of the level of performance according to FPOS. It has benefited through international cooperation in the use of "Twinning" or "Peer Reviews" arrangements with the experience of countries, international partners and advanced regional actors in the field.

# The Current Status Statistical Laws in the Arab Countries

## Many of Arab countries have old statistical laws

Many of Arab countries have old statistical laws, given that they do not include the latest update in the field of statistics, and lack good statistical management and governance. Most of them preceded the United Nations Principles for Official Statistics of 2004 and the African Charter on Statistics of 2009, in addition to their failure to provide the necessary mechanisms for the continuous interaction between producers and users, which is necessary to enhance the importance and use of statistics. (According to a document prepared by ESCWA in 2021 on the reality of official statistical laws in the Arab region).



# The Current Status Statistical Laws in the Arab Countries

## **Most Arab official statistics laws include many common features**

Most Arab official statistics laws include many common features, such as defining the main tasks and responsibilities of statistical institutions and directorates, as well as defining the objectives of statistical operations, responsibilities of producers, respondents, users of statistical data, and terms of use. However, it also differs in many points due to its dependence on the administrative systems and legislation of each country.



# The Current Status Statistical Laws in the Arab Countries

All Arab countries have been on a trend toward adopting the FPOS

Since the development and adoption of the United Nations FPOS in the early nineties, there has been a trend towards adopting the FPOS at all Arab countries.



# The Current Status Statistical Laws in the Arab Countries

## **Some countries embarked on newly updated drafts of statistics laws**

One-third of the countries in the Arab region completed their statistical laws and legislation during the period between 1950 and 1969. A few of the statistical laws in some countries were updated or amended. There are also some countries that have acceded the statistical laws in their legislation. And some countries embarked on new updated draft laws on statistics, taking into account modern trends in the field of statistical work, global guidelines and principles, and the latest updates, such as Palestine, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Libya.



# Challenges Facing Independency in Statistical Institutions

Diagnostics of the statistical situation and the national statistical system in the Arab countries and other countries revealed that there are many shortcomings, obstacles and difficulties that limit the effectiveness of statistical activity to the full. There are also some strengths of statistical systems and legislation in some countries, but the strengths and areas for improvement differ according to the circumstances of each country. Common deficiencies also vary in severity from country to country.

# Challenges Facing Independency in Statistical Institutions

The shortcomings in the legal and institutional frameworks for official statistics in Arab countries:

Weak legal controls guarantee the independency and integrity of official statistics.

The lack of clear standards for official statistics in the current legislation.

Lack of clarity on the regulations for appointing and dismissing the Top management.

Limited access to administrative data sources and data with emerging sources.

Arab  
NSI  
Legal &  
Frameworks

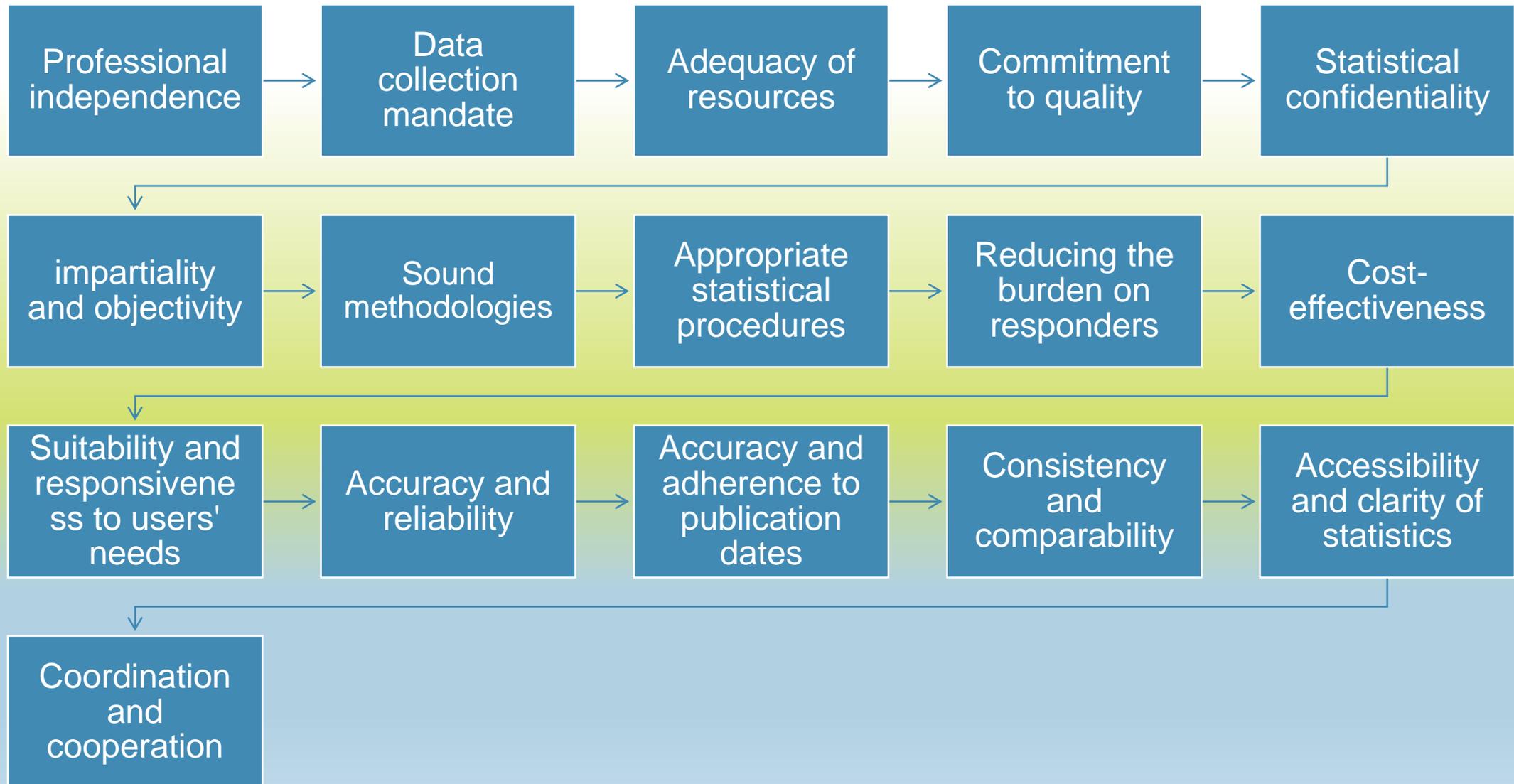
Absence of legislation regulating quality management, even if they exist Limited and undeveloped.

Absence of legislation or regulations that encourage the use of resources, skills, and techniques that would enhance the quality of statistics.

Poor consistency of publishing dissemination and communication practices.

Not stipulating special controls for access to individual data, while respecting statistical confidentiality.

# Preparing a Model Code of Statistical Good Practice for Arab Countries:



# Adopting Basic elements of a typical statistic law for the Arab Countries

Objective and scope of the law

The main principles and definitions of official statistics

Organization of the national statistics system

Statistical Advisory Board and other advisory bodies

Coordination of the national statistical system and statistical programs

Data collection

Statistical confidentiality

Quality of official statistics

Dissemination of statistical outputs and communication

Statistical Services

International Cooperation

Violations

Relationship to other legislation

# Adopting a practical guide to a modern NSO organizational structure

Determining the new activities decided to be added to the work of the NSO

Grouping similar, homogeneous and complementary businesses and activities under organizational division

Specialization, to achieve the maximum possible efficiency in the implementation of the necessary work with a focus on the main technical activities

Giving sufficient weight and attention to the main activities that achieve the objectives of the organization.

Flexibility and fluidity in the structure to achieve ease and flow of procedures

Involve officials and employees from the beginning in the process of preparing or updating the structure and perform consultations to avoid resistance to change and facilitate the application process.

Achieving balance in the organizational structure in terms of size, type, number and subordination of organizational units

Evaluating the efficiency of the initial organizational structure to measure its effectiveness and its response to the FPOS and their consistency with the good governance of advanced statistical systems

# Recommendations

Review the legal frameworks and the national statistical regulatory framework that organizes the statistical work and focus on strong and organized legal frameworks that guarantee independence, integrity, and accountability, in addition to ensuring the quality and security of statistical products. It is also necessary to resolve the weaknesses, challenges and obstacles.

# Recommendations

We recommend that statistical offices that have not developed and approved regional or national codes of best practices for official statistics to adopt the codes based on the basic principles of the official statistics of the United Nations for the year 2014.

# Recommendations

Reconsidering the administrative and technical formations of the Arab statistical agencies to ensure the comprehensiveness and integration of their statistical operations in accordance with modern trends in statistical work.

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Thank you

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