



**MISUSE OF  
STATISTICS:  
TIME TO SPEAK  
OUT**

- The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are a pillar of the Global Statistical System.
- The current pandemic, occurring alongside the decade for action on the Sustainable Development Goals, has brought into sharp focus the critical importance of trustworthy official statistics that meet the requirements of the Fundamental Principles.
- Official statistics are needed to guide action, help save lives and chart our progress towards a future in which no one is left behind.

- A particular feature of the current climate is the danger of false statistics that can mislead and result in poorer decisions.
- Such false statistics may be the result of an inadequate design, implementation or communication or a deliberate attempt to deceive in order to serve a vested interest.
- Either way false statistics result in poorer decisions and therefore lost lives, weaker economies, less just societies and a future for our children that is not as sustainable as it could have been.

- This webinar brings out the importance of Fundamental Principle 4: Prevention of misuse.
- This Principle states that the statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.



## John Pullinger

John Pullinger is President of the International Association for Official Statistics, member of the Board of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and Visiting Professor at Imperial College

He was previously UK National Statistician, President of the Royal Statistical Society, Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission and Librarian and Director General for Information Services at the UK House of Commons.

He is a graduate of the University of Exeter and of Harvard Business School. He has been awarded honorary degrees by the universities of Exeter, Essex and the West of England and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



## Ed Humpherson

Ed Humpherson was appointed as Director General for Regulation in October 2013 and took up post in January 2014. He is head of the Office for Statistics Regulation which provides independent regulation of all official statistics in the UK. The aim of OSR is to enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced by government.

Prior to joining the Authority, Ed was a Board Member and Executive Leader for Economic Affairs at the National Audit Office, a post he held since July 2009. This role included responsibility for the overall strategic direction of NAO's work on economic affairs.

Ed Humpherson was educated at the University of Edinburgh. Ed is a Chartered Accountant and a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

## Martine Durand



Martine Durand was the OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics and Data until 31st December 2019. In this capacity, she was responsible for providing strategic orientation for the Organisation's statistical policy and statistical activities.

She was the leader of the OECD Better Life Initiative launched in 2011 and was responsible for the Organisation's work on the measurement of people's well-being and societal progress, promoting the use of well-being and sustainability indicators for policy-making. She also initiated the OECD Smart Data Strategy.

Prior to that, she was Deputy-Director in the Employment and Social Affairs Directorate and held the position of Deputy-Head of the OECD Secretary-General's Private Office. Ms. Durand also worked for many years as a senior economist in the OECD Economics Department. Ms. Durand is a member of several statistics and economics advisory bodies. She graduated in mathematics, statistics and economics from the Paris VI University, the Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique (ENSAE) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



## **Pali Lehohla**

Pali Lehohla is the former Statistician-General of South Africa, a position he held from 2000 up to 2017. He has served as co-chair of PARIS21 and the Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission. He was the founding chair of the Statistics Commission of Africa (StatCom Africa) and chairs the African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD).

He was the Vice President of the International Statistics Institute (ISI), and sponsors the Young African Statistician (YAS) movement. He served as one of on the twenty five member panel on Data Revolution appointed by the UN Secretary General, and was a member of the Independent Accountability Panel for the health of women, children and adolescents. Dr Lehohla has been a forceful advocate for improving the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems in Africa.

He consulted extensively in the in conflict, out of conflict and fragile states on matters statistics. And this saw him cover Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and Cambodia to make some mention. He is the Founder of the Pan African Institute for Evidence (PIE)



## Andreas Georgiou

Andreas V Georgiou is a Visiting Lecturer and Visiting Scholar at Amherst College, USA, where he teaches courses on statistical ethics and institutions and on macroeconomic programming.

From 1989 until 2010 he worked at the International Monetary Fund, holding positions in various departments. In 2010, he returned to Greece to head the newly established Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) – the recast National Statistics Office of Greece – and align it fully with European law and international statistical principles. He was President of ELSTAT for five years.

He is currently serving as an elected member of the Council of the International Statistical Institute and a member of the Committee on Professional Ethics of the American Statistical Association. He has a BA from Amherst College and a PhD in Economics from the University of Michigan. He has written on institutional and legal frameworks for national and supranational statistical systems, on financial crises and on macroeconomic programming.



## **Hernán Muñoz**

Hernán Muñoz is the former National Director of Planning, Institutional and International Relations of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC) of Argentina. He was part of the management team, led by Jorge Todesca, which rebuilt and reformed the Argentine Statistical System as of 2015, an internationally recognized experience presented at past IAOS Congresses.

During his time at INDEC, he had an active participation in the statistical community, as part of the Friends of the Chair Group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the UNSC and member of the UN HLG-PCCB for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He is an economist and currently collaborates with the Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepei), a global south think tank that advocates for statistical capacity building.

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