

# Code of Practice for Official Statistics in Ethiopia

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*Building Confidence in Official Statistics*



*October 2023  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Official statistics are an essential public asset. They provide an information and evidence on society, the economy and on the work and performance of government. They are fundamental to the judgments and decisions made by the public, by government and by several range of other organizations. Official statistical activity is a public duty regulated by law that serves general information purposes, provides social orientation, and supports evidence-based decision-making through the dissemination of statistical data.
- 1.2 The Code of Practice for Official Statistics (CPOS) plays an essential role in ensuring data and statistics produced, managed, and disseminated by government at all levels command public trust and confidence through demonstrating trustworthiness and providing high-quality data and statistics that maximize public value. The Code sets clarity on the legal and institutional framework, and the roles and working relationships between government organ structure in relation to statistical regulatory and operational statistical functions.
- 1.3 The Code should be read in conjunction with Chapter 28 and 56 of Proclamation 1263/2021 for Definition of Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs. The Proclamation distinguished the practice for statistical regulatory and operational functions under different government organ structure as part of domestic reform process of modernizing and strengthening national statistical system.

## 2. Definitions

### **National Statistical System**

- 2.1 The national statistical system (NSS) is composed of all organizations and organs which produce official statistics and are a part of the public administration in a country, aligned with the recently agreed definition of UN Statistics Commission.
- 2.2 In the Ethiopian context, national statistical system mainly include the Ethiopian Statistical Services, and government organs including the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Revenue, Ethiopian Customs Commission, the National Bank of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and other key government organs which produces official statistics in compliance with the Proclamation and other pertinent legal framework.

### **Official Statistics**

- 2.3 Official statistics means the body of statistical information and data produced, managed, and disseminated by government organs comprising the elements of statistics describing the economic, financial, demographic, social and environmental phenomena meeting diverse user requirements at different levels.
- 2.4 Statistics produced, managed, and disseminated by government bodies in compliance with this Code are classified as official statistics and are mainly produced, managed, and disseminated by:

- (1) Ethiopian Statistical Services,
- (2) Federal and regional government organs, and
- (3) Any other accredited entity to produce official statistics acting on behalf of the government.

2.5 In the general context, official statistics are produced through – (1) census, (2) sample surveys, (3) administrative records and registers, and the operation of government systems (often known as administrative data and statistics), (4) by utilization of other data sources (commercial data streamed from businesses, geo-spatial data, data from sensors and other big data), and (5) assessments and evaluations of policies and programs by independent entity acting on behalf of government and provided to government.

### **Statistical Operational Functions and Services**

2.6 Ethiopian Statistical Services is responsible to provide statistical services to government at the federal and regional level, and/or any non-state stakeholder or entity in the country. The services which may be provided by the Ethiopian Statistical Services include.

- (1) Conducting independent statistical operational functions through surveys and censuses as per the government's need and statistical calendar;
- (2) Supporting government organs in the production, management and dissemination of administrative statistical data;
- (3) Providing information, advice, and technical operational services in relation to statistics to non-state domestic and international organizations;

2.7 The significant size of statistics in Ethiopia are produced through administrative records and continuous registration systems. And hence, overall statistical regulatory functions and compliance with the principles and practices set in this Code applies to statistical operational functions of not only Ethiopian Statistical Services but also the data production processes by other government organs at all levels and person or entity acting on behalf of government.

### **Statistical Regulatory Functions**

2.8 The Ministry, hereafter the Ministry of Planning and Development, as the statistical regulatory arm of government, is separate from statistical operational functions, and provides independent regulation of all official statistics produced at all levels in Ethiopia. The Ministry will review compliance with the detailed principles and practices under each pillar when assessing whether statistics merit the 'official statistics' designations.

2.9 The Ministry manages the entire statistical regulatory functions at all levels through an open and participatory framework and prudent procedures by coordinating and cooperating with all relevant government organs, data users, data providers, and stakeholders. The regulatory work activities and tools include assessments, systemic reviews, and compliance check as outlined in this Code and any other laws developed to administer the National statistical system.

## **Statistical Governance**

- 2.10 The statistical governance arrangement refers to the entire data and statistical processes from the identification of data and statistical service needs to production and management, through to the dissemination of statistical data.
- 2.11 Ethiopian statistical governance promotes public value at all stages of statistical processes and outputs, over any organizational, political, or personal interests. Leadership, organization, and people involved in the production, management, and dissemination of official statistics in Ethiopia remain truthful, open, adhere to strong ethical values of integrity, and meet consistent standards of behaviour that serve the public. All shall actively engage and cooperate with the Ministry and the Ethiopian Statistical Services to promote and safeguard the entire process of managing official statistics;
- 2.12 This Code and other applicable principles and practices adopted and ratified shall ensure the strict adherence to professional independence, best practices and international standards regarding data quality assurances and the development of methodological frameworks.

## **3. Purpose and Objective of the Code**

- 3.1 This Code of practice is aimed at ensuring best practices and international standards are fully observed in the statistical processes applied by all organs to produce, manage, and disseminate official statistics, while constantly striving for change and innovation.
- 3.2 The Code developed and adopted by the national statistical system of Ethiopia will serve as working principles and practices to which all producers of statistical information will have regard in exercising their official duties and functions. Strict adherence to this Code would help to build public confidence in the production of statistics in the country.
- 3.3 This Code ensures that official statistics are a public asset, and the public must have confidence in them. It is thus an important role of government to produce and publish official statistics, that would inform a vast range of public policy decisions and development interventions at all levels.
- 3.4 The Code sets clarity on the legal and institutional framework, and the roles and working relationships between government organ structure in relation to statistical regulatory and operational functions. The Code also identifies and defines the fundamental pillars, principles, and practices in relation to the production, management and dissemination of official statistics in Ethiopia.
- 3.5 The Code benefits all citizens of the country. Compliance with the Code can give confidence to all that statistics are of public value, are of high quality and are produced by producers of statistical data that can be trusted. The need to focus on the interests of users of statistics sits at the heart of the Code. The beneficiaries of the Code therefore are users of statistics and citizens more broadly.

- 3.6 This Code applies to all government organs and should be used by all those within them who are involved in the production and use statistical data, including policymakers, statisticians, data scientists, analysts, researchers, communications officers and advisers.
- 3.7 The Code provides the government organs and other entities conducting statistical services on behalf of government with fundamental principles and practices they must commit to when producing, managing, disseminating, and using official statistics.

## 4. Framework of the Code

- 4.1 The overall strengthening and coordinating the national statistical system and regulatory functions is the responsibility of the Ministry whereas the autonomy and independence of statistical data collection operations and services through survey, census, and other data collection methods is the responsibility of the Ethiopian Statistical Services.
- 4.2 As mandated for leading and coordinating the national development planning, monitoring and evaluation of public policy and development programs, the statutory objective of the Ministry is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. This can be ensured by promoting and safeguarding the quality of statistics, the good practice in relation to the production of statistical data, and the relevance and comprehensiveness of official statistical data.
- 4.3 The regulatory functions strictly follow the principles and practices identified in this Code, in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Open, participatory, and prudent statistical regulatory process will ensure that official statistics to be produced, managed, and disseminated by government at all levels is up to the required Ethiopian Data Quality Assessment Framework (EDQAF).
- 4.4 The Code and its fundamental principles and practices, which follows the emphasis in the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and African Charter on Statistics, is based on three fundamental pillars – Statistical Governance, Statistical Process and Statistical Output. The three pillars are distinct, but they reinforce each other in promoting transparency about statistical governance, processes, and outputs.

**PILLAR 1 - STATISTICAL GOVERNANCE:** The soundness and confidence in the entire statistical governance (i.e., people, leadership, and organizations) influence the quality and credibility of the production, management, and dissemination of official statistics. The statistical governance arrangement refers to the entire data and statistical processes from the identification of data and statistical service needs to production and management, through to the dissemination of official statistics. The government commit to strengthening Ethiopian statistical governance for high quality of statistics.

**PILLAR 2 - STATISTICAL PROCESS:** The process refers to overall development and application of statistical methods, technique, tools and procedures for the production and management of high-quality official statistics. The credibility of official statistics is dependent on the reputation for and quality of processes through which statistics is produced, processed, and disseminated. This Code of practice is aimed at ensuring best practices and international standards are fully observed in the statistical processes applied

by all organs and people to produce, process, and disseminate statistics, while constantly striving for change and innovation.

**PILLAR 3 - STATISTICAL OUTPUT:** The statistical output refers to the extent to which available statistics meet users' needs and maximize the public value. Statistics in Ethiopia are primarily aimed at ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the conduct of the affairs of the government in policy formulation and implementation of development plans, and other related purposes.

- 4.5 The principles and practices under each pillar are universal, internationally recognized and practiced across countries, and resonate widely with the public, and hence the Code is a tool to guide behaviors of people, leadership and organs involved in the production of official statistics. Government organs, Ethiopian Statistical Services and other entities conducting the production of data and statistics should judge what action and practices best supports strengthening and delivery of the pillars and principles.

## 5. Pillars and Principles

- 5.1 To ensure effective regulation and production of high-quality official statistics, the fundamental pillars, and principles of the Code of practice for official statistics identified below will remain binding, and all producers of official statistics adhere to the principles. This will be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks that is respected by all Ethiopian statistical stakeholders.
- 5.2 The fundamental pillars and principles are fully in line with national statistical system that recognizes and ratifies the fundamental principles and values of official statistics adopted by United Nations that aimed to govern the practices of statistical regulations and operations. The quality, relevance and comprehensiveness, and integration of any official statistics depends on robustness and soundness of the following three fundamental pillars - statistical governance, statistical process, and statistical output.

### **PILLAR 1: STATISTICAL GOVERNANCE**

*Soundness and confidence in the entire statistical governance (i.e., people, leadership, and organizations) that produce, manage, and disseminate official statistics.*

#### **Principle 1: Independence and Capability**

*Ensuring the operations of statistical processes and outputs would remain independent from political and other external interference, and people producing official statistics are appropriately skilled and trained in their roles.*

#### **Principle 2: Impartiality and Objectivity**

*Ensuring the operations of statistical processes and outputs would remain impartial and objective solely according to the merits of the statistical evidence and considerations.*

#### **Principle 3: Honesty and Integrity**

*Ensuring truthfulness, openness, and adherence to strong ethical values of integrity, and meeting consistent standards of behavior that serve the public.*



**Principle 4: Commitment to Quality**

*Ensuring quality commitment at all levels, and regularly monitor and improve the quality of official statistics in Ethiopia.*

**Principle 5: Mandate for Data Collection**

*Ensuring a clear legal mandate to collect statistical data from a person, household, firms, administrative documents, and other data sources.*

**Principle 6: Confidentiality and Data Protection**

*Ensuring regulatory and administrative frameworks and measures to protect the security and integrity of information, data and statistics are in accordance with best practices and international standards.*

**Principle 7: Openness and Participatory**

*Ensuring the culture of openness and co-production of official statistics as per established best practices and international.*

**Principle 8: Coordination and Cooperation**

*Ensuring effective coordination and cooperation at all levels to promote and safeguard the entire process of the administration and management of official statistics.*

**Principle 9: Literacy, Advocacy and Communication**

*Ensuring effective statistical literacy, advocacy, and communication activities at all levels to raise awareness and understanding of the promotion and safeguarding of the quality and good practice in relation to official statistics.*

**Principle 10: Innovation and Modernization**

*Ensuring innovation and modernity to allow national statistical systems meet the demands and opportunities of constantly evolving official data and statistical ecosystems.*

**Principle 11: Adequacy of Resource**

*Ensuring sustainable resources and financing is available for the development of statistical systems and the sustainability of data producing programs and activities.*

**PILLAR 2: STATISTICAL PROCESS**

*Ensuring best practices and international standards are fully observed in the application of statistical methods and procedures for high-quality data production and management.*

**Principle 12: Sound Methods and Procedures**

*Ensuring the application of sound statistical methodology which requires the best available and adequate tools, procedures, and technical capacity.*

**Principle 13: Appropriate Data Sources**

*Ensuring the use of most appropriate sources of the information and data to meet intended uses of the official statistics.*

**Principle 14: Cost Effectiveness**

*Ensuring the development and application of statistical processes that allows effective and efficient utilization of resources and finance.*

### **Principle 15: Proportionate Burden**

*Ensuring the response burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents and set targets for its reduction over time.*

### **PILLAR 3: STATISTICAL OUTPUT**

*Ensuring the available official statistics meet users' needs and support the effectiveness of policy formulation and implementation of development plans.*

### **Principle 16: Relevance**

*Ensuring the available official statistics are relevant to the users, primarily the federal and regional government organs and related institutions.*

### **Principle 17: Reliability and Accuracy**

*Ensuring the available official statistics are accurate and complete in sufficiently reflecting the reality and validated via comparison with other relevant data and statistics.*

### **Principle 18: Coherence and Comparability**

*Ensuring the available official statistics are consistent across data sources, over time and comparable between countries.*

### **Principle 19: Clarity and Insight**

*Ensuring the available official statistics are presented clearly, explained meaningfully, and provide authoritative insights that serve the public good.*

### **Principle 20: Timeliness and Punctuality**

*Ensuring the official statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner as per a pre-determined statistical calendar and user requirement.*

### **Principle 21: Accessibility**

*Ensuring the official statistics are equally available to all and published at a sufficient level of detail with supporting metadata and guidance.*

## **6. Principles and Practices**

### **Principle 1: Independence and Capability**

Statistical regulations and operations remain independent from any political interest and other external interference, and people involved in the production of official statistics are professionally independent and appropriately capable, skilled, and trained in their roles, serving equally well all aspects of the public interest.

- P1.1 Ensuring government organs and people involved in national statistical systems at all levels upholds and advocates the Code for the public good.
- P1.2 Ensuring government organs and people involved in national statistical systems at all levels challenges inappropriate use of official statistics.
- P1.3 Ensuring independent decision making and leadership at all levels.

- P1.4 Ensuring statistical activities and functions are conducted under scientific and statistical considerations, without political interest and external interference.
- P1.5 Ensuring dissemination of official statistics are clearly distinguished and issued separately from any political statements.
- P1.6 Ensuring people and public workers involved in the production of official statistics at all levels are appropriately skilled, trained and supported in their roles and professional development.
- P1.7 Ensuring staff and statistical experts within the national system of official statistics should follow and respect professional ethics and behave responsibly.
- P1.8 Ensuring people and public workers involved in the production of official statistics at all levels are provided with the time and resources required to develop their skills, knowledge, and competencies.
- P1.9 Ensuring suitable and skilled staff are recruited for statistical activities and functions using a relevant professional competency framework as appropriate.

### **Principle 2: Impartiality and Objectivity**

Production, management, and dissemination of official statistics remains impartial and objective, and principle and practices of impartiality and objectivity ensures the operations of statistical processes and outputs solely according to the merits of the statistical evidence and considerations, serving equally well all aspects of the public interest.

- P2.1 Ensuring official statistics, and information about statistical processes and outputs, should be managed impartially and objectively.
- P2.2 Ensuring statistical operational functions by the Ethiopian Statistical Services during the conduct of statistical surveys and censuses adhere to the fundamental principle of scientific considerations, impartiality, and objectivity.
- P2.3 Ensuring management and presentation of official statistics are clearly objective and impartial.
- P2.4 Ensuring announcement of changes to methods, procedures, or classifications well in advance of the release of the changed official statistics.

### **Principle 3: Honesty and Integrity**

In relation to national statistical system, integrity is defined as putting the public interest above organizational, political, or personal interests, and honesty is defined as being truthful and open about the data and statistics and their interpretation.

All involved in the production, management, and dissemination of official statistics at all levels in Ethiopia remain truthful, open, and adhere to strong ethical values of integrity, and meet consistent standards of behavior that serve the public.

- P3.1 Ensuring statistical regulations and operations at all levels are protected from any political and interest group pressures that might influence the production, management, and dissemination of the data and statistics.
- P3.2 Ensuring the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ethiopian Statistical Services, as the relevant statistical regulatory and operational government organs, exercise collective and coordinated efforts towards quality of methods and practices for official statistics in ways that meet the needs of public.
- P3.3 Ensuring regulatory functions by the Ministry of Planning and Development and the operational functions by the Ethiopian Statistical Services and other government organs adhere to the UN Fundamental Principles, and all the specific principles and practices set in this Code.
- P3.4 Ensuring relationship between the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ethiopian Statistical Services will remain at arm's length regarding the operational statistical surveys and censuses, and any other quality assessment and verification services.
- P3.5 Ensuring institutionalization of the culture and practices of honesty and integrity in the regulation and operational functions of official statistics.
- P3.6 Ensuring legal obligations and internationally endorsed standards governing the production of official statistics, confidentiality, and dissemination.
- P3.7 Ensuring public workers involved in the national statistical system manage official statistics with honesty and integrity, guided by established principles of appropriate behavior in public life.
- P3.8 Ensuring public workers, individuals or statistical experts in government do not abuse the trust placed in them for personal gain.
- P3.9 Ensuring no action is taken, nor public statement made, by government officials at all levels that may undermine confidence in official statistics.

#### **Principle 4: Commitment to Quality**

The entities that produce statistics within the national statistical system must work and cooperate in accordance with rules, principles and standards to assure quality official statistics at all levels.

- P4.1 Ensuring effective implementation of Ethiopian Data Quality Assessment Framework, and its regular monitoring.
- P4.2 Ensuring regular and thorough review of official statistics.
- P4.3 Ensuring production, management and dissemination of data and statistics according to scientific standards on the sources, methods, and procedures.

P4.4 Ensuring official statistics meets the needs of their intended uses and are based on appropriate methods.

P4.5 Ensuring professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics on the methods and practices for official statistics in ways that meet the needs of public.

#### **Principle 5: Mandate for Data Collection**

The collection of information for the preparation of official statistics must be supported by a clear legal mandate to collect a required data from person, household, firms, and access to administrative records and registers, and other data sources.

P5.1 Ensuring that Personal Data Protection Proclamation and other relevant statistical law in force grants all members of the national statistical system a mandate to collect information for the preparation, management, and dissemination of official statistics.

P5.2 Ensuring the law in force specifies that individuals and firms are bound to provide information to the coordinating body of the national statistical system.

P5.3 Ensuring the legislation grants the governing body of the national statistical system access to, and use of, administrative data and registers for the purpose of generating official statistics.

#### **Principle 6: Confidentiality and Data Protection**

Government executive and statistical organs have access to multiple sources of information to produce official statistics, and all information collected from different government organs, business enterprises or industry, households, and the public at large is confidential, and used for statistical purposes only.

P6.1 Ensuring Ethiopia's regulatory and administrative frameworks and measures to protect the security and integrity of information, data and statistics are in accordance with best practices and international standards.

P6.2 Ensuring official statistics do not reveal the identity of data providers.

P6.3 Ensuring respondents to statistical surveys and censuses are informed about how confidentiality is protected, use of information is only for statistical purposes, and security of information are guaranteed by appropriate and necessary regulatory, administrative, and organizational framework.

P6.4 Ensuring conformity to appropriate legal frameworks and procedures that protect human rights and dignity.

P6.5 Ensuring collection, storage, processing of the information and the publication of results adhere to relevant privacy laws and standards of the country.

- P6.6 Ensuring required guidelines and instructions are provided to staff on statistical privacy, confidentiality, and security throughout the statistical governance, processes, and outputs.
- P6.7 Ensuring confidentiality policy and legal frameworks is made known to the government organs, business enterprises, households, and the public at large.
- P6.8 Ensuring strict confidentiality and protection protocols apply to external users accessing official statistics for research and marketing purposes.
- P6.9 Ensuring that persons with access to individual or confidential information must sign a consent declaration stating their commitment to confidentiality and taking note of the penalties for non-compliance.

### **Principle 7: Openness and Participatory**

National statistical system and governance ensures the culture of openness and co-production of official statistics following best practices and international standards. Laws and regulations under which the national statistical systems operate are to be made public.

- P7.1 Ensuring administration and management of the entire statistical process is conducted under an open and participatory framework and procedures.
- P7.2 Ensuring engagement of all data users, relevant government organs and other stakeholders in deciding the type of statistics to be produced, and its calendar.
- P7.3 Ensuring citizens can exercise their rights and hold government accountable for development policies and programs based on reliable and accurate statistics.
- P7.4 Ensuring transparency of, and public access to, official statistics.
- P7.5 Ensuring public confidence to inform the government about complaints that relate to wrongdoings of practices relating to official statistics.

### **Principle 8: Coordination and Cooperation**

National statistical system and governance ensures effective coordination and partnership on official data and statistical activities to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system. All producers of official statistics shall actively engage and cooperate with the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ethiopian Statistical Services to promote and safeguard the entire statistical processes and outputs.

- P8.1 Ensuring coordination of all producers of official statistics for consistency, efficiency, and integration across the national statistical system.
- P8.2 Ensuring coordination of statistical activities to avoid duplication of work, data gaps, conflicting terminology and the dissemination of conflicting results.

- P8.3 Ensuring organization of conducive working platforms and systems amongst all producers of official statistics for standardization, harmonization and integration of official statistics at all levels.
- P8.4 Ensuring coordination between the Ethiopian Statistical Services and other government data producers at the federal and regional level.
- P8.5 Ensuring bilateral and multilateral partnership and cooperation to strengthen the statistical regulations and operations in Ethiopia.
- P8.6 Ensuring cooperation mechanisms that strategically address resource and capacity needs of national statistical systems and mobilize donor support towards the priorities agreed in national statistical development programme.
- P8.7 Ensuring the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ethiopian Statistical Services will continuously maintain and develop cooperation at all levels with all official statistics producing and disseminating organs and other international appropriate bodies and partners.
- P8.8 Ensuring partnerships and cooperation mechanism for collecting, sharing, and communicating data and statistics with all non-state actors including development partners, civil societies, private sector, academia, and other stakeholders involved in the production and use of data and statistics.

### **Principle 9: Statistical Literacy, Advocacy and Communication**

Promotion and engagement in statistical literacy, advocacy, and communication activities at public and policy-making level allows raising awareness and understanding of the relevance of safeguarding the quality and credibility of statistical governance, processes, and outputs.

- P9.1 Ensuring statistical literacy across government organs at all levels, and use of official statistics for evidence-based policy and decision making.
- P9.2 Ensuring expansion of statistical literacy in all fields of societies, mainly for scholars and students, for journalists, for businesses and for the public.
- P9.3 Ensuring awareness creation and mobilization of support and resource to effectively implement statistical programs and activities outlined in the national statistical development program.
- P9.4 Ensuring coalition building and networking to unify advocacy voices and communications by bringing together all that engages in the production, management, and dissemination of official statistics.
- P9.5 Ensuring effective use of modern technologies and alternative communication platforms (including social medias) to reach a wider public and enable faster and successful statistical advocacy and communications.
- P9.6 Ensuring development of pedagogy to support the teaching of statistics in the school curriculum from the elementary years through to secondary schooling.

- P9.7 Ensuring collaboration with the journalists and news media as 'gatekeepers' to the public and ensure that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to interpret accurately and present official statistics.

### **Principle 10: Innovation and Modernization**

Innovation and modernization of statistical governance and institutional frameworks to allow national statistical systems to meet the demands and opportunities of constantly evolving official data and statistical ecosystems.

- P10.1 Ensuring modernizing legal and regulatory frameworks consistent with best practices and international standards of statistical systems.
- P10.2 Ensuring the status and innovative capacity of government organs and Ethiopian Statistical Services engaged in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics.
- P10.3 Ensuring modernization of statistical standards, practices, and procedures.
- P10.4 Ensuring flexibility and application of statistical systems needed to allow the strategic use of new and emerging technologies for official data collection, processing, dissemination, and analysis.
- P10.5 Ensuring integration of modern geospatial information management systems within mainstream data and statistical production programs and activities.

### **Principle 11: Adequacy of Resource**

Promotion and safeguarding of the quality and credibility of statistical governance, processes, and outputs require adequate human, financial and technical resources both in magnitude and in quality. Government executive and statistical organs are encouraged to mobilize resources (both domestic and external) and coordinate efforts for statistical capacity building in Ethiopia.

- P11.1 Ensuring transparent reporting on financing for official statistics, and investment in statistical systems are commensurate with needs.
- P11.2 Ensuring sustainable financing is available for the development of national statistical systems and sustainability of data producing programs and activities.
- P11.3 Ensuring adequately skilled and trained human resources and physical and ICT infrastructure are available to implement the necessary data producing programs and activities as outlined in the national statistical development program.
- P11.4 Ensuring mobilization of donor support towards the priorities set in national statistical development program.



- P11.5 Ensuring mobilization and alignment of investments in statistical system by positively influencing credibility in utilization and management of resources from domestic and external sources and in fulfilling partnership obligations.
- P11.6 Ensuring opportunities for participation of non-state actors in funding statistical activities through innovative financing mechanisms.

## **Principle 12: Sound Methods and Procedures**

Ensuring quality and credibility of official statistics depends on the application of best available sound statistical methodology which requires adequate tools, procedures, and technical skills and capacity.

- P12.1 Ensuring Ethiopia's overall statistical methodology utilized for official statistics follows a national and other international standards and best practices.
- P12.2 Ensuring Ethiopia's overall statistical methodology are regularly evaluated and adjusted, if necessary, to meet demands and ensure high quality.
- P12.3 Ensuring application of methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of official statistics strictly follows scientific principles and professional ethics.
- P12.4 Ensuring government executive and statistical organs strictly follow the national guideline on the sources, methods and procedures of the official statistics as per the system of national accounts.
- P12.5 Ensuring harmonization, consistency, and efficiency of the application of standard concepts, definitions, and classifications of official statistics.
- P12.6 Ensuring any changes to methods and procedures of official statistics are openly communicated to all data users and the public at large.
- P12.7 Ensuring cooperation with the scientific community and other statistical stakeholders to improve statistical methodology and its effectiveness.
- P12.8 Ensuring a policy of continuous technical capacity training and development.
- P12.9 Ensuring regular monitoring, evaluation, and revision of statistical processes based on standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

## **Principle 13: Appropriate Data Sources**

Quality assurances of official statistics to meet intended uses depends on the use of the most credible and appropriate information and data.

- P13.1 Ensuring official statistics should be based on data sources that are appropriate and its definitions and concepts are suitable for intended uses.

- P13.2 Ensuring data sources should be coherent across different levels of aggregation, consistent over time, and comparable between geographical areas.
- P13.3 Ensuring nature of data sources, and how and why they were selected, should be explained, and made available to all users and the public at large.
- P13.4 Ensuring government executive and statistical organs are open about the limitations in data sources, and the limitations are addressed where possible.
- P13.5 Ensuring regular monitoring and evaluation of impact of changes in the circumstances and context of data source over time.
- P13.6 Ensuring standardized structures for the promotion of integrating data from different sources such as surveys, administrative data, and new sources.
- P13.7 Ensuring standards and guidelines on the use of new and innovative data generated outside the official statistical system, into official statistics.
- P13.8 Ensuring harmonization and ownership of internationally sponsored household surveys programs and activities by strengthening the existing domestic integrated household and business surveys.

#### **Principle 14: Cost Effectiveness**

While adequate resources are allocated to deliver official data and statistical services that serve the public good, its effective and efficient utilization should be ensured.

- P14.1 Ensuring proactive efforts are made to improve the statistical potential of administrative and other data sources and to limit recourse to direct surveys.
- P14.2 Ensuring promotion, sharing, and implementation of standardized solutions that increase statistical cost effectiveness and efficiency.
- P14.3 Ensuring flexibility and application of new and emerging information and communication technologies for official statistics production to optimize resources allocated for the statistical processes.
- P14.4 Ensuring open and transparent monitoring and evaluation of the use of resources allocated to deliver official data and statistical services.

#### **Principle 15: Proportionate Burden**

Burden on the different respondents (i.e., response burden) remains proportionate to the needs of the users and targets should be set for its reduction over time.

- P15.1 Ensuring the range and detail of official data and statistical demands is limited to what is necessary and national account data demand.
- P15.2 Ensuring response burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations and monitored by the Ethiopian Statistical Services.

- P15.3 Ensuring data sought from government organs, business enterprises and other similar organizations is, as far as possible, readily available from their accounts.
- P15.4 Ensuring clear statement of data requirements should be shared with the organizations that provide that data, setting out decisions on timing, definitions, and format of data supply, and explaining how and why the data will be used.
- P15.5 Ensuring requests for data and its sharing are arranged through electronic means, where possible, in order to minimize response burden.
- P15.6 Ensuring measures that enable the linking and integration of data sources, as appropriate, to minimize response burden.
- P15.7 Ensuring quality of administrative and other data sources is ensured to minimize burden on statistical surveys and censuses.

### **Principle 16: Relevance**

Available official statistics are relevant to the users, primarily the federal and regional government organs and related institutions.

- P16.1 Ensuring users of official statistics remains at the center of data and statistical production, their needs should be understood, their views sought and acted upon, and their use of official statistics supported.
- P16.2 Ensuring data priority needs for the national account are being met and reflected in the national statistical development program.
- P16.3 Ensuring procedures are in place to consult the federal and regional government organs and related institutions, to monitor the relevance of existing data and statistics in meeting their needs, and to consider their emerging needs.
- P16.4 Ensuring user satisfaction with the relevance and usefulness of the official statistics is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.
- P16.5 Ensuring official statistics producers use appropriate ways to increase awareness and communicate effectively with the widest possible audience.

### **Principle 17: Reliability**

Available official statistics are accurate and complete in sufficiently reflecting the reality, and its reliability validated through comparison with other relevant data and statistics.

- P17.1 Ensuring source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated against other information where applicable to command public confidence and trust in official statistics.
- P17.2 Ensuring source data – including surveys, censuses, and administrative records - are adequate, timely and specific to country context.

P17.3 Ensuring application of best practices and statistical techniques of assessing the accuracy and reliability of official statistics.

P17.4 Ensuring statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators of problems in source data, intermediate data and statistical outputs are systematically investigated and documented according to available standards at all levels.

P17.5 Ensuring studies and analyses of revisions are regularly carried out in order to improve the reliability of source data, statistical processes, and outputs.

### **Principle 18: Coherence and Comparability**

Available official statistics are consistent across data sources, over time and comparable between countries, and allows the possibility to combine and make joint use of related data and statistics from different sources.

P18.1 Ensuring official statistics are coherent and consistent with national accounts and related economic statistics.

P18.2 Ensuring official statistics are internally coherent and consistent within the dataset across intra-annual and annual statistics.

P18.3 Ensuring official statistics are consistent, comparable, and reconciled over a reasonable period.

P18.4 Ensuring official statistics are consistent or reconcilable with those obtained through other data sources and statistical frameworks.

P18.5 Ensuring official statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and data sources.

P18.6 Ensuring cross-national comparability of official statistics through effective application of international concepts, classifications, methods, and internationally agreed set of recommendations.

### **Principle 19: Clarity and Insight**

Available official statistics are presented clearly, explained meaningfully, and provide authoritative insights that serve the public good.

P19.1 Ensuring official statistics and explanatory material should be relevant and presented at a sufficient level of detail.

P19.2 Ensuring official statistics should be accompanied by a clear description of the main statistical messages that explains the relevance and meaning of the data and statistics in a way that is not materially misleading.

P19.3 Ensuring comparisons that support the appropriate interpretation of official statistics, including within Ethiopia and international, should be provided.

P19.4 Ensuring advice should be given about appropriate use of the data and statistics.

### **Principle 20: Timeliness and Punctuality**

Available official statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner as per a pre-determined statistical calendar and user requirement.

P20.1 Ensuring timeliness of official statistics meets the national and other international release standards.

P20.2 Ensuring timeliness of official statistics are predictable, and the standard national statistical calendar is made public.

P20.3 Ensuring statistical calendar of surveys and administrative data considers periodical requirement of national account and other user requirements.

P20.4 Ensuring divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicized in advance, explained and a new release date set.

### **Principle 21: Accessibility**

Official statistics should be equally available to all and remain publicly available.

P21.1 Ensuring government executive and statistical organs provide equal access to regular and ad hoc official statistics.

P21.2 Ensuring source data and intermediate results are accessible to relevant users and stakeholders, where applicable, to command public trust and confidence in official statistics.

P21.3 Ensuring access to official statistics before their publication should be limited to those involved in the production of the data and statistics and the preparation of the release, and for quality assurance and operational purposes.

P21.4 Ensuring official statistics not routinely disseminated are made available upon request.

P21.5 Ensuring documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, statistical techniques, metadata, and other related supplementary notes should be easily accessible to users.

P21.6 Ensuring detailed information about all statistical dissemination services, including information on any fees or charges, is publicly available.

P21.7 Ensuring official data, statistics, and metadata, should be released at the greatest level of detail that is practicable to meet user needs.

P21.8 Ensuring dissemination of official statistics using modern information and communication technology, methods, and platforms.

P21.9 Ensuring information regarding micro-level data and statistics disseminated based on specific rules and regulations are widely communicated.

P21.10 Ensuring development of integrated database systems.