

## Abstract for 2013 ISI Session IPS002

### “Improving health statistics in the context of measuring quality of life (QoL)”

#### 'Selecting Indicators for the Health Dimension in Measuring QoL'

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In its report on 'Measuring Economic Performance and Social Progress' the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (SSFC) listed 'health' as one of the eight dimensions that determine quality of life (QoL). SSFC is not unique in this, as health is at or near the top of virtually all proposals for multi-dimensional measure of QoL. One obvious reason is that in open-ended surveys asking the general public what they consider most important to QoL, health always ranks highly.

But the concept of health underlying QoL poses significant challenges for national statistical organizations (NSOs). These challenges include significant mis-match between the health statistics most often collected and the desired concept – for example mortality rates versus the data on the health status of the living; serious validity issues – e.g. the ubiquitous self-rated health question; and lack of agreed international standards comparable to those of the SNA.

This paper reviews the main concepts of 'health' derived from open-ended surveys of the general population and the relevant research literature, and then suggests the most promising indicators to form the basis for international consensus among NSOs both for core statistical indicators of population health status, and for the health dimension of multi-dimensional QoL reporting.