

## **WSC Session IPS 107**

### **The UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics – future applicability and implementation**

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#### **Abstract**

The UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were developed by the Conference of European Statistics in the early 1990s. They were adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe in 1992 and by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 1994. The UNSC discussed the Fundamental Principles at its sessions in 2011 and 2012. This discussion led to several conclusions. The UNSC found that the Principles were still fully relevant and that no revision of the 10 Principles was necessary. It was decided to form a so-called “Friends of the Chair” group in order to revise and update the preamble of the Fundamental Principles, to assess how their implementation could be strengthened and to develop a practical guide for their implementation. Furthermore, the UNSC requested the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) to carry out a global review of the implementation of the Principles among national statistical authorities. The Friends of the Chair group worked on its assignment in 2011 and 2012 and its report was submitted to the session of the UNSC in February 2012. The review of the implementation was carried out by the UNSD in 2012 and reported to the UNSC in February 2013.

The discussion in the last two years has reflected the importance which national statistical authorities and the international statistical community attach to the Fundamental Principles. The discussion has focused on the implementation of the Principles, how that can be strengthened, and if countries can be assisted or guided in their implementation efforts. The importance of the Principles being practiced and observed at all levels of official statistics has been underlined and that they are recognized and endorsed by government and policy makers.

The Panel Discussion will focus on issues of the future applicability and implementation of the Fundamental Principles including how to assist countries in applying and enforcing the Principles at all levels of official statistics, possible monitoring of the application of the Principles, what to do or how to react in cases of deliberate breaches of the Principles, and possibilities of extending/applying the Principles or their likes to statistical activities outside of official statistics.