

<b>AFRICAN UNION</b>		<b>UNION AFRICAINE</b>
<b>الاتحاد الأفريقي</b>		<b>UNIÃO AFRICANA</b>

**Economic Affairs Department**

**Statistics Division**

# **Standards and Guidelines for the Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics**

**December 2012**

The purpose of developing standards for the Charter is to measure to which extent the National Statistics Systems is implementing the principles of the Charter using a scale.

Guidelines were derived from the indicators and refer to *what* needs to be done by statistics authorities to implement the sub-principles and additively the principles.

A high level description, outcome expected and issues for consideration for each Principle are described in the following section:

## Principle 1: Professional Independence

**Description:** *Professional Independence means Statistics authorities operate without any due influence from interest groups to ensure credible statistics*

### Outcome:

Increased public trust or public confidence - as the essence of successful official statistics

### Issues for consideration:

- Lessons learnt
- Examples of good practice
- The political dynamic in raising the profile of official statistics
- How to address in the statistics law non-compliance by state agencies

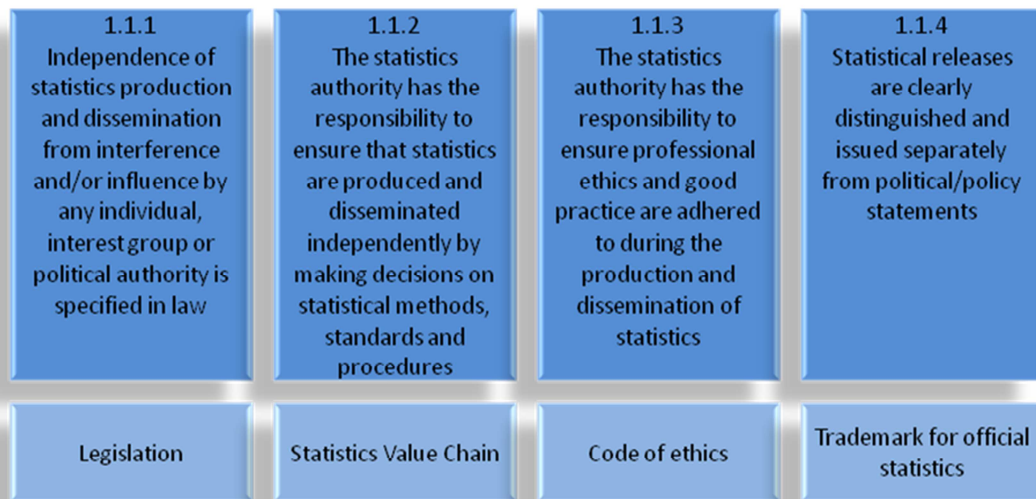
The key elements of the production and dissemination of official statistics that lead to public trust in official statistics are discussed below:

## Principle 1: Professional Independence

### 1.1 Scientific independence

**Description:** Statistics authorities must be able to carry out their activities according to the principle of scientific independence, particularly vis-à-vis the political authorities or any interest group; this means that the methods, concepts and nomenclatures used in statistical operation shall be selected only by the statistics authorities without any interference whatsoever and in accordance with the rules of ethics and good practice

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Compile a list of contents for legislation on the production, dissemination and use of statistics emphasizing scientific independence of statistical operations for surveys and registers
- Define and put in place a statistical value chain for both surveys and registers without interference from any individual, interest group or political authority
- Define a code of ethics or good practice to be adhered to during the production and dissemination of statistics
- Establish a logo or trademark for statistical releases
- Statistical releases separately from political or policy statements

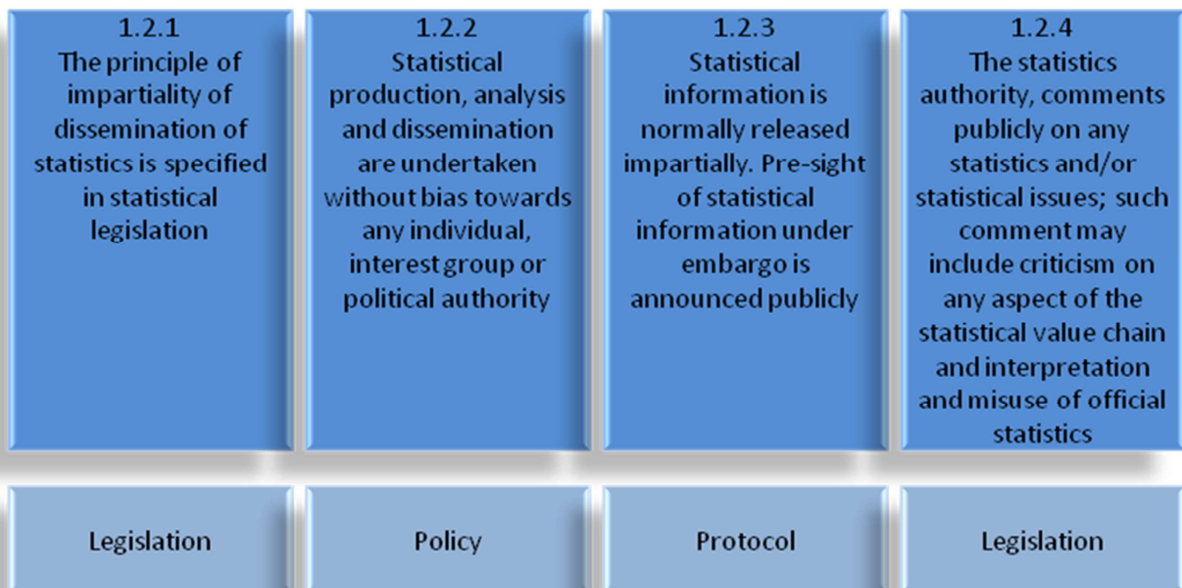


## Principle 1: Professional Independence

### 1.2 Impartiality

**Description:** Statistics authorities shall produce, analyse, disseminate, and comment on African statistics in line with the principle of scientific independence, and in an objective, professional and transparent manner

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

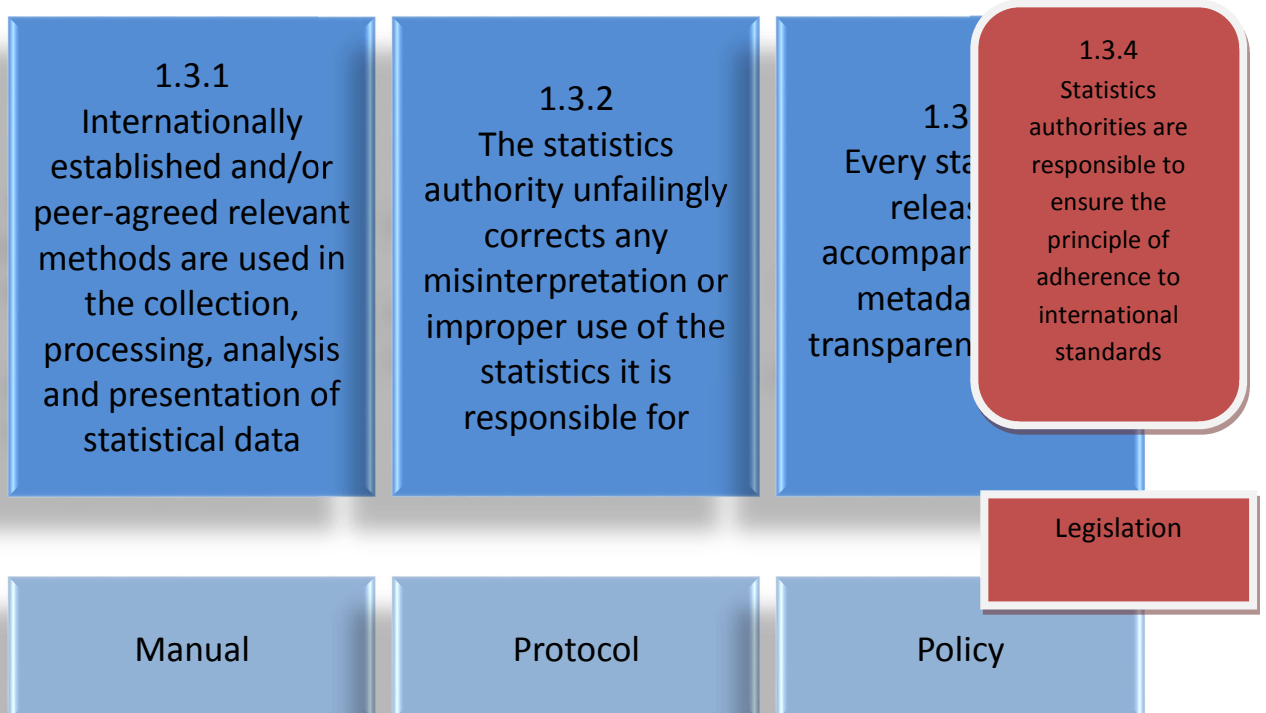
- Compile and publish for public information a policy document
  - outlining the procedures it follows in its production, analysis and dissemination of statistics;
  - unambiguously stating the right of the statistics authority to comment publicly on any aspect of statistics released in the public domain; and
  - outlining the standard content of publications and inclusion of metadata with statistical releases
- Publish a protocol on the release procedure ensuring impartiality to all stakeholders

## Principle 1: Professional Independence

### 1.3 Responsibility

**Description:** Statistics authorities and African statisticians shall employ unambiguous and relevant methods in the collection, processing, analysis and presentation of statistical data. Statistics authorities shall also have the right and duty to make observations on erroneous interpretation and improper use of the statistical information that they disseminate

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

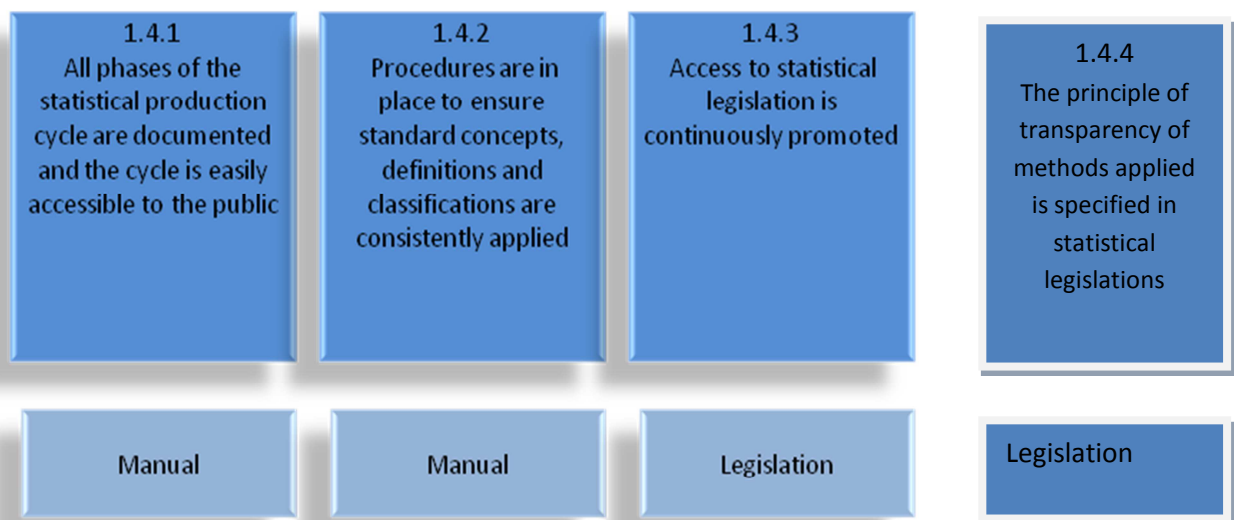
- Employ statistical methodology aligned to international best practice
- Convert statistics into statistical information for users and the public at large to minimise the possibility of misinterpretation
- Develop and implement a training programme for users
  - to ensure correct interpretation of the statistics produced by the statistics authority; and
  - to explain what statistical estimation entails.

## Principle 1: Professional Independence

### 1.4 Transparency

**Description:** To facilitate proper interpretation of data, statistics authorities shall provide information on their sources, methods and procedures that have been used in line with scientific standards. The domestic law governing operation of the statistical systems must be made available to the public

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Publish standardised manuals of the methodology used in the collection, processing, analysis and presentation of every statistical series
- Publish a manual of concepts and definitions of the statistical value chain of both surveys and registers for easy access by the public
- Publish classification systems used with various surveys and registers
- Publish a guide on the interpretation of the data used and estimates of each statistical series
- Publish a simplified version of the statistics law for easy access by the public.

## Principle 2: Quality

**Description:** *Quality in Statistics means “fitness for purpose” to ensure usability of statistics*

### Outcome:

Increased public trust or public confidence in official statistics - among other things - derived from the credibility of the statistics which, in turn, is derived from the quality of the statistics

### Issues for consideration:

- Lessons learnt
- Examples of good practice
- Legislation of registers or administrative records of government agencies as sources of data
- How to effect data harmonisation in an environment of multiple producers of official statistics
- Dealing with challenges of data comparisons across national boundaries
- Managing the effect of preliminary results on public trust when there is a divergence with final results
- Measurement of the informal economy
- Enumeration methodology of informal settlements
- Advocacy for managing for results
- Dealing with the media

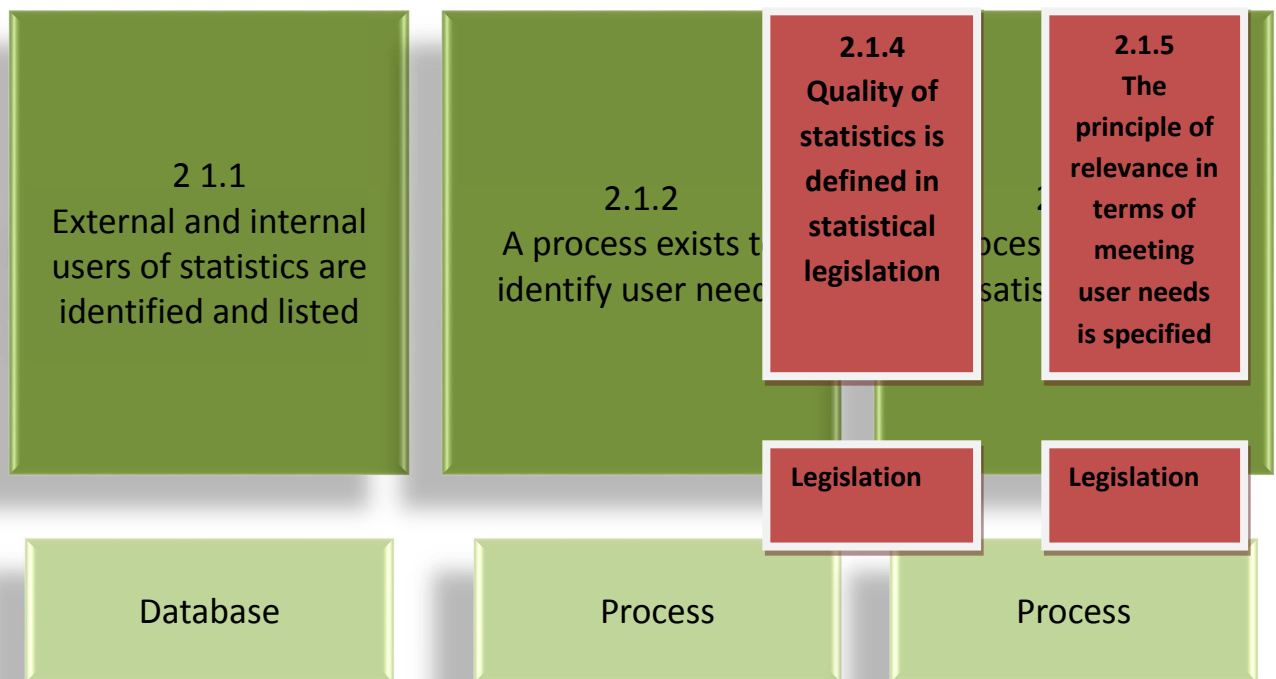
The key elements and meaning of statistical quality in the production and dissemination of official statistics are discussed below:

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.1 Relevance

**Description:** African statistics shall meet the needs of users

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Compile a database of external and internal users
- Develop an instrument to assess user needs (e.g., a questionnaire)
- Develop an instrument to assess user satisfaction (e.g., a questionnaire)
- Establish a process to consult users
- Execute a user needs survey at specified intervals (e.g., annually)
- Execute a user satisfaction survey at specified intervals (e.g., annually)
- Include priorities based on user needs in statistical work programme.

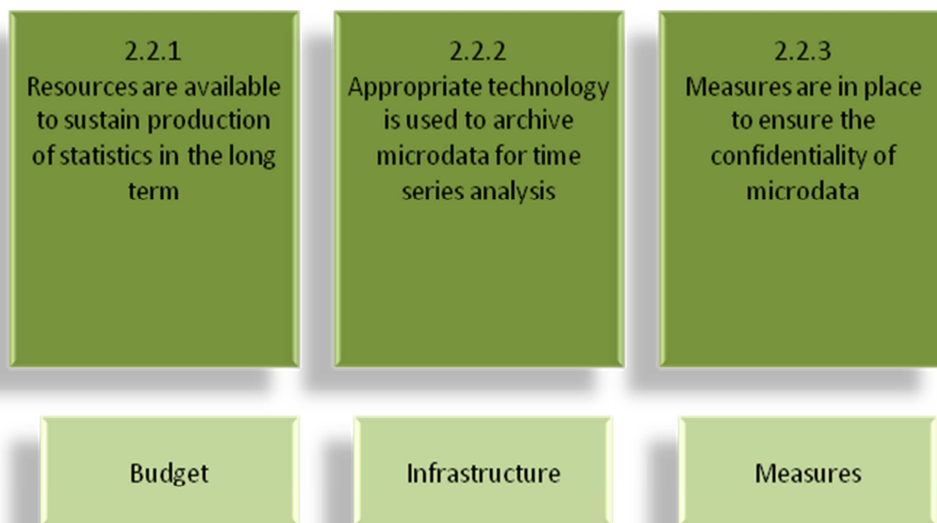


## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.2 Sustainability

**Description:** African statistics shall be conserved in as detailed as possible a form to ensure their use by future generations, while preserving the principles of confidentiality and protection of respondents

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

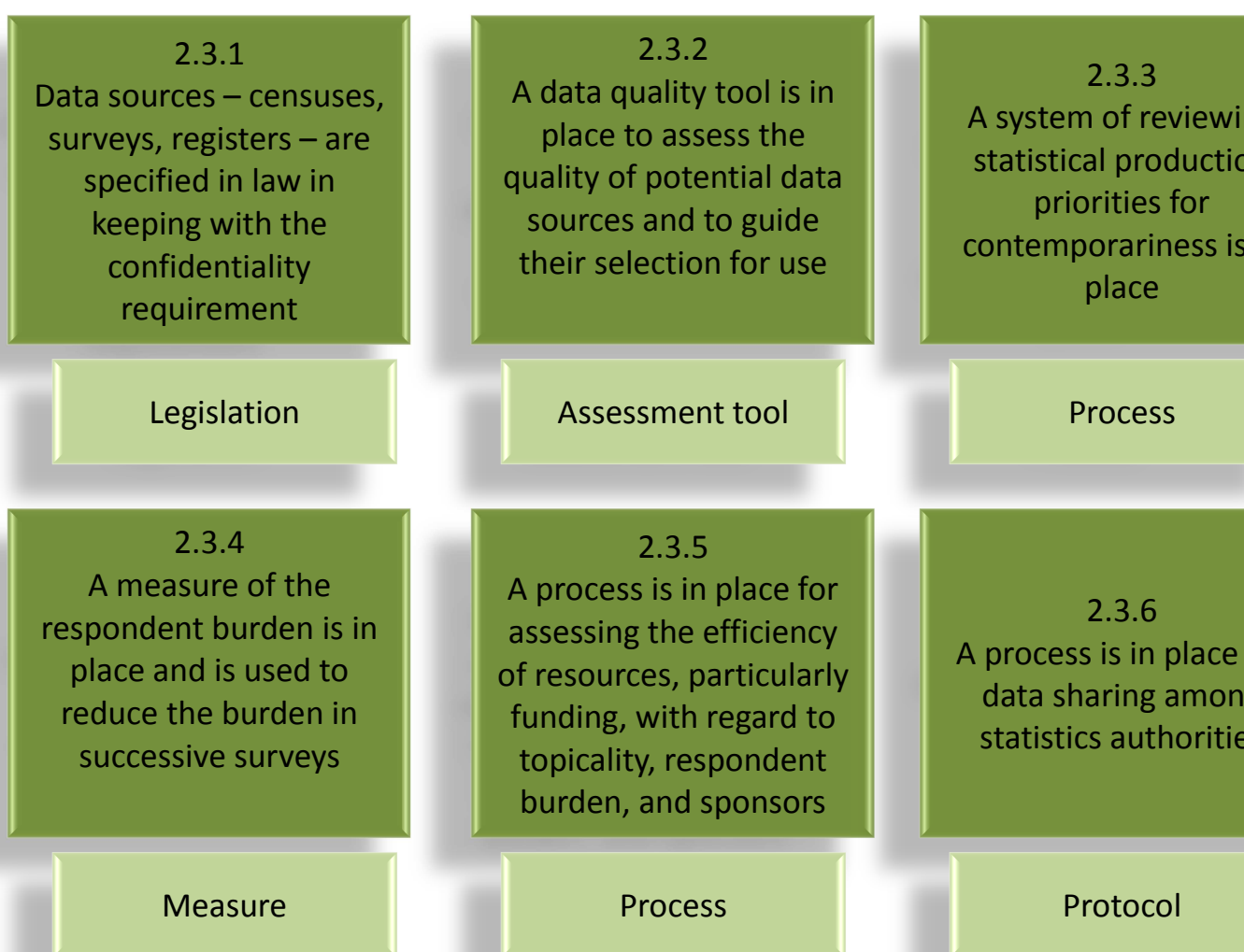
- The national budgetary process must ensure coverage of existing statistical series and emerging issues based on national priorities
- Put in place information technology infrastructure for the archiving and retrieval of data
- Put in place measures to ensure the confidentiality of microdata

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.3 Data Sources

**Description:** Data used for statistical purposes may be collected from diverse sources such as censuses, statistics surveys and/or administrative records. The statistics organisations shall choose their sources in consideration of the quality of data offered by such sources and their topicality, particularly the costs incurred by the respondents and sponsors. The use by statistics authorities of administrative records for statistical purposes shall be guaranteed by domestic law, provided that confidentiality is preserved

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Statistical legislation – both primary and subordinate – must define a process for identifying and guaranteeing sources of statistics as censuses, sample surveys or registers



- Develop a tool to assess the quality of both existing and potential statistical sources
- Put in place a process for reviewing the currency or contemporariness of existing statistical series.
- Measure the burden to respondents associated with all data collection ventures
- Establish targets to reduce respondent burden
- Assess the efficiency of resources, particularly funding, in relation to allocation to the currency of priorities, respondent burden, and sponsors
- Put in place a process for data sharing among statistics authorities

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.4 Accuracy and Reliability

**Description:** African statistics shall be an accurate and reliable reflection of the reality

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:

2.4.1  
Standard and any other measures of assessment of accuracy are identified and applied to statistical estimation process

2.4.2  
Standard and any other measures of reliability are identified and applied to statistical estimation process

2.4.3  
Quality measures are in place to monitor the statistical process, including product quality

2.4.4  
Quality guidelines are in place

Measure

Measure

Process

Tool or framework

#### Guidelines:

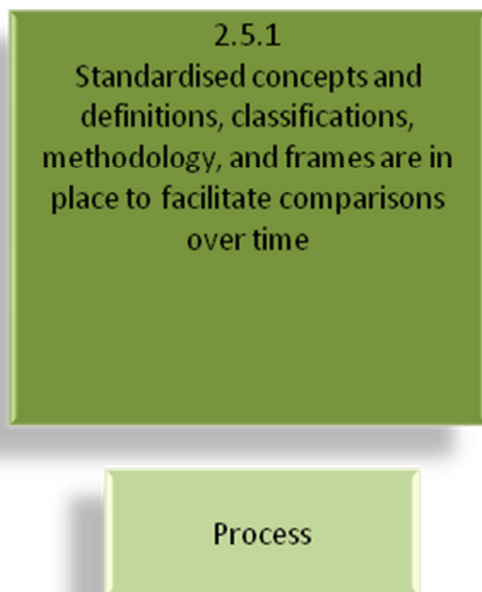
- Include standard and any new measures of accuracy of statistical estimates in the statistical quality assessment tool
- Include standard and any new measures of reliability of statistical estimates in the statistical quality assessment tool
- Develop and implement a quality management process
- Assess and validate source data.

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.5 Continuity

**Description:** Statistics authorities shall ensure continuity and comparability of statistical information over time

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Monitor the application of standardised concepts, definitions and classifications in the national statistics system
- Develop and maintain frames

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.6 Coherence and Comparability

**Description:** African statistics shall be internally coherent over time and allow for comparison between regions and countries. To this end, these statistics shall make combined use of related data derived from different sources. It shall employ internationally recognized and accepted concepts, classifications, terminologies and methods

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

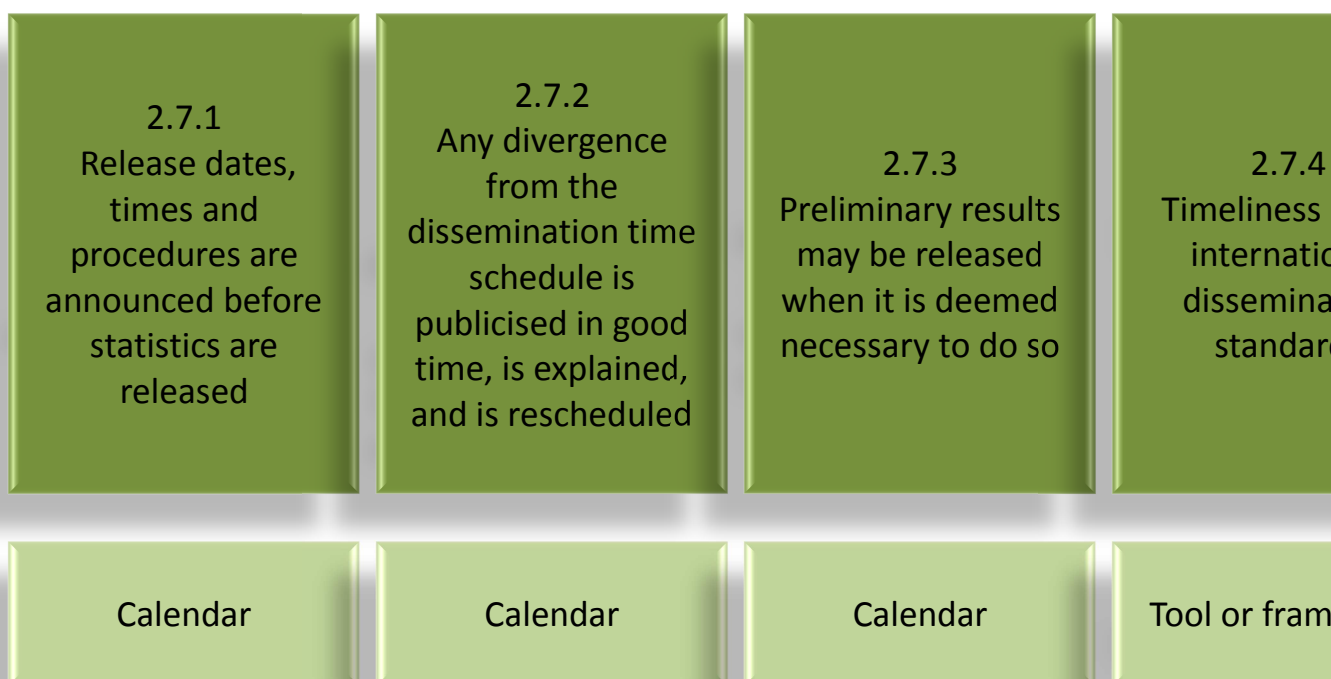
- Include coherence and comparability in the quality assessment tool
- Apply the quality assessment tool also as a statistical development tool
- Apply common standards – concepts and definitions, classifications, methodology, and frames – in the national statistics system
- Put in place a data harmonisation process (data from different sources)
- Define and publish common statistics reporting units substantively and geographically including updates in the national statistics system
- Define and implement a minimum period for meaningful time series analysis
- Establish processes to ensure statistics are coherent and comparable, including across national boundaries
- Develop and implement a programme for cross-national comparability of data

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.7 Timeliness

**Description:** African statistics shall be disseminated in good time and, as far as possible, according to pre-determined calendar

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

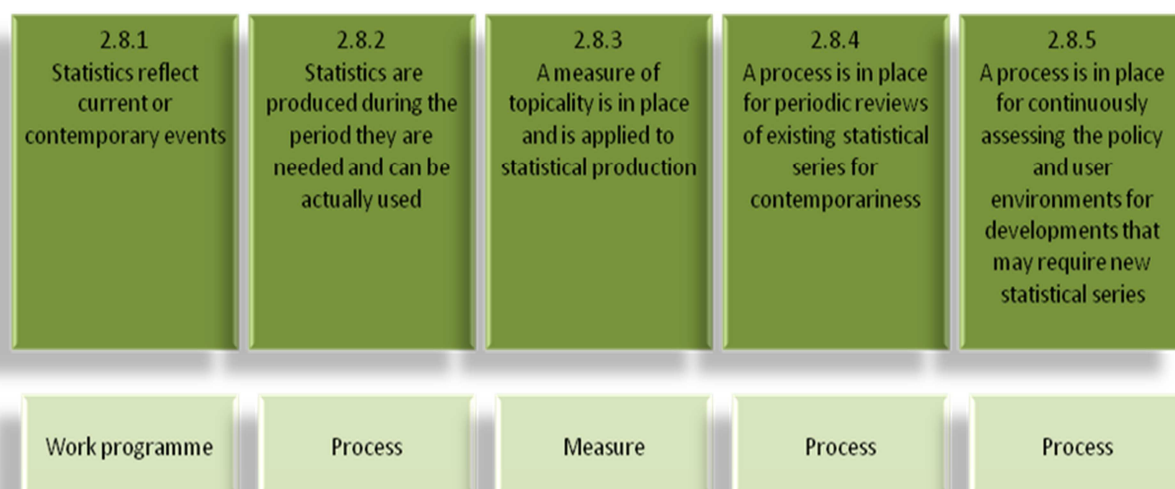
- Publish a pre-publication release calendar, including preliminary results of any data collection
- Publish any divergence from the pre-publication calendar including the new schedule
- Adopt international dissemination standards
- Align statistical production to national policy cycle.

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.8 Topicality

**Description:** African statistics shall reflect current and topical events and trends

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

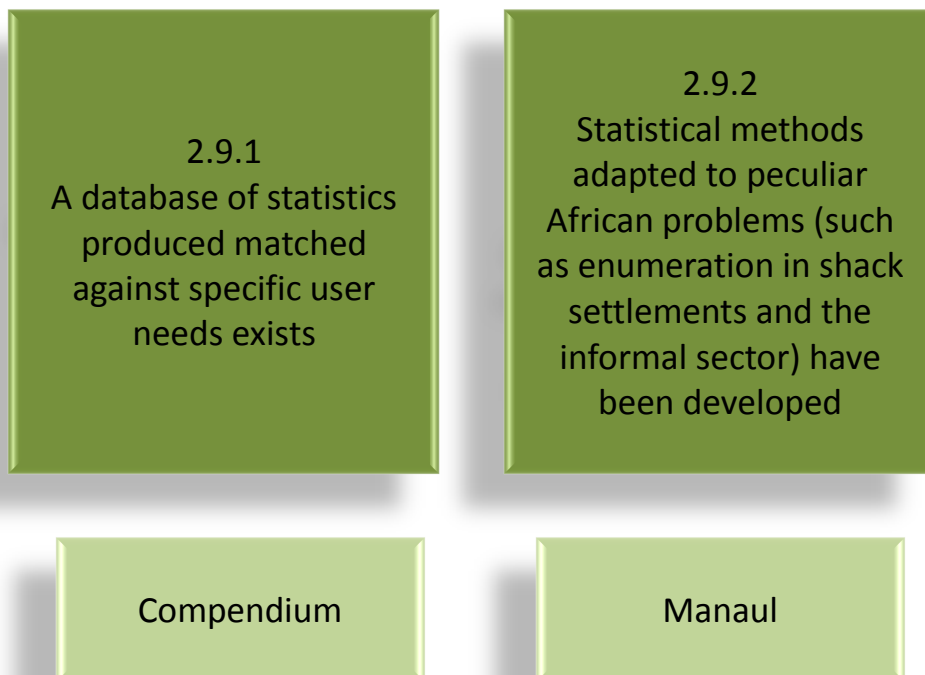
- Match the content of the work programme of the statistical authority with the needs of policy makers and other users
- Monitor the turn-around time of statistical results with the aim to reduce the period between the end of data collection and release of results
- Develop and apply to statistical production a measure of topicality
- Define and implement a process reviewing statistical production for contemporariness
- Put in place a process for constantly monitoring changes or developments in policy and user environments to identify gaps for new statistical series

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.9 Specificities

**Description:** Statistical data production and analytical methods shall take into account African peculiarities

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

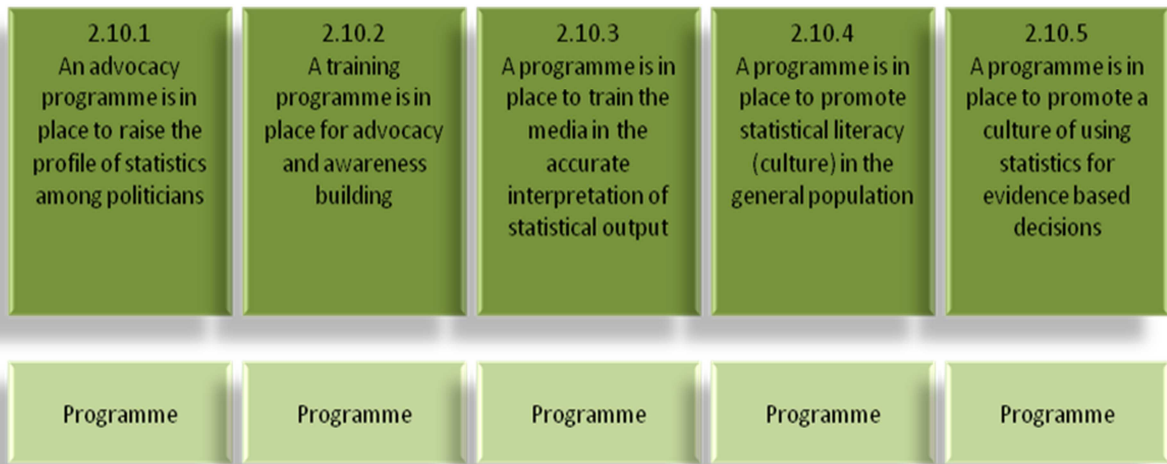
- Develop a compendium of indicators/indices to pin down specifically what users want and accordingly define the domain and scope of statistical production
- Implement a research and training programme to adapt and/or develop methodology to deal with problems peculiar to African situations

## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.10 Awareness building

**Description:** State Parties shall sensitize the public, particularly statistical data providers, on the importance of statistics

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Develop and implement a programme to advocate for managing for results among politicians with emphasis on measuring outcomes and performance; and informing planning and decision-making
- Develop and implement a training programme to build capacity in statistical skills at secondary and tertiary institutions
- Develop and implement a programme to train the media on the accurate interpretation of statistics
- Develop and implement a programme to promote statistical literacy in the general population
- Develop and implement a programme to advocate for using statistics for evidence based decision-making



## Principle 2: Quality

### 2.11 Statistical process

**Description:** Appropriate statistical procedures covering the entire statistical value chain must be implemented beginning with the need for data collection from either a survey or a register and ending with a review of the statistical

**Standards and Strategic Outputs:**

<p>2.11.1 A statistical value chain for surveys and registers has been defined, implemented and published for public</p>	<p>2.11.2 A process is in place for prioritising the need for statistical information</p>	<p>2.11.3 A process is established for designing the statistical production activities</p>	<p>2.11.4 A process is in place for preparing statistical products (building, fieldwork, collection)</p>
Value Chain	Process	Process	Process
<p>2.11.6 Infrastructure and processes for data processing are documented and in place</p>	<p>2.11.7 Processes for data analysis are in place</p>	<p>2.11.8 Dissemination and publication principles and procedures are documented and in place</p>	<p>2.11.9 Infrastructure and processes for archiving and documentation are in place</p>
Process	Process	Process	Value Chain
<p>2.11.11 A process is in place to test questionnaires prior to data collection</p>	<p>2.11.12 Survey designs, sample selection methodology, and sample weighting methodology are regularly reviewed,</p>	<p>2.11.13 A process and documents are in place to regularly review, maintain and revise the domain of registers</p>	<p>2.11.14 A process is in place to routinely update and re-operationalise processes for data entry, collection</p>
Process	Process	Process	Process

**Guidelines:**

- Define, publish and implement a statistical value chain for both surveys and registers
- Put in place processes in respect to
  - Prioritisation for information needs
  - Design for statistical production
  - Preparations for fieldwork or data collection
  - Conducting fieldwork or data collection
  - Data processing
  - Data analysis
  - Data dissemination or access
  - Data archiving and retrieval
  - Statistical production project evaluation
- Define and implement a process for testing questionnaires prior to data collection
- Define and implement a process to undertake regular reviews, revisions, or updates of sample designs, sample selection methodology, and sample weighting methodology
- Put in place a process to review, maintain and revise the domain of registers on a regular basis
- Put in place a process to routinely monitor and revise field operations, and data processing (data entry, coding and editing)
- Put in place a process for revisions

### Principle 3: Mandate for data collection and resources

***Description:** Mandate for data collection means the legal responsibility to collect data for statistical purposes. Resources means adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to be provided by National Governments*

#### **Outcome:**

The significance of **legitimacy** as a major attribute of a successful statistical authority, a successful national statistics system, and successful official statistics

#### **Issues for consideration:**

- Lessons learnt
- Examples of good practice
- Legislation on collecting data from or accessing data of state agencies, especially registers
- How to improve the budget for official statistics on a sustainable basis
- Beyond statistical tools (such as quality tools): intricacies of quality management systems, including monitoring and evaluation
- Staff retention strategies
- Reviews of statistical system, including products
- Resource and performance audits

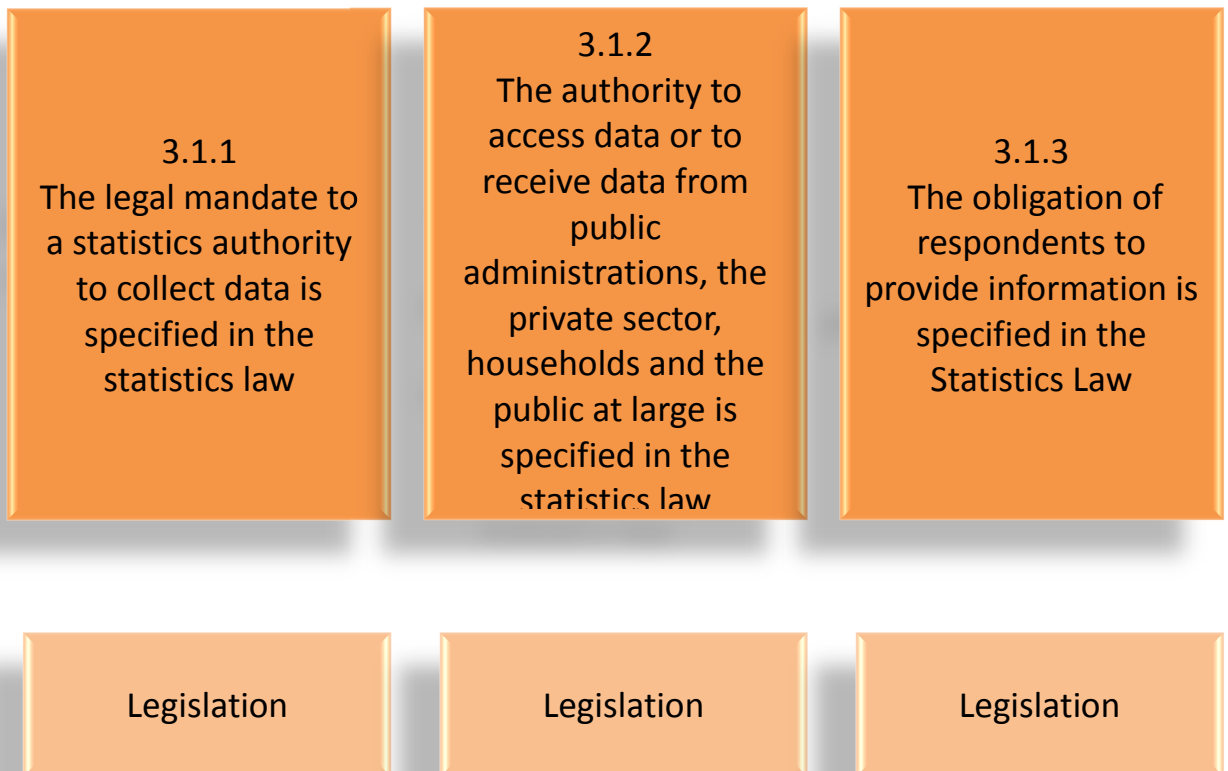
The key elements of the mandate and resources required for the production of official statistics are discussed below:

### Principle 3: Mandate for data collection and resources

#### 3.1 Mandate

**Description:** Statistics authorities shall be endowed with a clear legal mandate empowering them to collect data for production of African statistics. At the request of statistics authorities, public administrations, business establishments, households and the general public may be compelled by domestic law to allow access to the data in their possession or provide data for the purpose of compilation of African statistics

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Draft statistical legislation and see it through its enactment as a statistics law
- Include in the statistics law authority for the statistics authority to collect or access data from public administrations, the private sector, households and the public at large
- Include in the statistics law the authority of NSS bodies to collect data

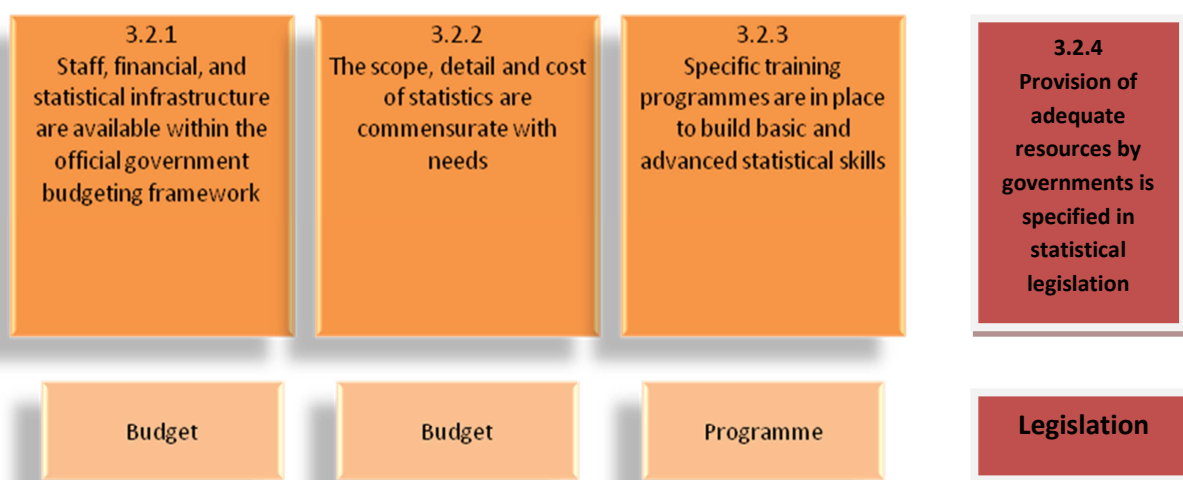


### Principle 3: Mandate for data collection and resources

#### 3.2 Resource adequacy

**Description:** As far as possible, the resources available to statistics authorities shall be adequate and stable to enable them to meet statistics needs at national, regional and continental levels. Governments of State Parties shall have the primary responsibility to provide such resources

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Secure funding from the government's expenditure framework for statistical skills, infrastructure and operations sufficient for meeting the needs of users
- Base the costing of statistical production on user needs
- Develop and implement a statistics training programme to build basic and advanced statistical skills
  - Initial training (statistical training centre)
    - Schools training
    - Tertiary training
  - Continuing training (combination of statistical training centre and the NSO)

## Principle 3: Mandate for data collection and resources

### 3.3 Cost effectiveness

**Description:** Statistics authorities shall use the resources so provided effectively and efficiently. This presupposes, in particular, that operations shall as far as possible, be programmed in an optimal manner. Every effort shall be made to achieve improved production and use of the statistics derived from administrative records, to reduce the costs incurred by respondents and, as far as possible, avoid expensive direct statistical surveys

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



3.3.1 A process is in place to cost statistical operations, human resources, and statistical infrastructure	3.3.2 Strategic and operational plans exist to effectively guide resource allocation	3.3.3 A strategy is in place to optimise resource allocation and to minimise the reporting burden by rationalising surveys through	3.3.4 Data collection instruments designed such that they are respondent friendly, effective
Process	Strategic plans	NSDS	Instruments
3.3.5 A quality management system is implemented to improve data quality and timeliness	3.3.6 A policy for preference for and increased use of registers as sources of data and a decreased reliance on surveys is	3.3.7 The use of administrative records for statistical purposes is specified in statistical legislation	3.3.8 A review programme of topicality, determination of discontinuities and/or inclusion of new series
System	Policy	Legislation	Programme
3.3.9 Internal and external measures are in place to monitor the statistics authority's use of resources	3.3.10 Routine clerical operations (e.g., data capture, coding and validation) are automated to the	3.3.11 Optimisation of the use of ICT whenever possible for data collection, processing and dissemination	
System	System	Infrastructure	

**Guidelines:**

- Put in place a system for costing statistical production across all state agencies

- Work out a model to guide optimal allocation of resources among all state agencies that produce statistics
- Compile strategic and operational plans for the production of statistics
- Implement a coordination strategy to optimise resource allocation and minimise respondent burden by rationalising surveys
- Design effective and efficient respondent-friendly data collection instruments
- Implement a quality management system to improve both data quality and timeliness
- Implement a policy biased towards the use of administrative records as a source of statistics
- Include use of administrative records for statistical purposes in the statistics law
- Implement a programme to monitor the currency of existing programmes to determine their continuation or discontinuation and/or inclusion of new series
- Set up internal and external systems to monitor use of resources
- Automate as much as possible routine clerical systems
- Apply ICT to data collection, processing and dissemination where possible

## Principle 4: Dissemination

**Description:** *Dissemination means statistics are accessible, clear and usable without constraint*

### Outcome:

Official statistics are a consumable public good

### Issues for consideration:

- Lessons learnt
- Examples of good practice
- Management of access to microdata;
- Inventory of all statistics available in the country – challenges of compiling the inventory;
- Correction of statements made by political principals; and
- Handling pre-sight, especially with regard to statistics authorities other than the national statistics office

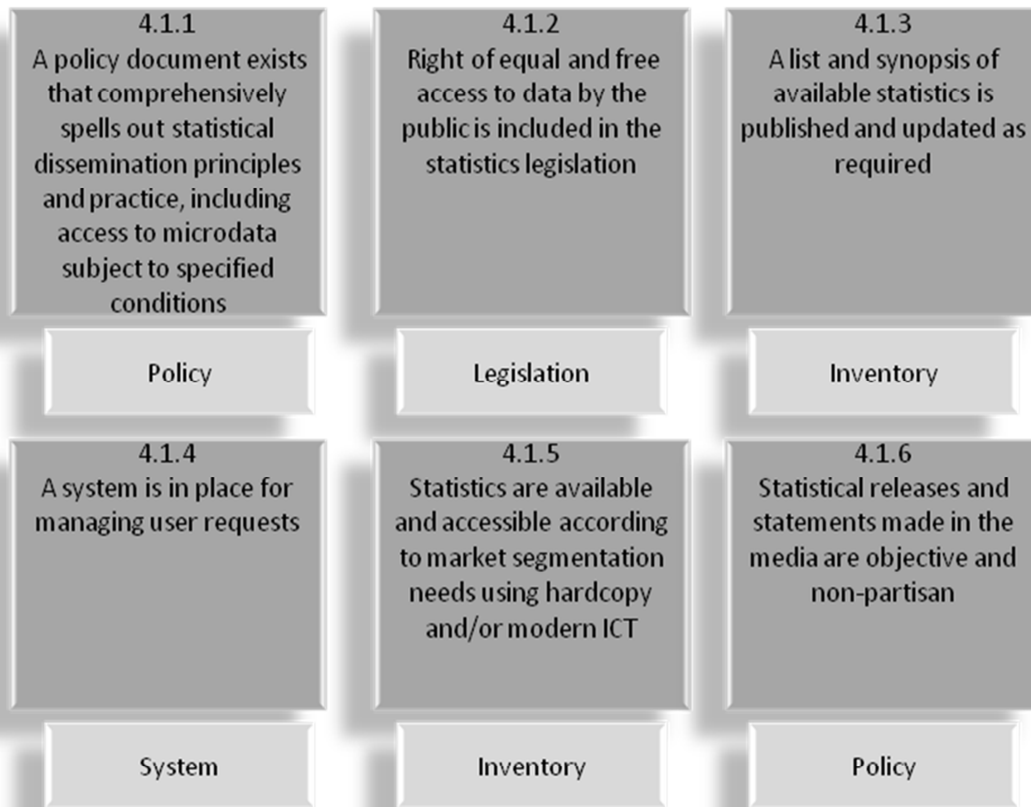
The key elements of dissemination of official statistics as a Principle of the Charter are discussed below:

## Principle 4: Dissemination

### 4.1 Accessibility

**Description:** African statistics shall not be made inaccessible in any way whatsoever. This concomitant right of access for all users without restriction shall be guaranteed by domestic law. Micro-data may be made available to users on condition that the pertinent laws and procedures are respected and confidentiality is maintained

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Publish a document on statistical dissemination policy and practice
- Define conditions for access to microdata
- Include a clause on right of equal and free access by the public in the statistics legislation
- Publish a list and synopsis of statistics that is available in the country
- Put in place a system to receive, process, archive and monitor user requests
- Group users according to the medium of data access suitable for them (e.g., by website, hardcopy, etc.)

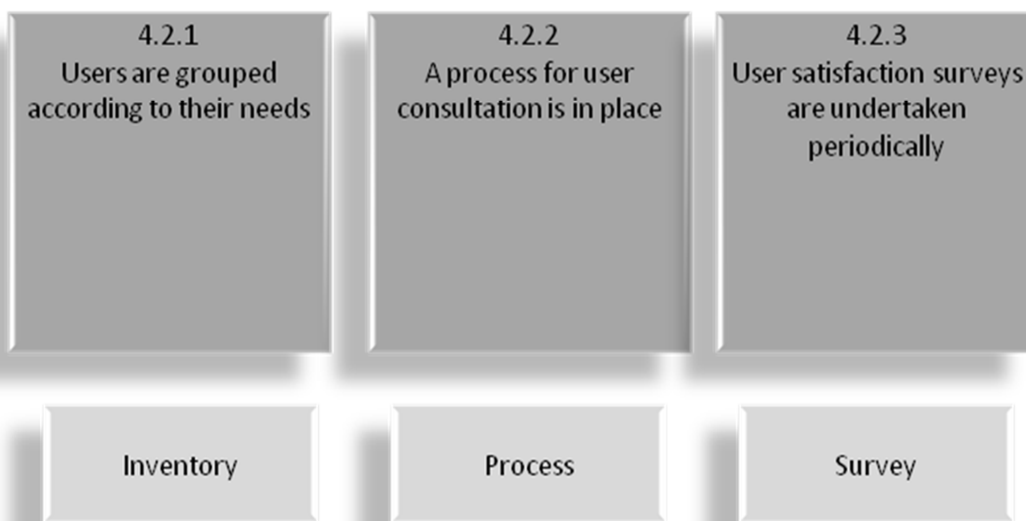
- The user market is segmented on the basis of the appropriateness of the medium used to access statistics (e.g., electronic or hardcopy)
- Disseminate data using relevant medium
- Make objective, non-partisan statements in the media

## Principle 4: Dissemination

### 4.2 Dialogue with users

**Description:** Mechanisms for consultation with all African statistics users without discrimination shall be put in place with a view to ensuring that the statistical information offered are commensurate with their needs

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

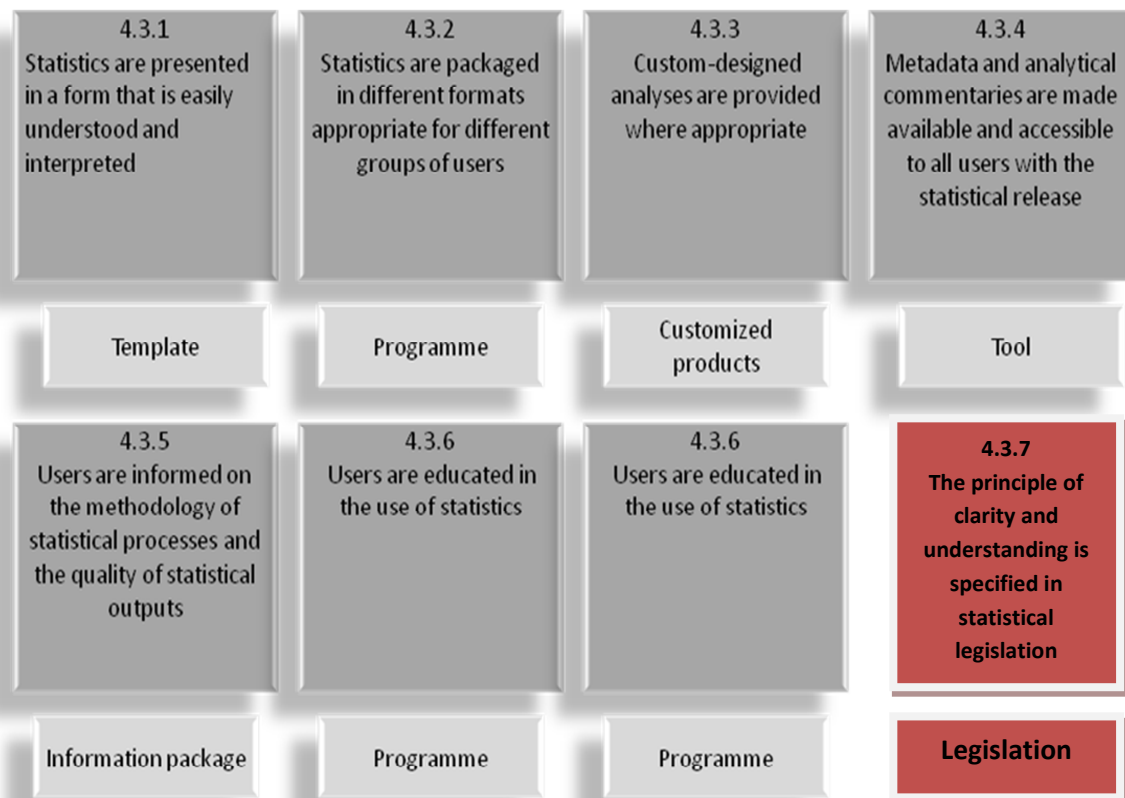
- Conduct market segmentation
- Define process for consultation
- Establish user fora according to user groups
- Interact and establish user needs  
Define how user needs impact on priorities, design of survey and statistical products – see 2.1
- Identify statistical priorities based on user needs to be included in the statistical work programme
- Conduct user satisfaction survey at least every two years

## Principle 4: Dissemination

### 4.3 Clarity and understanding

**Description:** Statistics shall be presented in a clear and comprehensible form. They shall be disseminated in a practical and appropriate manner, be available and accessible to all and accompanied by the requisite metadata and analytical commentaries

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Develop standardised release template, including provisions for metadata and analytical commentaries
- Consult different groups of users to determine applicable formats required for disseminating results
- Develop different statistical products per series according to user groups
- Establish function to provide custom-designed analytical support to meet special requests
- Develop and implement a metadata tool to facilitate capturing metadata – check quality dimension
- Publish information on the methodology of the statistical process and quality of the statistical output

- Develop training programme for users on usage and interpretation of statistics
- Establish a data validation process
- Develop training programme for validation



## Principle 4: Dissemination

### 4.4 Simultaneity

**Description:** African Statistics shall be disseminated in a manner that ensures that all users are able to use them simultaneously. Where certain authorities receive advance information under embargo, to allow them time to respond to possible questions, public announcement shall be made indicating the nature of such information, the identity of the recipients and the set timeframe before its public dissemination

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

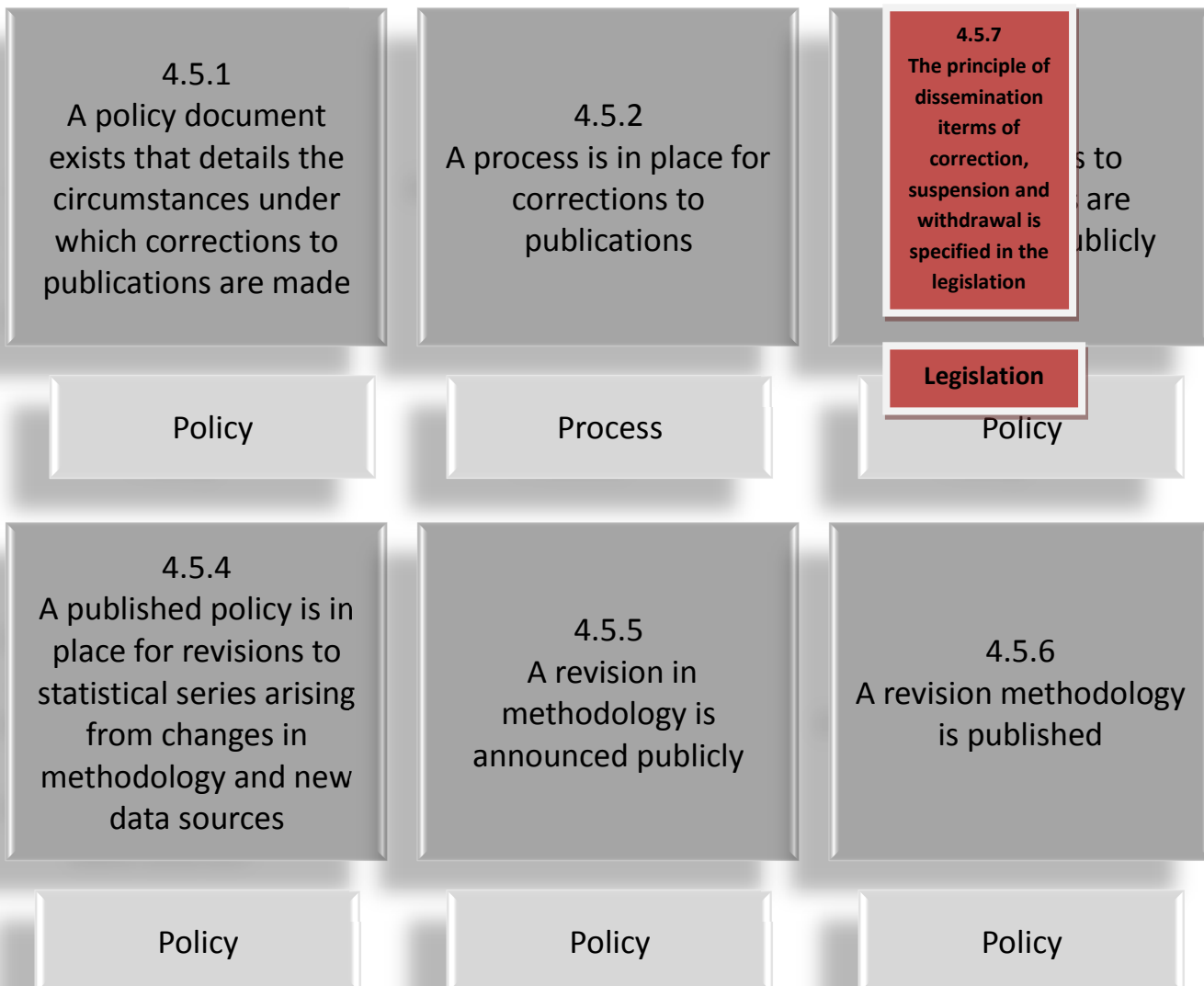
- Include a clause on simultaneity in statistics legislation
- Publish conditions under which pre-sight is granted to users
- Publish statistical release calendar annually

## Principle 4: Dissemination

### 4.5 Correction

**Description:** Statistics authorities shall correct publications containing significant errors using standard statistical practices or, for very serious cases, suspend dissemination of such statistics. In that event, the users shall be informed in clear terms of the reasons for such corrections or suspension

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Publish a corrections policy in anticipation of an error in the statistics produced by the statistics authority
- Define type of revision e.g preliminary, forecast
- Develop a process for making corrections to publications including withdrawal of publications
- Publish the corrections or announce withdrawals of publications
- Publish a revisions policy in anticipation of any changes in data including methodology
- Publicly announce and publish the new methodology

#### **Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents**

**Description:** *Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents means privacy and confidentiality are guaranteed*

#### **Outcome:**

Confidentiality of individual data, sources of information and respondents guaranteed

#### **Issues for consideration:**

- Lessons learnt
- Examples of good practice
- Interacting with data suppliers (respondents) on uses and access limitations of their data
- Advocacy on non-recommended uses of official statistics
- Handling issues of duplication of surveys

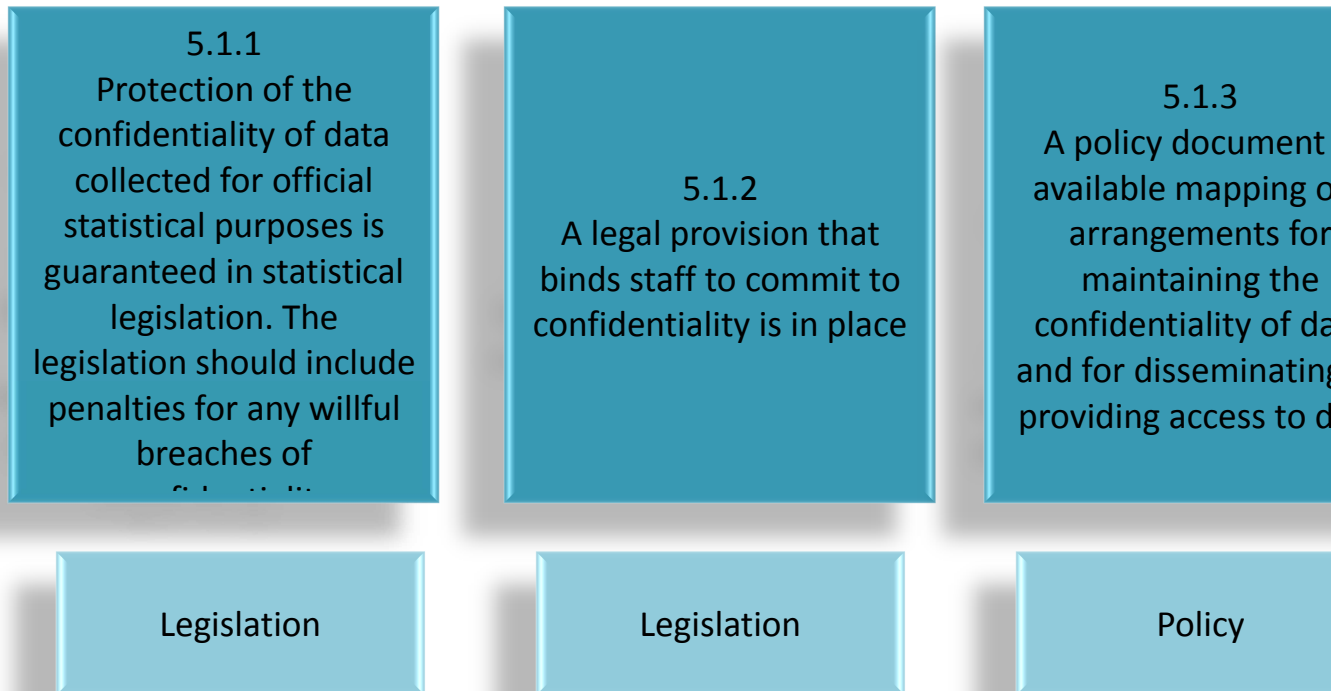
The key elements of protecting individual data, sources of information and respondents are discussed below:

**Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents**

**5.1 Confidentiality**

**Description:** National statistics authorities, African statisticians and all those operating in the field of statistics in Africa shall absolutely guarantee the protection of the private life and business secrets of data providers (households, companies, public institutions and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information so provided and the use of such information for strictly statistical purposes

**Standards and Strategic Outputs:**



**Guidelines:**

- Include a confidentiality clause in the statistical legislation, including penalties for any willful breaches of the clause
- Staff take confidentiality oath/sign legal confidentiality commitments
- Publish a policy document mapping out arrangements for maintaining the confidentiality of data and for disseminating or providing access to data

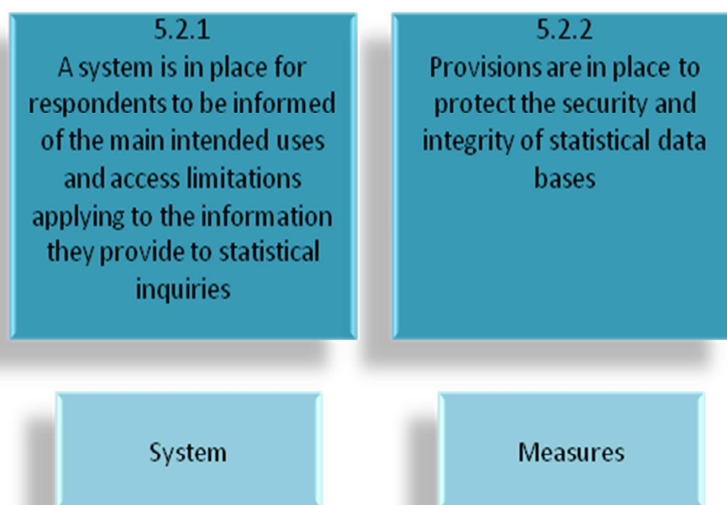


## Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents

### 5.2 Giving assurances to data providers

**Description:** Persons or entities interviewed during statistical surveys shall be informed of the objective of such interviews and of the measures put in place to protect the data provided

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

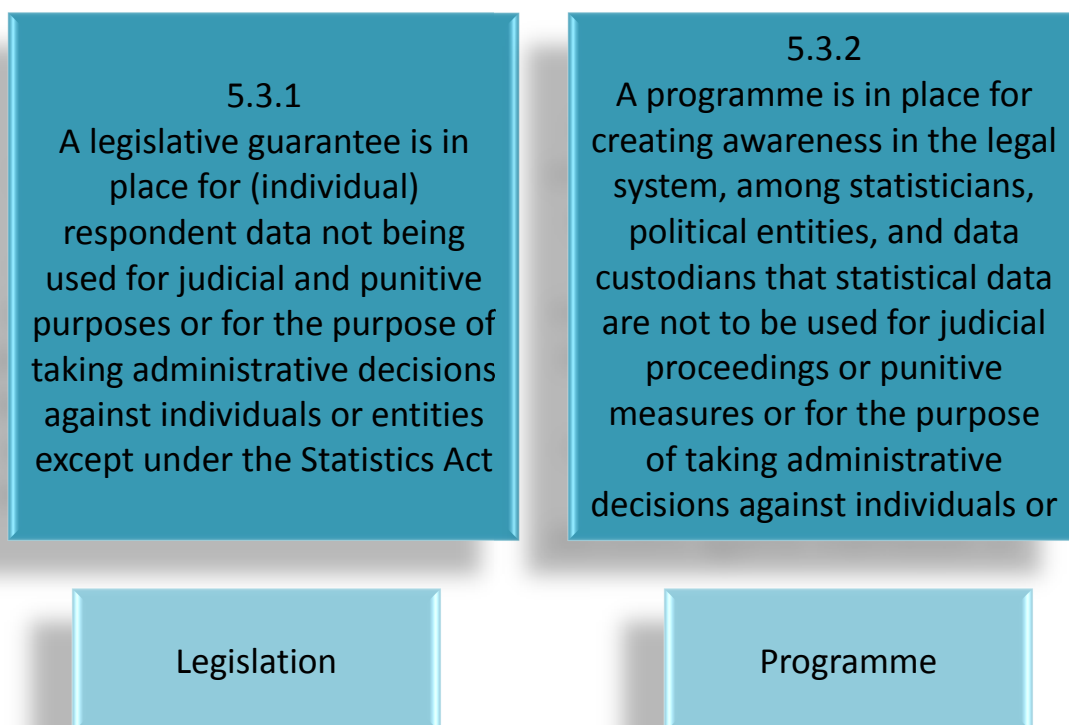
- Implement a system to inform respondents of the main intended uses and access limitations applying to the information they provide
- Make arrangements to strictly protect the security and integrity of statistical data bases

## Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents

### 5.3 Objective

**Description:** Data concerning individuals or entities collected for statistical purposes shall in no circumstance be used for judicial proceedings or punitive measures or for the purpose of taking administrative decisions against such individuals or entities

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

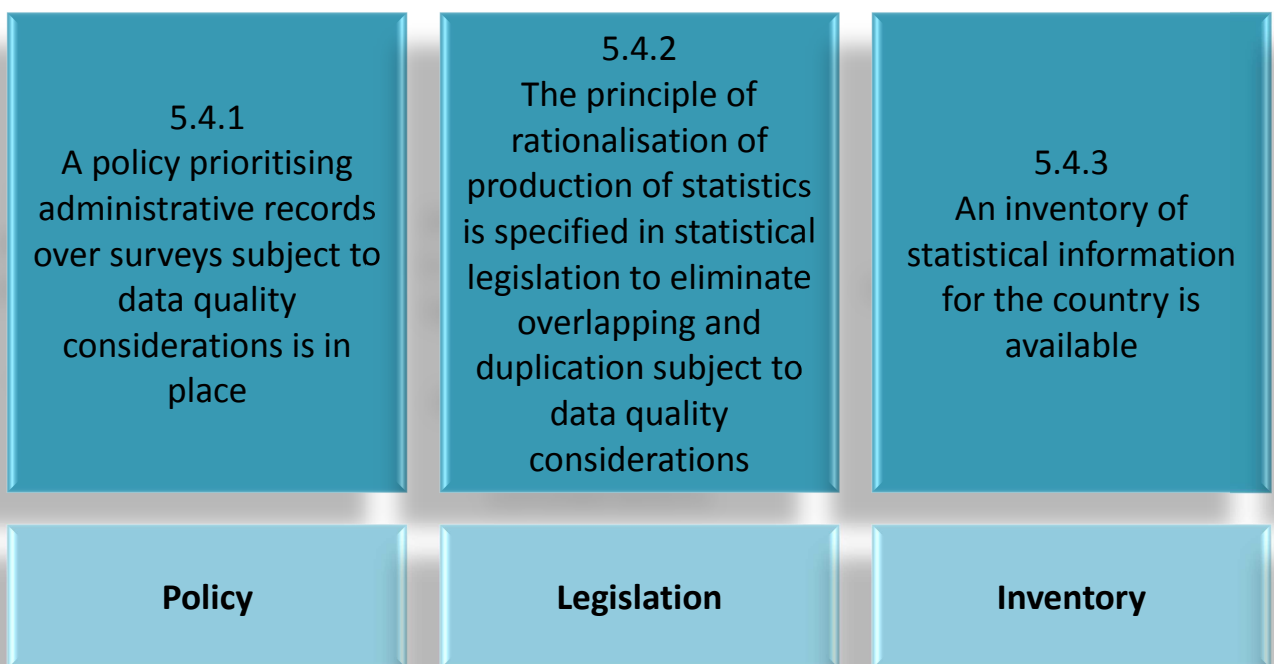
- Include in statistical legislation protection of non-use of statistical data for judicial and punitive purposes and taking administrative decisions against individuals or entities
- Develop and implement an awareness programme

**Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents**

**5.4 Rationality**

**Description:** Statistics authorities shall not embark upon statistical surveys except where pertinent information is unavailable from administrative records or the quality of such information is inadequate in relation to the quality requirements of statistical information

**Standards and Strategic Outputs:**



**Guidelines:**

- Implement a policy prioritising administrative records over surveys subject to data availability and quality considerations
- Include a rationality clause in statistical legislation
- Compile and maintain an inventory of statistical information
- Establish a statistical approval process for statistical production



## Principle 6: Coordination and Cooperation

**Definition:** *Coordination and Cooperation means Statistics authorities work together and share expertise to ensure synergy, unicity, quality and comparability of statistics in the national and African statistics systems*

**Outcome:** recognition of the systemic nature of the production of official statistics

### Issues for consideration:

- Lessons learnt
- Examples of good practice
- Coordination of activities of data producing state and other agencies
- Statistical planning for the entire statistical system
- Designation or certification of statistics as official
- Role of informer vs auditor
- Authority of the statistics authority irt other producers of official statistics

The key elements of coordination and cooperation among partners in the statistics system are listed below:

## Principle 6: Coordination and Cooperation

### 6.1 Coordination

**Description:** Coordination and collaboration amongst statistics authorities in a given country are essential in ensuring unicity, quality and harmonious statistical information. Similarly, coordination and dialogue amongst all Members of the African Statistical System are vital for harmonization, production and use of African statistics.

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:

6.1.1 The principle of statistical coordination and collaboration amongst statistics authorities is specified in	6.1.2 A mechanism for approval of statistical plans is in place	6.1.3 Statistical work programmes are published annually, and periodic reports describe progress made	6.1.4 Statistics production processes, surveys, censuses and administrative records are on comm
Legislation	Procedure	Plans	Tool or Fram
6.1.6 A process for designating statistics as official (good quality) is published to inform producers and users and the public at	6.1.7 Statistics are designated as official (good quality)	6.1.8 A governance structure for statistical coordination organs of s plan	6.1.9 The production a of official sta is used f “managing results” a transform
Process	Tool or framework	NSI	NSDS
6.1.11 Statistics authorities align statistical practice to the African Statistical System as prioritised SHaSA	6.1.12 Statistics is included in the National Development Plan/National Planning framework as a system of	6.1.13 A function is established in the statistics authority for statistical coordination of the NSS	6.1.14 A fun in place at and contin level for sta coordinati harmoniz
NSDS	National Plan	Structure	Structu

**6.1.15**  
The legal mandate to certify statistics as official (good quality) is specified in the legislation.  
**Legislation**

**Guidelines:**

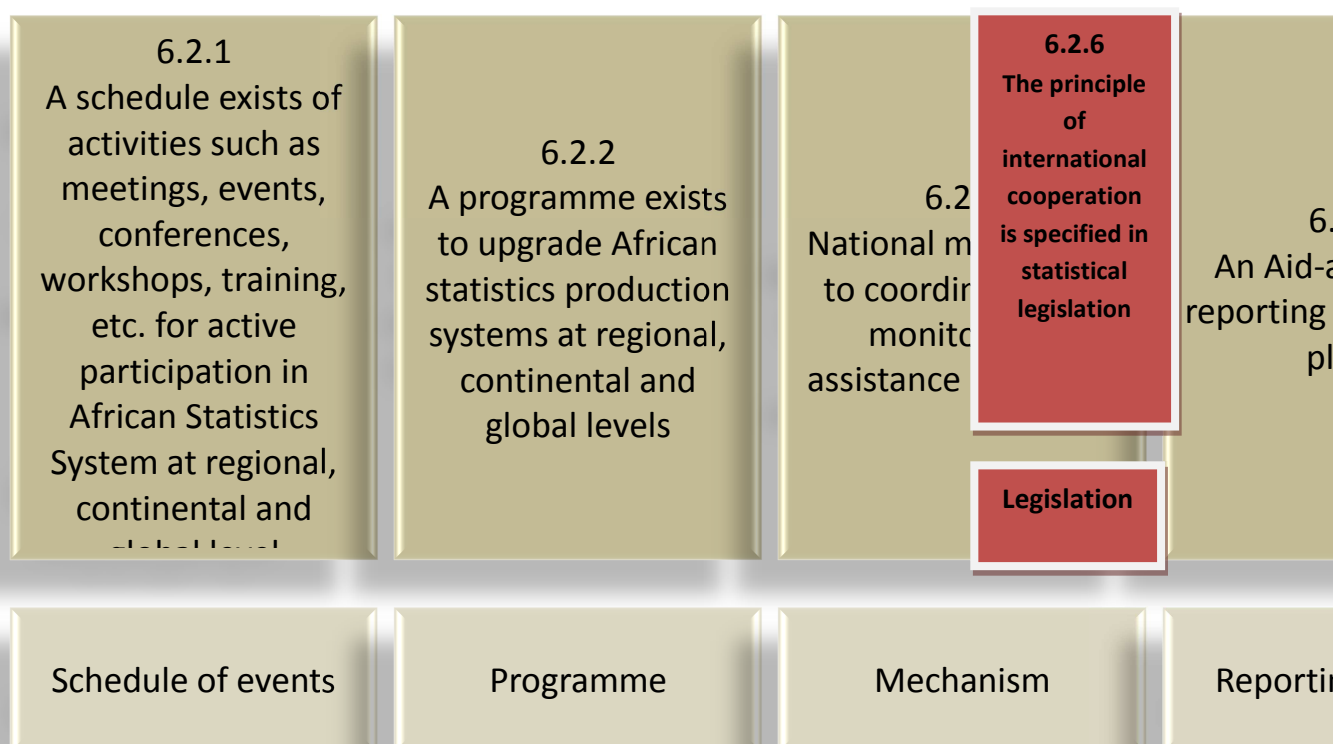
- Include statistical coordination, collaboration among statistics authorities, and designation of statistics as official in statistical legislation
- Compile a National Strategy for Development of Statistics
- Establish a statistical planning and reporting process for approval of statistical production
- Compile annual statistical work programmes
- Develop and implement a framework for statistical production
- Establish a consultation process before new questionnaires for modifying registers by organs of state are implemented and before introducing new statistical classifications
- Include in statistical legislation requiring all statistics for a public good to be designated as official (good quality)
- Define a process for designating statistics as official directed at informing all producers and users of statistics and the public at large
- Develop and implement a statistical quality assessment framework and protocol for designation of statistics as official
- Conduct independent quality assessments/audits
- Establish governance structures at different levels of government administration as well as stakeholder for a signed declaration by member states
- Implement an advocacy programme for managing for results in government
- Get your government to sign the Charter
- Participate in peer review process
- Conduct self assessment on implementation of the Principles of the African Charter on Statistics
- Align country strategic plans and NSDS to African Statistics System and SHaSA
- Coordination through using common frames
- Establish a function/unit in the NSO responsible for the NSS
- Establish a function/unit at regional/ continental level for statistical coordination and harmonization

## Principle 6: Coordination and Cooperation

### 6.2 Co-operation

**Description:** Bilateral and multilateral statistics cooperation shall be encouraged with a view to upgrading African statistics production systems

#### Standards and Strategic Outputs:



#### Guidelines:

- Develop a schedule of activities such as meetings, events, conferences, workshops, training, etc. for active participation in African Statistics System at regional, continental and global level
- Develop a programme to upgrade (harmonize) African statistics production systems at regional, continental and global levels
- Aid assistance requirements for statistical production must be included in the NSDS
- Aid assistance requirements for the development of statistics should be done within the framework of the NSDS

