



Irving Fisher Committee on  
Central Bank Statistics



African  
Union



*Building a Strong Community of Innovative and Forward Looking Leaders in Official  
Statistics*

## High Level Meeting on Data Governance

Ramada Plaza Hotel, Les Côtes de Carthage, Gammarth - Tunisia

22 November 2019

### Abstracts

#### Session 1: Collecting data: new information sources

**Stephen Penneck, President-Elect, ISI, United Kingdom**

**Title of presentation: Collecting data: new information sources – some ethical considerations.**

This presentation defines what we mean by Big Data, looks at some of the ethical challenges it presents, reminds us of some of the international standards that are relevant for official statistics, and explores some of the implications.

It emphasises the importance of confidentiality in maintaining trust in official statistics, arguing that, although the ethical issues are everywhere acknowledged as important, the debate on this is still at an early stage, and needs to be pursued.

**Hela Zghal, Director General, Central Bank of Tunisia**

**Title of presentation: Current statistical system and future developing projects.**

The purpose of this paper is to depict the Central bank of Tunisia statistical system and the plan for its development. The Central bank's mission is to produce statistics on money, debt, balance of payments and international investment position. It collects data from a variety of internal and external sources and manages them according to international standards for compilation and dissemination. In recent years, the Central bank of Tunisia has launched a plan for upgrading its statistical system based on innovations in data science.

**Zachary Mwangwi, Director General, NSO Kenya**

**Title of presentation: New information sources: Coordination of NSS & Data Producers outside the NSS.**

The presentation focusses on new information sources from a perspective of Coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS) and data producers outside the NSS. It commences with highlighting the existing opportunities worth exploiting and the role of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) if they are to remain relevant. The presentation also discusses the challenges that come with new information sources in an evolving data ecosystem. In conclusion, viable action points are proposed to address some of the challenges.



## Session 2: Managing data: new capacity requirements

**Babacar Ndir, Director General, NSO Senegal**

### **Title of presentation: For a data revolution mastered**

We are living a "data revolution"; in other words, the data that was a scarce resource for a long time have now become abundant, to the point of transforming our lives. This is due, in part, to the dematerialization of a growing number of processes and the appearance of digital products and services totally new. But also, because today all public policies and their action plans are data-driven.

Data is thus essential for achieving global goals, especially to ensure that no one is left behind. But producing more will not be enough: for them to be useful for policy-making, monitoring and accountability, these data need to be transformed, analysed and exploited. However, the tools used to process and analyse them are the subject of constant innovation, to the point that staff with skills in data processing is currently emerging. In addition, new data usage policies are emerging. The data revolution is transforming our economy, our society and our policies.

## Session 3: Disseminating data: How to make anyone benefit from the data revolution?

**Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, former Director at the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis)**

### **Title of presentation: Being in touch with our users - how statistics is getting more relevant in our society.**

It's actually paradoxical: on the one hand there are billions of data every day, everything seems to be data driven but decisions often don't take into account the statistical basics. It is often not possible to bring statistics into play to solve social problems. Official statistics can be very useful in a society to discuss solutions on an objective basis. However, these statistics must be understandable, relevant and easily accessible to society. It is crucial that the NSOs are in contact with the users and know the questions of society. Destatis, the German Federal Statistical Office, has chosen a communication strategy to meet these requirements. The focus is on the people in society. The aim is to use new approaches - such as a newsroom - to go where people in society are really touched. Leaving no one behind is also crucial when dealing with our users.

**Irena Krizman, former ISI Vice President, Director General, Statistical Office of the Republic Slovenia (2003-2013)**

### **Title of presentation: Changing role of official statistics – NSOs from data collectors to data curators.**

The presentation starts with describing the context in which NSOs operate e.g. digitalization, growing demand for granular data, other data producers, and opportunities to integrate own data with data sources collected by other data communities (data curation). The presentation focuses on three enablers of the development of official statistics: skills, legislation and commitment of politicians. Proposal to fill the gaps in those three areas and questions related to that are presented. The presentation concludes with listing the factors of success and outcomes of the "data curator approach".