Recollecting recent resolutions of the General Assembly and
the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental
importance of official statistics for the national and global
development agenda,

Bearing in mind the critical role of high-quality official
statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-
making in support of sustainable development, peace and security,
as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and
peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness
and transparency,

Bearing in mind also that the essential trust of the public in
the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in
statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental
values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to
understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this
context that professional independence and accountability of
statistical agencies are crucial,

Stressing that, in order to be effective, the fundamental
values and principles that govern statistical work have to be
guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected
at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical
systems,

Endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
set out below, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994 and
reaffirmed in 2013, and recommends them further to the
General Assembly for endorsement.

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable
element in the information system of a democratic society, serving
the Government, the economy and the public with data about the
economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To
this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are
to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by
official statistical agencies to honour citizens’ entitlement to
public information.

Principle 2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical
agencies need to decide according to strictly professional
considerations, including scientific principles and professional

1 These include General Assembly resolution 64/267 on “World Statistics
Day”, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/6 on
strengthening statistical capacity and 2005/13 on the 2010 World Population
and Housing Census Programme.

2 For the original preamble used on the occasion of the initial adoption of the
Principles in 1994, see the report on the Statistical Commission on its
special session (E/1994/29), chapter V, available from
Fundamental Principles and their history is available from
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/
fundprinciples.aspx.
ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

**Principle 3.** To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

**Principle 4.** The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

**Principle 5.** Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

**Principle 6.** Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

**Principle 7.** The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

**Principle 8.** Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

**Principle 9.** The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

**Principle 10.** Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.