



REPUBLIC OF NIGER
BROTHERHOOD-LABOR-PROGRESS
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
NATIONAL STATISTICS COUNCIL



Quality Charter for Official Statistics in Niger

August 2016

FOREWORD

The approach followed by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) for the preparation and adoption of a National Quality Assurance Framework (CNAQ) aims at introducing the **quality approach** in the production process of public / official statistics in Niger.

The main objective of the National Quality Assurance Framework for Public Statistics (CNAQ / SP) in Niger is to help improve, systematically and regularly, the quality of statistical data produced by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the other structures of the National Statistical System (SSN). This quality assurance framework is also intended to enhance users' confidence in Nigerien public statistics.

The National Quality Assurance Framework for Public Statistics (CNAQ / SP) outlines the key areas, the main dimensions and indicators for assessing the quality of official statistics, in the specific case of the Nigerien Statistical System.

The **four (4) major areas** involve :

- the management of the National Statistical System (SSN) ;
- the management of the institutional environment ;
- the statistical process management ;
- the management of statistical products.

The CNAQ / SP of Niger was inspired by the main dimensions of quality enshrined in the African Charter on Statistics, the data quality assessment framework (DQAF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the framework for quality assurance of Statistics South Africa, The Canadian's Statistics quality assurance framework, and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

As part of the implementation of the CNAQ / SP, the evaluation of the quality of statistical processes and products is based on the **eight (8) main dimensions** below, namely:

1. the prerequisites for ensuring quality ;
2. the accuracy and reliability ;
3. the methodological rigour ;
4. the integrity ;
5. the usefulness ;
6. the accessibility ;
7. the topicality ;
8. the consistency and comparability.

The General Policy Statement (DPG) of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, presented to the National Assembly on June 10, 2016 and adopted, states that " **Given the vital role of statistical data in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies, the Government is committed to producing quality statistics on time and will make statistics a strategic sector in the context of improving the performance of the public administration. For this purpose, the National Institute of Statistics, in relation to the services concerned, is instructed to develop sectoral indicators**". This means that our National Statistical System (NSS) is firmly committed by the government, as never before, to producing and disseminating, in a timely manner, reliable, quality, disaggregated statistical information about all areas of the life of the nation, for better decision-making.

This is why the purpose of this "Quality Charter for Official Statistics in Niger" is to define the consensual and contractual framework in which public statistics departments and agencies commit themselves to assess and let evaluate, systematically and periodically, as part of an evaluation and peer learning process, their statistical processes and products.

The Charter is structured in two (2) parts and six (6) chapters :

First part : **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- **Chapter I: Definitions;**
- **Chapter II: Objectives of the Charter;**
- **Chapter III: Principles Governing the Charter;**
- **Chapter IV: Scope and Application Field of the Charter;**
- **Chapter V: Commitments of services and organizations producing public statistics.**

Second part : **FINAL PROVISIONS**

- **Chapter VI : FINAL PROVISIONS**

At a time when the National Statistical System (SSN) is acquiring this important tool, we would like to take this opportunity to present our encouragement and our warm congratulations to all the staff of the National Statistical System for the efforts made in the elaboration and the enrichment of this document.

We therefore invite all the services and organizations producing public statistics in our country to take full ownership of it, and make a strong appeal to all Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) to support this pioneering initiative, in favor of the development of statistics in Niger.

KANE Aichatou Boulama

Signature of the Chairman of the National Statistics Council

Chairman of National Statistics Council

PREAMBLE

WE, SERVICES AND AGENCIES PRODUCING PUBLIC STATISTICS IN NIGER:

CONSIDERING that statistical information is necessary for decision-making by the various components of society, and in particular that of political decision makers, economic and social actors and it is therefore essential for the sustainable development of the country;

CONSCIOUS of the need to strengthen the coordination of activities of the National Statistical System (NSS);

NOTING that public confidence in official statistical information relies to a large extent on respect for the values and fundamental principles of democracy;

NOTING ALSO that the quality of official statistical information available to governments and other sectors of activity depends to a large extent on effective collaboration between providers, producers and users of statistical data;

FURTHER NOTING that the professional and social responsibilities of Nigerian statisticians and their credibility involve not only technical know-how and skills, but also respect for the fundamental principles of official statistics, professional ethics and good practices ;

RECALLING the Resolution on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted in April 1994 by the United Nations Statistical Commission;

RECALLING ALSO the provisions of the African Charter on Statistics, adopted by the 12th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 3 February 2009, which our country has ratified on 09 April 2012;

REFERRING to the Code of Professional Ethics adopted by the International Institute of Statistics (IIS) during its 45th session in August 1985;

RECALLING that the adoption and application of international standards, concepts and standards is essential for cross-country comparisons and therefore a prerequisite for the production of internationally comparable statistics;

RECALLING also that Niger has acceded to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) General Data Dissemination System (GDSS) and to the standards set by the IMF for the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF);

REFERING to the Paris Declaration on Effectiveness of development aid, adopted in March 2005;

WELCOMING initiatives already taken by various statistical organizations at the national, regional and international levels for the development of statistics, including the strengthening of national legislation, the adoption and implementation by States of the National Development Strategies approach of Statistical Office (SNDS) to follow up statistical activities;

WELCOMING ALSO actions that have been taken to strengthen the professional independence of the statistician;

RESOLVED to promote decision-making based on reliable and quality statistical information, and to strengthen the statistical culture in Niger;

RESOLVED to put in place a formal framework for the systematic evaluation of the quality of the data produced by our National Statistical System (NSS);

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

PART I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I - DEFINITIONS

Article 1: Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter, the following terms mean:

Accessibility: all that relates to the provision of statistical data to the user. Accessibility is based on criteria relating in particular to: (i) the mode of dissemination of data; (ii) additional information to be provided to users (availability of metadata); and (iii) helping users (availability of a publications calendar, existence of a reception and user assistance service). In other words, accessibility refers to the physical conditions in which users get the data: where to go, how to order, delivery time, clarity of pricing, convenience of marketing conditions (copyright, etc.), availability micro and macro data, variety of formats (paper, files, CD-ROMs, Internet, etc.), etc. The cost of information can be an important aspect of accessibility for some users. In general, the concept of accessibility goes hand in hand with that of clarity (see below).

Topicality : the time elapsing between the reference point (or the end of the reference period) to which the statistical information relates, and the moment when users may have access to it. The timeliness of statistical information refers to the delay between its availability and the event or phenomenon it describes. In other words, statistical information is disseminated in a timely manner. As a general rule, the concept of topicality goes hand in hand with that of punctuality (see below).

Quality assurance: all pre-established and systematic activities implemented to evaluate: (i) the National Statistical System (NSS); (ii) the institutional environment; (iii) statistical processes and (iv) statistical products. In other words, quality assurance covers: (i) the objectives and results to be achieved in terms of quality and (ii) the methods and procedures used to achieve them.

Charter: the Quality Charter of Niger Public Statistics;

Clarity: The information that accompanies the data, whether the data is provided with the appropriate metadata, whether there are illustrations such as graphics and / or maps, if data quality information is also available (including the limitations of use), or if additional assistance is provided by the National Institute of Statistics.

Coherence: the extent to which the statistical data produced can be compared with other statistical information in a broad analytical framework. In general, the concept of coherence goes hand in hand with that of comparability.

Comparability: The ability to jointly use related data from different sources. It is based on the use of established and internationally recognized concepts, classifications, terminologies and methods.

Confidentiality: the protection of the privacy or business secrecy of data providers (households, businesses, administrations and other respondents) for the information they provide, and the use thereof for strictly statistical purposes.

Ethics: the principles and rules describing the practices or behaviors that are morally acceptable to the society, organization or administration at a given time.

Accuracy: the extent to which the information describes the phenomenon it is supposed to measure. It is based on the error term in the statistical estimates and is broken down into systematic error and random error (variance). It can also be defined in relation to the main sources of errors that may lead to inaccurate data (eg coverage, sampling, non-response, etc.). As a general rule, the concept of accuracy goes hand in hand with that of accuracy. reliability.

Reliability: the conformity of statistical information to the reality it is supposed to describe, while minimizing standard errors and maximizing scientific rigor..

Impartiality: the production and dissemination of statistical data in accordance with scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner, while placing users on an equal level. In other words, the statistical information is accessible to all users without exception, at the same time, as soon as it reaches the publication stage.

Metadata: The set of data that defines and describes other data. In other words, metadata refers to all the information, usually textual, that makes it possible to understand the context in which statistical data are collected, processed and analyzed, with the aim of producing statistical information (legal texts and regulations , methods and concepts used at all levels of processing, definitions and nomenclatures, etc.). It is also the body of information (including definitions, sources, methods of collection, processing and interpretation of results) necessary for a good understanding of statistical information.

Micro-data: data observed directly or collected from a particular observation unit (usually a person, a household or a family). These are the immediate results of observations of statistical variables that have not been statistically processed.

Standards: A document or any medium / reference that defines requirements, specifications, guidelines, or features that are routinely used to ensure the suitability in using a product, service, or process.

Objectivity: Any attribute confirming that statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate statistical data in a systematic, reliable and unbiased manner.

Relevance: the adequate production of statistical data, while relying on regular evaluation and effective consideration of the needs of different users. In other words, relevance refers to the degree of satisfaction of users' expressed and potential needs. It refers both to the fact that all the necessary statistics are actually produced and to the fact that the concepts used (definitions, nomenclatures, etc.) correctly reflect the wishes of the users.

Punctuality: the discrepancy between the date of publication of the data and the originally planned date of publication, for example by reference to the dates announced in an official publication calendar, or the dates fixed by regulation or by prior agreement between producers and users of the statistical data.

Official / public statistics: all statistical information produced, compiled, validated and disseminated by the statistical services and bodies officially and legally mandated by the texts in force.

Usefulness: the extent to which the statistics produced must meet users' expressed and potential needs, be established in a timely manner, with appropriate periodicity, be consistent, both internally and with other data, and follow well defined rules of revision.

CHAPTER II - OBJECTIVE

Article 2: Objectives

The purpose of this Charter is to:

1. Serve as **a framework for the development of statistics in Niger**, including the production and dissemination of reliable and quality statistical information by all services and organizations of the National Statistical System (NSS), and relative to all areas of the life of the nation;
2. Establish a formal **framework for the systematic evaluation of the quality of statistical data** produced by the National Statistical System (NSS);
3. To promote **respect for the fundamental principles of official statistics** by all the services and bodies of the National Statistical System (NSS);
4. Contribute **to strengthening the coordination of activities** of the National Statistical System (NSS);
5. To serve as a **reference for the exercise of the profession of Nigerien statistician**, code of professional ethics and good practices.

CHAPTER III - PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE CHARTER

Article 3: Principles

The services and organizations of the National Statistical System (NSS) must respect the principles set out in the Resolution on the Fundamentals of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in April 1994, and apply the principles of good practice set out below. :

Principle 1: Official statistics are those produced by the INS as well as the services responsible for compiling statistical data from ministerial departments, public and parapublic bodies.

Principle 2: Statistical publications of the National Statistical System (NSS) must systematically undergo a quality evaluation process, before being certified, when they respect the dimensions of quality enshrined in the CNAQ / SP, official statistics.

Principle 3: The INS and the services responsible for compiling statistical data of ministerial departments public and parapublic bodies must impartially establish official statistics according to a criterion of practical use and make them available and accessible to all users of public information.

Principle 4: In order to maintain confidence in official statistical information, the INS and the departments responsible for compiling statistical data of ministerial departments public and parapublic bodies must determine, based on purely professional considerations, particularly scientific principles and ethical rules, methods and procedures for collecting, processing, storing and presenting statistical data.

Principle 5: In order to facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the INS as well as the services responsible for compiling statistical data of ministerial department public and parapublic bodies must provide, according to scientific standards, information on sources, the methods and procedures they use (metadata).

Principle 6: The INS as well as the departments responsible for compiling statistical data of ministerial departments public and parapublic bodies have the right to comment on misinterpretations and misuses of statistics.

Principle 7: Data used for statistical purposes can be drawn from different sources, either from statistical surveys, administrative files or documents. The INS as well as the services responsible for compiling statistical data of ministerial departments and public and parapublic bodies must choose their source (s), taking into account the quality of the data they can provide, their topicality, costs and the burden on respondents.

Principle 8: The individual data collected for the compilation of statistics by the bodies responsible for it, whether they concern natural or legal persons, must be strictly confidential and used only for purely statistical purposes .

Principle 9: Laws and regulations and all provisions governing the operation of the National Statistical System (NSS) must be made known to the public by the departments and agencies of the National Statistical System.

Principle 10: The INS coordinates the activities of the National Statistical System (NSS) to ensure the coherence and efficiency of the system.

Principle 11: The INS should promote the use of internationally defined concepts, classifications and methods by all National Statistical System (NSS) structures in order to promote consistency and effectiveness.

Principle 12: The INS and the departments responsible for developing statistical data of ministerial departments and public and parapublic bodies should promote both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of statistics, thus contributing to the improvement of the statistical process development of official statistics.

Principle 13: Quality certified statistics by the National Statistical Council (NSC) must be evaluated at regular intervals, to be determined by mutual agreement between the NSC and the heads of departments and agencies producers to ensure that the evaluated statistics maintain their level of quality.

Principle 14: The INS and all the structures of the SSN must work for the promotion of statistical culture in Niger.

CHAPTER IV – SCOPE AND APPLICATION FIELD OF THE CHARTER

Article 4: Scope of the charter

With respect to the subject matter hereof this Charter, and as enshrined in the law N ° 2004-011 of March 30, 2004 on the organization of the statistical activity and creating the National Institute of Statistics (INS), modified and completed by Law N ° 2014-66 of 05 November 2014, the National Statistical System (SSN) is composed of:

- The National Council of Statistics (CNS);
- The National Institute of Statistics (INS);
- Departments responsible for compiling statistical data of ministerial departments and public and parapublic bodies (the list of these services is fixed each year by order of the Minister in charge of statistics); and,
- National schools for statistical and demographic training

Article 5 : Application field of the Charter

As part of the implementation of the National Quality Assurance Framework for Public Statistics (CNAQ / SP) in Niger, the services and organizations concerned as well as the statistical data to be evaluated must meet **the three (3) main criteria** below:

- (i) **the services and organizations producing the statistical data to be evaluated must be members of the National Statistical System (NSS);**
- (ii) **the statistical data to be evaluated must correspond to the real and potential needs of the users, beyond the specific internal needs of the services and producer organizations;**
- (iii) **the statistical data to be evaluated are likely to be produced over time (statistical series), and not statistical data produced to meet a specific need.**

CHAPTER V – COMMITMENTS OF SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONS PRODUCING PUBLIC STATISTICS

Article 6 : Commitments of services and organizations producing public statistics

The services and bodies producing public statistics shall accept the objectives and principles set out in this Charter and undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to strengthen their statistical production systems / processes, and that their statistical products shall be the subject of an evaluation at regular intervals, to be determined by mutual agreement with the National Institute of Statistics (INS), to ensure that the statistics evaluated maintain their level of quality, and thus further enhance user confidence in official statistical information.

PART II: FINAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER VI - FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 7: Amendment and review

1. Any service and / or organization of the National Statistical System (SSN) may submit to the National Council of Statistics (CNS) proposals for amendment or review of this Charter.
2. Proposals for amendment or revision shall be submitted, in writing, to the President of the CNS who shall communicate copies to all departments and agencies of the National Statistical System (NSS) within thirty (30) days following the date of receipt.
3. Proposals for amendment or review shall be considered and adopted at a meeting of the CNS.
4. This Charter enters into force after its adoption by the National Council of Statistics.