

## Special Meeting

### “NSOs Professional Independence: Threats and Responses”

#### **Session I - The Challenges to the Independence of Official Statistics: Some concrete cases**

- Argentina – Prof. Jorge Todesca, INDEC
- Canada – Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada
- Greece - Andreas Georgiou
- Kazakhstan – Petteri Baer (Finland)

**In a UN working paper (1994), W. Seltzer described eleven modes of undermining statistical integrity**

1. mission of the statistical service
2. financial resources and controls
3. staff
4. statistical fields or series targeted for expansion or suppression
5. definitions and concepts
6. terms and nomenclatures
7. altering specific numbers
8. the extent and timing of the release of data
9. threats to data confidentiality
10. use of the statistical agency for political analysis or other political work
11. active campaign to discredit statistical services outputs, methods, or staff.

**<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/FP-Seltzer.pdf>**

# 1. Argentina and Canada

Prof. Jorge Todesca : 15 mn

Eric Rancourt : 15 mn

Floor discussion : 10 mn

# 2. Greece and Kazakhstan

Andreas Georgiou : 15 mn

Petteri Baer : 15 mn

Floor discussion : 10 mn

# 3. General discussion and Conclusions : 5 mn

# End of 2015: two « bad stories » turned into « success stories »

- Argentina, November 2015: the new president of the Nation decided to rebuild INDEC after eight years of manipulation of official statistics by the previous administration
- Canada, December 2015: the recently elected Prime Minister reinstated the long questionnaire used for the Population Census eliminated five years earlier and decided to reinforce StatCan's independence through an updated legislation