



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

# Ethics, trust, governance and use of data

Gemma Van Halderen  
IAOS Executive Committee  
Young Statistician Prize Focal Point



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

The debate must be inclusive

- The annual IAOS Young Statistician Prize has been running for over 10 years but in that time not one submission touching on
  - Impartiality (1<sup>st</sup> Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics)
  - Professional ethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Principle)
  - Transparency (7<sup>th</sup> Principle)
  - Use of international concepts, classifications and methods (Principle 8)
- Our future and the future of the Profession must include our Young Statisticians if the mantle for trust, ethics and governance is to continue





# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

In my own country, ethics, use, trust and governance are core to our official statistics business

- Partnerships with both public and private data providers (e.g. banking sector)
- Statistical literacy of users
  - Education, use of social media, focus on insights
- Building capability in the Australian civil service through a Data Profession
  - Led by Australian Statistician on behalf of Australian Public Service
  - Use of podcasts, webinars, not just traditional course-based capability building programmes





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

COVID-19 has been an opportunity to enhance trust

- Demonstrate responsiveness
- Focus on **timely** as well as accurate insights
- Trust in our ability to innovate and deliver





# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

## Beyond statistics to data stewardship

- Many countries moving beyond leadership of the national statistical system to leadership of the data system
- Building trust in the use of data by Government, not just by the National Statistical Office
- Trust in official statistics must become synonymous with trust in data use





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

## Assessing compliance with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: A maturity model for continuous improvement

Cite

**Authors:** Milicich, Rachael | Dickinson, Teresa | Van Halderen, Gemma | Lalor, Thérèse | Niven, Heather

**Article Type:** Research Article

**Abstract:** In 2019 the United Nations Statistical Commission (UN STATSCOM) celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their adoption of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UNFPOS). To mark this milestone and drive further adoption of the principles, a UN STATSCOM Friends of the Chair Group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FoC) was convened to work on selected aspects of implementing the UNFPOS. One aspect the group worked on was development of criteria for assessing compliance with the UNFPOS. The group achieved this by developing a maturity model that both assesses compliance with the UNFPOS and identifies areas for ... [Show more](#)

**Keywords:** Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, maturity model, continuous improvement, compliance

**DOI:** 10.3233/SJI-210805

**Citation:** Statistical Journal of the IAOS, vol. 37, no. 2, pp. 525-537, 2021



As we celebrate 30 years of the  
Fundamental Principles, let's  
assess our maturity as a visible  
sign of good governance





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Improving Official Statistics

THANK YOU!