

United Nations  Nations Unies

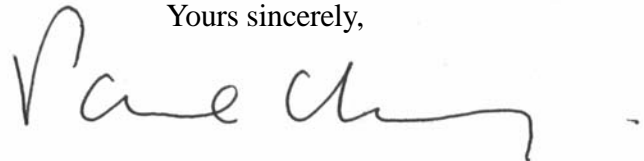
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Over the past two years, we, the Chief Statisticians and principal coordinators of statistical activities in the UN agencies and related organizations have worked on a set of principles to guide our professional work in international statistics. This discussion took place under the auspices of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). At the recent CCSA meeting, held in Rome on 12-14 September 2005, we endorsed this set of principles and related good practices. This is a great achievement, and a major step towards enhancing the international statistical system.

I have the pleasure today to transmit to you in the attachment the final version of these principles. I would further like to take this opportunity to express my professional commitment, in my capacity as the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, to apply these principles and practices in the work of the Statistics Division, in accordance with current UN Regulations and Rules and other administrative issuances. I would also like to invite you, as the principal officer responsible for Statistics in your organization to express the same commitment in your response.

Whilst I recognize that these principles may be used by agencies in different ways, depending on their institutional circumstances, I am convinced that our member states will appreciate a strong signal from the international statistical community to adhere to an explicit set of professional principles that are very much inspired by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which countries adopted in the UN Statistical Commission in 1994. I look forward to informing the 2006 session of the Statistical Commission of our collective, as well as individual commitment.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Cheung  
Director  
Statistics Division/DESA