An Assessment of Ethics and Proactive Communication Practices in The Nigerian Statistical System

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UNECE Workshop on Ethics in Modern Statistical Organisations
Geneva, Switzerland, 26-28 March 2024
Introduction and Context
Background

- Nigeria’s National Statistical System (NSS) is designed to provide reliable data for all stakeholders.

- However, the technical proficiency of statisticians is not sufficient to guarantee the integrity of statistical data...

- Ethical conduct and proactive communication practices must be imbibed.

- We shall assess ethical standards and proactive communication practices within the NSS and make recommendations.
Ethics and Proactive Communication in NSS

The **Code of Practice for Official Statistics** in Nigeria:

“The official statistics generated by the National Bureau of Statistics and the other statistics-producing members of the National Statistical System must be presented clearly and comprehensively and disseminated appropriately, thereby enabling equitable access by all users”

and

“The National Bureau of Statistics and other producers of statistics in the National Statistical System engage actively with the users of statistics to promote trust and maximize public values”
Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

- **2007**
  - Statistics Act
  - National Code of Health Research Ethics
  - Central Bank of Nigeria Act
- **2014**
  - National Health Act
- **2019**
  - Nigeria Data Protection Regulation
- **2011**
  - Freedom of Information Act
- **2016**
  - Code of Practice for Official Statistics
- **2022**
  - National Data Strategy (Currently being revised)
Challenges and Opportunities in NSS
Challenges

A | Capacity
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Data Quality and Reliability are affected by insufficient human and institutional capacity in Statistics Offices (esp. sub-national)

B | Bottlenecks
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Suboptimal dissemination channels and bureaucratic bottlenecks affect data accessibility and timeliness

C | Coordination
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Inefficiencies and inconsistencies due to duplication of efforts among different agencies and departments

D | Modernization
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Outdated technological infrastructure and IT systems due to insufficient investment in modernization
### Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Leveraging technological advancements to modernize data activities and harmonize data collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>Capacity-building programs for data practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Collaboration with private sector, CSOs, and academia to harness resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness</td>
<td>Awareness of the importance of data is increasing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation</td>
<td>Regional and international cooperation initiatives can enhance capacity building and best practices</td>
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Recommendations and Conclusion
Policy Recommendations

1. Establish robust *Ethics Offices* for enforcement of ethical standards

2. Establish *Data Literacy Units* for education on ethical standards

3. Develop comprehensive *ethical guidelines* to guide all aspects of statistical activities

4. Strengthen *collaboration* to share best practices and address ethical challenges collectively

5. Conduct *regular system-wide evaluations* and reviews of ethical practices in the NSS

6. Provide statistical reports to journalists, let spokespersons grant interviews for *proper context*
Further Recommendations

1. Policymakers: Recognize the importance of ethical conduct and proactive communication, allocate adequate resources to strengthen ethical standards, safeguard the independence of statistical agencies.

2. Statisticians: Embrace a culture of ethics and professionalism, invest in continuous capacity development, champion transparency to promoting public trust and confidence.

3. Stakeholders: Advocate for the prioritization of ethics and proactive communication as core principles of the NSS, continually promote dialogue and mutual understanding on ethical issues, hold statistical agencies and policymakers accountable for upholding ethical standards.
Conclusion

▪ Nigeria’s Statistical System has the *potential* and *opportunities* to abide by the highest standards of ethical practices and proactive communication.

▪ It is time for Nigeria to harness these opportunities to upgrade its statistical system to a commendable status in Africa and the world.

▪ Collective commitment by policy makers, statisticians and all stakeholders is required to achieve this in the fastest possible time.


Statistical Laws and Regulations


Thank You for Listening!

Questions and Comments?

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