THE ROLE AND CODES OF ETHICS FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICIANS

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Official statisticians are to provide the accurate and timely statistics for the current states in various dimensions of a society for the policy makers and the society. Without these official statistics the policy makers would not be able to prepare relevant policies and to evaluate their effectiveness once they are implemented.

The International Statistical Institute has involved in establishing a declaration on professional ethics for statisticians for the last three decades and continued its efforts to update the declaration that was adopted in 1985.

The core values of professional ethics are respect, professionalism, honesty and integrity that are specified in this declaration. Parts of the declaration are closely related to the role of official statisticians. By checking the ethical principles we will better understand the role of official statisticians and will make clear judgements on the role in many different respects.

The final objective of this discussion is to show how to obtain and maintain the trust from the society by demonstrating responsibility and competence of official statisticians with honesty and integrity to the employer that is the people in the society. The government has to provide a viable system and environment and to remove barriers that impede good practices for the official statisticians so that they can carry out their responsibility independently and neutrally from the conflicting political powers.