13TH Session of the Committee of Director-Generals
CoDGs of the National Statistics Offices

High Level Meeting on Data Governance
Tunis, 22 November 2019

Collecting Data: New Information Sources

November 2019
Outlines

• Collecting Data

• Legal Dimension

• Practical Dimension

• Key considerations (methodology)
Collecting Data: Configuring/Defining the NSS

Are? Can? “New Data sources” (be) part of the NSS

Traditional

- Gov’t Institutions
- Businesses & Institutions
- Households

“New Sources”

- NGOs
- Private Institutions (National and international)
- Satellites, Financial info, Telecoms, social media

Collecting Data:

- Configuring/Defining the NSS

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Legal Dimension:

A good statistics law should empower the NSS and its coordinator (NSO) to access data for official statistics from the best sources possible (Traditional or New Source)

- Ensure confidentiality
- Safe guard legitimate interests
- Guarantee no conflict of interest issues

Practical Dimension:

Caution: Laws will not address all pertinent issues

- Emphasise partnerships
- Minimise collection burden
- Provide reasonable facilitation (only if necessary) otherwise rely on corporate responsibility.
Practical examples:

1. Telecom call and data log information in estimating telecommunication activity replacing financial reports in National Accounts

2. Telecom positioning signals estimating tourism and transport activity replacing migration and other data

3. Satellite images for agriculture sector, environment, water, forestry...replacing expensive surveys...

4. Price scanner data for price statistics replacing expensive price surveys

5. .....
Key consideration:

Before adopting any source for official statistics, the data and the underlying methodology should be reasonably robust. It should also be generalizable in measuring the phenomenon.
Thank You

Merci Beaucoup