Unofficial Translation

NOTIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
CODE OF ETHICS FOR STATISTICIANS

Statisticians play a vital role in the collection, analysis, and presentation of data to support informed and effective decision-making across the business sector, public administration, education, and other fields. Nevertheless, the inappropriate or improper use of statistics may result in misunderstandings, misrepresentation of facts, or adverse social consequences. Accordingly, adherence to ethical principles is essential to ensure that statistical work is conducted with accuracy, transparency, and fairness.

This Code of Ethics for Statisticians defines the term “statistician” in a broad sense. It is not limited to those who have formally graduated in statistics, but also includes individuals who create and use statistical data and statistical tools across various disciplines. Statisticians work within diverse economic, social, cultural, legal, and political contexts, all of which influence the direction and priorities of statistical studies. In addition, statisticians operate in a wide range of disciplines, each with its own methods, techniques, and ethical practices, and they contribute to the development of new tools such as software and artificial intelligence. Regardless of their area of specialization, ethical conduct constitutes a fundamental component of professional competence and should be fostered from formal education through professional practice.

Given the diversity of contexts and disciplines in which statisticians operate, they frequently encounter differing circumstances and constraints that may give rise to ethical concerns. This Code of Ethics therefore serves as a guideline for principles and practices that should be upheld to preserve the credibility of statistical data, prevent the misuse of statistics, and strengthen public trust in statistical processes.

The provisions of this Code establish essential principles that statisticians are expected to observe, including adherence to academic integrity without bias, fulfillment of professional roles and obligations, protection of data confidentiality, and safeguarding the rights and interests of all parties involved. These principles are not merely ethical guidelines, but also standards that enhance academic rigor and promote the responsible and socially beneficial application of statistics.

This Code of Ethics for Statisticians comprises five dimensions and twelve ethical principles, which represent the fundamental standards that all statisticians should uphold and apply in professional practice, as outlined below.

Dimension 1: Ethical Principles in Statistical Practice for Transparency

Principle 1: Upholding Academic Integrity

Statisticians shall uphold academic integrity as a fundamental principle by conducting statistical work in accordance with its stated objectives, free from bias, with a commitment to objectivity, and through the selection of appropriate and rational methodologies within the relevant decision-making context. Due consideration shall be given to factors such as accuracy, precision, and timeliness, and statisticians shall ensure that the data used for analysis are suitable for the intended purpose and that adequate subject-matter expertise is applied.

Statisticians shall present all findings in an open, complete, and transparent manner, providing appropriate disclosure of limitations as well as relevant quantitative and qualitative considerations. They shall refrain from drawing inferences or conclusions that extend beyond the scope of the empirical findings.

Statisticians shall give due consideration to findings that may contradict anticipated or preferred outcomes, avoid the use of ambiguous or interpretative language, and take reasonable measures to prevent foreseeable misinterpretation or misuse of statistical results. Where misinterpretation or inappropriate application occurs, statisticians should notify relevant stakeholders and communicate findings in a manner that serves the public interest. In doing so, they shall exercise caution to avoid adverse or inappropriate impacts on population groups, samples, or any individuals or communities that may be affected by the statistical data or findings.

Principle 2: Willingly Disclosing Statistical Methodology with Transparency

Statisticians shall be willing to disclose statistical methodologies, procedures, techniques, analytical results, and related tools in a transparent manner. Such disclosure shall provide sufficient information to enable independent examination and assessment of the validity and reliability of statistical work by the public. This practice is intended to ensure transparency, verifiability, and confidence that the statistical work meets established academic and professional standards.

Dimension 2: Ethics Concerning Roles, Obligations, and Responsibilities

Principle 3: Adhering to Defined Roles and Obligations

Statisticians shall clarify and ensure mutual understanding of the roles and obligations of all parties involved in statistical work, including but not limited to stakeholders such as employers, clients, funders, statisticians themselves, and the public. As each party may have duties and responsibilities related to ethical issues, clearly defining roles helps reduce ambiguity and prevent potential conflicts. In providing consultation or advice, statisticians shall work within the scope of their knowledge and expertise and seek guidance from relevant experts when necessary to ensure that work is conducted appropriately and in accordance with professional statistical standards.

Principle 4: Acting with Responsibility and Integrity in Statistical Practice

Statisticians shall perform their professional duties with honesty and integrity, adhering to recognized principles and standards of statistical practice. They shall refrain from any deceptive intent, fraudulent conduct intended to distort data, or actions aimed at concealing misconduct, whether their own or that of others. Statisticians shall also avoid any behavior that impedes or undermines the development of research or scholarly work by others.

Dimension 3: Ethics Toward Oneself and One's Organization

Principle 5: Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

Statisticians shall practice their profession with integrity and shall not seek improper benefits. They shall avoid considering personal or affiliated interests, as well as financial or other personal conflicts of interest, that may influence the outcomes of their work. Statisticians shall carefully consider the potential impacts of statistical work, including data collection processes, data dissemination, and the results derived from data analysis.

Principle 6: Developing Professional Competence and Respecting Intellectual Property

Statisticians shall maintain a positive attitude and develop themselves with virtue and ethical conduct, demonstrating commitment to continuously enhancing their professional knowledge and skills. They shall keep abreast of technological advances, processes, and standards related to statistical work, and support others in developing knowledge and skills through the application of statistical science. Statisticians shall respect the intellectual property rights of others by properly citing sources, avoiding plagiarism or unauthorized use of work, and promoting a culture of learning grounded in academic integrity.

Dimension 4: Ethics Toward the Public and Society

Principle 7: Upholding Public Trust in Statistics

Statisticians shall uphold public confidence in statistics by presenting statistical results accurately, clearly, and responsibly. They shall remain vigilant and, where appropriate, raise concerns or issue warnings when statistical results are used in an inappropriate manner or beyond their legitimate limitations, as such misuse may undermine the credibility of statistical work. Statisticians shall therefore provide users with appropriate quantitative and qualitative information to support sound decision-making and responsible application, thereby promoting and maintaining public trust.

Principle 8: Protecting the Rights and Interests of Participants

Statisticians shall recognize their responsibility to protect the rights and interests of participants, both individuals and groups, who may be exposed to harm as a result of participation in statistical activities. This responsibility shall not be waived by participant consent or by compliance with legal requirements.

Certain forms of data collection and statistical inquiry may pose risks to privacy, particularly through the use of multiple data sources, data linkage, or data integration. Statisticians shall therefore exercise the highest degree of caution, providing clear justification and full disclosure to participants. In all cases, informed consent shall be obtained, and records relating to participants or respondents shall be treated as confidential and safeguarded by appropriate measures to prevent identification or unauthorized disclosure.

Dimension 5: Ethics Toward the Discipline of Statistics

Principle 9: Exercising Honest and Impartial Judgment

Statisticians shall apply their knowledge, expertise, and skills in an honest and impartial manner when selecting and evaluating statistical methods and processes, whether based on established practices, professional experience, or innovative approaches. They shall assess the strengths and limitations of each method and recommend appropriate methodologies to stakeholders without bias.

Principle 10: Avoiding Predetermined Outcomes

Statisticians shall refrain from undertaking statistical work in which outcomes are predetermined or prearranged. They shall decline assignments in which the scope of work or contractual conditions require or compel statistical results to conform to conclusions specified in advance.

Principle 11: Protecting Confidential Information

Statisticians shall recognize that confidential information must be strictly protected in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and professional requirements. They shall refrain from any intent or action that may lead to the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information to external parties. Confidential information does not include statistical methodologies, analytical processes, or data production procedures that are appropriately disclosed for public understanding.

Principle 12: Promoting the Communication of Ethical Principles

Statisticians shall conduct themselves in a manner that merits public trust and shall demonstrate responsibility in cooperating and contributing to collaborative work with colleagues within the same discipline and across other fields. Accordingly, statisticians shall clearly and accurately communicate ethical principles governing statistical practice to all relevant parties. Such communication is essential throughout all stages of statistical work to ensure ethical integrity and the achievement of high-quality outcomes.

This announcement is hereby made known to all.

Announced on the 18 th day of December B.E. 2568 (2025)

Mr. Ekapong Rimcharone
Director-General
National Statistical Office