
The National Statistical System of Paraguay, legal framework, scope and role coordinate system

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Abstract

The Statistical System of Paraguay is one of many international organizations, which are responsible for coordinating, developing and coordinating projects collection of statistical information. Such a system, is subject to the Code of Practice Statistics Statistical Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, which shows a series of 17 principles which govern both the national and international legal framework, of which the Statistical System of Paraguay suffers at certain points and which have not been entirely successful its development and free and clear of statistical products accessibility.

System, statistical, legal framework

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Introduction

The need for reliable statistics and generate profit societies for the formulation of development plans, sectorial programs, public policy and governmental centers of attention primary focus is not only in the national but in the international arena. The aim to unify and standardize both the procedures, methodologies and statistical products to form in this way a unified statistical framework, which has been implemented from various international organizations such as the Bank of Mexico, the United Nations and the Statistical Conference Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Commission for Latin America.

Therefore, the following work emerged as the concern to introduce the legal framework and organizational coordination of the statistical system of Paraguay and thus to define their areas of action, the organization that is established by the Department of Statistics, Survey and Censuses of Paraguay, as coordinating body. The mechanisms implemented nationwide in coordination with other international bodies charged with monitoring and systematize national statistical systems of the countries.

In the first part of this work, some international bodies of which are Paraguay governed for the implementation of methodologies and statistical outputs are detailed. In the second paragraph, the legal framework on which was built the General Directorate of Statistics and on which the National Statistics System was formulated Paraguay presented.

As part of the final sections, the work that is currently doing the Directorate General and the link made with other offices, secretaries and ministries of the Republic to realize the tasks that were raised in the National Statistical Plan they are presented. And in the final part of this work, the code of good statistical practices on which the work the National Statistical System and some relevant considerations made by the author, to improve these tasks are performed is regulated is presented.

International Panorama of Statistical Information Systems

Every nation has the need for relevant statistics to make their own knowledge of both institutions, agencies, academics and the general public, the capabilities found or social, economic and political flaws which need to be addressed.

The detection, analysis and development of public policies to address the many issues and emerging countries, are based on diagnoses obtained mainly from the development of relevant statistics picture of them. Many have been international agencies have supported and endorsed statistical methodologies for the development of such worldwide and thus have a unified reporting on poverty, economic development, economic equality framework, social welfare, empowerment groups marginalized, among other items. United Nations since 1947, creates the Statistical Commission of the United Nations which serves as dome entity of the global statistical system. It brings together the heads of statistics of the member states of the United Nations. As part of its main objectives is the creation of statistical standards, the development of methods and methodological approaches for census-taking, surveys, among other information collection instruments (UN, 2013).

In 2013, the Statistical Commission of the United Nations has to reform its fundamental principles of compiling official statistics, which are agreed to be complied with by member countries within the framework of the International Day of Statistics, whose initial formulation It was made in 1994 but in 2013 passed to the Social Economic Council. In March 2014, the fundamental principles of official statistics are reformulated, again at the hands of the Statistical Commission, which currently yield force in member countries and agreements established with other international organizations (UN, 2014).

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the United Nations highlighted the characteristics that must meet the statistics produced by each of the nations. The bottom of these is in its objective, which calls on nations to develop official statistics as an essential part of an official information system, to form a democratic society. "To this end, the official statistical agencies have compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical test of practical utility for citizens to exercise their right to information (United Nations, 2014: 2).

The other principles dealing mainly coherent and coordinated approaches in the correct interpretation of the data, the bodies responsible for carrying out the methodologies and statistical tools previously agreed upon by the agencies of each nation.

Other agencies whose objective seeks to present information statistics from its member countries, is the World Bank. Like the United Nations, within the main objective of presenting statistical information timely, truly and statistics based on internationally agreed methodologies, it is compiling relevant statistics and necessary for public policies and cooperation programs to combat poverty, marginalization and social backwardness of the country.

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) from 2001 creates a subsidiary body that specializes in coordinating member countries to carry out work on the statistical measurement topics. Statistics of the Americas (CEA) Conference is the name given to this body, whose last meeting was held in 2013. As part of its updated objectives, strengthening the organization and management practices of national offices are statistics, including the integration and coordination of national statistical systems of the countries participating in this conference (ECLAC, 2015).

As part of the recent activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Caribbean, in November this year was held the Forum on Strengthening Management Practices of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. This forum arose from the agreement established in 2011 between Statistics Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada in order to exchange knowledge and best practices with colleagues from national statistical offices in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean .

The coordination between the two institutions, is called International Management Program statistical agencies (International Statistical Fellowship Program, ISFP), whose work has been translated into the realization of 11 seminars, in which participated 100 delegates from 46 countries and 6 regional statistical offices.

Thus, the Forum on Strengthening Management Practices Statistical again emerges as a meeting between ISFP participants in such a way that sought to provide the heads and senior managers of national statistical offices, strategies and management tools to improve their leadership skills in their respective national statistical systems in a changing environment (Statistics Canada, 2015).

Presentation of the National Statistical System of Paraguay

Statistical Paraguay system of initiatives and agreements obtained from the bodies mentioned above. As part of the Forum on Strengthening Management Practices of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Caribbean, the State of Paraguay has updated both Censuses and Surveys interest in different fields of According to the different groups that worked in cooperation with other countries. In which the working groups Harmonization Poverty Statistics, Census of Population, Agricultural Statistics, Statistics on Children and Adolescents, Institutional Strengthening, Labor Market Indicators figure.

Although the groups within which collaborates the country as part of the Statistical Conference and the Forum for Strengthening Management Practices Statistics are multidisciplinary there others that have failed to participate due to lack of coordination internally to obtain data on international classifications, national accounts, environmental statistics, gender statistics, public safety and justice, the measurement of information technology and communications and tracking statistics of the Millennium Development Goals and Agenda for Sustainable Development (ECLAC, 2015).

In Paraguay, the statistics and coordination between agencies to carry out the compilation thereof, it is in charge of the Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC). Besides being responsible for the dissemination of the national statistical system also it performs the same functions for the National Cartographic System. DGEEC has the technical direction of all statistical work produced by the institutions and secretaries of the Paraguayan State.

The legal framework on which are set forth the functions and areas of action of this dependence, are set out in Decree Law 11,126 of 1942 reorganizing and coordinates the statistical services of the Republic of Paraguay. In such a legal status, it was established as a direct task of the Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses, compiling statistics carried out by public or private agencies, and coordinate it on the methodology of capture, collection and application of statistical tools the development primarily of the following statistical resources:

- Population and Housing Census
- Economic Census

- Generation of continuous employment statistics
- Household Budget Surveys in or Family
- Vital Statistics
- Tourism Statistics
- Cooperative National Census
- Census Aging
- National Census of Indigenous Peoples
- Survey of Income and Expenses

The form of coordination of the National System of Paraguay, is simultaneously between institutions and ministries in each department of the Paraguayan State. It is the responsibility of the Directorate, the commission in each public and private officials or representatives to perform or organize the statistical work to be determined by dependencies. These tasks are specified in Articles 6 and 7 of Decree Law 11,126:

"The ministries and heads of the relevant distribution will have to adhere to and implement its dependencies all diligence observations, instructions and orders of the Directorate General of Statistics and render the necessary support and cooperation ...

In data collection and statistical research, all departments and public and municipal offices and the political and ecclesiastical authorities, judicial, police of the Republic, shall be construed directly with the Department of Statistics, without intervention or permission of their superiors. (Law 11,126, 1942: 3) "

Although the main functions of the Directorate mentioned above, the Department of Statistics also performs continuous publication of the Statistical Yearbook of the Nation with a selection of all the information collected, the organization of the above detailed statistical resources, organization a library and a statistical central file and attention of requests for information from national authorities.

In 1989, Decree Law is not enacted. 49 where the Department of Statistics which until then under the Ministry of Finance, passed to depend on the Ministry of Planning Economic and Social Development which later is accompanied by the Law of Financial Administration, the so-called Law 1535 1999 and Decree no. 11,918 2008 which it reorganizes and organizational and functional structure of the Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses is established which it is renovated in 2014, from the new Decree Law 2707, by which the organizational structure of the Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses is approved and is authorized to establish the internal organization, attributed the corresponding functions and approve manuals of procedures and functions.

The legislation is reformed again in 2015, by Decree Law 3087 by which reorganizes, functions, objectives and scope of competence of the Directorate is established. Likewise, it is empowered to address organizational and functional autonomy in the legal and regulatory framework that was broken in earlier lines. As part of the formulation of new objectives, he regards the detailed objectives that institution in the previous decrees adding the development and implementation of a National Statistical Plan that every year should be consistent with the strategies of economic and social development of the country.

In addition the Department also is responsible for the promotion to the people, to arouse and encourage the same statistical activities to promote their activity and ongoing collaboration. Promote training of human resources for the benefit of research and statistical activities; it is just one of the objectives to be added to the list of new targets (Decree Law, 3087; 2015).

System Coordinator role

Currently censuses and surveys that have succeeded in implementing or are being carried out are:

- Population and Housing Census
- Income and Expenditure Survey
- Continuous Employment Survey
- Beneficiaries Census CCT program, where the Secretariat for Social Action (SAS) is responsible for implementing it.
- Updating and improving the methodology for measuring poverty, by an interagency committee with World Bank support.
- Economic Survey Monthly, by the Central Bank.
- Monitoring Survey Program to Combat Poverty, organized and implemented by the Central Office.
- Victimization Survey, by the Interior Ministry.
- Statistics on trafficking in persons, in charge of the Secretariat for Women.
- Census of the Prison Correctional Directional under the Ministry of Justice and Labor.
- Statistics and environmental indicators of the Ministry of Environment.
- PARINFO Indicators System has begun to give follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and plans.
- TB Prevalence Survey of the Ministry of Health.
- Test Pilot survey of literacy levels by the Ministry of Education.
- Survey of water and sanitation United Nations system.
- Census policemen who carried out the Interior Ministry.

All these surveys and censuses, were governed under the 2009-2013 strategic plan aimed at the country at the end of 2013 reached a statistical level, both coverage and quality, ensuring the robustness and reliability of the information supporting the formulation , implementation and evaluation of public policies for development. The strategic plan proposed four areas, covering the establishment of the National Statistical System, the Integrated Household Survey System, basic economic statistics and the Census of Population and Housing (DGEEC, 2015).

However, as previously it detailed the Directorate General is responsible for coordinating the work performed by departments or ministries of the government order, mainly in developing surveys and censuses focused on sectors of the population.

As shown in the table below, the institutions that execute, interpret and analyze the results of certain statistical tools are:

Unit / Institution / Ministry	Resource Name or statistical Instrument
Ministry of Justice and Labor	Observatory first job, employer's statistics, vital statistics, rankings of business activities.
Ministry of Industry and Trade	Statistics on micro
Ministry of Health	Health information system, screenings of children under 5 years.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Statistics of Paraguayans abroad and foreigners in Paraguay
Ministry of Public Works and Communications	Information system on public works
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	National Register of National Agriculture
Secretary of Environment	Environmental Statistical System and Water Resources
Secretariat for Women	Statistics of violence and use of time
National Indigenous Institute	Databases on land supplied to indigenous peoples
Ministry of Public Administration	Database of public officials
Ministry of Returnees	Database nationals repatriated
National Secretary of Culture	Statistics on cultural consumption
National Housing Council	Housing deficit calculation methodology for the identification and characterization of socioeconomic settlements.
General Post	Market study

Table 1 Work coordinated between agencies and institutions and DGEEC (2015).

Deficiencies and shortcomings in the system

Aware of the need to improve production quality and confidence in the national statistical offices within the framework of national statistical systems, it advances in the process of comparability of regional statistics. For its part, the Republic of Paraguay has not been left behind, when evaluating the National Statistics System. This assessment follows the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, conducted by the working group focused on institution building, in which the countries of Mexico, Panama and Paraguay under the coordination of Colombia participate.

The code of practice is a technical instrument containing practical rules for the independence of national statistical offices and coordination of statistical production at the national level.

A guide to improving the quality of the statistics produced in the region and aims to coordinate the statistical activity, improve the quality of official statistics and strengthen user confidence, promoting the application of best methods and practices for production and dissemination (ECLAC, 2011).

The plant code 17 principles which evaluates characteristics of legitimacy, reliability, statistical independence, among other features that the Statistical Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, rethinking from the publication of the Code of Good Practice of Statistical Information Systems in Europe (Eurostat).

Sections	Principles	Characteristics
Institutional environment and coordination	1. - Institutional Independence	The National Statistical Offices and members of the national statistical system should have professional independence from political, administrative agencies and other external interferences in order to ensure the credibility of official statistics.
	2. Coordination of the national statistical system	Coordinating entities producing statistics within the national statistical system allows planning and implementing national statistical activity in a participatory manner, maintaining close contact and working together is essential to improve the quality, comparability and consistency of official statistics.
	3. Mandate statistical data collection	The national statistical activity must have a clear legal mandate to collect information for the production of official statistics. At the request of the national statistical offices and members of the national statistical system, it shall be required by law to administrations, businesses, households and the general public to allow access to data for the compilation of statistics official or deliver data, respecting statistical confidentiality.
	4. Statistical Confidentiality	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system must guarantee the protection and confidentiality of information with which official statistics are produced, so as to avoid identification of the sources.
	5. Adequate Resources	The resources available to national statistical activity must be sufficient and suitable for producing official statistics.

	6. Commitment to Quality	Entities producing statistics within the national statistical system should work and cooperate according to norms, principles and standards.
	7. Impartiality and objectivity	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system must produce and disseminate official statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner, so that all users are treated equitably.
	8. International cooperation and participation	The entities belonging to the national statistical system should cooperate in the exchange of experiences and information and to participate in the joint development of statistical standards and international activities.
Statistical production	9. Solid Methodology	The production of official statistics from the National Statistical Office and the other members of the national statistical system should be based on instruments, processes and solid knowledge.
	10. Appropriate statistical processes	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system should be used at all stages of the statistical process proper procedures and tools to ensure the quality of official statistics.
	11. Request not excessive information	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system should set their goals to progressively reduce the burden on respondents. The request for information must be consistent with the needs of users and not excessive for supplies.
	12. The relationship between cost and effectiveness	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system should use resources efficiently, effectively and efficiently.
Statistical production	13. Relevance	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system must meet the information needs of users according to their requirements.
	14. Accuracy and reliability	Official statistics produced by the national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system should reflect reality accurately and reliably.
	15. Timeliness and punctuality	The national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system must produce and disseminate official statistics in a timely, timely and transparent manner.
	16. Coherence and comparability	Official statistics produced by the national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system should maintain consistency internally and over time and comparable between regions and countries.
	17. Accessibility and clarity	Official statistics generated by the national statistical office and other members of the national statistical system should be presented clearly and understandably and appropriately disseminated, allowing equal access to all users.

Table 2 Principles of the Code of Practice of the national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (2011).

The National Statistical Information System of Paraguay suffers in certain principles of the code of good practice. As part of the principle of coordination of the national statistical system, the Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses makes a marathon to coordinate each of the secretaries and ministries of the Republic to carry out activity keeping practices and implementation of surveys and census as the implementation of relevant methodology and interpretation of results. However, DGEEC could reduce such coordinating role as parent institution if the statistical information, was responsible for compiling the statistics by sector. Thus, it would ensure that the institutions that currently keep statistics cease to be judge and jury in the SPC.

Concerning the principle of adequate resources, has continuously resorted to DGEEC credits to the Inter-American Development Bank or the International Monetary Fund to finance the implementation of the Population and Housing Census, as happened in 2012. This could generate dependence towards these institutions and begin the loss of autonomy of the institution as the national statistical system.

Although the Republic of Paraguay through its national statistical system and the coordinator of the same unit, the DGEEC has made numerous collaborations with Latin American countries and the Caribbean, and countries like Canada that have allowed him to train and renew methodologies for statistical work. Paraguay's statistical system has lacks important partnerships to carry out the assignment of international classifications in the international geo statistical framework have launched the United Nations and its counterpart on the continent, the Statistical Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean.

And as a major part of the statistical system which suffers from Paraguay, it is on the principles of relevance, accessibility and clarity. DGEEC could not establish a direct link with society and users of statistical data, unable to coordinate processes between them, to advise, train and inform users about the statistical products, and to consult regularly on the practical usefulness of the statistics. Similarly, the 'no users have expressed through surveys of satisfaction, acceptance and usefulness of statistical products offered under the National Statistical System of the country.

Regarding access to statistical resources clearly there just a problem in the process of access to information sources, due to the many leagues to receive in the mail people database requested on many occasions, even they could not reach. In addition, the presentation of results commonly have free access as easy to obtain through reading formats, with reports prepared by the same Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses. This prevents both users and researchers, the breakdown and other treatments databases, given that they are presented in text format. It is necessary, the presentation of databases using freely available digital formats and platforms specialized presentations in handling statistical data (Excel, SPSS, Access, Stata, etc.).

Conclusions

The National Statistical System of Paraguay, through multiple international collaborative work tables and regionally, has managed to coordinate and establish a framework for reliable, accurate and useful statistics for use by secretaries and ministries of the Republic to serving sectors of the population and require prompt action by formulating relevant policies.

Thanks to the consolidation of Paraguayan statistical system, it has achieved a breakthrough in the implementation of statistical methodologies, professionalization of the managers of the statistical information and collaboration among institutions responsible for carrying out practices collection of statistical information.

Moreover, the critical points of the Paraguayan statistical system are in the last stage of the statistical process in accessibility and clear presentation of results and data obtained from surveys, censuses and other statistical products. Failure to file across platforms or planned statistical easily accessible and their management, has made it impossible to reuse these research projects, either to disaggregate data and get only those that are useful to the researcher.

Although Paraguay's statistical system has generated great advances in the legal, judicial, administrative and coordination with the executing institutions field of statistics tasks. There is still a large gap between legislation that states the autonomy of the Directorate General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay as compiler and coordinating body of statistical plans and real autonomy, both administrative for his role as organizer and executor not dependence on international financial institutions to develop projects such as censuses and surveys.

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