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Maldives Bureau of Statistics
Male'
Maldives

Maldives Statistics Regulation
[A Translation]

Chapter One
Introduction

- Introduction and Title 1. (a) This regulation is made under section 66(a) of the Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act) to describe all the rules relating to the compilation of statistics and the procedures to be followed in the implementation of the provisions of the Act.
- (b) This regulation shall be cited as “Maldives Statistics Regulation”.
- Objectives 2. The objectives of this Regulation are to achieve the following:
- (a) To facilitate enforcement of the Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act), establish and publish rules required under said Act;
- (b) Establish procedures that should be followed by the Bureau in issuing permits;
- (c) Prescribe the procedures to be followed by state institutions providing official statistics in the National Statistical System;
- (d) Prescribe the procedures to be followed by those involved in the collection of statistics;
- (e) Explain the procedures to be followed by the public who provide information for the collection of statistics;
- (f) Prescribe the procedures for the manner in which complaints may be submitted to the Bureau under this regulation, the procedures for dealing with complaints and the procedures for action to be taken in cases where required.

Chapter Two

Rules for conducting surveys for the collection of official statistics

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| Determination of surveys for the collection of official statistics | 3. | Surveys to collect economic, social, environmental and demographic statistics, needed for policy-making and to evaluate implementation of such policies at the national level in various sectors, and statistics required by international agencies, shall be determined by the Bureau in consultation with relevant State authorities. |
| Principle for determining surveys for the collection of official statistics | 4. | Surveys for the collection of official statistics under this regulation shall be determined in accordance with the following rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Amongst the surveys conducted for the collection of official statistics, the surveys that are conducted with the highest priority at that time for the collection of designated statistics within the National Statistical System.(b) Surveys conducted by state institutions by taking a scientific sample of the extent to which the results of the survey can be representative at the national level;(c) Surveys essential to assess the development of the Maldives;(d) Surveys included in the National Statistics Development Strategy or the sectorial statistics strategy formulated based on the National Statistics Development Strategy.<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Surveys included in annual statistical programme;(2) Census of population and dwellings, and other censuses; |
| Permission to conduct surveys | 5. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Surveys for the collection of official statistics pursuant to section 4 of this Regulation shall be conducted with the approval of the Bureau.(b) Authorization by the Bureau shall be granted by the Chief Statistician or any person authorised by the Chief Statistician. |

- (c) When applying for a survey permit, an application shall be submitted to the Bureau along with the information stipulated in section 8 of this regulation.
 - (d) The application for the survey permit shall be submitted with all the required information, 4 weeks prior to conducting the survey.
 - (e) If the submission is made with complete documentation, the permit shall be issued within 2 weeks of the application.
 - (f) Surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the approved dates and as per the information specified in the permit, and in accordance with the documentations submitted.
 - (g) If the applicant wishes to amend anything stipulated in subsection (f) of this clause, the Bureau shall be informed in writing and an authorisation shall be obtained from the Bureau for the amendment.
- Public announcement in relation to conducting surveys 6. For any surveys conducted pursuant to an authorisation given under this regulation, the state institution conducting the survey shall issue a public announcement prior to commencement of the survey.
- Matters to consider prior to conducting a survey 7.
- (a) Prior to conducting a survey, data users shall be widely consulted to identify essential data needs and priority shall be given to include those in the survey.
 - (b) Priority shall be given to include relevant stakeholders in the consultations stipulated in subsection (a).
 - (c) If the survey for which permission is requested is related to a specific field, permission shall be obtained from the relevant government authority.
 - (d) Prior to any decision to conduct a new survey for the compilation of official statistics, it shall be considered whether the information required can be obtained from another existing survey at that time.
 - (e) Prior to any decision to conduct a new survey for the compilation of official statistics, it should be checked whether

accurate information that is needed is available within administrative statistics or through another source or means.

- (f) To reduce the respondent burden in providing information for the survey, efforts should be made to reduce the number of questions and the time required to answer them.
- (g) When planning a survey, efforts should be made to reduce costs through coordination and resource sharing among the agencies in the National Statistical System.

Maintaining a registry of surveys

- 8. The Bureau shall register the surveys conducted for the compilation of official statistics and maintain the following basic information;
 - (a) Name of the survey;
 - (b) Name of the State institution that will conduct the survey;
 - (c) If a state institution entrusts another party to conduct the survey, the name of that party;
 - (d) Purpose of the survey;
 - (e) Areas where the survey will be conducted in;
 - (f) Sample size of the survey;
 - (g) How the survey is conducted;
 - (h) Date of the survey;
 - (i) Target audience of the survey.
 - (j) Name, telephone number and email address of the person to be contacted by the relevant state institution for further information;
 - (k) Survey report releasing date.

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| Information required to be made public regarding a permitted survey | 9. | The results, methodology and the analytical report of the permitted surveys shall be published by the prescribed release date and shared with the Bureau. |
| Pass indicating permission to collect statistics | 10. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Persons engaged in collecting the information required for the compilation of official statistics prescribed under this regulation shall be issued a pass indicating that they have permission to collect the statistics.(b) The Bureau shall issue passes for surveys and census work conducted by the Bureau. Where the survey is conducted by another state agency, such agency shall issue the passes.(c) The pass issued to indicate the authorization for collecting statistics shall include the following information;<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Name of the survey;(2) Name and stamp of the state institution carrying out the survey and stamp, if outsourced, the stamp of that party;(3) Full name of the person involved in collecting the information;(4) Period of validity of the permit;(5) Telephone number of a person to be contacted for further information from the State Institution;(6) In the event the pass gets lost, the procedure to be followed by a person who finds it.(d) If the person giving information wants to verify the identity of the person carrying the pass and collecting the information, the person collecting the information shall produce their national identity card, driving license or an official document with their photograph.(e) The pass issued by the Bureau or a person designated by the Bureau shall be kept visible at all times during the survey data collection.(f) While engaged in conducting the survey, the person collecting the information shall produce the permit whenever required by the person giving information. |

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| Responsibility of public in ensuring the identity of authorized person | 11. | The Bureau shall seek to promote public awareness of the fact that disclosure of statistical information to any unauthorized person is not required under this regulation and to ensure that persons collecting the information is authorized to do so before providing statistical information. |
| Permission to enter premises for census and survey | 12. | <p>(a) An officer who goes on a survey authorized by the Bureau for the purpose of collecting statistical information shall be permitted to enter the premises by the owner of the premises or by a responsible person present at the premises at that time.</p> <p>(b) If the owner of the premises does not permit access to the premises, the Bureau reserves the right to apply for a court order to enter the premises.</p> |
| Surveys that do not require authorisation | 13. | <p>The following surveys do not require authorisation</p> <p>(a) Surveys such as baseline surveys and market surveys conducted under a project carried out by government ministries and state institutions, that are not based on a national level representative scientific sample and cannot be used to develop official statistics and indicators.</p> <p>(b) Surveys conducted by the private sector, associations and private parties, not commissioned by a state institution.</p> <p>(c) Surveys conducted in Maldives by international organizations and foreign parties, not commissioned by a state institution.</p> <p>(d) Surveys conducted by students for projects and thesis that are part of their training and surveys conducted by researchers for their personal use.</p> |

Chapter Three

Census considerations and areas to collect information, participants and all principles related to the census

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| Census | 14. | <p>(a) The Bureau shall, plan and conduct a Population and Housing Census, within a specified period of time, covering all places of residence and all individuals in the Maldives.</p> |
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- (b) The Bureau shall, plan and conduct an Economic Census, within a specified period of time, covering all establishments carrying out economic activities in the Maldives.
- (c) Decisions on conducting other censuses not specified in subsection (a) and (b) of this section shall be made by the Bureau in consultation with the relevant state authorities.
- Date of conducting census 15. (a) Given that census is required to be conducted at least once every 10 (ten) years, the Bureau shall schedule to conduct 1 (one) census every 8 (eight) years considering the possibility that a situation may arise that prevents conducting a census during the 10 (ten) year period.
- (b) The date of the census shall be fixed and publicly announced at least 1 (one) year prior to the commencement of the collection of census data.
- (c) After the date of the census is publicly announced, the Bureau may change the date after taking into account special circumstances.
- (d) Prior to publicly announcing the date of the census, the Bureau shall ensure that the budget required for the census will be available and that the necessary preparations can be made.
- Budget for the Population and Housing Census 16. (a) The Bureau shall prepare census plans 2 (two) years in advance of the year of census, divide the required budget into different years, identify and include in the budget goods and services to be procured in advance, prepare a detailed census budget and submit it to the relevant agencies.
- (b) The relevant state authorities shall provide their cooperation to conduct the census.
- (c) Priority shall be given to fix the year of the census in such a way that it does not coincide with the years of abnormally high public expenditure, such as the years of presidential elections prescribed by the Constitution.
- (d) The expenditure on various census activities shall be recorded in detail, fully documented for use in planning and budgeting for the following census, and shall be included and published in the administrative report of the census.

Adherence to international standards on census

17. (a) Censuses shall be conducted in accordance with the prevailing international standards.
- (b) The standards referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall be included on the website of the Bureau.
- (c) In planning and conducting censuses, consideration shall be given to the “Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses” and its amendments, formulated by the United Nations in respect of censuses of population and housing, in planning and conducting censuses.
- (d) In addition to the standards set out in subsection (c) of this section, consideration shall be given to various recommendations and handbooks of the United Nations relating to census.
- (e) The United Nations International Standard Industrial Classification or the National Classification formulated based on it and published by the Bureau shall be used for coding the data on various economic activities collected from the census.
- (f) The coding of all information other than that referred to in subsection (e) shall use the various other classifications developed by the United Nations or national classifications developed and published by the Bureau based thereon or coding systems recognised by the Bureau.

Census questionnaires

18. (a) The questionnaire used in the census shall be developed by the Bureau after extensive consultations held in advance with relevant state institutions and other stakeholders.
- (b) As the census work is to be completed within a set time frame and is an activity that will be completed by covering all individuals and households, care should be given to develop a questionnaire of a size that can be completed during the set time period set for the census.
- (c) In developing the census questionnaire, priority should be given to collecting essential information that is required at the island level that cannot be reliably collected by a sample survey.
- (d) Once the Census questionnaire has been developed, the Bureau shall pre-test the questionnaire, conduct pilot census and based on the findings revise and finalise the questionnaire.

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| Demarcation of census blocks | 19. | (a) Census blocks shall be determined before the census begins.

(b) The demarcation of the census blocks in each island shall be carried in collaboration with the island council.

(c) In preparation for the census, the census blocks should be demarcated and block charts shall be updated. |
| Marking places during the census | 20. | Census workers may place a mark such as a number or sticker on the outside of the building or house to indicate where the census information is to be taken and where it has already been taken. |
| Accessing places to obtain census information | 21. | It is the responsibility of the owner and occupants to provide access to locked premises and buildings and premises with lock systems during the census period. |
| Seeking assistance from utility companies | 22. | (a) In order to prepare in advance for a situation where households cannot be entered to collect census data, the Bureau may seek to obtain the telephone numbers of households from utility companies in a confidential manner under an agreement between the utility companies and the Bureau.

(b) The Bureau reserves the right to contact parties through the numbers provided by utility companies in cases where they are unable to access the premises to get census data due to it being locked. |
| Establishment of Census Centres | 23. | (a) The competent state authorities shall cooperate in making arrangements to provide a suitable location in the capital city Male', for the management and monitoring of the entire census operation at the nationwide level, during the census period.

(b) The councils shall cooperate in making arrangements to provide a suitable location in the atoll capital for the management and monitoring of the census operation at the atoll level, during the census period. |
| Maintaining safety and security in matters related to census activities | 24. | (a) The assistance of the Maldives Police Service may be sought to maintain the security of the centers designated as census centers. |

- (b) The assistance of the Maldives Police Service may be sought to ensure the safety of all those involved in the collection of census data.
- Persons engaged in census activity 25. (a) The Bureau shall publicly announce the number of enumerators and supervisors required to be recruited for the census activities.
- (b) In the selection of enumerators and supervisors for the census, priority shall be given to education, experience and work ethic.
- (c) Factors such as criminal records, employment records, training assessments, identification through participation in previous census and survey work, and references from a teacher or supervisor maybe taken into account in the selection of enumerators and supervisors for the census.
- (d) The requirements to be met by the candidates for the census and the benefits available to them shall be included in the announcement made under subsection (a) of this section.
- (e) The number of trainers required for census training, their requirements and the benefits available to them should be publicly announced and special attention should be paid to recruiting qualified persons and maintaining the quality of training.
- Census training 26. The Bureau shall develop standard training modules and conduct a training program on how to complete the census questionnaires, practical training and required skills.
- Responsibility of State Institutions 27. (a) For the purpose of preparing to conduct a census and for completeness of the exercise to include all places and individuals in the census, the Bureau shall be provided with information such as lists of foreigners employed and lists of registered businesses, in a confidential manner, as needed.
- (b) If the Bureau requests a competent state agency to furnish experienced employees as supervisors, trainers, coordinators, and officials to be involved in the census process, and when the employees themselves wish to participate in this work, the opportunity shall be provided.

- (c) Employees assigned to the census and employees of public agencies participating voluntarily in the census shall also be given the same allowances as other persons performing the same role.
- Responsibility of employers of foreign workers 28. (a) During the preparation and execution period of the census, all employers shall be responsible for facilitating the collection of information on all foreigners under their care, assisting the enumerators in collecting information from labor quarters and other places, and freeing up the time for the workers to provide the information.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the employer to facilitate the collection of information on foreigners for the census without any discrimination, including from documented and undocumented persons.
- (c) The confidentiality of the information of individuals and places of work collected in the census shall be maintained.
- (d) The information collected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section cannot be used by any person for the purpose of investigation or prosecution or for the purpose of taking administrative action in a case pending in a court.
- (e) It is the responsibility of the employer to inform foreigners that the information collected in the census will be kept confidential and cannot be used for legal action.
- (f) Persons managing work in labour quarters inhabited by foreigners and in islands allocated for industrial purposes shall provide the information necessary for the preparation and completion of the census as requested by the Bureau.
- Census of Economic Activities (Economic Census) 29. (a) The Bureau shall have the authority to conduct census of economic activities/Economic Census and Population and Housing Census simultaneously.
- (b) The census of economic activities conducted in accordance with subsection (a) shall also be conducted in accordance with the rules prescribed in this chapter for the of Population and Housing Census.

- Providing information for census
30. The Bureau shall seek to encourage and secure cooperation by publicly informing all parties that they are required by law to provide information for censuses, by conducting public awareness programs, and by encouraging them to fulfill their individual responsibility to provide information.

Chapter Four

Rules to be followed by state institutions in maintaining confidentiality in data collection and publication of statistical information

- Establish a robust system for maintaining confidentiality
31. (a) Every state institution providing official statistics shall have a robust system in place to ensure that individual level information of persons and entities collected for the purpose of compiling statistics that reveal their identities is kept secure and confidential and in a manner that it cannot be used for any purpose other than the compilation of statistics.
- (b) An updated list of the state institutions that provide official statistics, agencies comprising the National Statistical System referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall be published on the website of the Bureau.
- (c) In order to establish a robust system as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the structure of the state agencies providing official statistics shall include a special division or section or unit for statistical work and staff specialized for statistical work.
- (d) In cases where the organizational structure of the agency cannot be developed as per subsection (c) of this section, at least 2 employees of that agency shall be dedicated to statistical work.
- Dedicating staff to statistical work
32. (a) State agencies providing official statistical information in the National Statistical System shall determine the staff dedicated to statistical work.
- (b) The job description of the employees assigned to the statistical work shall include the work related to the collection, compilation and dissemination of the statistics, assigned to the person.
- (c) It shall be the responsibility of the head of the agency to have the employees assigned to the statistical work under subsection (a) sign the declaration in Schedule 1 of this Regulation

agreeing to comply with Act No. 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act) and maintain the confidentiality of the statistics.

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| Responsibility of authorities in the National Statistical System | 33. | It is the responsibility of the respective agency to ensure that the declaration in Schedule 1 to this regulation is signed by the employees of the agency dedicated to the statistical work, and take legal action against any person who violates the declaration in Schedule 1 of this regulation. |
| Maintaining the confidentiality of information obtained for the compilation of official statistics and designated statistics | 34. | State institutions in the National Statistical System that provide information required for the compilation of official statistics and designated statistics shall maintain the confidentiality of such information. |
| Destruction of census and survey data | 35. | All persons involved in the National Statistical System shall destroy documents, forms and other such materials used for obtaining information in census and surveys upon completion of compilation of statistics as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Surveys that collect information using paper, the papers containing the collected data should be shredded or burned as soon as possible after compiling statistics.(b) For surveys that collect information using paper, upon computerization and compilation of statistics using information collected, the individual level data with identifiers shall be erased from computers, systems, other computers and tools that may have backed up the data, hard disks, and other devices that store digital data in a way that the individuals and individual work places included are not identifiable and that the fields cannot be recovered again.(c) For surveys that do not use paper, but collect information through other means such as computers, tablets and web-based electronics, upon compilation of statistics using information collected the individual level data with identifiers shall be erased from computers, systems, other computers and tools that may have backed up the data, hard disks, and other devices that store digital data in a way that the individuals and individual work places included are not identifiable and that the fields cannot be recovered again. |

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| Management of census and survey data | 36. | Once statistics have been compiled, statistical techniques should be used to prepare and preserve the micro data set for statistical purposes in a way that the anonymity of individual information is maintained. |
| Use of census and survey data for statistical registries | 37. | <p>(a) The information collected in censuses and surveys needed to establish, maintain and improve the quality of statistical registers referred to in Article 58(c) of this regulation, shall be exempt from the provisions of section 35 of these regulations.</p> <p>(b) Statistical registers can be further enhanced for statistical purposes, and can be used confidentially as a tool in the work of the Bureau, such as for assessing the quality of data, compiling statistics from registers, and taking scientific samples.</p> <p>(c) Information identifying individuals and places contained in the registers established by the Bureau shall be kept confidential.</p> |
| Legal protection for persons who provide information in censuses and surveys | 38. | Information on individuals and business entities collected under this Regulation shall be prohibited from being used by any person for any investigation or prosecution, proceedings in court or administrative action. |
| Publication of statistics | 39. | <p>(a) Information collected for statistical purposes shall be published as aggregate calculations, in accordance with statistical principles.</p> <p>(b) When publishing any information collected for statistical purposes, it should not be published in a manner that reveals the information at individual level.</p> <p>(c) Information about an individual or organization collected for statistical purposes shall be kept confidential so that the source or person is not identifiable.</p> |

Chapter Five
Rules to be followed by state institutions in the publication of official statistics

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| Publication of official statistics | 40. | Official statistics compiled within the National Statistical System shall be made public in such a way that it is equally accessible to all individuals. |
| Dissemination policy of statistics | 41. | <p>The fundamental elements of the policy setting out the procedures for the publication and revision of official statistics (the dissemination policy) are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) publish official statistics in a manner that will be equally available to all individuals at the same time.(b) easily comprehensible to the public.(c) easily accessible to the public.(d) official statistics shall be made available via various media platforms (website, social media).(e) publish the methodology and processes used for compilation and other documentation that describes the published statistics (metadata).(f) publish anonymously;(g) Disclose details of how the published statistics will be revised;(h) If an error is identified after publication of statistics, correct the error and publish the revision as soon as possible, in a way that the revision is identifiable.(i) Ensure that official statistics published within the National Statistical System are compiled in accordance with the quality prescribed under international standards (United Nations national quality assurance framework manual for official statistics). |
| Advance release calendar | 42. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Official statistics shall be made available to all individuals in a manner that is equally accessible to all individuals, without any influence from any party, and in accordance with the advance release calendar.(b) The advance release calendar shall contain the following fundamental components when publishing statistics. |

- (1) The field of statistics;
- (2) Frequency of compilation;
- (3) Date of publication;
- (4) How the statistics were collected;
- (5) How it is available;
- (6) Phone number and email address to be contacted for more information;
- (7) If not issued by the specified date, the next publication date with the reason for the non-issuance by the specified date.

Chapter Six

The process for the Bureau to provide assistance in cases where an agency is unable to produce designated statistics

- Provision of Assistance
by the Bureau
43. (a) In cases where any agency is unable to collect and compile the official statistics maintained by the competent agencies of the State, the Bureau shall provide the necessary assistance, in the manner prescribed herein.
- (b) In cases where a competent State institution is unable to provide designated statistics, it shall notify the Bureau in writing, describing in detail the reason and the assistance required from the Bureau.
- (c) In the case where the statistical staff in the competent State agency lacks the relevant skills, the Bureau shall provide assistance if they have the relevant trained and skilled staff.
- (d) Training for employees of competent Government agencies that need to be trained may be arranged through work arrangements in the Bureau.
- (e) An employee of the Bureau may be assigned to work in the relevant Government agency.
- (f) Assistance can be provided in obtaining local or international consultancy in the field of statistics.

- (g) The Bureau may conduct a special training program developed through identifying the skills required by a competent state agency.
- (h) If the statistical work cannot be done due to lack of staff, it should be brought to the attention of the relevant authorities.
- (i) The Bureau may include in the annual statistical plan, the solutions for addressing the difficulties faced by a relevant State agency in compiling statistics, and provide assistance in obtaining budget for this plan.

Chapter Seven

Assigning certain responsibilities of the Bureau to the Councils

- Responsibilities that may be assigned to Councils
44. The following responsibilities of the Bureau may be assigned to the Councils
- (a) Collect prices from selected shops and establishments in the islands where price surveys are scheduled to be conducted to identify changes in prices of goods and services, and sending them to the Bureau on the prescribed dates
 - (b) Conduct the collection of data determined to be collected at the island level for the compilation of official statistics.
 - (c) Provide assistance in making arrangements for census or surveying at island level in a cost-effective manner.
 - (d) Maintain and update the statistical registers to be maintained at the island level for the purpose of the Bureau.
 - (e) Conduct household level sample surveys to compile estimates of the population living in the island.
 - (f) Update and maintain island charts (required) for census and surveys.
 - (g) Maintain information on the places that conduct economic activities in the island as determined by the Bureau and to provide such information for statistical purposes.
 - (h) Provide the following information from the information that is maintained by the island councils under sub-section (a)(25) of section 23 of the Decentralisation Act, and by the city councils under sub-section (26) of section 40 of the Act, for statistical purposes as determined by the Bureau.

- (1) Record of births;
- (2) Record of deaths;
- (3) Record of settlers who have registered in the island registry;
- (4) Record of non-residents living on the island;
- (5) Record of Maldivians and foreigners living on the island;
- (6) To provide the Bureau with the statistics that they require from the statistics of the island collected and maintained by the council.

Rules for delegating responsibilities to councils

45. Responsibilities referred to in Article 44 of these Regulations may be delegated to a council after completing the following matters.

- (a) Indicate the importance of statistics;
- (b) Designate an employee to work in statistics in the council and include such duties within the responsibilities of that employee.
- (c) Provide technical training to the persons designated in subsection (b) of this Section on the collection and reporting of statistics.

Manners in which responsibilities may be delegated

46. (a) Any responsibility under this Regulation may be delegated to councils only under a written agreement between the Bureau and the councils.

(b) The Agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall contain the following components.

- (1) Responsibilities delegated to the council;
- (2) The way to obtain the necessary resources to carry out the work delegated to the councils;
- (3) How to coordinate work between the Bureau, other relevant agencies and councils;

- (4) The manner and periods for sending the necessary notifications to the Bureau.

Responsibility of the Bureau in delegating responsibility

47. The Bureau shall do the following in delegating responsibilities to councils under this regulation.
 - (a) Discuss the intended delegation with the relevant council and delegate the responsibilities to the councils in writing, with a clear explanation of the delegated responsibilities.
 - (b) When delegating responsibilities, seek advice from the Local Government Authority and the council on the availability of resources, potential challenges, ways in which these challenges can be overcome and their solutions.
 - (c) Arrange the budgetary matters and the financial expenditure incurred for the services provided and activities carried out by the councils in order to implement Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act).

Chapter Eight

The types of work which can be outsourced and the ways in which work can be outsourced

Outsourcing work to third parties

48. The following responsibilities from the work of the Bureau may be outsourced to another party.
 - (a) Data collection in surveys and censuses for the collection of official statistics.
 - (b) Awareness raising on official statistics.
 - (c) Part of the work from the development of the national classification or coding systems.
 - (d) Human resource development in the field of statistics to develop the National System of Statistics.
 - (e) Provision of technical advice to those that maintain official statistics.
 - (f) In order to properly carry-out the functions of providing designated statistics, the provision of necessary assistance in cases where any agency is unable to collect and compile official statistics maintained by that agency.

- (e) The functions of census and surveys included in the work of the Bureau shall not be delegated to another party in its entirety.
49. The Bureau may outsource the following functions of providing consultancy and trainings, necessary to enhance the Bureau's ability to perform its duties and provide technical advice to other parties.
- Modernisation and development of the Bureau's work with the help of new technology
- (a) The function of piloting of initiatives in the country using modern technology and alternative data sources such as big data, satellite imagery and citizen generated data to produce indicators that need to be produced by the National Statistical System and related capacity building.
- (b) Provide technical advice for the compilation of data collected in connection with various programs implemented by Civil Society Organizations in various fields, in accordance with statistical principles and quality assurance frameworks.
- (c) Provide technical assistance in modernizing and maintaining the Bureau's server, IT, data storage and data privacy.
- (d) Provide technical assistance to strengthen the databases maintained by institutions that maintain official statistics.
- (e) Provide technical assistance in developing and maintaining the Bureau's website, platforms and tools used for publishing statistics with the help of new technology.
50. (a) In outsourcing responsibility under this regulation, a written agreement shall be drawn up and shall include the following matters.
- Procedure for outsourcing work to another party
- (1) Details of the responsibility assigned;
- (2) Resources required for the work;
- (3) How work will be coordinated between the Bureau and the party;
- (4) Procedures for coordinating the work;
- (5) Complying with Act Number 16/2021 (Statistics Act) and procedure for maintaining confidentiality of information;
- (6) Procedure for handing over of work to the Bureau after completion;

- (7) Duration for completing the work;
 - (8) Price or fee for the work;
 - (9) Procedure to be followed in case of breach of the Agreement signed under this section;
 - (10) Name of the staff designated by the Bureau to coordinate the work.
- (b) In outsourcing works to another party in accordance with (a) of this section, priority shall be given to the skills, abilities, relevant experience and educational level of the party.

Chapter Nine

Procedure for establishing committees to obtain advice required by the Bureau

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| Establishing Committees | 51. (a) The Bureau may form committees comprising relevant persons and experts from various fields to obtain the necessary technical advice based on the requirements at that given time. |
| | (b) The purpose and functions of the committee shall be specified in the establishment of committees under subsection (a) of this section. |
| | (c) Where there is a requirement to include a specific position in a particular institution in a committee, a submission shall be made to that institution with the reasons for said requirement. |
| Committee Allowance | 52. (The Bureau) may work with the relevant authorities to provide an allowance to the members of the committee established under section 51(a) of this Act. |
| | 53. The Bureau reserves the right to dissolve the Committee upon the fulfillment of the purpose for which it was formed. |

Chapter Ten

The periods within which official statistical information providers are required to share information with the Bureau and the manner in which statistics should be provided

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| Sharing official statistics with the Bureau | 54. An agency providing official statistical information as designated shall publish the statistics collected and compiled by that agency on the dates specified in the Advance Release Calendar for |
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provision of the statistics. Such information shall be shared with the Bureau.

- Information on official and designated surveys conducted by the agency
- Providing administrative statistics to the Bureau
- Sharing official statistics with the Bureau
- Providing administrative statistics required for statistical registers
55. The results, reports and micro-data sets compiled from surveys conducted by state agencies (shall be provided to the Bureau) in a format required by the Bureau for statistical purposes.
56. Among the administrative statistics collected and maintained by state agencies, the following information required for the compilation of official statistics shall be shared within a period specified by the Bureau and in a format required by the Bureau.
- (a) Information required to compile GDP and National Accounts.
 - (b) Information required for monthly statistical publications.
 - (c) Information required for the Statistics Yearbook.
 - (d) Information required to compile other designated statistics before the deadline for various data requests and requests from international agencies.
57. Designated statistics to be generated within the National Statistical System shall be provided to the Bureau by the agencies that provide official statistics, as included in the annual national statistics plan.
58. (a) The information required for the registers to be established by the Bureau for the compilation of statistics shall be provided.
- (b) Information required for statistical registers shall be shared in a confidential manner in accordance with the agreement between the competent State authority and the Bureau.
 - (c) The following registers shall be maintained and updated as base registers at the initiative of the Bureau.
 - (1) Statistical Business Register (to be used for compiling business and labour market statistics)
 - (2) Statistical Dwelling Register (to be used for compiling housing statistics)
 - (3) Statistical Population Register (to be used for compiling population statistics)

- Provision of statistics to other agencies within the National Statistical System by the Bureau
59. The Bureau's procedure for providing statistics to other agencies in the National Statistical System , is set forth below.
- (a) The information from statistical registers compiled by the Bureau shall be provided without identifiers, after anonymisation of individual level data, that cannot identify an individual or a place.
 - (b) The survey/census data compiled by the Bureau may be provided in various forms (tables, micro data sets, sample data sets) only after anonymization and does not reveal the identity of an individual or a place.
 - (c) Information shall be shared as stated in subsections (a) and (b) only upon written submission of the required information to the Bureau by the relevant agency, and as provided for under an agreement between both parties.

Chapter Eleven

Charging fees for services provided by the Bureau

- Services for which the Bureau may charge a fee
60. The Bureau reserves the right to charge fees for the following services provided by the Bureau.
- (a) Surveys carried out by the Bureau for another party.
 - (b) Generate additional data requests, from a survey conducted by the Bureau, outside of the already published information.
 - (c) Making survey applications for other parties, using the application used by the Bureau for surveys.
 - (d) Taking samples and developing sampling methodologies for statistical surveys.
 - (e) Preparing questionnaires for surveys carried out by other parties.
 - (f) Provision of technical advice to other parties by the Bureau.

- Procedure for charging fees for services provided by the Bureau
- (g) Provision of technical assistance required for projects related to statistics.
 - (h) Statistical trainings provided by the Bureau.
61. If the Bureau provides a service referred to in Section 60 of these Regulations, the Bureau reserves the right to charge fees as mutually agreed upon, taking into account the magnitude of the work.

Chapter Twelve

Sanctions

- The rules for imposing sanctions
62. Action shall be taken against persons who fail to cooperate in providing information to censuses and surveys conducted under these regulations, in accordance with the rules set out below.
- (a) A supervisor or official shall first meet with the individual, or verbally explain the importance of providing information and request cooperation within a specified period of time.
 - (b) If, after taking the steps required under subsection (a) of this section, the person fails to provide the information within the given period, or refuses to provide the information, then, as a second step, the person shall be informed in writing of their responsibility to provide the information under the Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act) and given a notice of an additional period to provide the information.
 - (c) If, after taking the steps required under subsection (b) of this section, the person fails to provide the information or refuses to provide the information within the given period, then, as a third step, the person shall be informed in writing of the actions and penalties that may be imposed under the Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act) against persons that fail to provide information, and given a notification of an additional period to provide the information.
 - (d) The decision to impose a penalty under this regulation shall be made by the Bureau or the State agency conducting the survey after taking the above measures and in cases where there is no other option.
 - (e) In the event of a decision to impose a penalty, the person shall be notified in writing of the penalty by issuing an official document, and such document shall specify the amount of the penalty, the date of payment and the manner in which it is to be paid.

- (f) Decisions on penalties shall be enforced by the state agency conducting the census or the survey.
63. (a) Failure to return the form after completing it If any paper or form or other similar document to be returned after completion of information sent to or entrusted to any person for collection of statistics under Act No. 16/21 (Maldives Statistics Act) is not returned within the prescribed period, action shall be taken in accordance with the procedure set out below.
- (b) If the information is not sent within the initial given period, explain the importance of providing the information, request their cooperation and inform them in writing to provide the information within a specified period.
- (c) If the person fails to provide the information or refuses to provide the information within the period given under subsection (b), then, as a second step, the person shall be informed in writing of their responsibility to provide the information under the Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act) and given a notice of an additional period to provide the information.
- (d) If, after taking the steps required under subsection (c) of this section, the person fails to provide the information or refuses to provide the information within the given period, then, as a third step, provide the opportunity to complete the information through telephone or by sending an authorized officer.
- (e) If, after taking the steps required under subsection (d) of this section, the person fails to provide the information or refuses to provide the information within the given period, then, as a fourth step, the person shall be informed in writing of the action or the actions and penalties that may be imposed under the Act number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act) against persons that fail to provide information, and given a notification of an additional period to provide the information.
64. Penalty amounts In case of violation of Sections 62 and 63 of these Regulations, the amount of the penalty shall be determined as follows.
- (a) MVR 2,500 for information about a general household or an individual;
- (b) If it is a business, the penalty shall be determined based on their size, and as such MVR 2,500 for the micro and small businesses, and MVR 5,000 for the medium size enterprises.
- (c) MVR 30,000 for businesses with more than 100 (one hundred) employees.

- Use of information for personal gain
65. If an employee of the Bureau or an employee designated for statistical work at another official statistical agency uses information received in the course of their employment, prior to it being published, directly or indirectly, for their own benefit or advantage, the penalty shall be determined as follows.
- (a) MVR 60,000 if any information identifying a particular party, such as an individual, household or establishment, from a census or survey conducted under these regulations, is used for personal gain or advantage.
 - (b) MVR 60,000 if any information obtained for the purpose of producing statistics that has not yet been made public is used for personal gain or advantage.
 - (c) MVR 60,000 if the information referred to in subsection (a) of this section is used for commercial purposes.
 - (d) Any other violation of subsection (a) shall result in a fine of MVR 5,000.
 - (e) The provisions of this section shall apply to any violations of these regulations by an officer authorized to conduct censuses and surveys under these regulations.
- Illegal collection of statistics
66. The amount of the fine shall be determined in the following manner for an officer authorized under these regulations that collects statistical information or statistics beyond their prescribed limits.
- (a) If a person fraudulently obtains information from a respondent of a survey or a census by asking questions that have not been designated as part of the query in conducting a census or survey authorized under these regulations, such person shall be fined by MVR 10,000.
 - (b) If an offence stated under subsection (a) is repeated, the person shall be fined by MVR 60,000.
- Disclosure of illegally obtained information
67. The amount of the fine shall be determined in the following manner for any agency providing official statistics that publishes or provides to another person information that they know has been obtained in violation of this Regulation.
- (a) If the information reveals a specific party such as an individual, household or establishment from a census or survey conducted as authorized under these regulations, a fine of MVR 50,000 shall be imposed.
 - (b) A person who publishes information such as that stated in subsection (a) of this section shall be fined by MVR 60,000.

- Unauthorized disclosure of information.
68. The amount of the fine shall be determined in the following manner where information obtained in the course of employment is made public without permission or such information is disclosed to an unauthorized person.
- (a) Any person who discloses to any person other than the employees designated for the compilation of statistics any confidential information that reveals a particular party, collected for statistical purposes by a census or survey or any other exercise conducted under these regulations shall be liable to a fine of MVR 60,000.
 - (b) The non-relevant persons referred to in subsection (a) of this Section shall also include the heads of the agency and political persons who are not designated to statistical work in the agency and who have not signed the confidentiality declaration in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.
 - (c) Any disclosure of anonymous information obtained for the compilation of statistics and not made public without the permission of the person responsible for the statistical work of the agency shall result in a fine of MVR 30,000.
 - (d) If an offence stated under subsection (c) is repeated, the person shall be fined by MVR 60,000.
- Obstructing duty
69. The amount of the fine shall be determined in the following manner if any person obstructs an officer authorized to perform a duty under these rules.
- (a) Any person who rudely addresses, intimidates or threatens, causes injury or harm, or damages property to obstruct a person engaged in obtaining information for a census or survey being conducted under these Regulations shall be fined by MVR 5,000.
 - (b) If any person commits an act such as that stated in subsection (a) to obstruct the performance of duty, and such act results in injury to an authorized officer, or damage to property, such person shall be criminally prosecuted under a law specifying criminal offenses.
- Impersonation
70. Any person other than an officer authorized to collect statistics under these regulations who pretends to be an authorized person and attempts to collect information shall be liable to a fine of MVR 30,000 and criminal prosecution under a law specifying criminal offenses.
- Payment of fines
71. (a) Persons who are officially notified in writing by the Bureau of a fine being imposed shall comply therewith.
- (b) The Bureau reserves the right to take legal action against any person who fails to comply with subsection (a) of this Section.

Chapter Thirteen

Filing Complaints

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| Submission and Consideration of Complaints | 72. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) A written submission may be made to the Bureau to report a case in connection with a census or survey conducted under these Regulations. Such case may also be submitted by calling a designated phone or emailing a designated email address.(b) The Bureau shall establish a system to review with complaints submitted under subsection (a) of this Section and shall endeavour to respond or resolve the complaint within a specified period, depending on the nature of the complaints submitted.(c) The confidentiality of the information of the persons submitting cases under subsection (a) shall be maintained.(d) A committee consisting of 5 members shall be established in the Bureau and other agencies providing official statistics to investigate cases submitted under subsection (a) of this Section.(e) If a case submitted under subsection (a) constitutes a criminal offence, it shall be reported to the Maldives Police Service expeditiously. |
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Chapter Fourteen

Other Matters

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| Coming into force | 73. | This regulation shall come into force on the date of publication in the Government of Maldives Gazette. Upon entering into force, the regulation number 2013/R-4 (Maldives Statistics Regulation) shall be repealed. |
| Amending Regulation | 74. | The Bureau has the authority to amend this regulation. Any amendment to this Regulation shall come into force after the publication of the amendment in the Government of Maldives Gazette. |
| Definitions | 75. | <p>Unless otherwise provided herein, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings set forth in this section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) "Statistics" means the results of information gathered, compiled and produced as aggregate figures in an anonymous manner.(b) "Official Statistics" are statistics describing on a representative basis the economic, demographic, social, and environmental phenomena of the country required for the formulation, monitoring the progress of its implementation at the national level, and required by international agencies. Further, these include statistics compiled by producers of official statistics in |

the National Statistical System of the Maldives, in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and meet the national data quality frameworks set by the Bureau.

- (c) "Designated Statistics" means the statistics within the official statistics which are then designated as the highest priority for production within the National Statistical System of, and which are included in the Annual Statistical Program.
- (d) "National System of Statistics" means the National System of Statistics established in accordance with Section 31 of Act Number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act).
- (e) "Bureau" means the Maldives Bureau of Statistics.
- (f) "Other Producers of official Statistics" means government and state agencies engaged in collecting, processing, compiling, disseminating and providing information required for official statistics in accordance with Act Number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act).
- (g) "Employees dedicated to statistical work" means the staff of the agencies that provide official statistics included in the National Statistical System who are designated for statistical work under section 32 of this regulation.
- (h) "Census" means the complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect to well defined characteristics such as the population of Maldives.
- (i) "Survey" means the collection of information based on a selected sample of all items belonging to a particular population or part of a population in question, rather than the whole population.
- (j) "Statistical Register" means lists that include basic information of various places and units (businesses and work premises, houses, buildings, etc.) identified for the purpose of census, survey sampling and compilation of statistics, produced to identify basic information of the place and compiled for statistical purposes only.
- (k) "Authorized Officer" means a person authorized under section 36(a) of Act Number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act). This definition also includes census and survey supervisors, enumerators and persons authorized to conduct data entry processing and data management work.
- (l) "Councils" mean the island councils, atoll councils and city councils defined in Act No. 7/2010 (Act on Decentralisation of the Administrative Divisions of the Maldives).

- (m) "Pre-test" means a test activity conducted before a survey or census to check the questions contained in the questionnaires, the order of the questions, and how they are understood by people.
- (n) "Pilot Census" means a comprehensive test of all census procedures conducted prior to the actual census.
- (o) "Metadata" means data and other documentation that describe statistical data and statistical processes in a standardised way by providing information on data sources, methods, definitions, classifications and data quality.
- (p) "Size of a business" means the categorization of businesses under Act number 6/2013 (Small and Medium Enterprises Act).

Schedule 1

Declaration of Staff Dedicated to Statistical Work

I _____, swear to perform my duties as _____, consistent with Act Number 16/2021 (Maldives Statistics Act and Regulation Number 2022/R-19 (Maldives Statistics Regulation), faithfully and honestly, and not to misappropriate, directly or indirectly, for personal gain any information known or obtained in the course of my employment, either before or after the information has been utilised or published.

Further, I _____, will keep the information I have received in the performance of this position confidential, while remaining in this position and even after my resignation.