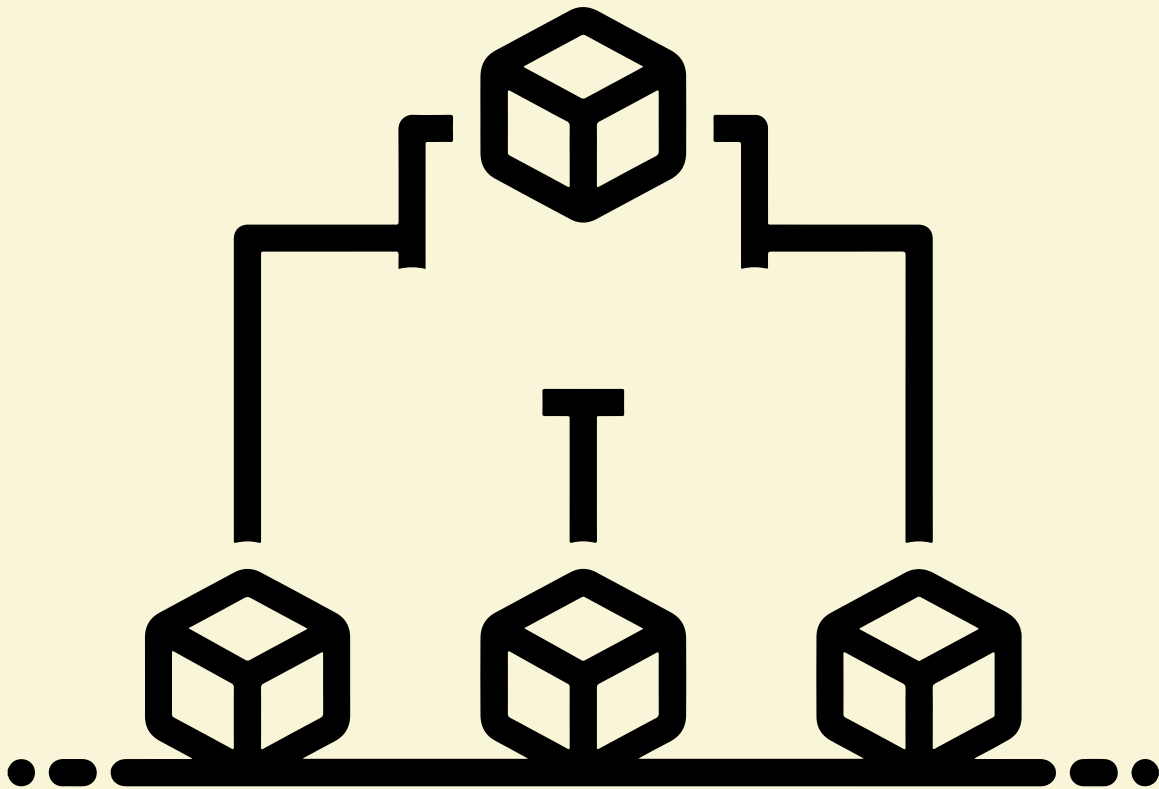


Hirko and Associates (HALO) Legal Update

DRAFT STATISTICS PROCLAMATION PROPOSES
COMPREHENSIVE REFORM OF ETHIOPIA'S
NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM



Key Legal and Institutional Changes Introduced by the Proposed
Legislation

INTRODUCTION

A draft Statistics Proclamation has been introduced to replace the legal framework currently governing the production, management, and dissemination of official statistics in Ethiopia. The proposed legislation would establish a new institutional structure for the national statistical system, expand the range of data sources that may be used for official statistics, introduce detailed rules on confidentiality and data access, and create new obligations for public institutions, businesses, and other data providers.

The draft reflects developments in data governance, digital technologies, and statistical practices that have emerged since the enactment of the existing legislation. If enacted, it would affect a wide range of stakeholders, including government institutions, regulatory bodies, businesses, researchers, development partners, and users of official statistics.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTION

The draft proposes replacing the current institutional framework with a new structure centered on the Ethiopian Statistical Service. The proposed governance arrangement includes a governing board, a Director General, deputy leadership positions, and supporting administrative structures.

The governing board would be composed of representatives drawn from various sectors, including government institutions, academia, the private sector, civil society, and the media. The board would be responsible for strategic oversight and coordination of the national statistical system.

The draft also transfers oversight responsibility from the Ministry responsible for finance to the Ministry responsible for planning and development.

EXPANDED SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The proposed legislation broadens the scope of entities and activities falling within the national statistical framework. In addition to official statistics producers, the draft extends its application to respondents, administrative data providers, users of official statistics, institutions holding relevant data, and organizations engaged in statistical studies and data collection activities.

As a result, a wider range of public and private entities may become subject to obligations relating to data provision, cooperation, and compliance with statistical standards.

RECOGNITION OF EMERGING DATA SOURCES

One of the notable features of the draft is its recognition of non-traditional data sources. The proposed framework contemplates the use of data generated through digital technologies, administrative systems, geospatial tools, remote sensing technologies, mobile devices, social media platforms, and other emerging sources.

This represents a departure from a statistical system primarily based on censuses, surveys, and administrative records and may influence future approaches to data collection and statistical production.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INDEPENDENCE

The draft introduces explicit provisions concerning the scientific and technical independence of official statistics producers.

The proposed framework seeks to ensure that decisions relating to statistical methodologies, data sources, analytical processes, publication practices, and confidentiality protections are made according to professional standards and established procedures. The inclusion of such provisions aligns the draft with principles commonly reflected in international statistical governance frameworks.

ACCESS TO ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The proposed legislation places considerable emphasis on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

Government institutions and other entities holding relevant administrative information may be required to provide access to data and metadata necessary for the production of official statistics. The draft also contemplates closer coordination between statistical authorities and institutions responsible for maintaining administrative databases, particularly when new data collection systems are introduced or existing systems are modified.

These provisions may require public institutions to review existing data management and sharing practices.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATISTICAL REGISTER

The draft provides for the establishment and maintenance of a national statistical register containing information on statistical units and related identifiers.

The register is intended to support data integration, statistical production, and coordination across the national statistical system.

Public institutions and other relevant entities may be required to provide information necessary to maintain the accuracy and completeness of the register.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

The proposed legislation contains detailed provisions governing the collection, use, storage, disclosure, and dissemination of statistical information.

Data collected for statistical purposes would generally be restricted to statistical use and protected from disclosure except under specifically authorized circumstances.

The draft further introduces rules concerning anonymization, de-identification, controlled access to data, protection against indirect identification, and management of individual-level information.

These provisions are likely to be relevant to institutions involved in data collection, storage, processing, research, and dissemination activities.

ACCESS TO MICRODATA FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

The draft establishes a framework for granting access to anonymized microdata for approved research and analytical purposes.

Researchers receiving access to such information would be subject to confidentiality obligations and restrictions on disclosure, transfer, and use of data. The proposed framework seeks to balance research access with privacy and confidentiality considerations.

DATA QUALITY AND STATISTICAL STANDARDS

The proposed legislation introduces a formal framework for data quality assurance. Official statistics producers would be expected to apply standardized methodologies, classifications, quality controls, and documentation procedures.

The draft also contemplates periodic assessments of statistical quality, consultation with users and data providers, and the publication of information regarding sources, methodologies, and quality indicators.

These measures are intended to support consistency and comparability across official statistical outputs.

PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The draft introduces new requirements concerning the dissemination of official statistics. A key feature is the requirement for advance publication of statistical release schedules. The proposed framework also addresses dissemination practices, public access to statistical information, publication formats, revisions, and transparency measures relating to statistical outputs.

Institutions responsible for producing official statistics may need to adopt additional procedures to comply with these requirements.

OBLIGATIONS OF RESPONDENTS AND DATA PROVIDERS

The draft imposes explicit obligations on individuals, households, public institutions, and private entities that are requested to provide information for statistical purposes.

Respondents may be required to provide complete, accurate, and timely information in accordance with prescribed requirements.

The proposed legislation also introduces consequences for failure to comply with certain obligations relating to data provision and cooperation.

Businesses and organizations that regularly interact with government data collection activities should assess the potential operational implications of these requirements.

ROLE OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The draft recognizes the role of regional governments within the national statistical system.

Regional authorities may establish their own statistical frameworks provided they remain consistent with national principles and standards.

The proposed approach seeks to facilitate regional participation while maintaining coordination across the national statistical system.

CONCLUSION

The draft Statistics Proclamation proposes extensive changes to Ethiopia's statistical governance framework. The proposed reforms address institutional structure, statistical independence, administrative data access, emerging data sources, confidentiality protections, data quality standards, and dissemination practices.

As the legislative process continues, stakeholders may wish to review the draft carefully and assess the potential legal, operational, and compliance implications that could arise if the legislation is enacted in its current form.