A generic National Quality Assurance Framework (g-NQAF)

Regional Training on Producing Register-based Population Statistics in Developing Countries

27-31 October 2013, Tehran, Iran

Arman Bidarbakht-Nia

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP)

Quality

- Fitness for use/purpose

- ISO 9000: the degree to which a set of inherent characteristics fulfils requirements

- Multidimensional-- dimensions are overlapping and inter-related
  - Timeliness, relevance, accuracy, transparency, accessibility, …

A proper framework

- By a national agency for a national agency

- Fit to the NSS's stage of development

- Supported by the resources

- Fit to the institutional environment

Assuring Quality: Origins of the g-NQAF

- 2010: Report of Statistics Canada to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)-2010: three proposals
  - European CoP
  - DQAF of IMF
  - QAF of Statistics Canada

- 2010: UNSC established an Expert Group (EG) on NQAF
- 2010-2011: EG work-- website, glossary, NQAF template, guidelines, checklist
- 2012: UNSC endorsed NQAF template (g-NQAF) and the guidelines

Objective of g-NQAF Template

A template for a National Quality Assurance Framework, with accompanying guidelines, to assist countries that may wish to formulate and operationalize national quality frameworks or enhance existing ones
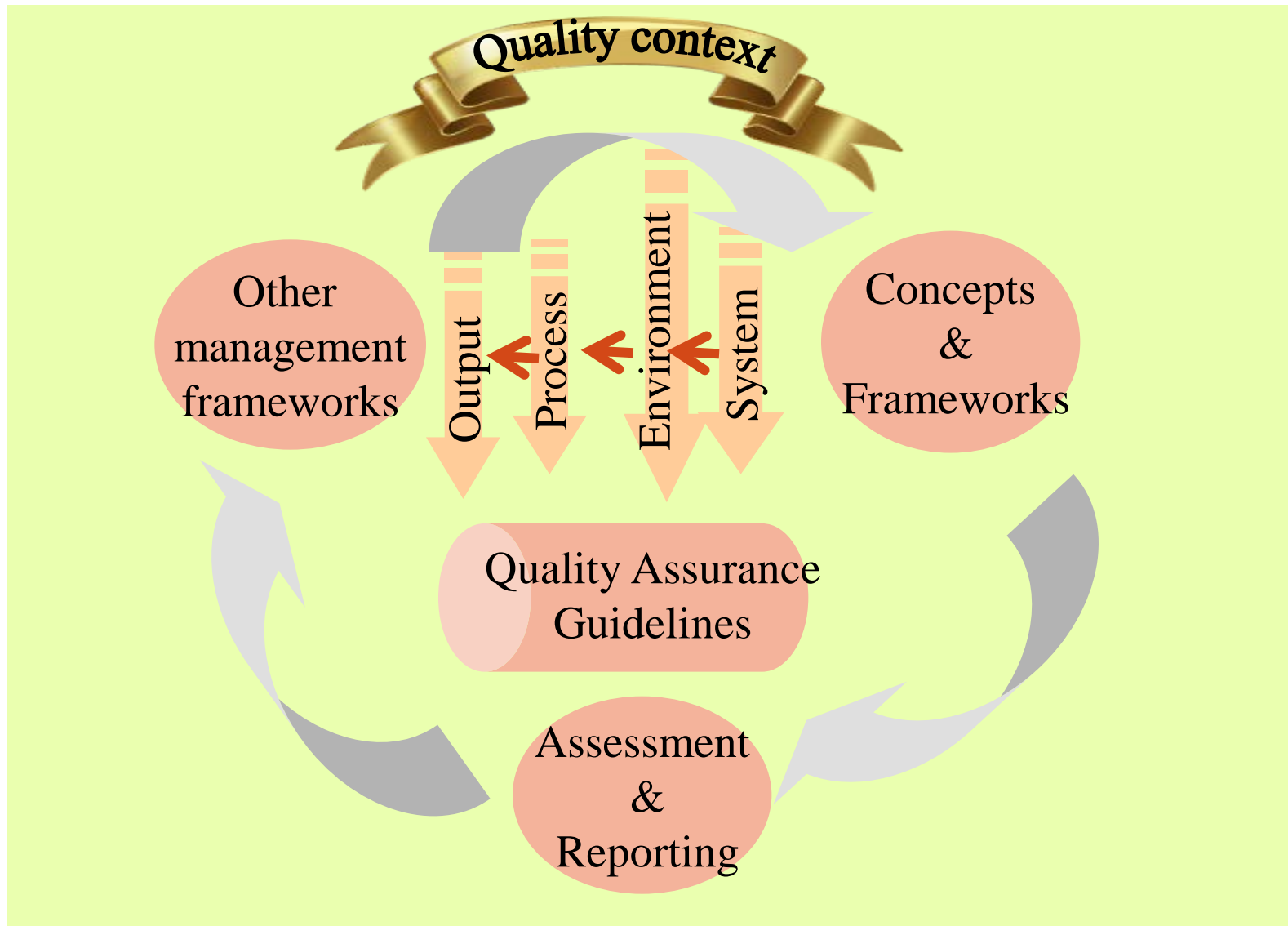
Guiding Principles of the g-NQAF

- Align with existing frameworks (not re-creating the wheel)
- Sufficiently flexible, not one-size-fits-all
- Voluntary, not prescriptive
- Provide general structure
- Points to the target and guides
- Modifiable

Template for g-NQAF

Quality context

- Country circumstances

- Priorities

- Benefits and challenges

- Organization of the work

- Sustained support/commitment

- Quality culture

- Integration

Template for g-NQAF

3. Quality assurance guidelines

3a. Managing the statistical system

[NQAF 1] Coordinating the national statistical system
[NQAF 2] Managing relationships with data users and data providers
[NQAF 3] Managing statistical standards

3b. Managing the institutional environment

[NQAF 4] Assuring professional independence
[NQAF 5] Assuring impartiality and objectivity
[NQAF 6] Assuring transparency
[NQAF 7] Assuring statistical confidentiality and security
[NQAF 8] Assuring the quality commitment
[NQAF 9] Assuring adequacy of resources

3c. Managing statistical processes

[NQAF 10] Assuring methodological soundness
[NQAF 11] Assuring cost-effectiveness
[NQAF 12] Assuring soundness of implementation
[NQAF 13] Managing the respondent burden

3d. Managing statistical outputs

[NQAF14] Assuring relevance
[NQAF15] Assuring accuracy and reliability
[NQAF16] Assuring timeliness and punctuality
[NQAF17] Assuring accessibility and clarity
[NQAF18] Assuring coherence and comparability
[NQAF19] Managing metadata

Under each line:

- Elements to be assured
- Supporting mechanisms
- References & good practices

19 NQAF Lines

Thank you!