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Coordination of national statistical systems

The Central Coordinating Unit of the national system of statistical and geographical information of Mexico

Note by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico

Summary

This paper describes the coordination of the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information in Mexico. In April 2008, a Law on the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information was issued. These changes and the changed Constitution of the United States of Mexico introduced challenges to the role of the National Statistical Institute. The paper introduces the different parts of the system, the governance and consultation procedures and the tasks of the coordinator of the National Statistical and Geographical System.

I. Legal framework

1. Mexico has a long tradition in the production of statistical and geographical information. In 1833, the first institute responsible for the generation of information was created; in 1877, the geographical explorer commission began operations. Thereafter, in 1895, the first general census of Mexico was conducted; and in 1968, the commission for the study of the national territory and planning was created. Finally, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography began operations in 1983. The National Institute of Statistics and Geography generates, integrates and disseminates statistical and geographical information.

2. In April, 2006, changes to the 26th Article of the Constitution of the United States of Mexico was approved. The changes to paragraph B include:

"The State will count on a National System of Statistical and Geographical Information, which data will be considered official."

"The responsibility for regulating and coordinating the system will be undertaken by an organization with technical and managerial autonomy, legal personality and patrimony of its own, with the necessary empowerment to rule the collection, processing and publication of the generated information and to provide its observance."

3. These changes to the Constitution led, in April, 2008 to issuing the Law of the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information. The purpose of the System is to provide society and government with good quality, relevant, accurate and timely information, to contribute to National Development.

II. The national system of statistical and geographical information

4. The System is a set of State Units (SU), organized through Subsystems, coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and articulated by the National Network of Information (NNI) in order to produce and disseminate *Information of National Interest* (INI).

5. It is noteworthy that INEGI has two functions in the System: firstly, as a producer of statistical and geographical information with the rest of the members of the System, it is a State Unit; but it has also assigned the responsibility of being the Central Coordinating Unit of the System, main issue of this paper. The responsibility of being the Central Coordinating Unit of the System involves the following functions:

(a) Convene the State Units for planning processes that enable the establishment of long, medium and short term programs of the system;

(b) Encourage actions to maintain the efficient operation of the System;

(c) Establish the operating rules of the Collegiate Bodies;

(d) Generate guidelines for the development of the norms of the System;

(e) Integrate with the State Units a National Catalogue of Indicators;

(f) Encourage the State Units to practice their statistical and geographical activities considering national and international standards and best practices;

(g) Provide and promote the use of definitions, classifications, nomenclatures, abbreviations, identifiers, directories, symbols, geographical boundaries and other essential regulatory elements from the collection and processing of information to the stage of presentation and publication.

A. The state units

6. The state units are administrative areas with assignments of statistical or geographical activities or administrative records with the aim of obtaining *Information of National Interest*. This classification comprises the agencies of the Federal Public Administration, the Legislative and Judiciary Powers, the federal states, municipalities, autonomous constitutional bodies and the Federal Administrative Courts.

B. The national information subsystems

7. The subsystems are system components intended to produce information regarding a particular class or specific topics. The System Act has defined three Subsystems: of Demographic and Social Information, of Economic Information and of Geographical and Environmental Information.

National subsystem of demographic and social information

8. To address the issues of: Population and demography dynamics, Health, Education, Employment, Income Distribution and Poverty and Housing.

National subsystem of economic information

9. To address the issues of: The National Accounts System, Science and Technology, Financial Information, Prices and Employment.

National subsystem of geographical and environmental information

10. To address the issues of: Geodesy, Topography, Boundaries, Continental relief, Cadastre, Atmosphere, Water, Land, Flora, Fauna, Hazardous and solid wastes.

11. The National Subsystem of Government, Public Safety and Justice Administration was subsequently created to address the issues of Government Information, Public safety and Administration of justice, so currently there are four Subsystems integrating the System.

C. Information of national interest

12. Mexico has defined which statistical information is of national interest. This includes the information that is official and compulsory for the Federation, States, Federal District and municipalities. The Information of National Interest is defined by the already noted System Act and approved by the Governing Board of INEGI. It must meet the criteria outlined in the Act.

13. The Act lists as Information of National Interest the Censuses, the National Accounts and the Price Indexes.

14. Moreover, the information submitted to the consideration of the Governing Board of INEGI as Information of National Interest must meet four requirements:

- (a) Consistency with the thematic set mentioned in the Act;
- (b) Necessary to support the design and evaluation of national policies;

- (c) Generated regularly and periodically;
- (d) Produced under a scientifically supported methodology in compliance with international best practices.

D. Collegiate bodies of the system

15. The system considers the involvement of the State Units through collegiate bodies such as the National Advisory Council, the Executive Committees and the Specialized Technical Committees for each Subsystem.

The national advisory council

16. The national advisory council reviews, proposes and advises the Governing Board in the development of activities for the production, integration and dissemination of Information of National Interest. It is chaired by the President of INEGI and it includes an agent of each Secretary of State with Assistant Secretary level and representatives of the Judiciary Power of the Federation, the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, the Bank of Mexico and five representatives of the 31 federal states and the Federal District, elected every 2 years based on a regionalization that the Act itself provides.

The executive committees

17. The Executive Committees are the Subsystems collegiate bodies, comprised of a president, who is one of the four Vice-presidents of the Governing Board of INEGI and counselors, who are the coordinators of the State Units.

18. The National Subsystem of Demographic and Social Information involves:

- (a) Social Development Secretariat;
- (b) Public Education Secretariat;
- (c) Interior Secretariat;
- (d) Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare;
- (e) Health Secretariat;

19. The National Subsystem of Economic Information involves:

- (a) Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit;
- (b) Economy Secretariat;
- (c) Bank of Mexico;

20. The National Subsystem of Geographical and Environmental Information involves:

- (a) National Defense Secretariat;
- (b) Navy Secretariat;
- (c) Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources;
- (d) Energy Secretariat;
- (e) Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food;
- (f) Foreign Affairs Secretariat;
- (g) Secretariat of Agrarian Reform.

21. The National Subsystem of Government, Public Safety and Justice Administration involves:

- (a) Interior Secretariat;
- (b) Civil Service Secretariat;
- (c) National Defense Secretariat;
- (d) Navy Secretariat;
- (e) Attorney General's Office;
- (f) Federal Judiciary Power;
- (g) National System of Public Security;
- (h) Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit.

22. Additionally, two General Managers of the Institute are involved as Technical and Executive Secretaries. The participation of officials of the Institute is part of its task as Central Coordinating Unit of the System, as discussed below.

23. The functions of the Executive Committees are: to review technical standards, to submit the Information of National Interest to consideration of the Governing Board; to review and develop proposals of indicators, to express a viewpoint on the Annual Program of Statistics and Geography, to propose the Institute methodologies for the production of information considering national and international standards; to submit to the Governing Board an annual report, among others.

24. The Executive Committees attend the central issues of the Subsystem, complementing its work with the creation of the Specialized Technical Committees, as considered in the Law, which focus on the specific issues within the Subsystems.

The specialized technical committees

25. The Specialized Technical Committees are the collegiate bodies for specific issues of the National Information Subsystems. They are comprised of a President, who represents the SU that generates the most information on every topic, of counselors, who represent the main units of production or integration of information, of an Act Secretary, who is an officer appointed by the Committee Chair and of a Technical Secretary, who is an officer of INEGI linked to the topic of the Committee. One of its main functions is to promote the application of the norms and regulations issued by the Governing Board for the collection, process and dissemination of statistical and geographical information and to provide the technical assistance required for its purpose. Again, these are some of the functions that the Institute takes place as the Central Coordinating Unit of the System.

26. The functions of the Specialized Technical Committees are to assist in the implementation and development of Technical Standards in order to generate consistent and comparable information within the System, to promote Technical Standards, to suggest Indicators and to propose Information of National Interest, among others. It is worth mentioning that 31 Specialized Technical Committees are currently operating.

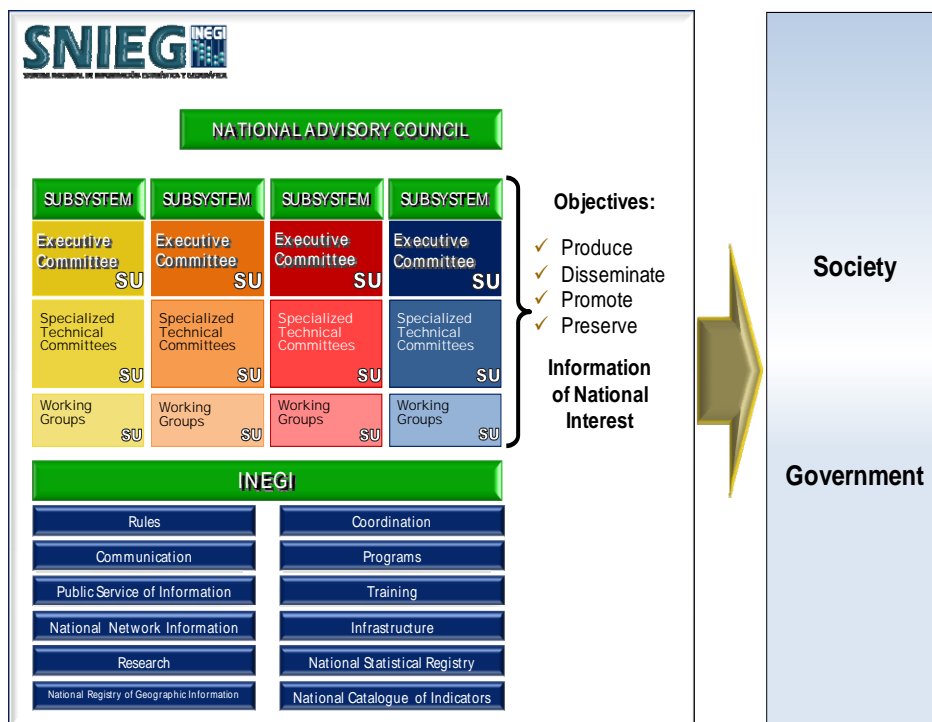
27. Moreover, every state of the country including the Federal District has Specialized Technical Committees, called State Committees. Unlike national committees, which serve specific issues, the nature of these committees is cross-cutting so they consider all matters related to the four Subsystems in the context of their state.

28. Their main functions are:

- (a) The compliance with Technical Standards;

- (b) The promotion of the use of information for the definition of public policies;
- (c) The modernization of the administrative records they generate;
- (d) Carrying out projects of information that contribute to the development of the entity.

29. Below is a diagram which represents the elements of System: The National Advisory Council, the Subsystems, the Executive Committees and the Specialized Technical Committees of each Subsystem, where INEGI is involved in its role as information producer or State Unit within the System. Also, it has the responsibility of being the Central Coordinating Unit of the System, which involves the tasks set out below.



III. The National Institute of Statistics and Geography as the central coordinating unit of the system

30. INEGI, as established in the Act, is responsible for the regulation and coordination of the System and the promotion of actions to maintain its efficient operation. To address this task, some actions, described below, are carried out to define the course and maintain an efficient operation of the System.

A. Governing Board

31. The Governing Board is the higher management body of the Institute and is composed of five members appointed by the President of the Republic with the approval of the Senate. Its faculties include:

- (a) Approve the programs: strategic, national and annual;

- (b) Determine the information to be considered of national interest;
- (c) Identify, according to the needs of the System, the creation of new Subsystems;
- (d) Determine which units will be invited to participate as members of the Specialized Technical Committees;
- (e) Approve the indicators generated by the Subsystems;
- (f) Regulate the operation of the System and rule the collection, processing and publication of the generated information, based on the opinions, where appropriate, of the Executive Committee;
- (g) Approve, at the end of each year, the calendar that contains the dates of publication of Information of National Interest.
- (h) Other tasks.

B. System programming

32. INEGI must develop the following program documents that the Act defines:

- (a) Strategic Program: Defines the direction of the System on a horizon of 24 years;
- (b) National Program of Statistics and Geography: Coincides with the cycle of the Federal Government and aligns the Strategic Program and the National Development Plan;
- (c) Annual Program: It defines the specific activities to meet the goals and objectives of the National Program and integrates the Statistical and Geographical Activities to be undertaken by each Subsystem to the generation of Information of National Interest on an annual basis.

33. In order to establish guidelines and actions to be implemented in the long run, both INEGI and the State Units defined the mission and vision of the national system of statistical and geographical information:

Mission

34. To provide timely information of national interest to society, through coordination among members of the System and generalized use of national and international standards.

Vision

35. The National System of Statistical and Geographical Information has a firm national and international prestige and provides universal access to high quality, timely and relevant information.

C. System Operation

36. The law requires for actions to promote maintaining efficient operation of the System. A fundamental role is the leadership of the Presidents of the Executive Committees of the National Information Subsystems not only among the members of these collegiate bodies but at all Specialized Technical Committees, main producers and users of information within the Subsystem.

D. Regulation and coordination

37. Regulations are fundamental to the development and operation of the System. The SNIEG Act empowers the National Institute of Statistics and Geography to issue normative dispositions in the areas of:

(a) Coordination of the SNIEG. Rules to be observed by the members of the System, regarding their participation in the collegiate bodies, including: the National Advisory Council, the Executive Committees and the Specialized Technical Committees;

(b) Technical regulations. These are a set of rules and guidelines to ensure coherence and consistency to the production, dissemination, integration and maintenance of the INI;

(c) Public Service of Information. This is a regulation for the provision of data and Information of National Interest to society and government in a transparent and timely manner. This involves the way the information is managed, published, updated, shared, commercialized and protected.

E. National Statistical Register

38. The Institute shall establish, operate and regulate the National Statistical Register (NSR), including at least the Register of Institutions and Administrative Units with Statistical Functions (UAFE's) of the Public Sector and the National Statistical Inventory of Public Sector. That is: Who and what kind of statistical information is produced.

F. National Register of Geographic Information

39. The Institute shall establish, operate and regulate the National Register of Geographic Information (NRGI), which must include at least, information from geographic issues addressed by the Subsystem of Geographical and Environmental Information.

G. Infrastructure

40. The Act identifies a number of projects that constitute part of the System infrastructure, including: the National Inventory of Housing, the National Directory of Economic Units and the National Geostatistical Framework.

H. Information services

Public Service of Information

41. The Public Service of Statistical and Geographical Information makes the Information of National Interest available to users, according to the rules for that purpose issued by the Governing Board.

National Network of Information

42. It involves the processes of exchange and storage of information to support the coordination activities of the System and its Subsystems and the provision of the Public Service of Information to the society.

Information of National Interest

43. The Institute will promote among the members of the Subsystems, proposals of Information of National Interest. It will be important to consider more information as such, as it implies that the information complies with the requirements stipulated by law. In addition, it will be important to monitor the production of information that is already considered of National Interest.

National Catalogue of Indicators

44. The Institute will establish with the SU, a National Catalog of Indicators to have elements that enhance the knowledge of demographic, economic, geographical and environmental reality, as well as the information of government, public safety and justice administration.

I. Training and Research

45. The Institute conducts a training program for members of the State Units, in order to disseminate and promote the implementation of the regulations adopted by the Governing Board to develop its statistical and geographical activities. Also, the Institute conducts and promotes research projects on new methodologies for the production and dissemination of Information of National Interest.

IV. Progress and challenges

46. The System is in a development stage, so the action of the Institute as a Central Coordinating Unit is fundamental; in order to provide the State Units with a larger number of regulatory common documents for the development of its statistical and geographical activities, increasing the number of proposals of Information of National Interest, which once approved by the Governing Board; will ensure that Mexican society has high quality, relevant, accurate and timely information, therefore consolidating the System every day.

47. Finally, one of the biggest challenges the Institute is facing this year is the new designation of members of the collegiate bodies, once the new federal administration takes the reins of the country from December 1st, 2012.
