

## **IAOS MEETING ON INDIGENOUS DATA RIGHTS AND THE ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATISTICS PRACTITIONERS**

At the 2023 World Statistics Congress, the ISI Council suggested to the Advisory Board on Ethics that they address the professional ethical obligations of statistics practitioners that pertain to rights of indigenous peoples relating to data collection, ownership, and control, or "indigenous data rights". Discussions between representatives of Canada, US, New Zealand and Australia about indigenous data rights have been well documented. Selected countries in Latin America and Scandinavia have specific considerations for Indigenous *governance*, although this has not risen to the level of indigenous data rights (to date).

As the ISI Advisory Board on Ethics considers whether and how to include "indigenous data rights" as specific aspects of statistical practice about which professional ethics should be explicit, questions of democracy, fairness, protecting vulnerable populations, and general political processes arise. Considerations of indigenous data rights go beyond protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and sharing of the data from such groups; they also involve 'co-design' in terms of design of data collection, production of data and statistical products, and communication about all of these. These challenges are important for the rights of indigenous people as well as those of other identifiable groups. The ISI's Declaration on Professional Ethics may need to be updated considering the moves towards indigenous data rights.

The Advisory Board on Ethics is looking to engage with representatives of Indigenous peoples and national statistical institutes at IAOS in Mexico City in a 'fact finding' session. The main questions to be discussed are:

1. *What are some policies or arrangements (if any) for participation, ownership, and control of Indigenous data?*
2. *What are some existing policies on ethical statistical practice relating to indigenous data rights?*
3. *Can we learn from territorial practices and policies (e.g., New Caledonia, Greenland)?*
4. *Can we learn from efforts relating to either non-sovereign, not-recognized groups or other minority or traditionally marginalized groups (e.g., for disease or disability)?*