

**Opening Remarks on behalf of the Chair of the Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger, to the
Members of the IAEG-SDGs on the occasion of the 2nd Meeting of the IAEG-SDG Indicators
26 October 2015**

Dear colleagues,

A few days ago we have just proudly celebrated World Statistics Day in close to 100 countries around the world, affirming our professionalism and our close cooperation as global official statistical community. We will need both today – professionalism and cooperation - as we are working on the most important task before us at this point in time: developing a global indicator framework in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

When I stood before the UN General Assembly, I made the commitment – on your behalf - that we can deliver within the required timeframes and that we will respect the parameters set by the political agenda. But I also emphasized that for the practical implementation of any indicator framework time and resources will be required over the coming years.

I envisage that the Statistical Commission will send its technical recommendations to ECOSOC and the General Assembly in the form of a global indicator list – together with a technical note that will explain in detail not only the process that led to the list and the criteria used. It should also note that many areas may require further methodological work in the coming years and, in particular, significant investments if national statistical systems are to deliver the data in reliable and sustainable manner.

Dear members of the IAEG-SDG, you have already all worked very hard over the past weeks, reviewing a large number of indicators. I am particularly pleased to learn that you have taken your role as ‘dual ambassadors’ very seriously, (i) consulting with large groups of stakeholders at your national level and (ii) consulting with your neighbours to represent a sub-regional and regional perspective.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the UN and international agencies, who are providing valuable support and advice and who will be our important partners when it comes to the implementation of the indicator framework.

I also wish to thank the civil society representatives for contributing their constructive suggestions, which will help us, the member-states to take the final decision. I need to ask you to continue to work hard, in Bangkok and in the weeks ahead, in the best technical and professional spirit of our World Statistics community.

I know this is hard as the agenda is broad – there are many reasons why we could respectfully disagree – but there are MORE reasons why we can and DO HAVE TO agree in the end. So, I strongly encourage you to be practical, distinguishing between issues that can be resolved at this point, and those that will require further work. I am confident that if we clearly outline our research agenda, specifying precisely, how further methodological work will be done and when and by whom, we will obtain the support by the political levels, which will have to ratify our technical work.

I am looking forward to informing the UN General Assembly next month that the Statistical Commission is a reliable partner, that we will deliver and that we are committed to continuing our support work for the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda over the next years, when it comes to the implementation of our indicator framework.