

**Statement by Mr. Xie Fuzhan, Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China
on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Statistical Commission**

Mr. Chairman,

I sincerely congratulate you to be elected as the Chairman of the United Nations Statistical Commission. I wish that this Session would be a great success under your leadership.

In 1946, a small but foresighted group of representatives gathered here in the United States, discussing the establishment of the Statistical Commission. One year later in 1947, the First Session of the Commission was held.

Sixty years ago, the entire world had just got out of the fire of the War and had many important things to do. However, those representatives took statistics as a priority and made profound recommendations which led to the establishment of the Commission. I am feeling proud of China's participation in the above two important activities.

Over the past 60 years, the Commission has made unparalleled contributions to the development of international statistics as well as national statistics, and further to the understanding of all the nations of the world with the common language of statistics.

After 60 years, today's statistics is an indispensable part of the political, economic and social life in all countries and will play a more important role in the future.

In the process from 60 years ago to now, and further to the future, the Commission has been and will be the leading entity of the world statistical system. By reviewing the development and wide applications of statistics, we should congratulate the Commission for its great achievements, and we should pay our deep respect for those who have made all this possible.

China's statistics is now undergoing development, particularly since the economic reform programme launched almost three decades ago. With the rapid economic and social development, China's statistical system has made remarkable achievements, which in turn make strong support to China's development and to the exchanges between China and other parts of the world. I hope that the Commission will take more effective actions to make further progress of global statistics. China is more than willing to join the international community in this effort.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.