

Statement by Mr. Péter Pukli, head of the Hungarian delegation on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Yesterday and Friday many speakers emphasized the historical significance of the United Nations Statistical Commission. Permit me in joining them in emphasizing its historical significance. During my long career, the Statistical Commission always was and is one of the most important contacts of the growing family of statisticians.

Looking back to the past forty years I have spent in my statistical institute, the work of the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division gave us many times essential additions to develop and harmonise the infrastructure of our statistical service. I mean classification, terms and concepts.

Let me mention only a few examples:

It was the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division, who

- supported the work for building a bridge between MPS and SNA;
- gave an official umbrella for the first few steps in developing the activity of the CPC;
- offered great support to the first rounds of ICP and
- provided background to the harmonization of foreign trade statistics.

The Statistical Commission also plays an important role in the integration of the different fields of statistics. SNA, as the framework of the economic statistics, has made a great impact on, not only our subject matter people's work, but on the way of thinking of the users of macroeconomic statistics. I remember

the long process of harmonization with the GFS and the balance of payment statistics. I do believe, that internationally agreed methods and manuals provide us with very strong arguments in the debate with our politicians and other users on the credibility of statistical data. I hope that the United Nations Statistical Commission, using its professional authority, will assist us in providing answers to the new challenges of statistics within the next sixty year-period as well.