

**Joint Bureaux meeting ECOSOC/Functional Commissions**

**Monday, 15 January 2007**

**Statement Mr. Gilberto Calvillo Vives (Mexico)  
Chair of the Statistical Commission**

Mr. President, distinguished ECOSOC Bureau members and fellow Chairpersons of Functional Commissions;

In the name of the Statistical Commission I would like to thank you for this welcome opportunity to brief you on our work and to discuss with you ways to continuously improve our cooperation. I will structure my remarks around three points: (i) highlights of the forthcoming thirty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, (ii) links between the Statistical Commission and ECOSOC and the ‘sister’ commissions, and (iii) development indicators which is the substantive topic where the Statistical Commission is contributing most to the work of the ECOSOC system.

Let me start with some of the highlights of our forthcoming thirty-eighth session.

## **1. Highlights forthcoming thirty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission**

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Statistical Commission. We take this opportunity to organize a number of special commemorative events in order to reflect on the achievements of the Statistical Commission to develop the global statistical system which is built upon the foundation of the national statistical offices and is supported by regional and international statistical offices. The Statistical Commission effectively functions as the executive board of this global statistical system. The Commission oversees the work of over 20 technical expert groups and interagency coordination groups in virtually all statistical fields. Based on the technical recommendations of these working groups the Commission has adopted numerous international statistical standards and methods, which have made it possible to meaningfully exchange and compare data at the global level.

The key technical issues to be discussed at the 2007 session include (i) education statistics, (ii) the recommendations for the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses, (iii) the revision of the

System of National Accounts planned for 2008, and (iv) the follow-up to the 2006 ECOSOC resolution on ‘Strengthening Statistical Capacity’.

We expect an attendance of over 100 countries at the level of the Head of the National Statistical Office, which will ensure a high technical quality of the debate.

Now I refer to the

## **2. Links between the Statistical Commission and ECOSOC and the ‘sister’ commissions**

Following the ECOSOC recommendations, the Statistical Commission has a standard agenda item on “ECOSOC policy decisions and their implications for the work of the Commission”. In this context, the Statistical Commission has conducted in 2004 and 2005 a successful review of its working methods, resulting in a streamlining of its procedures, especially by distinguishing between discussion and information items. Furthermore, the Commission also continues to implement planning tools suggested by ECOSOC, such as a rolling four-year work program.

The Statistical Commission also cooperates to the extent possible with other Functional Commissions: For instance in 2007, we will hold a joint panel discussion with the Commission on the Status of Women on the measurement of their key theme: “The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child”. This leads us to my third point:

### **3. Development indicators**

In past years the Statistical Commission has extensively contributed to ECOSOC’s work on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major UN summits and conferences by technically reviewing proposed conference indicators.

The Commission has repeatedly expressed its concerns regarding the ability of countries to produce MDG indicators. A 2006 resolution, adopted by ECOSOC, calls attention to the need to strengthen national statistical capacity and, thus, to improve the global MDG database maintained by the UN Statistics Division, in particular, with respect to its coverage and its presentation of data and metadata.

The ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity, is an excellent guideline for the joint work of all members of the global statistical system. As far as the Statistical Commission is concerned, we consider the Resolution a very important step forward, a fundamental set of criteria to make serious progress in our statistical field. Inside the Commission and within the spirit of ECOSOC, we will carefully follow up its application and evaluate its results, particularly in those areas related to the coordination process between international agencies and National Statistical Offices.

I have put forward some ideas to foster cooperation among the members of the global statistical system. I think that by improving the coordination among National Statistical Offices, regional and international agencies, the financial and technical support, coming from multilateral agencies and donor countries, could be received or implemented within the frame of the national needs, reflecting the previously agreed national working plans, and taking into account the strengthening of the National Statistical Offices' technical capacity. This combined effort, will be very fruitful both for the agencies and the

countries. In this context, I have proposed that the UN Statistics Division devise concrete ways to implement these ideas.

The Annual Ministerial Reviews (AMR) of specific development themes will highlight once again the need for a solid information base in order to conduct a meaningful assessment. The Statistical Commission stands ready to contribute with its technical expertise;

Dear Mr. President, I would like to thank you again for this invitation and I would like to assure you that we are looking forward to continued cooperation with our fellow functional commissions and with ECOSOC.