



**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS: DATA DISAGGREGATION**

3 November 2016, Seoul

Keynote Address

Stefan Schweinfest

Director, United Nations Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Distinguished Commissioner Yoo,

Dear Experts and Colleagues,

I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this International Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals: Data Disaggregation, which is part the longstanding collaboration between our office and Statistics Korea. In particular, I wish to express my gratitude to Commissioner Yoo for his continued support. I would also like to recognize the kind collaboration of the organizers around Ms. Lael Lee, and all the colleagues in Statistics Korea for their work to ensure this event will be successful.

I am pleased to virtually accompany such an exceptional group of experts who will help address one of the most important areas of data development for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda: data disaggregation. We are but a year since the adoption of this historic and unprecedented agenda and new data collection processes and mechanisms are just beginning to take shape that will guide us throughout this 15-year journey. There are many challenges as well as opportunities that we are all facing when translating the ambitions of the Agenda into reality for our communities and most importantly for those that have often been left behind. One key challenge in this context is to compile disaggregated data and indicators that address all groups of the population. This is fundamental to not only review progress, but more importantly, to provide information that supports decision makers in policy choices, helping them to prioritize action, investments and measures necessary for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

For the full implementation of the Agenda, the importance of data disaggregation cannot be overemphasized. I am pleased to report that along with the agreement of the indicator framework at the 47th session of the Statistical Commission in March 2016, a decision was taken that the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators as a whole would work on a dedicated sub-programme on data disaggregation.

In addition, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is developing a global action plan for data for sustainable development which will include capacity building to support the production of data on all parts of society. Another activity the High Level Group is spearheading is the first UN World Data Forum, which will be convened in South Africa in January 2017. The Forum represents a unique opportunity to engage with different stakeholders and data producers from different communities in a common effort to find solutions for better data for all.

As you are aware, the data needs for the 2030 Agenda are unparalleled and will require data that can more accurately pinpoint the most vulnerable. In order to answer this call, we will need the provision of disaggregated data. Methodologies to address data disaggregation and provide robust information will vary by data sources. Fully utilizing existing data from census, surveys and administrative data or registries is a first step in obtaining detailed information about national populations. While much data exists, there are still gaps in methodologies that will need to be addressed and in tools to specifically include certain groups of the population in data production. Incorporating data from new data sources, and ensuring that these data meet the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, also needs to be explored in order to have statistical evidence to assess progress in all domains covered by the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, this Agenda will require a significant amount of statistical capacity building directed at the national statistical systems. This International Seminar is an opportunity for statisticians and experts from around the world to explore the technical challenges and opportunities for data disaggregation and in particular those challenges faced by national statistical systems. I have no doubt that your recommendations will be an essential building block in the global efforts to ensure that no one is left behind. I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations and wish you much success for your meeting.