



**100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE STATISTICS BODIES OF BELARUS**

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Video message

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Distinguished Colleagues from the State Statistics Bodies of Belarus,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you from the United Nations through this video message, and to congratulate you on this special occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the state statistics bodies of the Republic of Belarus. I would like to thank Ms. Medvedeva, Chairperson of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, for providing me this opportunity to address you.

This year also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations and begins the Decade of Action as we march toward the sustainable development goals.

On this day of celebration, I would like to use this short greeting address to share with you two simple messages: (i) I am grateful for the close cooperation between my office, the United Nations Statistics Division and the government agencies in Belarus in the past and (ii) I look forward to working closely with you on the challenges of the future.

Belarus is currently a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission for the period of 2017-2020 and holds a position of Vice-Chair in the Bureau. As there are only 24 elected members of the Statistical Commission worldwide (and only four from Eastern Europe), this implies that Belarus has accepted a special responsibility for shaping the Global Statistical System, for which I am very grateful. Some areas of our successful cooperation in the recent past include environmental-economic accounting, operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and the development of national Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

Looking forward, there are many challenges for us statisticians, due not only to the broad scope of the Sustainable Development Goals, but also in the face of the current global pandemic. Demand for timely, quality, relevant and trusted data has never been higher before. Only a modern national statistical system will be able to satisfy this demand. National Statistical Offices need to take the lead in the evolving data ecosystem, working closely with partners on the basis of clearly established principles. A good starting point are the ten Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. They call for scientific methods and the independence of the national statistical system. The application of the United Nations Fundamental Principles will build the trust needed to guide policy decision making at all levels.

*Connecting the World with data we can trust*, is the theme of our **World Statistics Day 2020**, which will be celebrated on the 20 October 2020, all around the world, with events organized by national statistical offices, regional and international statistical organizations as well as universities. We are also looking forward to celebrating with you.

Dear colleagues,

The challenges for the global statistical community are considerable. But, I am deeply convinced that thanks to our joint professionalism we will succeed. Thank you for your contribution and again, congratulation to your institution's 100th anniversary. I wish you well as you celebrate this momentous occasion.