

Opening remarks by the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission

7 March 2017

Distinguished delegates,

I wish to thank the Commission for their trust, expressed by electing me to chair the 48th Session of the Statistical Commission. Please allow me an opening declaration before proceeding.

During its 70 years of history, the United Nations Statistical Commission has built its role as the most important body of the global statistical system, confirming the expectations from 1947, moment of its creation.

Gathering the chief statisticians of all Member States with the common goal of establishing statistical standards, formulating concepts and methods, and their application at national and international levels, the Commission represents our community and its will to contribute to global progress and wellbeing.

Its origin is associated to efforts towards building new perspectives, and currently, this spirit materialises once again in the work to be done by this Commission. Thus, we encourage you to contribute so that expectations of a better future for the world are realised based on adequate decisions, built with trust, grounded in timely and reliable statistical information.

I congratulate my colleagues of all the statistical offices in the world, UNSD, international and regional agencies and other organisations participating in the 48th session of the Statistical Commission, who enable the realisation of our mission with their daily work.

Hoping to deliver on the expectations of those who have trusted me to chair the Commission, I declare the Session open.

Paying homage to the Statistical Commission history and to the colleagues who preceded us, to colleagues here and those around the world that are not here but are with us nevertheless in this historic event, let us offer a round of applause, a great round of applause.