
From: Li Wang
Sent: Thursday, 25 February, 2021 6:22 PM
Cc: Stefan Schweinfest; Linda Hooper; Muhammad Soomro; Victor Leu
Subject: Statistical Commission - 52nd session - Final weekly update and interprefy information (25 February 2021)
Attachments: 52ndStatisticalCommission-InterprefyAccess.pdf

Sent on behalf of Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division/DESA

Dear colleagues,

We are in the final stretch to the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission taking place remotely starting next Monday 1 March 2021 at 9AM Eastern Standard Time.

Over the past week, you have submitted over **500 written statements** on all agenda items! If read out, this would be the longest Commission ever! It is just another testimony of how vibrant and dedicated the global statistical community is. I want to personally thank you for taking the time of documenting your position, your views, your questions, your concerns and your suggestions. The extraordinary richness of your statements is documented on our website, and it is there to stay. My team has been working diligently to study and review all of your statements and we are preparing succinct summaries and proposed draft decisions to be shared with you next week.

As you are aware the time to take the floor next week will be extremely limited. In consultation with the Bureau, we have reviewed your requests to take the floor and to the extent possible accommodated them drawing up a preliminary speakers list to help the Chair manage the time of the Commission effectively. We are confident that the statements that will be made reflect the broad spectrum of views and take into account the geographical and developmental diversity of our professional community. And I wish to assure you again, that the summaries and proposed draft decisions are based on ALL written statements submitted.

Given that your written statements are an official part of the records of our 52nd session of the Statistical Commission, additional requests to take the floor during our session can only be accommodated under exceptional circumstances. You will, however, at all times be able to use the “chat-function” to express your views. And we certainly expect a participatory discussion on Friday when we will jointly review the draft report of the session. I am confident that our usual cooperative spirit to find appropriate consensus language to move the global statistical programme forward will prevail like every year.

As you know the **interprefy** platform will be used for the virtual session and offers interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations. We have uploaded guidelines prepared to aid delegates in their use of the platform. **Connections details have been shared with registered delegations** and are attached again in the annex to this note. Please note that there are two additional training session tomorrow, Friday 26 February at 8-10AM EST and 12-2PM EST. I would like to remind you that the Commission will be available on UN WebTv for wider participation.

Please see the Commission’s website for more information <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/> .

While my staff and I cannot welcome you this year into our UN home, I am looking forward to joining together around the world for the 52nd session; and then, hopefully meet again here in New York for the 53rd session in 2022.

Warm regards,

Stefan Schweinfest
Director
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA