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**From:** Lalaharinoro Rasandiharisoa on behalf of Stefan Schweinfest  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 December, 2020 10:02 AM  
**Cc:** Stefan Schweinfest; Linda Hooper; Li Wang  
**Subject:** Statistical Commission and end of year greetings (2)  
**Attachments:** StatComm Chairs Letter\_21Dec2020.pdf; STATCOM Proposed modalities on the arrangements for the work of 52nd session (final).pdf

Dear Colleagues,

As this challenging year 2020 draws to a close, I am heartened by the global statistical community's collective response to the ongoing pandemic. We have stayed connected in many new ways. We have connected to new partners. We have shared challenges and solutions in professional solidarity. We have managed to incorporate new data sources in an agile manner to respond to the increased data demand. We had unprecedented opportunities to educate our users on the responsible use of our precious public good: official statistics and data.

I am very happy to inform you that we will have our Statistical Commission in March 2021! We will not be able to enjoy each other's company – for that we still have to be patient, but we shall be connected! Given the ongoing pandemic, the Bureau of the Commission has consulted extensively with the Secretariat and made recommendations to convene the session in an informal virtual format on 1 to 3 and 5 March 2021. More information can be found in the attached letter from the Chair of the Statistical Commission, Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki of Japan, to representatives of the Permanent Missions to the UN (see attached). Once this political process has been formalized and finalized, I will of course communicate further detailed information to you, on how we will be able to conduct our session.

While the format of the Commission session 2021 will be different, some things remain the same, and I am especially referring here to the substance of our work: I am extremely pleased and proud to share with you that ALL documents (unedited advanced English versions) for the 52nd session have now been posted on our website at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/>. They show the breath of our joint work on the global statistical system and they demonstrate just how vibrant our community is. I want to express a special THANK YOU to my staff and all partners who have contributed to this rich documentation. As always, the unedited versions will be gradually replaced with fully edited and translated texts during January. In addition, background documents will be uploaded by the end of January as well.

I would like to share with you and your families best wishes for the holiday season and a healthy and happy 2021!

Please do take care of yourselves!

I am very much looking forward to being in touch in the coming year.

Best regards,

Stefan Schweinfest

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