

United Nations Nations Unies

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New York, 21 December 2020

Excellency,

On behalf of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission I have the pleasure to enclose the proposed modalities for the work of the Statistical Commission for its 52nd session and the advanced version of the draft Programme of Work (L.1).

I wish to thank all the Member States for their constructive engagement throughout all this process. The ongoing situation of COVID-19 global pandemic makes it more necessary than ever to work together in order to find possible ways to give solutions to the challenges we face.

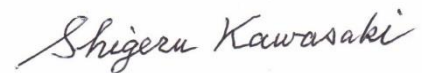
Bearing in mind the prevailing conditions, the official guidance received from the President of ECOSOC, and building on the recent experiences from convening of the other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC in 2020, the Bureau has worked with the aim of presenting a realistic and flexible option that would enable all of us to fulfil, together, the responsibilities attributed to the Statistical Commission. We believe that the proposal we present, if not ideal, is the best possibility to move forward with our work, while making it the participation of all Member States from across geographical capitals possible.

The proposals outlined in the attached modalities paper would only be applied as a temporary one-time measure during the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and would not, in any way, create a precedent for the work of the Commission.

Continuing with our practice of engaging the membership throughout all this process, I share with you this proposal for information and consideration. If you have any serious concerns, you are most welcome to contact me directly within three working days latest by Monday 28 December 2020. Any practical questions or comments may also be addressed to the Secretariat (Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UNSD, schweinfest@un.org, or Irfan Soomro, Secretary of the Commission, soomroi@un.org). Further detailed information will of course be shared with all delegations regularly in the coming weeks.

I look forward to working with you in the weeks ahead in order to ensure a successful session of the Statistical Commission.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Shigeru Kawasaki

Chair

Statistical Commission

To all Permanent Representatives and
Permanent observers to the United Nations
New York
Annex enclosed