**Statement provided by:**
Finland on behalf of the EU and its Member States. The EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland align themselves with the statement.

**Statement:**
This statement is delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States. The EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland align themselves with the statement:

The European Statistical System (ESS) welcomes the update of the Terms of Reference of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The ESS notes the expanding role of national statistical offices in the changing data landscape where they are increasingly assigned data stewardship responsibilities in the national data ecosystems.

The ESS supports the integration of geospatial and statistical information and the seeking of improved cooperation to make full use of Earth Observation for official statistics purposes.

The ESS welcomes the request to the UN Development System to assist the developing countries in strengthening their statistical and data systems adherent to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as the basis for their development plans and the evaluation of their economic and social progress.

**Submitted on:** 2/17/2022