

**Economic and Social Council – Coordination and Management Meeting**  
**Item 18 (c): Economic and environmental questions: Statistics**

Introduction of the Vice-Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Ms. Gabriella Vukovich  
(Hungary)  
New York, 8 June 2021

Dear Mr. Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council,

Ambassadors, distinguished colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the Economic and Social Council in my capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to present the work of the Statistical Commission and summarize the most recent outcomes of the Commission's session in March this year.

The Statistical Commission has been the premier gathering of the global statistical community with the aim of producing better data since 1946, that is for over 70 years. Government experts from every corner of our planet come together to develop the common language of statistics and to serve the global community with their technical knowledge and expertise.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year, the Statistical Commission held its 52<sup>nd</sup> session, as remote informal meetings.

The virtual platform allowed for over 1,000 delegates, coming from 134 countries and 55 international agencies, to join the annual session.

Despite the very compressed time schedule of its session, we successfully adopted our report, containing 17 technical decisions, unanimously via a silence procedure. These technical decisions guide the future work of the Statistics Division of DESA, as well as the entire UN statistical system.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to draw your attention to a few important decisions by the Commission:

First, the Commission successfully adopted a new Ecosystem Accounting framework as part of the System of Integrated Economic Environmental Accounting. The framework was adopted after a multi-year open, transparent and inclusive process of consultations involving over 100 experts from around the globe. The adoption of the framework is a giant step toward answering “questions on the relationship between the economy, society and the environment and how we measure well-being and social progress”.

Secondly, the Commission expressed its appreciation for the continued improvements of SDG indicator methodologies. The Commission also requested the Statistics Division/DESA to continue to lead the United Nations statistical system for the preparation of the annual authoritative SDG progress report to be presented to the High-level Political Forum.

Thirdly, the Commission endorsed the vision and way forward for the implementation of the new United Nations data portal as the main entry point to authoritative statistical data and metadata from the United Nations system and other participating international and regional organizations, in line with countries' priorities and with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere.

Fourthly, the Commission tasked the Bureau with reviewing the 50-year-old mandate of the Statistical Commission. The Statistical Commission focuses on the modernization of national statistical systems, and it calls upon itself to reflect on how modernization can be reflected within the framework of the Commission in order to better serve the data and analysis needs of the Economic and Social Council and other stakeholders of the global statistical system.

Distinguished delegates,

You will also find in the Commission's report our technical decisions on our regular work programme in fields such as economic statistics, demographic statistics, international migration statistics and modernization of statistical systems, to name only a few. Over the past year, data has taken on increased importance, and data from different types of sources need to be used and integrated effectively to take important crisis mitigation and policy decisions that matter to us all. The Commission welcomed the agile and innovative responses of the global statistical community to the increased demands for timely and disaggregated data in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am pleased to re-assure you that under the leadership of the United Nations, statistical offices from around the world have worked closely together over the past 18 months, to share data, knowledge and experiences in this difficult exceptional situation.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present the Statistical Commission's report and decisions to you and look forward to your continued and strong support of the Commission's work.

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*