Dear Mr. Vice-President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues

It is my pleasure to address you in my capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Commission.

High quality, reliable and internationally comparable statistics are indispensable, even more so at times of crisis.

The Statistical Commission, as the global coordinator of official statistics maintains international statistical standards and addresses the increased demand for data that are needed to take important crisis mitigation and policy decisions that matter to us all.

The global statistical community responded through agile and innovative responses to the increased demands for timely and disaggregated data in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Distinguished Delegates,

The forthcoming 53rd session of the Statistical Commission will have before it a wide range of topics addressing among others:

- SDG Indicators,
- coordination,
- open data,
- national accounts,
- climate change statistics.

Re-evaluating the role of the national statistical offices as data stewards in the larger data ecosystem and sustainable funding and investments in data are other high level topics on the agenda.

Aligned with the ECOSOC review of its subsidiary bodies, the Statistical Commission will also have before it the revision of its 50-year-old terms of reference to address the evolving and
expanding statistical and data ecosystem and the modernization of national statistical systems.

The Statistical Commission is committed to working closely with other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies. The topic of statistics and data is, indeed, a transversal one.

In fact, the Commission’s many working groups bring together experts on data and statistics from across the full UN thematic spectrum.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank you for this opportunity.