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Dear Ambassador Angell-Hansen,

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2017.

I am excited to learn about the important events you are planning in the area of drug statistics and welcome your invitation for the Statistical Commission to participate in these events. As a first step, I am pleased to inform you that the Statistical Commission will be represented at the panel discussion on drug statistics, which will take place in Vienna on 7 December 2017, from 2 pm to 3 pm, by its rapporteur, Ms. Aija Zigure, President of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia. Ms. Zigure is a very experienced, long-standing member of the Statistical Commission, having been attending its annual session for more than 10 years, and has been an active member of the Bureau since her election in 2016.

I also understand that our colleague Mr. Mario Palma, Vice-President of the Board of Governors of the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) is also participating in this panel. His institution is very active in the area of drug statistics and INEGI was the co-author of the most recent report considered by the Statistical Commission on this topic, entitled "Report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on a roadmap to improve drug statistics" (E/CN.3/2017/12)

I am looking forward to an interesting and fruitful panel discussion.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Wasmália Socorro Barata Bivar
Chair, United Nations Statistical Commission

Ambassador Bente Angell-Hansen
Chair, United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs