

**Statement by Ms. Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Director General of Statistics Finland
on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Statistical Commission**

Let me also congratulate the United Nations Statistical Commission for its 60th anniversary. 60 years are a long time. Within this family we have achieved a lot of good progress both at the global and the national level. At the same time we all know that we still have big challenges ahead of us. Let me mention three of them.

The *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994, form the firm basis for our work both at the national and the global level. But it is clear that the autonomy and independence of statistics still need to be strengthened in many countries and the United Nations Statistical Commission can facilitate this process by taking up these questions during its meetings.

Another important issue we have to place more emphasis on in the future is the quality of our products and operations, including relevance and coherence. The challenge of getting reliable source data, be it from surveys or from administrative registers, is a constant concern for us. The compliance with the international statistical standards and methods needs to be strengthened and new tools should be made available as an answer to the changing environment and growing user requirements.

We also have to continue our efforts of statistical capacity building and to make this process work better. As national statisticians, we have a lot to learn from each other and the United Nations Statistical Commission surely find appropriate ways to help us share our experience and knowledge between the countries on the global level.

With these words I would like to wish all the success to this Commission in its future work.