

Mr. Chair,

Speaking from the Chair of the Federated States of Micronesia, I also speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Island UN member countries national statistical offices.

Mr. Chair - we welcome the comprehensive report by *Secretary General on the 2010 and 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programmes*.

With **all 21 Pacific Island countries and territories** having conducted at least 1 census during the 2010 Programme (with 6 countries having conducted 2), with the 2020 Pacific Regional census Programme kicking off next month with the Palau census, and with the Pacific Community, on our behalf, having actively contributed to the *3rd Revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing censuses*, we are happy to endorse this revision, and the *2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme*.

Having said this, Mr. Chair, please allow me three brief observations:

1. In paragraph 12 under Challenges – reference is made to the ***“insufficient dissemination and exploitation of 2010 round census results”***.

Mr. Chair – this has been a recurring theme in previous round of censuses, and it is highly likely that this challenge will continue in the upcoming round census, unless countries consider **active data dissemination, including early press releases and policy briefs**, as an **integral part of a census operation**, and not as merely optional features.

2. With regard to Paragraph 17 and **South-South cooperation**, I am glad to report that this has worked very well in our region during the last census round, with the Secretariat of the Pacific community assisting in the deployment of experienced census operational managers, data processing advisers, cartography/GIS experts and colleagues experienced in OCR/scanning from some NSOs to others, lacking such expertise and requiring such support.

3. And last but not least, adoption of a **common core set of census questions**, not to be mistaken with common questionnaires, provides for regionally comparable statistics, as well as for efficiency gains in data processing and tabulation, and associated training.

Thank you Mr. Chair.