

# United Nations Nations Unies

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STAT 010

22 August 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Seminar on “Evolution of National Statistical Systems”,  
United Nations, New York, Friday, 23 February 2007**

As one of the special events to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2007, it is our pleasure to announce that the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) will be organizing a high-level seminar entitled “Evolution of National Statistical Systems”. The one-day seminar will be held on the Friday preceding the thirty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, on 23 February 2007, here at UN Headquarters in New York.

Managing a modern statistical system poses numerous legal, institutional and organizational challenges. Taking advantage of the unique opportunity of the expected presence of close to 100 chief statisticians from around the world, UNSD would like to create a forum for the exchange of information on innovative approaches to meeting managerial challenges of a national statistical system. We envisage several sessions to be organized around the following themes:

1. Establishment of the system: What is the legal framework? To whom should those responsible for the national statistical system be accountable? How can the leadership role of the national statistical agency be affirmed?
2. Management of resources and communication: How can staff be kept well trained and motivated? How can statistical agencies keep up with fast changing information technology (IT) developments? How can new outreach methods be developed to reach users?
3. Evolution of an efficiently functioning system: Looking back, has there been a convergence towards certain system configurations that have proven successful? Looking forward, what are future directions for national statistical systems?

This letter comes to you as a special invitation to this high-level seminar. I hope that the early notification will facilitate your making arrangements for attending this seminar, the thirty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission and other special events. I would also like to invite you to prepare a country paper on the evolution of your national statistical system. Your country's paper will be part of an important collection of country papers constituting a critical component of the knowledge base on official statistics and will be posted on the UNSD website for global dissemination. For questions on the country paper, please contact Mr. Stefan Schweinfest ([schweinfest@un.org](mailto:schweinfest@un.org)), the coordinator for the Statistical Commission. Designated session organizers will assist UNSD in finalizing the programme of invited presentations.

I look forward to welcoming you to the thirty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission and to commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the Statistical Commission. I hope to be able to count upon your support in making this special occasion a success.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Cheung  
Director  
Statistics Division/DESA