



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 July 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention General Assembly resolution 64/267 in which the Assembly decided to designate 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day under the general theme of “Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics” and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism. The General Assembly further invites Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, to observe World Statistics Day.

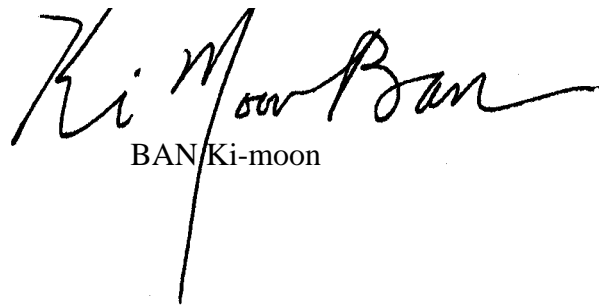
Statistics are critical in evidence-based decision-making across all cultural and historical backgrounds of countries and irrespective of their level of development. In adopting resolution 64/267, the General Assembly acknowledged the fundamental importance of sustainable national statistical capacity to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators. Solid data are an indispensable basis for informed policy formulation and for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels.

I am heartened by the sincere efforts made in many countries in recent years to strengthen their statistical capacity, under the leadership of the national statistical office, in areas such as the population and housing censuses and the monitoring of MDG progress. I am also encouraged by the announcements of many national statistical systems to celebrate the first World Statistics Day. I invite your Government, as the primary producer, user and beneficiary of official statistics, to lend your full and timely support to these efforts.

The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has created a website to share information on the various forms in which this World Statistics Day is being celebrated around the world (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/Default.aspx>). I would like to encourage your Government to inform us about your plans, so that your information can be made visible for all.

Let us make this historic World Statistics Day a success by acknowledging and celebrating the role of statistics in the social and economic development of our societies and by dedicating further efforts and resources to strengthening national statistical capacity.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN/Ki-moon