

## Statement for Statistical Commission at ECOSOC meeting

[**Background:** The theme of the 2020 ECOSOC Substantive Session and HLPF is “[Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development](#)”; a 5 minutes overview of the statistical commission contribution is expected.]

*[If not already acknowledged]* The chair of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission M. Zachary Mwangi Chege from Kenya, could not attend and send his regards.

As one of the vice-chairs of the Bureau, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak today on the work of the Statistical Commission.

Before I do so, let me just say that it is an honor to be part of the Bureau of the Commission. Canada is also a chair or member of many groups and committees working under the Statistical Commission, as well as under the regional commissions. We are happy to volunteer and contribute actively to their work programs but our contributions are not solely altruistic. It is clear that the opportunity to work with our UNSC colleagues around the globe makes our own statistical system stronger and more responsive, both domestically and internationally.

Coming back to the specific work of the Statistical Commission, I would like to address the 3 following points:

1. how our work contributes directly to the 2020 theme;
2. how the way we work is aligned with the ECOSOC vision of a responsive and strengthen approach, and;
3. how we can continue to move forward.

In fewer words, what we offer is (1) robust information, (2) efficient action and (3) a look ahead.

The Statistical Commission focuses on the technical aspects of the quality information needed to make evidence-based decisions. We provide standards and methodologies for solid measures that are independent, comparable, and scientifically grounded. Our contribution to the HLPF review of the theme is really this fundamental work around the global indicator framework. We can all agree that *better data makes for a better world*. Under the leadership of the Statistical Commission, the global statistical system provides the **best** available data and statistics for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

As a specific example of our work, I would like to draw your attention to the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), which conducted a Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework. This review proposes concrete actions and improvements to the measurement framework and will be submitted to the Statistical Commission in March 2020 for its consideration.

This work directly helps the global monitoring of the 2030 agenda and also provides the necessary guidance to countries, many of which are already well advanced in implementing their national frameworks and reporting platforms. In Canada for example, we have an SDG data hub but we also indicate in each our releases to which indicators the data relates.

The decade of action will also need proper funding. The Statistical Commission continues to support the establishment of an innovative financing mechanism, as called for in the Dubai Declaration. The goal is to mobilize both domestic and international funds as it is clear that financing is needed to help Governments strengthen capacity and build sustainable systems. We are also working on the implementation of the *Cape Town Global Action Plan* for Sustainable Development Data. This plan is a framework to leverage the activities related to the statistical capacity building necessary to achieve the scope and intent of the 2030 Agenda.

The second point I wanted to make is about how the Statistical Commission works. Our work is **efficient** and **action-oriented**. Partnership yields efficiencies and the Statistical Commission works in close cooperation with many groups including : the Commission on the Status of Women, the Population Commission, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Commission on Social Development, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (Cepa), the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). For this last one, we are having joint meetings in the regional commissions to seek out how to increase even more the partnerships.

Our work program has elements on rotational or ad hoc basis with flexibility to react to the evolving data ecosystem. For example, we address innovative topics, like data stewardship and the evolution of the statistical system, to keep abreast of shifts in the dynamics of the global statistical community. Big and open data are now regularly on the program. In the High-Level group for the modernization of Statistics (HLG-MOS), we discuss and actively explore opportunities offered by AI techniques. The Statistical Commission also covers topics like disaster-related statistics or impact of health outbreaks like the one currently in the news which can be time sensitive.

For the day to day work of the Statistical Commission, we have enhanced our working methods and outcomes through a comprehensive review of groups working under the Commission.

As a concrete and personal example, I am currently chairing a Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics. This group has a clear and short-term mandate that includes assessing the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the governance of the current system of economic statistics. The group will make recommendations for a way forward based on a broad consultations and pilot concrete use cases of proposed changes.

My third and last point is about the way forward for an even stronger contribution of the Statistical Commission to ECOSOC and HLPF. We think the contributions of subsidiary bodies could be enhanced by having allocated sessions during the HLPF. The Statistical Commission would eagerly contribute to a specific session on data and statistics. ECOSOC is in a position to support and enhance the visibility of statistical offices and statistical systems. I hope I make it clear how the official statistical community, under the leadership of Statistical Commission, substantially contributes to the evidence needed for the decade of action. Let me say again: *Better data for a better world*. Let us help you get the best data to ensure that sustainable development reaches all, and truly leaves no-one behind.