Draft talking points for CST Chair for 79th Commission session

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

We are at the midpoint of the 2030 agenda but progress is too slow for Asia and the Pacific region to achieve the Goals by 2030.

Between 2017 and 2022 the number of indicators with sufficient data has doubled but the pace of improvement is slowing down and data remain insufficient for many indicators.

In 2017, the Commission endorsed the collective statistical vision for the 2030 Agenda and in 2019, the Commission endorsed a declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind.

Judging from the large SDG data gaps, the two framework agreements are far from realized. To close data gaps, National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific will need to be strengthened to produce, deliver and communicate official statistics which are relevant, trusted and meet the needs of many users.

Mongolia was elected Chair of the Committee on Statistics at its 8th session in 2022. I thank my fellow chief statisticians, colleagues and friends for this honor. I chaired the Committee in August 2022 and am grateful for the support from countries, development partners and the secretariat.

The Committee made six important decisions.

The Committee endorsed the revised terms of reference of the Bureau and the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics as well as deciding that the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific should continue its work.

The Committee decided to feature data governance and the production and use of complementary progress measures in its future work, with an emphasis on climate change-related statistics.

The Committee also decided to conduct a review of the groups and communities of practice supporting the Committee's work and propose recommendations to streamline, consolidate and improve those groups and communities to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we still have much to do, we are making progress and are confident we are on the right path.

I take the opportunity to thank you and our development partners for your commitment to data and statistics and to recognize the significant contributions of the Governments of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation as well as Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health initiative. We are delivering on the data needs of the 2030 Agenda, and we are delivering together. Your support and encouragement are invaluable to our efforts.

Thank you.