Brief Statement on Candidature of Government of India for re-election to the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) for the term 2025-2027

1. National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India endorses data driven policy making and hence places utmost importance to coverage and quality aspects of official statistics released in the country.

2. India has previously been a member of the Governing Council (GC) of SIAP, including its current tenure. This experience has provided valuable insights into the Institute's training strategy across a broader spectrum and has reinforced India's commitment to supporting SIAP in its mission to strengthen National Statistical Systems for the production of reliable and timely statistics and indicators that effectively measure countries' progress.

India envisions strengthening SIAP's role as a premier institution for statistical capacity development by fostering collaboration among member nations. India aims to contribute to the sustainable growth of National Statistical Systems (NSS) through strategic initiatives, training, and data-driven policymaking.

3. **Vision:**

i. Actively participate in Governing Council discussions to shape SIAP's strategic vision.

ii. Offer expertise from Indian institutions such as the National Statistical Office (NSO), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), and National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) for capacity development.

iii. Share India's best practices in official statistics, use of administrative statistics and alternative datasets including initiatives like the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for SDG monitoring.

iv. Advocate for greater engagement between SIAP and UN-ESCAP member nations for continuous improvement in statistical systems.

4. Aim:

i. **Enhancing Training & Capacity Building –** India will actively refine SIAP's training programs by integrating emerging statistical methodologies and advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics, and machine learning to enhance official statistics. India under the training need assessment will systematically evaluate the current training ecosystem and will guide strategic capacity-building efforts across UN-SIAP member countries.

ii. **Encouraging Digital Transformation –** Recognizing the evolving technological landscape, India aims to support SIAP in leveraging digital tools and e-learning platforms to enhance accessibility, scalability, and efficiency in statistical training. This includes promoting interactive learning modules, virtual classrooms, and AI-driven analytics for personalized learning experiences.

iii. **Fostering Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing** – India will promote closer engagement between SIAP and national statistical offices (NSOs) in the Asia-Pacific region. By facilitating knowledge exchange and adopting best practices, India will contribute to building a robust statistical framework that fosters innovation and harmonization of methodologies.

iv. **Ensuring High-Quality Official Statistics** – India upholds international statistical standards and actively promotes their adoption where applicable. India will provide technical expertise in key statistical domains such as the Sample Survey, Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Energy Statistics, Industrial Classification, and the Economic Census. Furthermore, India will advocate for evidence-based policymaking and reinforce bilateral and multilateral cooperation for statistical advancements.

v. **Supporting SDG Monitoring Efforts** – As a committed contributor to global SDG tracking, India will play a crucial role in refining methodologies for SDG indicators. By assisting nations in implementing sustainable development frameworks, India will ensure data-driven policy decisions and strengthen the overall monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals

5. By leveraging India's expertise in official statistics, digital transformation and international cooperation, the country aims to contribute meaningfully to SIAP's mission for building statistical capacity across the Asia-Pacific region, supporting evidence-based policymaking and sustainable development.