Brief Statement Georgia

We all realize that the mandate of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is to promote sustainable and inclusive development and regional connectivity in the Asian and Pacific region. As the leading regional platform for economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP provides the strategic link for global initiatives, country-level programmes and priorities.

Georgia attaches particular importance sharing your best practice and experience in the region to consolidate regional positions and approaches to meet the region's unique socio-economic challenges in a globalizing world.

From this standpoint, it should be highlighted that the Government of Georgia is committed to develop an active cooperation with ESCAP countries, particularly focused on economic relations.

Georgia highly values the work done by ESCAP statistical community, from collective vision and framework to regional road map for implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

It is worth highlighting that Mr. Gogita Todradze, Executive Director of the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat), was elected as the Chair of the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at the 7th Session of the Committee on Statistics on August 26, 2020, serving a two-year term.

In this context, I would like to once again express our appreciation for the significant work accomplished by the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics and reaffirm that Georgia remains a committed partner in supporting the Bureau's efforts to set statistical priorities for the region.

Furthermore, it is significant to mention that on May 7, 2019, at the meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York, Georgia was elected as a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for a four-year term, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening statistical governance at the global level.

Georgia remains fully committed to actively contributing to regional cooperation by engaging in existing capacity development initiatives and institutions in the field of statistics within the ESCAP region.

With this regard, we consider the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) as an additional platform for cooperation with countries in Asia-pacific. We truly believe that SIAP can play positive role and serve as a springboard for our enhanced partnership.

SIAP's function as a regional level training provider has served the region relatively well over the past decades, when statistical capacities were overall comparatively low. In spite of this, SIAP has adapted to the changing context in terms of international development agenda and its data requirements as well as in terms of embracing e-learning opportunities and incorporation of managerial tools in addition to technical aspects to the statistical capacity development.

In response to your request regarding the possible interest in submitting a candidature for election in the Governing Council of the Institute, let us express the readiness from Georgia in this regard and propose Geostat as a member of the SIAP Governing Council.

We firmly believe that Georgia's membership in Governing Council will contribute to the further development of SIAP's role in statistical capacity development in the Asia and Pacific region in a way that enables the Institute to continue and further enhance its capacity in supporting evidence-based policy and decision-making for sustainable development, bearing in mind Georgia's experience of leadership in the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

With the need for statistical capacity development being more urgent than ever, SIAP has the opportunity to enhance the multiple roles that it plays in statistical capacity development, to include increasingly building capacities of higher-level staff in NSOs and other relevant statistical institutions.

We pledge to honor your trust by discharging our responsibilities with dedication, professional ethics and principles, that guide the international statistical community, and declaring hereby:

1. To assist SIAP in carrying out its functions, in accordance with the decisions of the ESCAP's Statistics Division and Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics;
2. To work closely with ESCAP's Statistics Division in implementing the statistics sub-program of the commission, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), and other United Nations entities;
3. To develop organizational capacities of national statistical training institutes, expanding work with partners in developing statistical training materials on new topics and indicators;
4. To facilitate strategic communication in terms of establishing working groups, task forces or any other instruments in full accordance with the priorities of ESCAP and capacity development needs of national statistical systems in the region, especially in fulfilling the requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
5. To make use of new modes of delivery and using its extensive relations with statistics stakeholders to enhance coordination of statistical capacity development and identify and facilitate opportunities for multilateral cooperation and learning;
6. To provide professional advice on ESCAP strategy, programme priorities and modalities on training as a means of capacity building for SDG implementation.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of Georgia's candidature and look forward to the opportunity to serve on the SIAP Governing Council with dedication, professionalism, and integrity.

Georgia stands ready to contribute to SIAP's continued success and is fully prepared to collaborate in strengthening statistical capacity development across the Asia-Pacific region.