

**Agenda item 2**

I would like to thank the Committee for the invitation to attend this meeting as an observer and to take the floor on this item.

As the outgoing chair and the director mentioned, for the past two days Eurostat and ESCAP have been jointly hosting a High Level Seminar "Policy-data nexus: experience sharing between European Union and Asia-Pacific countries.

There were 41 participants from 18 countries in the region. There were exchanges of experience from experts from the EU and countries. There was also a lively discussion.

I would like to outline five of the conclusions:

Agenda 2030 provides a unique opportunity for statistics- giving statistics a high profile - and has drawn statisticians and policy makers together.

Many countries have bought into the process at a high level - for example at Prime Ministerial level - even to the extent of obtaining a special line for SDGs in the national budget, which can help to ensure sustainability.

It is important to build SDGs into National Statistical Development Strategies and also to integrate the social, economic and environmental aspects and not treat each in isolation.

There is a need for an effective and continuous user-producer dialogue in order that they are kept relevant.

Finally it was also noted that there are different data suppliers: NSOs, line ministries and even from outside government. It is vital that all the providers respect the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in order to maintain trust. The efforts should be coordinated by the NSOs who should lead and guide the process.

Thank you