

Statement by NEW ZEALAND

Agenda Item 3(a) Regional initiatives: Economic Statistics ✓

E/ ESCAP/CST(4)/2	Progress in implementing the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
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New Zealand strongly supports the report and commends the Steering Group on the progress made to date.

As Chair of the Steering Group, New Zealand wishes to place on record its appreciation for the constructive input from all SG members, especially the Co-chairs from India and Mongolia, and also the professional guidance and input provided by the ESCAP Secretariat. In addition, we wish to acknowledge the support given by both the Partners in Development and the various regional bodies that have recognised the aims of the RPES and are working with the Bureau to achieve those aims. In particular, the support provided by the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom Department for International Development merits special mention, as their financial assistance to the RPES has provided the resources to design and deliver a number of the programme initiatives.

One of the initiatives funded by the Russian Federation was a *High Level Meeting for Co-ordinated Implementation of International Standards*, held in Vladivostok in September 2014. New Zealand wishes to draw to the attention of the Committee the **Outcome Statement** issued by the participants at the conclusion of the meeting, (see http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Vladivostok%20Outcome%20Statement_ENG.pdf) which provides a clear commitment from the participating countries in the region to developing integrated economic statistics, highlighting the importance of co-ordination within the national statistical systems and among development partners.

New Zealand supports the position taken by the Steering Group that the successful implementation of the RPES rests largely on its acceptance and adoption at national level. While regional and bi-lateral support will be very important in assisting some countries to develop their capacities to produce the core set of economic statistics, the sustainable production of these statistics will not occur through third party intervention alone. As para. 19 of the report emphasises “[the incorporation of the Regional Programme and its Core Set in the national planning process] is primordial not only in order to make the Regional Programme tangible and emphasise the sense of ownership by the country but also to enhance co-ordination among the development partners”. New Zealand strongly supports this message.