

Statement for Mr Gogita Todradze, Executive Director, National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) and Chair of the 7th Bureau of the Committee on Statistics to introduce Agenda Item 7a: Reports brought to the attention of the Committee -Report of the Bureau

Thank you Mr.Chair

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to report on the work of the Bureau since the 7th Committee session in 2020.

The bureau held 8 meetings and unfortunately all of these had to be virtual. Despite this, we did have fruitful discussions and I sincerely appreciate the strong collaborative spirit, dedication and professionalism of my fellow bureau members.

A significant part of our work the last two years was to ensure progress with the decisions made during the 7th session of the committee. This progress has been covered under agenda item 2.

Other areas of focus were regional preparations for the 52nd and 53rd Statistical Commission, the development of a draft regional strategy on big data, as well as supporting the preparations for our committee session this week. I am pleased to see how our discussions in the bureau have shaped the events of this week and the inspiring conversations we have been able to enjoy and learn from.

The Bureau also advised the Secretariat to amend the monitoring and evaluation framework for the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind and a final version was shared with all Committee members. We have already looked at the progress towards our vision under agenda item 3 yesterday.

During our Bureau discussions in June we discussed the various groups and communities of practices currently reporting to the committee. The Bureau would like to recommend a review of these with the aim of streamlining and consolidating the work of these groups to ensure they are fit for purpose both now and for the future.

Finally, the Bureau has advised the secretariat of amendments to the terms of reference of the bureau. We also coordinated feedback on these from committee members. The inputs were implemented in the version which has been issued as document ESCAP/CST/2022/7: Terms of reference of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics. I hope we can endorse the new terms of references for the bureau.

It has been a personal pride for me to lead the bureau's work during these last two challenging years. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow bureau members as well as the secretariat for their ongoing support and hard work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair