

**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 2022-2025**

1. National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of official statistics released in the country. The adoption of UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by the Government of India in 2016 indicates its commitment to providing quality data as per international principles and standards for facilitating evidence-based decision making
2. The NSO, India has also developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in sync with Global Indicator Framework, for facilitating the monitoring of the SDGs in India.
3. On international front, India is currently member of Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG SDGs) Indicators, Bureau of UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) and Task-Team on Central Product Classification (TT- CPC) of the United Nations Statistical Commission. India is one of the five participating countries in the “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” (NCAVES) project launched in 2017 and funded by European Union.
4. India has a well-established Premier Institute, namely Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), declared as an Institute of National Importance. ISI has metamorphosed into a unique experience of higher learning which envisages to establish Statistics as a unifying force between different disciplines and to use this synergistic relationship for the overall development of the nation. The Institute continues to nurture its vision of ever-expanding role of data for scientific advancement. The Institute’s scientists also extend their expertise to the government in various capacities, in policy formulation and policy evaluation, and capacity building.
5. In the area of Training in Official Statistics, India also has a dedicated National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA), which is committed to augment capacity building in the field of Official Statistics. NSSTA provides trainings to statistical personnel from both within country, mainly from the Union and the State Governments as well as foreign participants.
6. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), as a regional training institute, continues to play a vital role in supporting the ambitious agenda of the National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce, deliver and communicate a vast array of official statistics, since its establishment in 1970. Government of India aspires to work with SIAP in addressing the statistical training /capacity building needs of the NSOs of the Asia and Pacific region by sharing its best

practices in delivery of training in Official Statistics, and also learning from other Member countries of UN-ESCAP in a collaborative manner. In view of above and considering its experience of having dealt with International agencies on Official Statistics, India presents its candidature for re-election to the Governing Council (GC) of SIAP.

7. **Vision:** India has been a member of the GC of SIAP earlier, including at present. The experience has helped in understanding the Institute's training strategy in wider spectrum and to encourage SIAP in staying committed to its goal of building sustainable National Statistical Systems to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators measuring countries' progress. Building on its previous experience, as a member of the GC of SIAP, the vision of Government of India is to make collaborative efforts for achieving the objectives of the SIAP, contained in its Statute, and to further strengthen its importance as an UN institution that is solely dedicated to statistical capacity development through strategic planning along with framing of action plan.

8. **Aim:** As a member of the GC of SIAP, Government of India would deliberate, with full sincerity, on the effectiveness of the courses including online courses of SIAP. We would also promote close interactions between the SIAP and the member countries to give impetus to continuous improvement of the value of the Institute. In the face of rapid major technological and socio-economic changes, official statistical landscape is becoming more complex, expectations of policy makers are increasing exponentially, and the system is expected to deliver best possible statistics in more efficient and innovative ways. India, as a member of the GC, will therefore strive to play an active role in realizing the objectives and functions of SIAP contained in its Statute while amplifying the role of the Institute as a major training institute that addresses the statistical needs of the member countries in Asia and the Pacific.

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