

Statement of the People's Republic of China for Renewed Membership of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

1. China is seeking re-election to the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) for 2022-2025 to better facilitate regional statistical cooperation and promote sustainable development.

Statistics is an important tool to measure progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also provides solid reference for policy-making. With the explosive development of big data especially driven by the current trend of digital transition, official statistics in Asia and the Pacific is embracing immense opportunities, and could provide strong impetus to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). China highly values the important role of statistics in national economic and social development, and has made continuous efforts to improve its statistical system with application of information technologies and cross-sector collaboration and data sharing.

2. China's engagement with and contribution to SIAP

As a founding member of SIAP, China has long been an active supporter to SIAP. The yearly contribution of 120,000 USD (including contributions from Hong Kong, China and Macao, China) makes China the second largest financial contributor. In kind, China is supporting SIAP by sharing abundant training materials with the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific which could benefit all parties through capacity building. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than a thousand Chinese official statisticians have participated in SIAP e-learning courses, hitting a historical high in the number of trainees that graduated with certificates. The China-ESCAP Cooperation Program has been actively supporting the ESCAP Secretariat to implement statistical programs to improve regional capacity building in measuring progress of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

3. China is actively participating in international statistical cooperation

China actively participates in international statistical cooperation. China jointly organizes multiple training workshops with international organizations including

the UN Statistical Commission, and has been supporting capacity building for developing countries in Asia and the Pacific and beyond with the UN-China Trust Fund Project on Statistical Capacity Building. The China International Statistical Training Center, which is affiliated to China's National Bureau of Statistics, has contributed 10 courses to the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training. The UN Global Platform for Big Data China Hub was established in 2020 which has been promoting innovative application of big data. In 2023, China will host the fourth UN World Data Forum and make further contribution to the development of global statistical cooperation.

4. China's vision and commitment for renewed membership of the Governing Council of SIAP

Asia and the Pacific is the most dynamic region in the world. Facing the severe challenges such as the ongoing pandemic, climate change and population ageing, cooperation and development is the way forward. In this spirit, China would like to renew its support for SIAP with extended membership in the Governing Council and would be committed to:

- Promoting capacity building for developing countries especially the least developed countries and small-island developing countries, to build inclusive, resilient and sustainable official statistical systems;
- Accommodating diversified needs and conditions of different countries in the region in training design and translation, and further leveraging e-learning platforms;
- Seizing the opportunities of digital transition by promoting big data application, data quality improvement, and statistical products innovation;
- Continuing to contribute in cash and in kind including technologies and capacity building to support SIAP for better delivery;
- Strengthening joint efforts to implement regional cooperation frameworks including the Collective Vision and Framework for Action, and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, so as to promote post-COVID recovery and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.