



**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

19 August 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention General Assembly resolution 69/282, in which the Assembly decided to designate 20 October 2015 as World Statistics Day under the general theme “Better data, better lives”. The General Assembly invites all Member States, United Nations specialized agencies, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as research institutions, media and all producers and users of official statistics, to observe World Statistics Day.

Statistics are critical for evidence-based decision-making across all cultural and historical backgrounds of countries and irrespective of their level of development. In adopting resolution 69/282, the General Assembly acknowledged the fundamental importance of sustainable national statistical capacity to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators. Solid data are an indispensable basis for informed policy formulation and for monitoring the post-2015 development agenda at the national, regional and international levels.

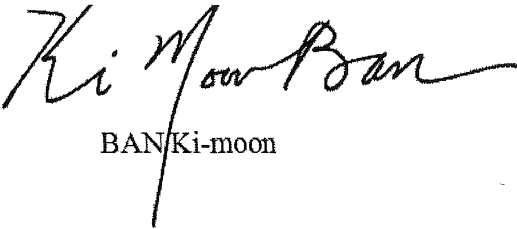
I am encouraged by the efforts made in recent years in many countries to strengthen their statistical capacity, under the leadership of national statistical offices, in areas such as population and housing censuses and the monitoring of the progress of Millennium Development Goals. I am also heartened by the overwhelming success of the first World Statistics Day, which was celebrated on 20 October 2010, with activities organized in more than 130 Member States and by at least 40 international and regional organizations and entities.

In order to make the 2015 World Statistics Day a similar success I invite your Government, as the primary producer, user and beneficiary of official statistics, to lend your full and timely support to this year’s efforts.

The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has created a website to share information on how this year's World Statistics Day will be celebrated around the world (<https://worldstatisticsday.org>). I would like to encourage your Government to inform us about your plans, so that your information can be made visible for the global community.

Let us make this historic World Statistics Day a success by acknowledging and celebrating the role of statistics in the sustainable development of our societies.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN/Ki-moon