

Australia's intervention under agenda item 3(h)

- . Thank you Madam Chair, and thank you also madam Director for your report on the work of the Statistical Division.
- . Clear that impressive results are being achieved
- . And important results: Australia recognises that the development of coherent statistical sets lays the foundation for the development of well-considered public policy and the planning that underpins the provision of many essential services.
- . Australia continues to fully support this work
- . We have been an active member of the SIAP Governing Council, including by chairing the Council during its past three-year term.
- . Australia has also chaired and co-chaired a number of other statistics-related bodies within ESCAP, including:
 - the Steering Group on Economic Statistics [*co-chaired with the Philippines*], which developed an Implementation Plan to improve economic statistics in the region; and
 - the Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics [*co-chaired with Indonesia*], which has been developing and refining the Core Set of Population and Social Statistics.
- . The goal of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is to help build a statistical community of practice which reflects the needs and aspirations of the ESCAP region
 - to that end the ABS has partnered with SIAP in delivering training, and has supported the increased participation in SIAP meetings of member states from the Pacific region.
- . The ABS has also partnered with AusAID, Australia's development assistance agency, to support the development of statistical capability in Indonesia, Timor Leste and Pacific countries
 - and is well-placed to further support SIAP.
- . Australia is committed to ensuring the continuity of the work of the Governing Council
 - and would appreciate the opportunity to participate as a member of the Council during its upcoming three-year term.