



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

30 September 2025

Excellency,

I wish to draw your attention to the upcoming observance of World Statistics Day on 20 October 2025, celebrated every five years in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/282.

In establishing this day, the Assembly invited all Member States, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, media, and all producers and users of official statistics, to spotlight the essential role of statistics in addressing the challenges of our time.

The previous observance in 2020 took place amid the COVID-19 pandemic – a crisis that tested the resilience of societies and institutions worldwide, including national statistical systems. In response, statistical agencies demonstrated extraordinary adaptability and innovation. Through collaboration, and rapid adoption of novel data sources and digital tools, they continued to deliver the data that guided public health responses, economic recovery strategies and social protection mechanisms.

The pandemic underscored a timeless truth embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals: accurate, timely and independent statistics, grounded in science, are indispensable. Governments needed to know how many people were sick, how the virus was spreading and what resources were required to save lives. Statistics were also essential to assess the profound impacts on economies, employment and societies and to guide strategies for recovery and resilience.

Today, as we confront increasingly inter-connected global challenges – such as climate change and rising inequalities – reliable, disaggregated data remains a cornerstone of effective policymaking, sustainable development and public trust.

As we mark this year's World Statistics Day, I urge you to reaffirm your commitment to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which call for impartial, professionally produced data that upholds the right of the public to trustworthy information. Societies must have confidence that official statistics are guided solely by scientific, ethical and professional standards.

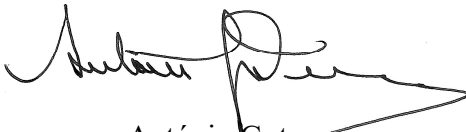
All Permanent Representatives of Member States
and Permanent Observers of non-Member States
to the United Nations
New York

In 2020, more than 100 countries celebrated World Statistics Day despite the constraints of the pandemic. I encourage your Government, as a leading producer and user of official statistics, to lend its full support to this year's initiatives.

Please feel free to kindly share your planned activities with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which will showcase them globally via the official website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/2025/>.

As we intensify efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, let us make the most of World Statistics Day to reaffirm the vital role of timely, independent and accurate statistics in building a more sustainable future for all.

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



António Guterres