



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SURINAME
H.E. CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI
ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD STATISTICS DAY**

October 20, 2020

The celebration of World Statistics Day 2020 is a global collaborative effort, organized under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

It is well known that better approaches to data will deliver better outcomes for everyone. Using data makes us better understand “what happened”, “why it happened”, “what may happen next”, and “how to respond”.

Data-based policymaking is increasingly recognized as a fair and equitable way of making public policy decisions. In this way they will be fully consistent with a democratic society, characterized by transparency and accountability.


My Government values transparency, accountability, openness and honesty in its public policy and governs as such based on the rule of law. As a consequence, the availability of accessible and transparent, high quality statistical data is essential for our democratic society.

Evidence-based policy making will enable my Government to produce long term policies shaped by evidence and facts, rather than short term responses to current situations. Therefor we need sound policies which will really solve problems, instead of quick fixes solving symptoms. We need policies to improve the living conditions for both current and future generations in our society.

The Covid-19 pandemic has fueled worldwide interest for high quality statistics. The latest public health developments of the Covid-19 pandemic are expressed in inter alia the following categories: newly infected persons, death rates and additional epidemiological statistics.

Social economic consequences on the other hand, are measured in changes in GDP, unemployment rates, poverty levels, and further additional economic indicators both at a macro and micro level.

All these data and statistics, from a public health perspective and from a socio economic perspective, in conjunction with scientific evidence, enables my Government in pursuing an evidence-based policy with regard to combatting Covid-19 and to mitigate adverse social economic effects.



National statistical offices act as national coordinators, translating promotional materials into national languages and organizing events and outreach efforts at national and subnational levels.

I would like to commend our statisticians in the Suriname General Bureau of Statistics and all other Data producers for their efforts in producing and providing high quality data and statistics.

In this regard the work of all the statisticians and statistical officers is much appreciated. By collecting, processing and disseminating data and statistics, they make it possible to take the right policy measures.

Subsequently they are making a significant contribution in saving lives and preventing the increase of poverty. It is clear that the Covid-19 pandemic has (again) emphasized the importance of the work of statisticians.

As we celebrate World Statistics Day, we recognize and support the important work being done by our statistical agencies, worldwide and especially in the Caribbean Region, where we observed Caribbean Statistics Day on 15 October.

In today's day and age of fake news and engineered facts, our domestic Main Statistical Data Producer, the General Bureau of Statistics, remains committed in implementing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

The NSDS is integrated in national policy processes and domestic legal and regulatory frameworks and at the same time in line with the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS).

This supports our accelerated transition to evidence-based policy making, enabling us to track our progress towards the committed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while improving both transparency and accountability in governance and improving our national security.

Finally, on this occasion of World Statistics Day, I reaffirm our commitment in upholding the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, ensuring our national statistical system to be able to produce appropriate and reliable data that adheres to accepted professional and scientific standards.

In line with the theme of the Third Observance of World Statistics Day - **“Connecting the World with Data we can Trust”** – let us uphold the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other internationally accepted standards, in order to ensure that data is indeed of the highest quality, and as such, the World will **indeed be Connected with Data we can Trust**.

The President of the Republic of Suriname,



Chandrikapersad Santokhi



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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02 September 2020

Excellency,

I write to draw your attention to World Statistics Day on 20 October 2020, celebrated every fifth year according to United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/282.

In establishing this observance, the Assembly invited all Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, research institutions, media and all producers and users of official statistics, to do their part to highlight the value of statistics in meeting the challenges of our time.

Current, reliable, timely and trusted data are necessary to understand the changing world in which we live. Statistics are critical for evidence-based policymaking across all sectors and all societies, regardless of cultural and historical backgrounds or level of development. The unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic has elevated the importance of data and statistics, and demonstrated how linking data to geospatial information can help us to track the dynamics of a rapidly changing global situation.

Earlier this year, I launched the United Nations Data Strategy, entitled “Data we can trust”, aimed at strengthening the Organization’s ability to provide more and better data to address global challenges. Investing in data and statistics is the only way in which we will be able to make the decisions needed to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and get on track to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In addition to World Statistics Day, the global statistical community will hold a virtual United Nations World Data Forum from 19 to 21 October 2020 – a timely opportunity to recognize and support the hard work of statisticians worldwide to make available reliable data, adhere to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and build stronger and more resilient data ecosystems.

I am encouraged by the efforts made in recent years in many countries to strengthen their statistical capacity, under the leadership of national offices, including to monitor progress towards the SDGs, improve data stewardship, develop new data sources, and ensure high-quality population and housing censuses.

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

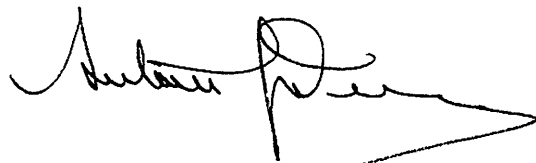
I am also heartened by the success of the observance of World Statistics Day in 2015, which included activities organized in more than 110 countries by at least 20 international and regional entities.

In order to make World Statistics Day 2020 a similar success, I invite your Government, as the primary producer, user and beneficiary of official statistics, to lend your full support to this year's efforts.

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

As the United Nations marks its seventy-fifth anniversary and the world deploys data to face a common challenge, let us use World Statistics Day to spotlight the role of statistics in advancing sustainable development for all.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

António Guterres