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CH-1211 GENEVA 10

17 May 2010

Subject: Cooperation on National Accounts

Dear Vladimir,

On behalf of the UNECE Statistical Division, I would like to thank the CIS Statistical Committee for the contribution to the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts and particularly to the special session for economies in transition. More than 110 participants from the UNECE and OECD member countries and many international organisations attended the meeting. Among them, there were representatives from the national statistical offices and/or central banks from almost all CIS and Western Balkan countries. The meeting was very successful and led to a number of proposals for follow-up-work.

I am particularly grateful to Mr. Youri Ivanov, Deputy Chairman of the CIS Statistical Committee for providing a core paper for the session on Government Finance Statistics and National Accounts and for his active contribution to the discussion on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) in the CIS countries. His substantive presentation and proposal for further work provoked an interesting discussion and led to the decision for organising a joint workshop on the use of Government Finance Statistics for Compilation of National Accounts.

I would also like to mention that during the discussions many CIS countries mentioned as a main prerequisite for the successful implementation of the system of national accounts the translation of the 2008 SNA into Russian, undertaken by ROSSTAT and CIS Statistical Committee.

The implementation of the 2008 SNA in the CIS countries would be a big and challenging task. It would require substantive efforts from all countries and regional partner organisations. In that respect, UNECE is very happy with the good cooperation which we have had with the CIS Statistical Committee. CIS Statistical Committee is an active member in the recently established Steering Group on National Accounts that should facilitate the coordination of national accounts related work in the UNECE region. We hope that this beneficial collaboration will continue in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lidia Bratanova', written over a horizontal line.

Lidia Bratanova
Director, UNECE Statistical Division

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