

**Inter Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators
Working Group on Geospatial Information
First Expert Group Meeting
Mexico City, 12 December 2016**

**Welcome remarks by
Dr. Julio Santaella Castell,
President of the Governing Board of INEGI**

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Mexico and to INEGI for this important meeting.

Mexico views the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a State undertaking, where all agencies, levels and institutions of the Mexican State, and all of society, must be involved. This has been so during the negotiation process, and also since the signing of the intergovernmental declaration of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations in September 2015.

In this regard, INEGI has been at the forefront of this process. Both internally, as the coordinator of the National System of Statistics and Geography, and as an important and leading actor at the international level.

This reflects, among other aspects, the importance we afford to the integration of statistics and geography, and the value of this integration for the design, monitoring and evaluation of both national policies and international goals and agreements.

It is because we understand the value of this integration to produce sound, rigorous, timely and effective ways of monitoring the SDGs, that we welcomed the formation of this Working Group on Geospatial Information last April, and now this first working meeting in Mexico City.

It is both unprecedented and encouraging that experts from the Geospatial, Earth Observations and Statistical community—from all regions, and a diversity of institutions and organizations— may meet and work together these three days in order to develop a common understanding of how to enhance the SDG indicator framework, through an integrated application of your disciplines, methodologies and experiences.

We expect that through your continued and dedicated efforts, this Working Group will adequately advice and support the IAEG in the refinement and improved completion of the agreed SDG indicator framework with a geospatial lens. We look forward to the results of these three days of hard work.

Allow me to wish you a constructive and fruitful meeting. And a very pleasant stay at INEGI and Mexico City.

Thank You.