Good morning/afternoon/evening everyone.

On behalf of the UN network of Economic Statisticians, it’s my great pleasure to welcome you to today’s webinar on **Sub-National Statistics: Methodologies and Challenges in Compiling Sub-National Statistics.** My name is Andre Loranger**,** I am the Chief Statistician of Canada and the co-chair of the Network.

As we all know, national-level statistics offer us an essential overview of a country’s performance—be it in health, education, the economy, or the environment. But increasingly, national indicators are no longer enough. They can mask wide disparities between regions, cities, or even neighborhoods. This is where **sub-national or regional statistics** become not only useful—but essential.

Why are sub-national statistics so important?

First, **inequality and diversity are often local**. In many countries, the gap in income, health outcomes, infrastructure, and education between urban and rural areas—or between different provinces and districts—is striking. These differences are frequently lost in national figures. To craft effective, inclusive policies, decision-makers need data that reflects the reality on the ground.

Second, **policy is increasingly decentralized**. Many governments have shifted significant responsibilities to local and regional authorities. These entities need timely, accurate, and disaggregated data to allocate resources effectively, monitor progress, and respond to challenges like unemployment, climate resilience, or public health crises.

Third, **sub-national data is crucial for tracking progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Many SDG indicators can only be meaningfully interpreted—and acted upon—at the local level. Achieving global goals requires local action, and local action requires local data.

Fourth, we are witnessing a growing need for **data to respond to crises in real time**—whether it’s a pandemic, a natural disaster, or an economic shock. These events rarely affect a whole country uniformly. Regional statistics enable a more agile and targeted response.

And finally, let’s not forget the role of **citizen engagement**. When people can see how their region or community is performing—whether it’s in jobs, education, healthcare, or the environment—they are more empowered to participate in democratic processes, demand accountability, and advocate for change.

Today’s webinar brings together a range of experts and practitioners who are deeply engaged in producing, using, and improving sub-national data systems. We’ll explore not just the “why,” but also the “how”: the innovations, tools, and collaborative models that are helping countries and communities make better use of their data—right down to the local level.

Before we begin, just a few quick housekeeping notes:

* The session is being recorded and will be shared after the webinar.
* You can ask questions either by raising your hand or type them into the Chat.
* If you experience technical issues, please use the chat and a member of our team will assist you.

Thank you again for being here. We have a rich agenda ahead, and I’m confident today’s discussion will spark ideas, insights, and perhaps new collaborations.

Mauricio Ortiz, Associate Director for Regional Economics at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and Guillaume Dubé,, Assistant Director in the Industry Accounts Division at StatCan, will be co-chairing this event.

I would now like to cede the floor to Mauricio to start us off.