

Statistical Commission

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Item 3 (o) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: Network of Economic Statisticians

Background document
Available in English only

Background document to the report of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

Prepared by the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

Background document to the report of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

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Background document to the report of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

I. Introduction

1. The aim of this background document to the report of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) is to elaborate on the activities of the organizational sprint, data access sprint and beyond GDP sprint which were mentioned in the main report. Section II of the background document describes the activities (including the outcomes of meetings) of the organizational sprint. The key outcomes of these meetings are the terms of reference of the Network (annex I) and a workplan for 2022 (annex IV) for endorsement by the Statistical Commission. Section III describes the activities (including the outcomes of the meetings) of the data access sprint, while section IV describes the activities (including the planned meetings) of the beyond GDP sprint.

II. Activities of organizational sprint

2. With the support of Statistics Canada, Statistics Netherlands, United Kingdom Office for National Statistics and United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Statistics Division organized four virtual meetings of the organizational sprint on 3 November 2021, 24 November 2021, 15 December 2021 and 2 February 2022¹ to discuss the below topics:

- Terms of reference of the Network
- Modalities of user consultations
- Outline of the synthesis report of the Network of the reports to the Statistical Commission
- Membership and co-chairs of the Network
- Branding and communication strategy for the Network
- Programme of work of the Network

3. The details of the meetings are available [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). A consolidated list of the participants at the meetings is available in annex II. The outcomes of the meetings are elaborated in the following paragraphs.

Terms of reference of the Network

4. Participants discussed the draft terms of reference of the Network extensively at the first two meetings of the sprint and also provided comments on the draft terms of reference after these meetings. One innovative feature of the terms of reference is the proposal to form task teams which will operate in sprints of two-to-three-month periods to complete short-term

¹ The meeting was originally scheduled to be organized on 12 January 2022. However, it was decided to organize it on 2 February 2022 to allow more time to prepare for topics such as the user consultations, membership and co-chairs of the Network and the workplan of the Network before the meeting.

projects on specific but shared priority issues. These projects will develop an initial strategy or a minimal viable product, that may then be provided to other existing statistical bodies (working groups, committees, etc.) to be fully developed, tested or implemented.

5. Participants welcomed the concept of using sprints as a horizontal mechanism to address emerging and urgent issues like the COVID-19 pandemic. They suggested that the terms of reference could be nuanced to specify the specific strategic direction of the Network and the type of users to engage. In particular, they recommended that the terms of reference should indicate that the Network should actively engage and network with the chairs of existing economic statistics groups to discuss and collate their ongoing work and plans to identify emerging themes and gaps and avoid duplication. The terms of reference, which have been revised to incorporate these comments, are available in annex I for the consideration of the Statistical Commission.

Modalities of user consultations

6. The second, third and fourth meetings discussed the various modalities of user consultations, including country consultations through national, regional, and global user seminars/forums, consultations with statistical bodies under the Statistical Commission, and other statistical agencies such as Eurostat, IMF, OECD, and the World Bank. It was agreed that Eurostat and the Statistics Division, with support from the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG), Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and the Network, would organize a Global Forum on Economic Statistics (tentatively in November 2022) which would focus on the proposed recommendations for the updates of the SNA and BPM, and also consider a forward-looking agenda for research, experimentation and capacity development for economic statistics. At the same time, it was agreed that the Network, with support from the AEG, ISWGNA and Statistics Division, would coordinate with the regional commissions of the United Nations to organize a “Road to the Forum” series of regional consultation sessions with users and stakeholders of the system of economic statistics in the run-up to the Global Forum. These regional consultations could focus on thematic topics such as sustainability, well-being, and “Beyond GDP” and consider ongoing and future work on innovations in the use of non-traditional data and related co-investment in regional and global information technology and statistical infrastructure. The outcomes of these series of inclusive regional consultations could include an enumeration of wide-ranging views of where there exist important gaps in the system of economics statistics and the information technology and statistical infrastructure for the use of innovative data solutions. These outcomes will be presented and discussed at a session of the Global Forum, with a view to setting medium- and long-term priorities for the system of economic statistics to address gaps and user requirements, either globally or regionally.

Outline of synthesis report of reports to the Statistical Commission

7. Participants at the fourth meeting agreed with the proposed outline of a synthesis report of the Statistical Commission reports which are relevant for the system of economic statistics.

The synthesis report aims to provide a summary view of these reports organized by the four workstreams of the Network (i.e., better enabling the institutional arrangements and organization; better data and data solutions, statistical infrastructure and operations; better statistical methods and framework; and better networking, user consultation, and communication). By providing a comprehensive, holistic and cross-cutting overview of these reports, the synthesis report will report on the achievements and help to identify statistical gaps to facilitate dialogue between the Network and the relevant statistical committees and groups to determine shared global and regional priorities to address these gaps. The outline of the synthesis report is available in annex III for the consideration of the Statistical Commission

Membership and co-chairs of the Network

8. In response to suggestions from participants during the meetings to invite additional high-level economic statisticians from the less developed economies to join the Network to ensure diversity and inclusiveness in the work of the Network, the UNSD has worked together with the regional commissions to identify candidates from their respective regions for consideration. The Statistics Division will next invite the candidates to join the Network, in coordination with the regional commissions. After that, a co-chair from a developing country will be appointed so that the role of the Bureau can be formalized. In the meantime, participants at the fourth meeting agreed to appoint Mr. Greg Peterson, the Assistant Chief Statistician of Statistics Canada, as one of the co-chairs.

Branding and communication strategy for the Network

9. Participants also agreed with the proposed elements of a branding and communications strategy (including purpose and objectives, communication principles, target audiences and mechanisms and activities) to promote the activities of the Network. The strategy will focus on the following four components:

- Coordinated programmes, practices and working methods (through better networking and organization)
- Pivot to integrated statistics (through better statistical methods and framework)
- Data collection and access, and experimental estimates (through better data and data solutions)
- United Nations global and regional forums, and surveys (through better user consultation, communication, and partnerships)

10. The Network will complement rather than duplicate the work of existing groups on the communication and branding of economic statistics by identifying user needs and gaps and then establishing communication sprints to address these gaps agilely. These sprints could mobilize the expertise of the external communication departments of national statistical offices and their recent experience in statistical reporting on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programme of work of the Network

11. The third and fourth meetings discussed and agreed on the priorities of the programme of work of the Network. Besides the ongoing thematic sprints on data access and beyond GDP, Global Forum and related regional user consultations, it was agreed that the programme of work should also include the following themes: globalization and supply chains of multinational enterprises; digitalization and technological innovation; urbanization; climate change; demographic shifts; inequality; informal economy; and prices, in particular, housing prices. Given that many of these themes have cross-cutting issues and are, thus, interdependent, the future thematic sprints will need to closely coordinate their work to identify common challenges in order to develop common fit-for-purpose recommendations. A detailed description of the programme of work is available in annex IV for the consideration of the Statistical Commission.

III. Activities of data access sprint

Objectives and meetings

12. The data access sprint is led by Statistics Netherlands, with support from the bureau of the Network and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. Nominees for the sprint represent 62 countries from developing and developed areas and 13 international organizations. The main objectives of the sprint are to raise awareness regarding challenges of obtaining data from companies to measure global value chains (GVC) for statistical purpose and develop a community of practice for obtaining access to privately held data. More precisely, a key deliverable of the sprint will be a description detailing the process to get the economic statistics information needed for GVC measurement, via the identification of potential data sources and articulation of specific data requests, to stepping stones towards a negotiation strategy with private data holders. Additional deliverables include the “dos and don’ts” in facilitating data access of privately held data; technical solutions for data access; awareness of privacy and confidentiality issues; risk management, governance and contingency plans; budget and resource requirements; and a communication strategy for stakeholders.

13. Two sessions of the sprint were organized on 26 January 2022 and 10 February 2022 to provide an excellent opportunity to gather information for GVC measurement on:

- Policy areas and industries which are a priority for various countries
- Non-traditional data sources and partners NSIs could be working with
- Type of instruments or tools for data access that should be defined at the UN level
- Good practice that can be shared on access to privately held data, at national, regional, or international level
- Principles that could govern access to privately held data

- Partners and companies that would be most suitable for collaborating with NSIs in the area of e-commerce measurement

14. Two remaining sessions will be organized on 21 February 2022 and 16 March 2022 to explore other facets and challenges associated with accessing privately held data. A summary of the lessons learned and recommendations for next steps will be developed. An update on the progress of the work of the sprint was provided at the meetings of the organizational sprint. The list of nominees for the sprint is in annex II.

IV. Activities of beyond GDP sprint

Objectives and planned meetings

15. The beyond GDP sprint is led by the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics and United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, with support from the bureau of the Network. The main objective of the sprint is to probe the “Inclusive Wealth” approach to measuring well-being by identifying generally agreed areas of high priority for research and, where possible, agree on common frameworks. Several meetings were organized to frame the scope of the sprint and an update of the progress of the work was provided at the meetings of the organizational sprint. Based on the discussions at these meetings, the scope of the sprint was narrowed down to the following topics which will be discussed at the following planned meetings:

- 10 March 2022 (Modern Capital)²
- 24 March 2022 and 5 April 2022 (Distributional Accounts)
- 21 April 2022 (Population, Society and Well-Being)
- 5 May 2022 (Synthesis and next steps)

16. The meeting on Modern Capital will discuss the scope of modern capitals (including intangible capital, human capital, natural capital, etc.) and how to consistently measure these modern capitals and their resultant flows of benefits. The focus of the meeting on Distributional Accounts will be distributional and other well-being initiatives, both within and beyond the core SNA research agenda. The meeting on Population, Society and Well-Being will cover initiatives including the national transfers account, population, gender and time use statistics, as well as the human development index, the vulnerability index for sustainable development for Small Island Developing States and the “Our Common Agenda” of the United Nations. The synthesis meeting will bring together the outcomes of the previous meetings in order to explore the feasibility of developing a broader and inclusive, people-centric, worker-centric and environment-centric framework, using the fundamental principles of the conventional SNA framework to measure progress and well-being.

² The first meeting was originally scheduled to be organized in February 2022. However, it was decided to organize it on March 2022 to allow more time to determine the scope of the sprint.

17. Where appropriate, renowned experts from various domains will be invited to introduce the topics and associated challenges. In addition, sprint participants can contribute to the meetings by sharing their experiences with compiling the statistics for these topics, and the challenges involved. A letter to invite national statistical agencies and central banks to nominate appropriate representatives to participate in the sprint was sent in February 2022.

Annex I

Terms of reference of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

Mission

Promote the networking of the economic statistical system to coordinate statistical programs and identify and leverage good practices.

Enable the global statistical system and thereby facilitate the regional and national statistical systems to pivot in producing integrated socio-economic, environmental, and geospatial data and statistics.

Facilitate global partnership with academia and private sector in co-investment and co-production for shared and trusted use cases.

Promote the experimentation and testing of inclusive working methods, data solutions and methodological frameworks with the objective of leaving no one behind.

Mandate

1. The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians¹ facilitates the networking, coordination and communication between the national, regional and global organizations in the system of economic statistics and promotes global partnerships with academia and the private sector for a responsive system of economic statistics that functions efficiently in response to changing user demands.
2. The Network ensures proper mechanisms are in place to gather, document and inform all the actors in the system of economic statistics about the data and analysis needs to respond with effective policies to the current and future socio-economic, environmental and geospatial issues. The Network is a forum to enable a coherent, comprehensive and an agile approach across the system of economic statistics and to address key current and future socio-economic and environmental issues.
3. The Network enables horizontal coordination to ensure that the entire suites of Committees of experts and statistical groups in the system of economic statistics are leveraged to address data priorities. The Network scales up the good practices that have been established by countries, regional and international organizations.
4. This Network accelerates innovation and change by facilitating continuous sharing of national and regional experiences and following agreed principles of networking, co-investment, governance, and experimentation for the system of economic statistics.

¹The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians is referred to the ‘Network’ in the rest of the document

5. The Network's main task is to identify broad horizontal priorities, common thematic areas and use cases across the existing Committees of experts and statistical groups for experimentation and testing of new conceptual and data solutions based on problem statements building on global and regional use consultations

Key activities and functions:

1. The key activities and functions of the Network are summarized along four work streams:

- *Networking: Collaboration and user consultation*
 - The Network engages the statistical system through global and regional user consultations on emerging issues and priorities for the research agenda; network NSOs and their data centers, and strengthen analytical and data management capabilities in the system of economic statistics, and; promote a whole-of-system approach and strong partnerships with academia and the private sector.
 - The Network prepares an annual global user consultation report and identifies key priority areas and emerging issues.
- *Transforming and challenging: Statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions*
 - The Network promotes collaborative actions on global co-investment and co- production for global statistical infrastructure, operations, and data solutions, as well as leverage efficiencies and limit duplication of effort through the prioritization of global use cases for co- investment and co-development.
 - The Network identifies and receives co-investment and co-development proposals, facilitates collaboration between the actors in the system in the implementation of the proposals, and reports on the progress of development initiatives.
- *Enabling: Institutional arrangements and governance*
 - The Network promotes better working methods and better coordination and collaboration among groups for the system of economic statistics that are inclusive of the actors the system and fosters the effective functioning of the system. The Network identifies common thematic areas and use cases across

the existing statistical and data groups for experimentation and testing of new conceptual and data solutions based on problem statements.

- The Network convenes meetings with the chairs of all statistical groups and Committee of Experts to discuss ongoing work in the system of economic statistics in light of the recurrent global and regional consultations
- *Experimenting, integrating and documenting: Statistical framework and methods*
 - The Network promotes working methods for the continuous and iterative update of global statistical standards through the experimentation and testing of methodological changes in countries, and pursues a broad integration framework with multi-dimensional and broader measures of progress for the system of economic statistics.
 - The Network will not oversee detailed working items for Committees of experts and statistical groups but will deal with those from a strategic and global level to ensure the overall relevancy, effectiveness, coherence and unduplicated approach to address global priorities.

Membership and level of representation

1. The Network membership of representatives from countries and agencies builds on the strength of diversity and seniority of representation and intends to demonstrate the operational power of a global response through co-investments and co-production of NSOs, and regional and global agencies.
2. The Network is country-led and co-chaired by a member of a developed and a developing country.
3. High-level representation of influential economic statisticians is necessary to ensure the strategic role of the Network in identifying priorities based on user needs, develop a strategic vision and cultivate a whole-of-system approach to address them.
4. Members of the Network comprise high-level economic statisticians from national statistical systems and international and regional organizations with a broad and in-depth horizontal knowledge of the priorities and issues in the system of economic statistics in its broad definition (including social and environmental dimensions). In addition, members are selected so as to ensure equitable regional country and agency representation.

5. Given the wide range of topics covered by the Network, as well as the need to keep the size of the Network manageable in order to ensure in-depth discussion, the members of the Network comprise about 30 representatives from Member States and organizations. Depending on the topics on its agenda, additional subject matter experts from Member States and international organizations may be invited to participate in task teams and projects of the Network.
6. Members are appointed to the Network for an initial period of three (3) years, which may be renewed.
7. The Network will have an annual face-to-face meeting at the time of the UN Statistical Commission. In special circumstances, more regular face-to-face and virtual meetings may be organized. In between meetings, electronic discussions are the preferred method of carrying on consultations.

Governance and Management

The United Nations Statistical Commission is the entity that establishes the Network, approves its mandate and work programme and monitors its progress of work. The mandate of the Network is periodically reviewed by the Network itself. The proposed amendments are submitted to the Statistical Commission for endorsement.

Co-Chairs

1. The Network elects two Co-chairs, taking into account the diversity of the Network membership. They serve for a three-year period and are each eligible for re-election for a second three-year term.
2. The role of the Co-Chairs is to develop, in close cooperation with the Bureau and the Secretariat an annual programme of work for the Network and monitor progress of the various components of the programme.
3. The Co-Chairs represent the Network at international meetings and play a key role in promoting a whole-of-system approach and strong partnerships with the various stakeholders of the system of economic statistics to effectively respond to global user needs.
4. The Co-chairs promote an inclusive process through extensive user dialogue and networking and consider the circumstances of all countries especially developing countries, in order to leave no one behind, in the identification of priorities and in the development of approaches and co-investment proposals.
5. The Co-Chairs set the agenda for the meetings and direct the sessions of the

Network, including summarizing the discussion of each agenda item as a basis for preparing the report of the session.

6. The Co-Chairs propose the draft minutes of meetings as prepared by the Secretariat, to be approved by written procedure by all the members who attended the meeting.

Bureau

1. The Bureau consists of the two Co-chairs, leaders of the Task Teams and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). As new Task Teams are formed and existing ones complete their work new ones are formed, their leaders will rotate in and out of the Bureau. The members of the Bureau represent the diverse membership of the Network from countries, regional and international organizations. The Chair may also invite other experts, chairs of the city and other Committees/expert groups to participate in the meetings of the Bureau.
2. The Bureau, which will work under delegated authority from the Network, is established to assist the Network with the day-to-day management of its programme of work and the projects under its responsibility. Decisions taken by the Bureau, under the delegated authority from the Network, will be reported back to the Network.
3. The activities and tasks of the Network are organized by task teams, for which members of the Bureau will be assigned as leads and representing the task teams. Decisions taken by the Bureau, under the delegated authority from the Network, will be reported back to the Network.

Secretariat

1. The Secretariat functions of the Network are conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The secretariat, which will be the main source of logistical and administrative support for the Network, will receive guidance regarding such support from the Network and its Bureau.
2. In direct collaboration with the Co-chairs and following consultation with Members, the Secretariat supports the Co-Chairs in preparing the draft agenda for the meetings of the Network and ensures that all documentation received and approved by the Co-chairs, along with all other necessary information, is made available to its members. It is also responsible for organizing the Network's meetings and for coordination with the agreed host of a given Network meeting.
3. The Secretariat keeps up-to-date the website of the Network. The Website is hosted by the UNSD.

4. The Secretariat prepares the draft report to the Statistical Commission for approval by the Co-chairs.
5. The Secretariat supports the drafting of joint statements as requested by the Co-chairs.

Task teams

1. The Network will convene task teams to carry out its work programme and/or in support of specific projects, for example for use cases and methodological matters, for which specific and time-bound Terms of References (ToRs) will be prepared. The Task teams will be focused on very specific issues and have the objective of quickly devising approaches for :
 - finding solutions for current statistical challenges
 - experimenting with newly developed statistical standards, methods, and working arrangements
 - convening participants through global consultations, conferences and other means to identify broad horizontal priorities and common thematic issues which require solutions
2. The Task teams will be bodies of the Network and, as such, will fall under its overall management and coordination. Task teams, which will be created by the Network to address specific topics with a limited lifetime, will be composed of members of the Network who express interest in being part of the task teams and will meet on a regular intervals to ensure the timely completion of the assigned ToRs.
3. The Task teams will operate in sprints of two to three month periods to complete short projects. These projects will develop an initial strategy or minimal viable product, that will then be provided to other appropriate existing bodies (working groups, committees, etc.) to be fully developed, tested or implemented. The Network will set up appropriate monitoring mechanisms to nurture and follow the further development of minimum viable product. In many respects, the work of the Task Teams is preparatory, and their short and intense life cycle ensures that momentum is sustained to meet clear objectives.

Annex II

List of participants for the meetings of the organizational sprint

Country/Organization	Name
Australia	Jacqui Vitas (Jones)
Brazil	Synthia Kariny Silva de Santana
Canada	Greg Peterson
Canada	Daniela Ravindra
Denmark	Kirsten Balling
Estonia	Kaie Koskaru
Indonesia	Wisnu Winardi
Indonesia	Hadi Susanto
Indonesia	Anisa Nuraini
Italy	Gian Paolo Oneto
Mexico	Graciela Marquez Colin
Netherlands	Bert Kroese
Netherlands	Rob Van Kan
Netherlands	Lianne Ippel
Netherlands	Barteld Braaksma
Netherlands	Marleen Verbruggen
New Zealand	Rachael Milicich
Poland	Dominik Rozkrut
Saudi Arabia	Konrad Pesendorfer
Saudi Arabia	Anwar Ahmed Hammad
Saudi Arabia	Naif Alblawi
Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Al Majali
Saudi Arabia	Amani M. Albaqshi
Saudi Arabia	Hazza Almotairi
Saudi Arabia	Dakhil Abdulaziz Aldakhil
Saudi Arabia	Marwah Atiq allah Alsobhi
Saudi Arabia	Fatimah Ali Aloef
Saudi Arabia	Raja Altaf
Saudi Arabia	Sultan Almanea
South Africa	Michael Manamela
South Africa	Joe de Beer
United Kingdom	Caroline Lewis
United Kingdom	Richard Heys

Country/Organization	Name
United Kingdom	Nathan Birch
United Kingdom	Nicola Shearman
United Kingdom	Grant Fitzner
United Kingdom	Emily Harris
United Kingdom	Clíodhna Taylor
United States	Erich Strassner
ADB	Mahinthan J. Mariasingham
ECA	Oliver Chinganya
ECA	Greg Gong
ECA	Emmanuel Ngok
ECE	Carsten Boldsen
ECLAC	Rolando Ocampo
ECLAC	Federico Dorin
ECLAC	Claudia Andrea De Camino Ferrario
ECLAC	Ana Victoria Vega
<i>ECSCAP</i>	<i>Alick Mjuma Nyasulu</i>
ESCWA	Juraj Riecan
ESCWA	Wafa Aboul Hosn
ESCWA	Majed Skaini
ESCWA	Haidar Fraihat
Eurostat	Mariana Kotzeva
Eurostat	Frantisek Bernadic
Eurostat	John Verrinder
IMF	James Tebrake
ISDB	Abu Camara
OECD	Annabelle Mourougane
World Bank	Arthur Johannes Giesberts
UNSD	Stefan Schweinfest
UNSD	Michael Stanger
UNSD	Hermanus Smith
UNSD	Alessandra Alfieri
UNSD	Ilaria Di Matteo
UNSD	Benson Sim
UNSD	Alexander Loschky
Independent expert	Ivo Havinga

List of nominees for the data access sprint

Country/Organization	Name
Angola	Carlos Wagner Matos
Angola	Adilson Freitas
Armenia	Syuzanna Artelyan
Armenia	Lusine Kalantaryan
Azerbaijan	Elnura Isgandarova
Australia	Jacqui Vitas
Australia	Marcel Van Kints
Australia	George Holton
Bangladesh	Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
Belize	Jeffte Ochaeta
Bolivia	Ana Zegarra
Burundi	Spès Nimbona
Cambodia	Nhem Solivann
Cambodia	Buoy Somethea
Canada	Pierre Felx
Canada	Greg Peterson
Canada	Daniela Ravindra
Canada	Haig McCarrell
Colombia	Juan Daniel Oviedo
Colombia	Camilo Mendez
Cyprus	Isidoros Kypridakis
Denmark	Niels Ploug
Ecuador	Carolina Guerrero
Egypt	Dalia Mohamed Meselhi Elzaabalawi
El Salvador	Juan Carlos Salman Dueñas
Finland	Matti Paavonen
Gambia	Samba Borrow
Germany	Riepke Kleine
Greece	Christina Karamichalakou
Guinea	Lamine Sidibe
Hungary	Eszter Nagy
Hungary	Fanni Fördös
India	Ambica Anand Chatterjee
India	Piyush Kumar Pathak
Iran	Mahshid Dowlat Modelli
Iran	Bahareh Entezari

Country/Organization	Name
Iran	Saeed Fayyaz
Ireland	Brian King
Israel	Natalia Miskevitch
Italy	Monica Scannapieco
Italy	Alberto Felettigh
Jordan	Mohammad Abdelrazzak
Jordan	Alaeldeen Khasawneh
Kenya	Sarah Bonareri Omache
Kuwait	Hussein Al-Azmi
Lesotho	Nyefolo Seboka
Lithuania	Tomas Rudys
Malaysia	Ong Hong Hoe
Malaysia	Zima Mazfahani Mazlan
Maldives	Mariyam Shadeena
Mali	Kalilou Berthe
Mauritius	Sanjev Bhonoo
Mexico	Hugo Hernández
Mongolia	Tegshjargal Tsagaan
Montenegro	Branka Raicevic
Mozambique	Simao Alberto Fernando Sabado
Mozambique	Eliza Monica Ana Magaua
Myanmar	Htay Htun
Namibia	Ezekiel Kambonde
Namibia	Matheus Lazarus
Nepal	Hem Raj Regmi
Netherlands	Gert Buiten
Netherlands	Rob van Kan
Netherlands	Barteld Braaksma
Netherlands	Lianne Ippel
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
Palestine	Abeer Al Sheikh Hasan
Peru	José Llanos
Philippines	Mark C. Pascasio
Poland	Dominik Rozkrut
Portugal	Sofia Rodrigues
Qatar	Wasim Qassim
Qatar	Fatima Mohammed E. Al-Hammadi
Romania	Marian Necula

Country/Organization	Name
Rwanda	Joseph Muvala
Saudi Arabia	Mohammad Buhliagah
Sri Lanka	U. Maheshwaran
Suriname	Guilliano Koornaar
Switzerland	Simon Boesenberg
Switzerland	Alexander Fluehmann
Switzerland	Patrick Helbling
Switzerland	Massimiliano Ferrari
Ukraine	Dmytro Brykin
United Arab Emirates	Mohammad Hassan
United Arab Emirates	Latifa Alshehhi
United Arab Emirates	Hatem ElSherif
United Kingdom	Geum Young Min
United Kingdom	Arthur Terrell
United Kingdom	Richard Heys
United Kingdom	Eric Deeben
United States	Abe Dunn
United States	Patricia Abaroa
Uzbekistan	Akrom Sultanov
Uzbekistan	Alisher Khakimov
Uzbekistan	Shabnam Gulomjonova
Uzbekistan	Maxim Kuznetsov
Zimbabwe	Thomas Chikadaya
ADB	Mahinthan Joseph Mariasingham
East African Community	Mutua Kakinyi
ESCAP	Alick Mjuma Nyasulu
ESCWA	Majed Hammoudeh
Eurostat	Albrecht Wirthmann
Eurostat	Pedro Martins Ferreira
FAO	Yakob Seid
GCC-Stat	Elham Saleh
GCC-Stat	Amira Alsalhi
GCC-Stat	Kari Manninen
IMF	Rita Mesias
IMF	Marco Marini
IMF	Malik Bani Hani
OECD	Julien Dupont

Country/Organization	Name
OECD	Annabelle Mourougane
SADC (Southern African Development Community)	Zarafensoa Mahaleovazafy
UNDP	Gayan Peiris
UNICEF	Viviana Rocio Canon
UNICEF	Manuel Garcia-Herranz
UNSD	Ronald Jansen
UNSD	Soon Seng Benson Sim
Independent expert	Ivo Havinga

Annex III

Outline of synthesis report

I. Introduction

1. This annex presents the proposed outline of the synthesis report of the Network of the reports to the United Nations Statistical Commission. The proposed outline was discussed and supported at the fourth meeting of the organization sprint and is presented and annotated in the following brief sections: Purpose of the synthesis report of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians; Framing the synthesis report; Examples of workstreams 1, 2, 3, and 4; and Possible elaborations on the outline of the synthesis report. More details on the proposed outline of the synthesis report are available [here](#).

II. Purpose of the synthesis report of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians

2. When considering the purpose of the synthesis report, the Network recognized that the report should:

- a. Provide a summary view of the Statistical Commission's reports that are relevant for the system of economic statistics
- b. Frame the review by the four workstreams of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians
- c. Facilitate the dialogue with the relevant statistical committees and groups to determine shared priorities and actions

3. As part of the analysis of the report, various elements could be highlighted, like what is the progress, what is new, what are the emerging challenges, and how to address these challenges.

III. Framing the synthesis report

4. The synthesis report will be framed around the four workstreams of the Network

- a. better enabling the institutional arrangements and organization
- b. better data and data solutions and statistical infrastructure and operations
- c. better statistical methods and framework
- d. better networking, user consultation, and communication.

5. Better enabling the institutional arrangements and organizations will facilitate the development of coordinated programs, practices and working methods for the system of economic statistics and better networking the statistical committees and groups. Better data and

data solutions, statistical infrastructure and operations can be facilitated through global co-investment and co-production strategies in data and data solutions, statistical infrastructure and operations for the system of economic statistics. Better statistical methods and framework will facilitate the continuous and iterative updating of global statistical standards through experimentation with and testing of methodological changes in countries and the development of a broad integration framework with multidimensional and broader measures of sustainable development by the system of economic statistics. Better networking, user consultation, and communication will facilitate continuous dialogue on the needs of users of the system of economic statistics and partnerships with user communities.

IV. Examples of workstreams 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. Examples of how the reports of the various groups to the Statistical Commission are related to the four workstreams are provided below for illustrative purposes only and will be elaborated in the future. The examples presented in this outline have a limited scope with a focus on the reports to the 53rd Session of the Statistical Commission of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISGWNA), the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, the Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting, and the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agriculture and rural statistics, including the report of the Committee of Experts on Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Statistics. As elaborated in the following section, the Network will assess the feasibility of extending the scope of the report to other reports to the Statistical Commission in future.

Workstream 1 – Better enabling institutional arrangements and organizations

ISWGNA/AEG National accounts

- Joint Task Teams with Balance of Payments Committee (BOPCOM) for revision of 2008 SNA and BPM6
- Collaboration agreement with Balance of Payment Committee and UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting
- Joint meetings of Advisory Expert Group (AEG)/ISWGNA and BOPCOM

UNCEBTS - Business and trade

- Integration with the IATF on International Trade Statistics in a single program

UNCEISC – International classifications

- Multi-disciplinary Task Teams on ISIC and CPC consisting of experts in classification, national accounts, balance of payments, business and trade, and environmental-economic accounting

UNCEBDS - Big data and data science

- Joint Task Team on Global Facilitation of Privately held Data with UN Network of Economic Statisticians

UNCEEA - Environmental economic accounts

- Enabling collaboration with international initiatives in biodiversity, climate change, and circular economy, and business accounting
- Collaboration agreement with ISWGNA/AEG

UNCEAG – Food Security, agriculture and rural statistics

- New FAO governance structure for better integration of statistics and data
- Decentralization of statistical capacity building to FAO regional and country offices
- Joint Task Team with UN Committee on Big Data and Data Science

Workstream 2 Better data and data solutions and statistical infrastructure and operations

ISWGNA/AEG - National accounts

- Global statistical infrastructure for capacity building for the implementation of 2008 SNA
- Digitally enabled SNA and BPM using semantic web technology

UNCEBTS - Business and trade

- Global Group Register for top detailing affiliate relationships for 100 MNEs
- Cloud based environment for COMTRADE with data lake of merchandise trade statistics

UNCEISC International classifications

- Digitally enabled international classifications using semantic web technology

UNCEBD - Big data and data science

- UN Global Platform for data, methods and application using Big Data sources and data science
- Networking regional data science centers

UNCEEA - Environmental economic accounts

- ARIES SEEA explorer for compilation of SEEA ecosystem account

UNCEAG - Food security, agriculture and rural statistics

- Data lab for Statistical Innovation to accelerate the use of non-traditional data sources

Workstream 3 Better statistical methods and frameworks

<p>AEG/ISWGNA National accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of the 2008 SNA including addressing issues Beyond GDP in supplementary tables • Experimentation and testing program of relevant guidance note by volunteering countries 	<p>UNCEBTS Business and trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of the International Merchandise Trade Manual and Manual on Statistics on Trade in Services • Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers • Manual on Principal Indicators for Business and Trade Statistics 	<p>UNCEISC International classifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of ISIC revision 4 • Revision of CPC v2
<p>UNCEBD Big data and data science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbooks on use of remote sensing and earth observation data, mobile phone data, scanner data, etc 	<p>UNCEEA Environmental economic accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of the SEEA ecosystem accounting • Research on classification issues, alignment of SEEA CF and SEEA Ecosystem accounting, on climate change 	<p>UNCEAG Food security, agriculture and rural statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of data quality assurance framework for statistics and data

Workstream 4 Better networking, user consultations, and communication

<p>AEG/ISWGNA National accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional outreach program on update of 2008 SNA in collaboration with regional commissions 	<p>UNCEBTS Business and trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging priority areas: green economy; digitalization, innovation and productivity; well being and social inclusion • Communication strategy under development 	<p>UNCEISC International classifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional outreach program on the revisions of classifications
<p>UNCEBD Big data and data science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector partnership on privately held data 	<p>UNCEEA Environmental economic accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User consultation and media outreach on the updated SEEA Ecosystem Accounting 	<p>UNCEAG Food security, agriculture and rural statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralization of capacity building • Partnership on the modernization of statistical production of food and agri statistics

V. Possible elaborations

7. In future, the Network will discuss the feasibility of extending the scope of the synthesis report to other reports to the Statistical Commission: industry statistics, energy statistics, price statistics, International Comparison Programme, information and communication technology

statistics, informal economy, service statistics, Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, climate change statistics. This will be done in consultation and collaboration with the groups which are responsible for producing these reports.

8. The Network also considered the following horizontal challenges that could be addressed in the synthesis report such as

- a. Enabling coordination with socio-demographic and social statistics communities related to thematic areas of gender, labor, health, education, and population.
- b. Scaling of access and discoverability of data and data solutions and collaboration in global co-investment on shared platforms like the United Nations Global Platform for the strengthening of global statistical infrastructure and operations
- c. Strengthening of the coherence and consistency of the updates and revisions of the standards of economic statistics for the new economics for sustainable development and further aligning timelines and work programs towards continuous update using semantic web technology
- d. Establishing continuous dialogue with global and regional user community, and statistical committees and groups
- e. Tailoring capacity building programs by country groupings – LDCs and SIDSs
- f. Developing a communication strategy around the system of economic statistics

VI. Reporting to the Statistical Commission

9. If the proposed outline is approved by the Statistical Commission, the Network will prepare the synthesis report as a background document to the report of the Network to the Statistical Commission in 2023.

Annex IV

Programme of work of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians has developed a forward-looking programme of work which identifies specific projects that the Network will carry out during 2022, as well as a number of high-level activities that will be further elaborated in the fullness of time.

II. Thematic sprints

2. This programme of work builds on the work done to date, the highlights of which are the identification of the thematic sprint as the modality of quickly devising approaches for finding solutions for current statistical challenges, experimenting with newly developed statistical standards, methods, and working arrangements, and convening participants through global consultations, conferences and other means to identify broad horizontal priorities and common thematic issues which require solutions.

3. Having completed the organizational sprint, the two thematic sprints on data access and beyond GDP have been and will be launched, respectively, and are scheduled to be concluded before the end of May 2022. Depending on the outcome of these sprints, it is possible to consider an extension of the data access sprint and the beyond GDP sprint into further cycles. The intent in this case would be to develop a community of practice on global value chains and broader measures of progress, well-being and sustainability that can continue the dialogue on these vast topics. Where appropriate, a consultation will be held with existing committees and groups to take the recommendations forward.

4. Additionally, at the recommendation of Network participants, the first steps are being taken to initiate a sprint focused on communication and branding for the Network, and a thematic sprint that will bring together statisticians grappling with how to account for housing costs in the consumer price index.

5. In consultation with the regional commissions, as well as with the Network participants, the Bureau will identify additional topics that merit the launching of a sprint to meet an urgent need and warrant an early response.

III. User consultations

6. The Network was also charged to seek ways to engage with a broader set of stakeholders, including policy makers, technology partners, data providers, and academics, and to develop mechanisms to build that engagement into regular ongoing activities that look at strategic questions stretching beyond current economic statistics with the aim to develop a shared agenda for the future of economic statistics.

7. To that end, a series of consultation sessions will be organized by launching the “Road to the Forum”. During these sessions, the various actual and potential users and stakeholders of the system of economic statistics will be consulted to allow for networking with existing initiatives and networks on sustainability, well-being, and “Beyond GDP”. The outcomes of these series of inclusive international and regional consultations should be the enumeration of wide-ranging views of where there exist important gaps in the economic statistics system. It is expected that this “Road to the Forum” will take the form of a sprint that will be completed before the end of October 2022.

8. The “Road to the Forum” will lead to, and inform, the Global Forum on Economic Statistics, the annual capstone event of the Network. For 2022, this Forum will be co-organized by the Statistics Division and Eurostat with a focus on the upcoming revisions of the SNA and BOP manuals. The Statistics Division and Eurostat will be working closely with the ISWGNA/AEG and Network on the agenda for the Forum. While the aim of the Forum itself will be to confirm the direction being taken in the revision of the SNA and BOP manuals, the path to this conference affords the opportunity to connect with a broader range of users on topics that stretch beyond the update of the current standards. This in turn will allow the Network to develop a forward-looking agenda of priority topics that the Network will tackle.

9. As the aim of the Network is to enable collaboration and networking to find solutions to emerging statistical issues, members will remain attuned to new developments and input from national statistical agency representatives and regional commissions and adapt the workplan accordingly.

10. A part of the user consultation is also the dialogues with existing statistical committees and groups to address common horizontal issues of the economic statistics programs. The synthesis report will be the basis for these consultations to celebrate good practices but also to address potential gaps or emerging issues.

IV. Annual meeting of the Network

11. With the full membership, Bureau, and co-chairs of the Network established in 2022, the Network will also call an annual meeting to firm up the programme of work, consider the communication and branding strategy, and evaluate the outcomes and recommendations of the sprints, the regional user consultations, and the recommendations of the synthesis report.

V. Reporting to the Statistical Commission

12. The Network is expected to report its progress to the Statistical Commission in 2023.