Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 December 2023

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Fifty-fifth session
New York, 27 February–1 March 2024
Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda*
Items for discussion and decision: economic statistics

Report of the Network of Economic Statisticians

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Network of Economic Statisticians, which is submitted to the Statistical Commission for discussion and decision.

Report of the Network of Economic Statisticians

I. Introduction

1.   At its fifty-fourth session, held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2023, the Statistical Commission adopted decision 54/106 (see E/2023/24, chap. I.B), in which it:

(a)   Welcomed the report of the Network of Economic Statisticians (E/CN.3/2023/7), and commended the Network for successfully convening the organizational sprint, the data access sprint and the "beyond gross domestic product (GDP)" sprint, as well as for the measurement of owner-occupied housing inflation in the consumer price index sprint to enhance the responsiveness of economic statistics to emerging policy demands and issues and, in collaboration with the regional commissions and other partners, the regional webinars to determine the priorities for their regional statistical systems;

(b)   Welcomed the identification of the various use cases from the data access sprint to pursue a process of building relationships with private sector data holders, commended the progress of the formulation of a workplan for these use cases, and suggested regular updates on the progress made;

(c)   Commended the work done in the "beyond gross domestic product" sprint and the subsequent global and regional consultations in preparing the research prospectus for an integrated statistical framework for inclusive and sustainable well-being to improve integration between economic and sociodemographic statistics, and welcomed the cooperation between the Network and the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics to facilitate the collaboration between national, regional and global statistical communities for this purpose;

(d)   Commended the work on the measurement of owner-occupied housing inflation in the consumer price index sprint in developing a set of recommendations to further refine the existing methods of measuring owner-occupied housing to guide practitioners through a joint exploration by the Ottawa Group on Price Indices and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics to improve international comparability, and noted the proposal to develop an additional index for owner-occupied housing inflation separate from the consumer price index;

(e)   Commended the collaboration between the Network and the international classifications community, resulting in the proposal to jointly organize an international classifications sprint to raise awareness of the importance of international classifications;

(f)   Welcomed the proposal of the Network to develop a branding, communication and outreach strategy to raise awareness of its objectives and activities among partners in the global statistical system, from practitioners to academics and the private sector;

(g)   Took note of the first synthesis note of the Network, which identified data integration, international statistical standards and regional commissions as the shared priorities and challenges among the reports of statistical groups to the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission;

(h)   Approved the work programme of the Network for 2023, covering the following, and suggested greater involvement and participation of countries from the global South in the work of the Network, including small island developing States, in partnership with the regional commissions and regional agencies:

(i)   Implementation of data access use cases of industry-specific studies of global value chains using privately held data to advance methods and principles of data access, in close cooperation with the private sector;

(ii)   Exploration of the feasibility of a research agenda for a new integrated statistical framework for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being in accordance with the research prospectus, in collaboration with the Friends of the Chair group;

(iii)   Organization of other sprints addressing identified priority topics, such as international classifications, communication, collaboration and outreach, and the shared priorities mentioned in the synthesis note;

(iv)   Continuation of regional and global consultations on shared statistical priorities and collaborative arrangements.

2.   The present report provides an overview of the activities of the Network of Economic Statisticians from the end of the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission to the end of November 2023 and its proposed work programme for 2024. Section II contains information on the progress of the Network in implementing its work programme in 2023 and on its proposed work programme for 2024. Section III provides details of the action to be taken by the Commission.

II.   Achievements in 2023 and the work programme for 2024

3.   The Network currently comprises 37 members from 27 Member States (including 18 countries in the global South) and 24 members from international and regional organizations, including the five regional commissions of the United Nations. The Network is currently chaired by Canada and Maldives. The co-chairs, in close cooperation with the Network's Bureau and secretariat (comprising the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat), develop an annual programme of work for the Network and monitor the progress of the various components of the programme. The Bureau currently consists of the two co-chairs, Indonesia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Division.

4.   The activities of the Network are aligned with the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics with regard to an agile, collaborative and responsive system of economic statistics, based on four thematic workstreams: (a) networking (collaboration and user consultation); (b) transforming and challenging the system (statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions); (c) enabling the system (institutional arrangements and governance); and (d) experimenting, integrating and documenting the system (statistical framework and methods).

5.   The Network supports the establishment of an agile, collaborative and highly impactful approach to improving the responsiveness of the system of economic statistics to swiftly evolving policy demands. In this regard, the Network facilitates better cooperation and networking among the national statistical offices of all Member States, in close consultation and collaboration with international and regional statistical organizations and bodies. Regular consultations with various stakeholders and Network members have highlighted the need for better cooperation and networking to enable national statistical offices to reimagine their business models, develop innovative and coordinated statistical programmes, and adopt best practices and working methods, in collaboration with other government agencies, academia and private and non-governmental organizations, to produce trusted, reliable and timely statistics catering to user demands.

6.   The Network has undertaken a series of user consultations and promoted communication and partnerships through regional webinars in order to help the system of economic statistics identify emerging themes and common priorities and discover and address duplications and gaps in the work programmes of statistical groups and entities. It is expected that continued dialogue will enable the system to operate coherently, collaboratively and inclusively for the different actors involved.

7.   The Network will continue to facilitate a better and more responsive system of economic statistics that will pivot towards integrated economic statistics by extending the statistical framework in support of the measurement of the world's swiftly evolving economies and enabling experimentation to help meet the rapidly changing information demands of policymakers. This should also allow the system of economic statistics to achieve improved granularity and timeliness, as well as better integration of the measures of the economy, society and the environment. Furthermore, the Network will support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, address issues raised in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982) and contribute to the implementation of the proposals set out in the United Nations publication "Our Common Agenda policy brief 4: valuing what counts – a framework to progress beyond gross domestic product" (A/77/CRP.1/Add.3) in order to outline a path to develop complementary metrics in which what matters to people, the planet and the future is more fully recognized.

8.   In "Our Common Agenda", the Secretary-General makes explicit reference to the need to take collective action to meet current challenges, an important aspect of which is bringing together Member States, international financial institutions and statistical, science and policy experts to identify a complement or complements to GDP that will measure inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity, building on the work of the Statistical Commission. In addition to identifying complementary measures, participants in the process would need to agree on pathways for national and global accounting systems to include additional measurements, and to establish systems for regular reporting as part of official statistics. Policy brief 4 builds on "Our Common Agenda" by recommending the creation of a conceptual framework that can accurately "value what counts" for people, the planet and the future, anchored in the 2030 Agenda and the commitment set out therein to leave no one behind; the elaboration of a robust technical and scientific process, informed by sound and disaggregated data, resulting in a United Nations value dashboard of a limited number of key indicators that go beyond GDP; and a major capacity-building and resourcing initiative to enable Member States to use the new framework effectively.

9.   The Network has been working towards consolidating the guidance in those two reports and the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics, as approved by the Statistical Commission. The Network aims to achieve the expected outcomes by better networking and establishing user-centred partnerships in the creation of global data assets, like the United Nations Global Platform, in collaboration with the big data community; better challenging the system through use cases in co-production and co-investment; better enabling the system through improved working methods among statistical groups; and better documenting the international conceptual and practical guidance on methodological standards and collective scaling of capacity-building and training programmes. These activities can be combined with early implementation through regular experimentation with and testing of statistical standards to meet rapidly evolving user demand.

10.   Given its focus on action to improve the system of economic statistics through networking and engagement with existing statistical groups and entities, rather than creating another layer of governance, the Network has used sprints as the most appropriate, cost effective and inclusive working method. Sprints have not only increased the speed of development of the system for shared priorities but have also

provided an opportunity to consider a diverse range of voices. Sprints have also enhanced the Network's ability to act in an agile fashion to formulate statistical responses to rapidly evolving socioeconomic and environmental circumstances by enabling the Network to deliver against accelerated time frames and produce specific outputs relating to shared priorities. The sprints have also facilitated the identification of emerging themes and priorities and enabled the discovery and addressing of duplication and gaps in the programmes of work of statistical groups and entities. The use of sprints has enabled the Network to facilitate better understanding of existing data solutions through trusted services provided by global and regional statistical infrastructure, including data collection and access, the examination of existing statistical methods with a view to improving data quality and international comparison, and the development of proposals for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being.

11.   In 2023, to date, one sprint has been successfully completed, and one is in progress. The completed second series of the sprint dealing with work on "beyond GDP" matters, led by the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, continued to make progress on workstream (d), "Experimenting, integrating and documenting (statistical framework and methods)". The ongoing international statistical classifications sprint, led by the Network and the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, will advance the work on workstream (b), "Transforming and challenging the system (statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions)" and is expected to complete its work in January 2024. In addition, the completed data access sprint, which was led by Statistics Netherlands, continued to organize post-sprint activities to advance the work on workstream (b).

12.   In its third year of activities since its formation, the Network has matured into an established international statistical community, evidenced by the high levels of engagement and participation in its sprint sessions, which are routinely attended by upward of 100 participants. Despite the virtual nature of these meetings, which involve an early start or a very late evening for many participants, the Network has benefited from a diverse group of participants, including presenters from all regions of the world. The Network believes that this working model continues to gain momentum, and that the Network has become a forum where members actively raise issues that preoccupy their organizations, as they view the Network as a resource that provides them with opportunities and pathways to identify solutions to these issues. This has led to a more organic development of the Network's undertakings, which have become more driven by participants' inputs rather than by initiatives put forth by the Bureau. As this process develops further, the Network's relevance and effectiveness will continue to grow, and with it, its added value to and impact on the statistical community.

13.   Over the past year, the Bureau has also focused on enhancing the impact and usefulness of its activities for Network members as well as the broader statistical community. The Bureau has started to organize quarterly meetings for Network members, which feature keynote speakers and discussions of topics of interest, and provide general updates on Network activities. In addition to conducting global and regional consultations, the Network has also experimented with hosting informal discussions on relevant issues for the statistical community. These sessions have been met with enthusiasm by participants. The Network has been very deliberate in fostering collaboration with other statistical groups through its activities. Sprints are designed to be inclusive, are open to all interested parties and have focused on expanding knowledge within the statistical community. Network members have had discussions with other groups, such as the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, the

Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, and the Data Science Leaders Network, to improve the integration of the measures of the economy, society and the environment, support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and address issues raised in "Our Common Agenda".

A. "Beyond gross domestic product" sprint 2023

14.   While traditional measures of economic performance will always be relevant for a range of purposes, there is increasing recognition of a gap between the information contained in aggregate GDP and what is important for the general public's well-being, particularly when taking into account social and environmental factors. Given that GDP is considered to be a weak measure of well-being because of what it omits, and that the System of National Accounts is not designed or intended to become a framework for measuring well-being, there is a need to work towards the development of a parallel statistical system that complements measures of market activity with measures centred on key aspects of people's well-being, including inclusiveness and sustainability.

15.   The six "beyond GDP" sprint meetings in 2022 served to identify the current state of knowledge, mapping numerous approaches, frameworks and specific measures that have been put forward within and beyond the economic and social statistics domains, such as the human development index, inclusive and comprehensive wealth, National Transfer Accounts and the multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States. The 2022 sprint was then able to scope the work carried out in these domains internationally, identify best practices and propose areas of high priority for research on measures for inclusive and sustainable well-being.

16.   The Network subsequently summarized the findings of the six sprint meetings and made concrete proposals in a research prospectus (available as a background document of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission and endorsed by the Commission) for further work with designated partners on two missing components of a proposed integrated statistical system for inclusive and sustainable well-being: a new System of Population and Social Statistics (name to be confirmed) to complement the System of National Accounts and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, and a Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Well-being (name to be confirmed). The Framework would then bring together data drawn from the three aforementioned systems to produce coherent well-being and sustainability statistics, indicators and measures, either in dashboards or indices.

17.   Seven online meetings of the "beyond GDP" sprint 2023 were held between June and October 2023 to follow up on this agenda, explore the feasibility of creating a new integrated statistical framework for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being, as proposed in the research prospectus, and identify the necessary research process to achieve this goal. All meetings attracted well over 100 participants; two of the meetings had over 200 participants. Participants represented a range of statistical domains and backgrounds, including national statistical offices from around the world, international and regional organizations, and academia. In addition, the Network has taken steps to remain actively engaged with the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics to ensure that the Network's approach to developing the framework for inclusive and sustainable well-being is in line with the work the Friends of the Chair group has commissioned around systems and standards for social and demographic statistics, which naturally would serve as the forum for any future development, if considered desirable, of a new system of population and social statistics, as proposed in the research prospectus. The Network continues to be

willing to provide access to economic statistics experts to support the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics in this endeavour, as required.

18. The Network summarized the findings of these seven sprint meetings and recommendations on the way forward in a background document to the present report, entitled "Completing the Statistical Architecture: Developing the System of Population and Social Statistics and the Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Wellbeing – A Roadmap". This background document includes the comments provided by various groups, such as the social and demographic statistics, national accounts, environmental-economic accounting, environment statistics and geospatial communities, and Network members, on the initial draft. It is clear from the breadth and depth of topics covered by the "beyond GDP" sprint that there is a strong and active interest in this agenda from a varied set of bodies and agencies, and that it is not possible for a single group to address the full range of varied and complex issues and relationships. Thus, in the background document it is recommended that a multidisciplinary expert group comprised of experts from the social and demographic statistics, national accounts, environmental-economic accounting, environment statistics and geospatial communities, academia and, where appropriate, the private sector, should be formed to explore how to take forward the various recommendations. Importantly, financing for this group would rely primarily on a model similar to that used by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for the revision to the 2008 System of National Accounts, where the research agenda was advanced through in-kind support from country and agency representatives.

19. Being a global group, the Network is uniquely well placed to bring a wide perspective to the proposed group, as it could offer a diverse range of voices and deep expertise. It is vital that the implementation of the recommendations in the background document becomes a shared project that involves the above-mentioned communities and other relevant stakeholders. Therefore, in 2024, the Network proposes to work in partnership with key experts from all of these communities, given the multidimensional nature of the integrated statistical system, to ensure that the proposed multidisciplinary expert group could access input from all regions, and, if desired, map the initial funding implications of carrying out its work and convene online meetings and, if possible, in-person meetings, to advance implementation of the recommendations in the background document.

B. International statistical classifications sprint

20. The international statistical classifications sprint aims to raise awareness of the importance of international classifications among both internal and external users; support outreach by the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications to engage national statistical offices; provide an additional forum for discussing and sharing modern ways of updating and implementing classifications; and highlight the importance of investing in classification work as a foundation for data integration. The sprint will thus address the priority given to data integration by statistical groups, which the Network highlighted in its background document submitted to the Commission in 2023, entitled "Synthesis Note of the Network of Economic Statisticians: Review of Reports to the 54th Session of the Statistical Commission".

21. The sprint consists of three webinars. The first webinar, which was conducted in a hybrid format on 25 October 2023, explored the role of statistical classifications for data integration, raised awareness of the importance of international statistical classifications among both internal and external users, and highlighted the importance of investing in classification work as a foundation for data integration by showcasing real-life applications inside and outside national statistical offices. The second

webinar, conducted on 29 November 2023, provided the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications with an opportunity to conduct outreach on the evergreening and the need for a more efficient revision process for agile and responsive international classifications for sound and informed decisions. Both webinars were well attended; each had more than 250 participants from national statistical offices, other government offices, and international and regional organizations. The outcome of the first two webinars highlighted the importance of having agile and responsive statistical classification systems for a better and more responsive statistical system to respond to the fast-evolving and emerging socioeconomic and environmental circumstances, which requires investment in permanent resources in classification development and maintenance. It also indicated the need for better cooperation and networking among partners of the statistical system and users of classifications of official statistics, and a better working method and better-aligned governance arrangements for a more efficient revision process with predictable timetables. While an appropriate balance between the relevance and stability of statistics should be maintained, it was indicated that ongoing national and regional practices relied on the use of continuous five-year revision cycles for some economic classifications. The Statistical Commission report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (E/CN.3/2024/21) presents further details regarding the recommendations on the revision cycle for international classifications.

22. A third webinar to explore the role of technology in making the process of classification more efficient is scheduled to be conducted on 31 January 2024. The webinar will close with a panel of senior executives representing organizations from around the world who will address some of the biggest challenges faced by organizations when implementing international classifications, such as determining the frequency of revisions, building and maintaining capacity and modernizing the classification process. A full summary report of the international statistical classifications sprint, which may identify follow-up actions, will be made available on the webpage on the sprint.

C. Data access sprint

23. The data access sprint identified five specific use cases for pursuing the process of building a relationship with private data holders: (a) a tourism industry use case, led by Maldives; (b) a semiconductor industry use case, led by the Kingdom of the Netherlands; (c) an e-commerce use case, led by the United Kingdom; (d) a retail industries use case, led by the United Arab Emirates; and (e) a horticultural industry use case, led by Colombia. The teams for the use cases have started implementing their respective workplans and their work is at different stages of progress. Conversations have been initiated with private parties to begin building the relationships necessary for requesting data. Thus far, the use cases have revealed that capacity and commitment at higher managerial levels at both national statistical offices and private data providers are important to keep the work going. Owing to staff changes at the senior management level at Statistics Netherlands, the joint task team has experienced some delays. These issues have been resolved, and the joint task team is looking forward to continuing the work. The joint task team is seeking opportunities for collaboration with the data science community to strengthen the use cases and has launched several novel initiatives. For example, Indonesia and Dataprovider.com have initiated conversations regarding the e-commerce use case. In addition, the joint task team is exploring data sources for the tourism use case. In 2024, the Network will continue to support the joint task team's efforts to build on the results of the use cases. In addition, in collaboration with the task team on training, competencies and capacity development of the Committee of Experts on Big Data

and Data Science for Official Statistics, and the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, the data access sprint joint task team will further explore best practices for sharing the knowledge acquired through the sprint and the use cases with the statistical community.

24.   The use of alternative data sources for statistical production continues to be a topic of priority for all Network members, especially for those from the global South that have less experience and capacity to adopt such data sources. The Network hosted keynote speakers and held an informal discussion on the topic, in response to suggestions to that effect, in order to provide participants with opportunities to learn from each other's experiences and adopt successful practices. Those discussions also revealed the need to explore the various data strategies that many organizations have developed or are developing in order to shed even more light on the path forward for national statistical authors in a world replete with information sources.

D.   Global and regional consultations and Network meetings

25.   With the support of its Bureau, the Network held consultations with the regional commissions and a number of Network meetings in 2023.

Global and regional consultations

26.   Consultation and communication with users in the statistical and policy community is an essential workstream of the Network to ensure that its workplans meet the priorities of national statistical systems, including those of the global South. In July 2023, the Network undertook an online consultation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to determine and scope the statistical priorities of the global South and discuss the feasibility of addressing common priorities in future sprints. This consultation thus addressed the shared priority of strengthening the facilitating role of regional commissions to better reflect regional priorities in global work programmes, as highlighted in the "Synthesis Note of the Network of Economic Statisticians: Review of Reports to the 54th Session of the Statistical Commission". In October 2023, at the invitation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Network gave a presentation on the progress of the "beyond GDP" sprint 2023 at the annual seminar on national accounts for Latin America and the Caribbean, where participants were offered the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the sprint. In addition, in November 2023, at the invitation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Network presented an overview of its activities at the joint meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics and sought the views of participants regarding the topics on which the Network should focus its work programmes.

27.   One key insight revealed by the "beyond GDP" sprint is that there is a need to improve integration between economic and sociodemographic statistics in order to better measure inclusive and sustainable well-being. To this end, in 2023 the Network attended meetings on one of the workstreams of the newly formed Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics to discuss how both groups can facilitate collaboration between national, regional and global statistical communities.

28.   Through its consultations with the regional commissions and participation in the above-mentioned events, the Network has been able to gather information on where each region needs support to advance its statistical priorities. This input has guided

the Network's work programme in the latter part of 2023 and will inform its future work. As noted above, the Network is at a point where it receives feedback and input on an ongoing basis through formal and informal channels, and this feedback will continue to guide its future activities.

29. In 2024, the Network will continue undertaking consultations at the regional level through dedicated regional events, the participation of Network members in events organized by regional commissions or agencies, and the participation of regional experts in future Network sprints. Moreover, the Network will enhance its global consultations with steering groups, committees and other expert groups by seeking networking, co-production and co-investment opportunities for organizing and participating in global events. The scope of the global and regional consultations will extend beyond economic statistics, in view of the priority given to advancing the integrated statistical system for inclusion and sustainable well-being and the multidisciplinary and multidimensional nature of this endeavour.

Network meetings

30. In 2023, the Bureau began to organize quarterly meetings to increase communication and engagement with Network members, update them on current and planned activities and gather input regarding the priorities on which the Network should focus. Two online meetings were held, in June and September 2023, respectively. In line with the Network's mission and mandate to experiment and test new ideas, each meeting featured a keynote presentation on a particular emerging issue proposed by stakeholders. The keynote presentation in June, entitled "Measuring Human Capital in the National Accounts – an Experimental Approach", was delivered by the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, while the presentation in September, entitled "The Use of Alternative Data Sources in Business Statistics in the Netherlands: Experiences and Lessons Learned", was delivered by Statistics Netherlands. Also at the September meeting, a live poll was conducted to scope the key priorities of statistical agencies in the global South. The keen interest in alternative data sources expressed by participants at that meeting led to the holding of an informal meeting in November 2023 to allow members to share additional insights on the use of alternative data sources, the challenges involved and how to overcome them. Those discussions generated the suggestion to explore the work done by various national statistical offices to develop data strategies. A Network meeting is scheduled to be held in December 2023. In addition to the above-mentioned meetings involving Network members, the Bureau also organized fortnightly meetings in 2023 to discuss the progress of the Network's work programme and other issues.

31. In 2024, the Bureau will continue to hold meetings of the Network to update members on the progress of its work programme. Each meeting will feature a keynote presentation on a specific emerging issue, after which the Network will assess the feasibility of addressing the issue in a thematic sprint, in collaboration with the relevant community and stakeholders. Where appropriate, informal meetings will be organized to continue the discussions initiated at the Network meetings or to promote the work of the Network to various stakeholders. For example, the Network intends to organize a side event during the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission with the aim of fostering a conversation on the benefits of developing a process for aligning existing international statistical standards by coordinating manual updates and the research agendas, and providing an update on recent Network activities. In addition, the Bureau will hold fortnightly meetings to discuss the Network's work programme and other topical issues.

III. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

32. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To express its views on the progress made by the Network and its sprints, including the "beyond GDP" sprint 2023, the international statistical classifications sprint and post-sprint activities related to data access;**

(b) **To endorse the work programme of the Network for 2024, which covers the following:**

(i) **Follow-up work, including the proposed formation of a multidisciplinary expert group, to take forward the recommendations of the "beyond GDP" sprint 2023;**

(ii) **Follow-up work on the priorities for the modernization of national statistical agencies in the global South arising from interactions with regional commissions and other stakeholders;**

(iii) **Continuation of the regional and global consultations on shared statistical priorities and collaborative arrangements, meetings of the Network and informal meetings.**

———————