

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
STATISTICS DIVISION (UNSD)
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, DC2-1670, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TELEPHONE NO: 1 (917) 367-4130; FAX NO: 1 (212) 963-4569
Internet location: unstats.un.org/unsd

STAT 151 (43)

27 May 2013

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Chair of the Statistical Commission, I am writing to you to follow up on Decision 44/114 on the "Response to Rio+20 mandate for broader measures of progress" taken by the Statistical Commission earlier this year and to invite you to become a member of the proposed Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group on this topic.

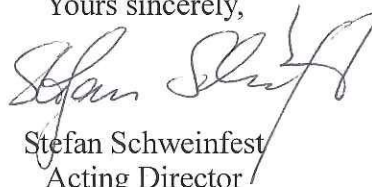
You may recall that, as part of the discussion, the Commission requested the FOC group among other things to "*build a work programme to develop broader measures of progress*". The Commission also tasked the FOC group to "*closely monitor the ongoing debate on development frameworks and to keep the Bureau of the Statistical Commission informed, undertaking an active dialogue with United Nations bodies and the policy sphere in order to ensure that a robust statistical measurement approach is incorporated from the outset in preparations for the post-2015 development agenda.*"

In this context, I am pleased to inform you that Mr. T.C.A. Anant (India) and Mr. Philippe Cuneo (France) have kindly agreed to lead this Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group. The group will primarily function virtually; physical events may be held on the side of major statistical events. The main outputs of the group will consist in reports to the 2014 and 2015 Statistical Commission. We are attaching an information note on the mandate, proposed mode of operation and proposed deliverables of the group. We also attach a briefing note on current ongoing UN-processes in the context of the debate on the post-2015 development agenda.

We would very much welcome you to be a member of the FOC Group. I would be grateful if you could confirm your willingness and availability to contribute to this effort to my colleague Ms. Li Wang (wangl@un.org). We would appreciate receiving your reply, as well as your comments on the proposed mode of operations and proposed deliverables no later than 10 June 2012. Once the group is formally constituted the co-chairs will lead the further debate on the detailed work plan. In this context, I am pleased to inform you that the Secretariat has initiated preparatory work on an inventory of existing practices.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. We are looking forward to working with you on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Acting Director

United Nations Statistics Division