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Co chairs of the Friend of the Chair Group
on broader measures of progress

to

National Statistical Offices of Members
States of the United Nations

13 October, 2014

Object: Combined survey on national practices on broader measures of progress and indicator availability for Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets

Dear Colleague,

As a response to its Rio+20 mandate articulated in paragraph 38 of the outcome document, the Statistical Commission at its 44th session (26 February – 1 March 2013) created a Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress. This group was tasked with building a work programme to develop broader measures of progress based on a stocktaking exercise of current national, regional and international practices in this field. It was also requested to conduct a technical review of these existing efforts with a view to identifying good/best practices and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, especially for the benefit of developing countries.

At the 45th session of the Statistical Commission (4 – 7 March 2014), a partial compendium with some national, regional and international efforts and practices in the measurement of sustainable development, societal progress and human well-being was presented.¹ As a result, the group has been tasked to complete its stocktaking exercise of broader measures of progress, building on the inputs from **all** countries and regions.

Furthermore, at the same 45th session, the group had also been requested to develop an implementation framework for the monitoring and measurement of the post-2015 development agenda, which must include appropriate indicators to measure progress.

¹ Some national, regional and international efforts and practices in the measurement of sustainable development and human well-being, Background document to the 45th session of the Statistical Commission (4 – 7 March 2014), prepared by the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress, available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2014.htm>.

The goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda are expected to be adopted at a high level summit in September 2015 and be based on the SDGs. The work on the indicator framework and discussion of suitable indicators has to start now in order for the Statistical Commission to be able to discuss and potentially agree on an indicator set in early 2016 at its 47th session.

We are writing to you as co-chairs of the Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress (FOC), to ask you to respond to this new survey. The aim of this new survey is to complete the compendium of national practices on broader measures of progress (Part I of this survey) and obtain information on the availability of indicators to measure the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated 107 substantive targets agreed upon by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) on 19 July 2014 (Part II of this survey).

It will be crucial that as many Member States as possible reply to this global survey. Part II of the survey is long and will require significant effort to complete. However, it is necessary to obtain information on national data availability and gaps in order to properly inform the discussion process on indicators and required capacity building. This survey is an opportunity for all countries to provide their input early on in the discussions. Its results will be provided to and discussed by the FOC Group and included in its report to the 46th session of the Statistical Commission (3 – 6 March 2015).

The survey will be conducted via Survey Monkey and can be accessed using a link and password that will be sent in a separate email and for technical reasons to only one person, the head of your office. **The email will come from sender raeb@un.org via surveymonkey.com (or vice versa).** The login information can be shared within your office (however, it may not be possible that two persons in your office are entering information into Survey Monkey simultaneously). You will be requested to reply if you prefer to complete the French or Spanish version of the questionnaire which will become available shortly. The file versions of the questionnaire will be posted on the FOC website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/work.html>. In case of any problems entering the information please contact Benjamin Rae at UNSD (raeb@un.org). UNSD will compile and consolidate the responses.

We would appreciate receiving your reply by 7 November 2014.

Yours sincerely



Secretary and Chief Statistician of India



Head of INSEE Inspectorate General