

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: economic statistics

Document E/CN.3/2021/7 – Report of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics

Statement provided by:

CANADA

Statement:

(Intervention written in the context of Canada being the Chair of the FOC Group)

Canada would like to thank the members of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics for their participation over the last two years. We also would like to underline the valuable input provided in the various meetings, consultations and discussion forums related to the future of economic statistics. Thanks to these collaborative efforts, the group was able to have open and frank discussions and comments that led to the report before the Commission today.

During the discussions of the group, there was broad consensus for necessity of a user-centric system of economic statistics and the need to produce more granular and timely data. The group also noted the need should be supported by appropriate methods, tools and standards. There was consensus that capacity building and user support are vital to developing countries.

The consultations also examined the current governance supporting the system of economic statistics. This led to acknowledgement that the current system needs to be more responsive and agile to meet the collective needs of users, with a focus on working with the current system to make improvements rather than to recommend major changes to the system.

The objectives of the FOC Group have become even more critical in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a convergence of views from the FOC members on an emerging new statistical framework aimed at achieving the following four key outcomes:

- Better cooperation and networking among NSOs in developed and developing countries.
- Better national data solutions provided by better global statistical infrastructure and data solutions.
- Better working methods and better coordination and collaboration among groups.
- Better and more responsive system of economic statistics.

The information and insight provided to the FOC group have been reflected in the final report and its recommendations. The recommendations of the report call for on-going global user's consultations; increasingly resort to experimentation, co-development, co-investment and a whole-of-a system approach for user-centric statistical developments; the creation of the new Network of Economic Statisticians and the exploration of a new Committee of Experts on Population and Well Being. Canada endorses all the recommendations outlined in the report.

Finally, we support the dissolution of the Friends of the Chair on Economic Statistics as it has fulfilled its mandate. As Chair of the Group, we wish to acknowledge that the high degree of

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collaboration and the fruitful and inclusive conversations that have characterized the work on the FOC Group on Economic Statistics will be continuing in the implementation of the recommendations of the report. This is essential for a system of economic statistics agile and responsive to the fast-evolving user needs.

Submitted on:

2/19/2021