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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

<i>Statement provided by:</i> UNECE	
<i>Statement:</i> UNECE welcomes the report of Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics. The proposed new network of economic statisticians is supposed to facilitate coordination and communication among actors in economic statistics and identify priorities across existing groups. We find the role and mandate of the network a bit unclear vis-a-vis existing groups. For instance, ISWGNA decides on the research agenda and priorities in the area of national accounts (IWGPS in price statistics etc.). How will the network coordinate with such existing groups? An unclear mandate may lead to duplication of work and cause misunderstandings. The purpose of the suggested Committee of Experts on Population and Wellbeing would be to “develop a consistent methodological framework that will enable the production of coherent and robust measures for the economy, society and the environment, extended by well-being indicators.” (para 76). This looks very broad and will overlap with ongoing work in many areas, e.g. SNA, human and natural capital, employment, prices, business statistics, sustainability and environment. Much work is already undertaken by Eurostat, OECD, LIO, IMF, UNECE and others, and guidelines on health, human capital, education, unpaid household work is already developed by international organizations. This work must be taken into account to avoid duplication of efforts or confusion. It is important to ensure efficient coordination mechanism before such a Committee is established. UNECE welcomes the proposal for Regional Commissions to play a key role in the experimentation and testing of methodological changes in countries in both the assessment and implementation phase. As in the past, UNECE will continue to contribute also in the development phase.	
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