

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:

National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India

Statement:

Report of the Friends of the Chair (FOC) group made many recommendations for future of economic statistics which pertain to four broad themes: 1. Networking(user consultation on emerging areas, public private partnerships, facilitate quicker implementation of new standards in developing countries etc) 2. Transforming and challenging the system: statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions (co investment, co development, building global data assets, limit duplication etc) 3. Enabling: institutional arrangements and governance (better coordination among groups for more effective and inclusive system of economic statistics & 4. Experimenting, integrating and documenting: statistical framework and methods. (development of broader framework beyond SNA and Env Account to include well being and human capital.

NSO, India agree to the recommendations, especially instituting a network of economic statisticians, which will help in better reflection of concerns of diverse players like developing countries, including India, in evolution of new standards and would also reduce the gap in implementation of new standards as the actors will already be apprised of developments and might have contributed to the experimentation/ test cases. Besides produced and natural capital, emphasis on human capital has also gained traction, India supports FOCs recommendation to UNSC on exploration of the need for and feasibility of a committee of experts on population and well-being.

Network facilitating user consultation would provide opportunity to countries to put forward their concerns in data solutions, infrastructure and dissemination standards. On the other hand, it can advocate that all the international agencies must prepare a unified questionnaire, so that information once submitted therein shared by the agencies; countries need not fill such questionnaire separately for each agency.

Submitted on:

2/19/2021