

**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:***

Planning and Statistics Authority, Qatar

***Statement:***

First: Report Summary

This Working Group was created by the Statistical Commission during its 50th Session to undertake an assessment of the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the current system of economic statistics.

The present report is the final report of the working group.

The report covered four main aspects as follows:

- Summary of results of the group meeting

- Discussion on the process of framing a responsive and agile program to the Economic Statistics System

- Recommendations on the future of economic statistics

- Two action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

As for the 1st aspect, five meetings were held from May 2019 to November 2020.

Regarding the 2nd aspect, the framing program sought to achieve the following results:

- Enhancing collaboration and establish networks among national statistical offices in developed and developing countries.

- Finding better solutions for national data by improving global statistical infrastructure and global data-related solutions.

- Improving working methods and harmonizing governance arrangements.

- Improving the economic statistics system and making it more responsive.

Concerning the 3rd aspect, the recommendations addressed the following main topics:

- Creating Networks: Collaboration and user consultation

- System transformation and testing: the statistical infrastructure and solutions related to processes and data

- Empowerment: Institutional arrangements and governance

- Experimentation, engagement and documentation: Statistical frameworks and methods

As for the 4th aspect, the Statistical Commission must take two actions, namely:

- To approve the recommendations contained in the report

- To Dissolve the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics

Comment:

The 3rd aspect of the report, related to recommendations, represents the most important component of the report, as these recommendations seek to transform and modernize national statistical systems through an approach based on identifying problems and based on the four aspects listed above.

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Such recommendations are ambitious to a large extent. Rather, they pose major challenges to national statistical agencies, especially those related to creating networks and empowerment and the consequent establishment of direct communication channels and mechanisms among countries and the exchange of data for the service of users.

The current structure of the economy of the State of Qatar, being dependent on specific sources of production and income through specific productive institutions that contribute to the bulk of the GDP, makes it difficult to share any data with international bodies as this data sharing may constitute commercial harm to such institutions (and is a violation of Qatar Statistics Law). Thus, this may expose PSA's relationship with the primary and secondary data providers to great risks that have implications for the statistical product.

Submitted on:

2/18/2021