

First Meeting of Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement (EGWM)

Online, 21 October 2024

Summary and Conclusions

Stefan Schweinfest, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, opened the meeting. He encouraged the EGWM to be open and transparent in its work and to assess how it can contribute to work of the independent high-level expert group to develop recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complement and go beyond GDP, as outlined in action 53 of the [Pact for the Future](#) which was recently adopted by the 79th session of the General Assembly.

The meeting started with an overview of the terms of reference of the EGWM, which was followed by the election of its co-chairs and presentations on summaries of previous work, collaboration with the Friends of the Chair Group on Social Demographic Statistics, reporting arrangements and side event at 56th session of the Statistical Commission and proposals for future agenda.

The members of the EGWM:

1. Expressed their appreciation for the work done by the bureau in organizing the online meeting and preparing the agenda.

Terms of reference

2. Adopted the proposed terms of reference of the EGWM, but agreed to review them in one year to take into account evolving circumstances and the latest developments.
3. Agreed that, if resources are available, it would be useful to organize an in-person EGWM meeting in 2025 to allow members more time to discuss issues in a more focused manner.
4. Noted that the EGWM should (a) build on existing work that has already been done by other groups such as the chapters on well-being and sustainability in the forthcoming 2025 SNA, (b) explore how it can link its work to the implementation of the 2025 SNA and other existing and emerging frameworks and (c) determine who are the targeted users of the indicators it will be proposing under the framework for inclusive and sustainable wellbeing.

Election of co-chairs

5. Elected Mohammad Hassan of the United Arab Emirates Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre and Richard Heys of the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics as the co-chairs of the EGWM.

Summary of previous work

6. Took note of the Briefing Note on "Implementing the Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement" and the Position Paper on "The Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement and the Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Wellbeing".

Collaboration with the Friends of the Chair Group on Social and Demographic Statistics

7. Welcomed the presentation on the overview of the Friends of the Chair Group on social and demographic statistics and note on the “Collaboration with the Friends of the Chair Group on Social and Demographic Statistics (FOCG-SDS) and noted the comment by the attending members of the FOCG-SDS that a revised version of the note may be made available after the ongoing consultation with the FOCG-SDS members.
8. Agreed that the pace of the work of the EGWM will need to take into account the pace of the work of the FOCG-SDS and the availability of limited resources.

Reporting arrangements and side event at 56th session of Statistical Commission

9. Agreed that since the Network of Economic Statisticians was mandated to form the EGWM, the EGWM should initially report the progress of its work in the report of the Network to the Statistical Commission.
10. Noted, however, that since the EGWM will likely be involved in the discussion of cross-cutting statistical issues, it may need to assess the feasibility of the EGWM reporting separately to the Statistical Commission at some point in future.
11. Agreed that it would be useful for the EGWM to organize an in-person side event at the 56th session of the Statistical Commission in 2025 to promote its work.

Proposals for future agenda

12. Welcomed the paper on “Alignment with the “Alignment with High-Level Expert Group and Proposals for Immediate Work by the Expert Group” and agreed that the proposed six task teams (work, housing, digital well-being, subjective well-being, composite indices, and communications) would be a useful starting point for the EGWM to contribute to the work of the high level expert group.
13. Noted that other statistical groups may also provide their own inputs to contribute to the work of the high level expert group.
14. Agreed to express their interest in joining one or more of the six task teams, which are also open to non-EGWM members with the relevant expertise, to the EGWM secretariat.