

Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement

Terms of Reference

Revised in March 2025

Mandate

1. The Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement (EGWM) was established by the 55th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2024 to take forward the recommendations of the “Beyond GDP” sprint 2023 (see decision [55/108](#) of the report). These recommendations are detailed in the [background document](#) to the report of the [United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians](#) (Network) to the same session of the Commission.

Objectives

2. The EGWM aims to (a) deliver the Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Wellbeing (FISW), meeting user needs and reflecting producer constraints, (b) ensure the FISW has a clear conceptual framework which robustly presents data in a methodological fashion such that trade-offs and the wider impacts of policy decisions become visible, (c) provide a headline dashboard for a ‘state of the nation’ perspective to inform decision-makers and the public of the state of wellbeing for their community, and the impact their community has on others, (d) ensure the FISW presents a clear hierarchy and structure to aid user navigation: not all data can or will be prioritized for the headline dashboard and (e) support the development of a comprehensive framework for social and demographic statistics (which may develop into a System of Population and Social Statistics) in partnership with the Friends of the Chair group on Social and Demographic Statistics; specifically through providing access and insights from the economic statistics pillar, where there is overlap in the topics covered, and providing clarity on the demands for coherent social and demographic data, in terms of definitions and measures, from the FISW.

3. The specific tasks of the EGWM are as follows:

- To bring together diverse communities to review methods and synthesize a consensus opinion on the contents of the FISW, whilst recognizing the imperative of a streamlined set of metrics which best meet user need.
- To prepare the draft chapters of the FISW for global consultation and finalize them for publication by incorporating the comments of the global consultation.
- To commission, review and propose to the United Nations Statistical Commission a draft text of the FISW for consultation and endorsement.
- To commission appropriate pilot compilation of statistics and data, from a diverse range of countries to fully explore suitability and feasibility. Pilot exercises which can demonstrate the capacity of national statistical offices with limited resources to deliver against the FISW should be prioritized.
- To develop a communications strategy to aid uptake and appropriate usage of the data made available. User and producer interest is vital to secure access to well-informed resources with the required skills and knowledge to make this proposal a reality.

Membership

4. Members comprise senior statisticians from Member States, international and regional organizations, academic institutions, and independent experts with a broad and in-depth horizontal knowledge of the priorities and issues of the topics that will be included in the FISW. Members have been selected to ensure equitable regional, country, and agency representation and to reflect the

diverse range of statistical fields and subject matter expertise needed to develop the FISW. Members are expected to be part of the EGWM until the FISW has been endorsed by the Statistical Commission and published. Members of the EGWM are members by invitation, which is given on individual basis, and are expected to serve on a voluntary and non-reimbursable basis.

5. The EGWM may invite other agencies, Member States or individuals as resource persons or observers at its meetings, if needed. The membership may be increased or decreased as the work requires and on the basis of available resources.

Governance

Co-chairs

6. The EGWM will elect two co-chairs. One co-chair should preferably from the global South. Both co-chairs will serve until the FISW has been endorsed by the Statistical Commission and published.

7. The role of the co-chairs is to develop, in close co-operation with the bureau and the support of the EGWM, a work plan to prepare the FISW (taking into account the extremely limited resources of the secretariat) and monitor the progress of the various components of the work plan.

8. The co-chairs will set the agenda with the support of the secretariat for the meetings of the EGWM and its bureau and direct the meetings of the EGWM and its bureau, including summarizing the discussion of each agenda item as a basis for preparing the report of the meeting.

9. The co-chairs will approve the draft minutes of meetings as prepared by the secretariat, to be approved by written procedure by all the members who attended the meeting.

Bureau

10. The bureau consists of the two co-chairs, senior statisticians from selected Member States and international and regional organizations, academic institutions and independent experts.

11. The bureau will support the co-chairs through identifying key content for debate and speakers, alongside providing leadership to the drafting of materials for consultation with all EGWM members and work closely with the co-chairs to prepare a draft work plan to prepare the FISW.

Secretariat

12. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) serves as the secretariat of the EGWM, drawing on support from other bodies as available. The secretariat, which will be the main source of logistical and administrative support for the EGWM, will receive guidance regarding such support from the EGWM and its bureau.

13. The secretariat supports the co-chairs in preparing the draft work plan, the agenda, and minutes for the meetings of the EGWM and ensures that all documentation received and approved by the co-chairs, along with all other necessary information, is made available to its members. It is also responsible for organizing the meetings of the EGWM.

14. The secretariat will develop and update the website of the EGWM. The website is hosted by the UNSD.

15. The secretariat supports the drafting of joint statements as requested by the co-chairs.

Organization of work

16. The EGWM will work through electronic exchanges and regular online meetings. Subject to the availability of resources, in person meetings may be organized when the opportunity arises and funding

is secured, preferably in concurrence with related statistical events. All members of the Network may be invited to these meetings to share their views and expertise.

17. If necessary, the EGWM may establish task teams chaired by appropriate specialist(s), to work on particular aspects of its work plan. All task teams should have a clearly defined work program, deliverables, and delivery milestones and be established with a fixed duration, considering the overall work plan to prepare the FISW. All task teams should report the progress and delivery of their work program to the co-chairs and bureau of the EGWM as appropriate.

Reporting arrangements

18. The EGWM will formally report the progress of its work ~~through the report of Network~~ directly to the Statistical Commission annually ~~as either a contribution to the Network annual report, an annex to that report, or other standalone report. This may include the preparation of background documents, if necessary.~~

~~19. — If permitted by the Statistical Commission, the EGWM may, prepare and present joint reports to UN Statistical Commission with the Friends of the Chair group on Social and Demographic Statistics. Any such report will be jointly branded between the Network and the Friends of the Chair group on Social and Demographic Statistics.~~

Expected duration

~~20-19.~~ The EGWM is expected to function until the FISW is finalized and endorsed by the Statistical Commission and then published. The duration of the group could be extended as needed.