



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

**UN Network of Economic Statisticians
Fifth Beyond GDP Sprint Meeting**

5 May 2022

Setting the scene

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Context: The UN policy agenda

- Sustainable Development Goals: Targets 17.19
- UN Secretary General's (SG) "Our Common Agenda": "...measures of progress that complement GDP"
- SG's Data Strategy



SG's “Beyond GDP” - initiative

- UN-System internal reflection – stock taking
- Narrative why “Beyond GDP”;
- Current measures and their use
- Possible dashboard approach
- Recommendations – to be presented to member states



GDP strengths

- A UN success story with more than 75 years of history
- Country-owned, with generations of highly-qualified national accountants trained across the globe
- Practically available for all countries
- Comparable across time and space – by design!
- At the top of a coherent accounting framework
- Its underlying concepts are closely connected to wellbeing (e.g., household income, consumption, saving and wealth)



GDP extensions: SEEA Central Framework and Ecosystem Accounting and ongoing SNA update

- SEEA-EA is an integrated statistical framework to measure the contribution of ecosystems to the economy, and the impacts of the economy on the environment and on a country's natural capital
- Puts natural capital at the same level as produced capital through consistent use of accounting rules, definitions and classifications
- Planned 2025 SNA review will include broadened measures that address wellbeing and sustainability, including distributional measures of household income, consumption, saving and wealth, extensions for households' unpaid work and new labor accounts including demographic characteristics and extensions for human capital



Proposed recommendations for action by the UN System

- Intensify support to countries to implement the new and extended global statistical standards
- Extend collection of basic statistics (e.g., on households)
- Support institutional and legal arrangements for the effective flow of data (e.g., from line ministries) to National Statistical Offices
- Provide training to promote systematic and sustained use of available additional measures/indicators that build on SNA by policymakers



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A low-angle photograph of a modern skyscraper with a glass facade, set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The building's lines converge towards the top right of the frame. Overlaid on the right side of the image are several semi-transparent white geometric shapes, including a large L-shaped block and a smaller square, creating a layered, architectural effect.

Thank you.

United Nations Statistics Division