

Fifth Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians Online, 29 May 2024 Conclusions

Aishath Shahuda, Co-Chair of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians and Deputy Chief Statistician, Maldives Bureau of Statistics, opened the meeting. She encouraged members to share their ideas for future work areas and feedback on the effectiveness of the Network's methods for communicating and delivering its events.

The meeting started with a keynote presentation on "Big data for official statistics: a perspective from price statistics in Brazil" before the other topics in the agenda were presented.

The members of the Network:

1. Expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Network's Bureau in organizing the online meeting and preparing the agenda.

Keynote presentation

2. Appreciated the keynote presentation which showcased some of the steps taken by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics thus far to use web scraping techniques to improve the compilation of price statistics and initiatives to promote the use of Big Data for official statistics in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
3. Observed that the use of scanner data could potentially lead to misleading results if compiling agencies are not informed of changes in the product codes used by stores.
4. Noted the need to (a) obtain the consent of the owners of the web scraped data first, (b) assure them that their data would be used for official statistical purposes only and (c) assure them that procedures are in place to ensure the confidentiality of their data is maintained. .

Outcomes of the Beyond GDP Sprint 2023 – establishing an Expert Group

5. Welcomed the decision of the 55th session of the Statistical Commission to form an Expert Group for Well-Being Measurement to develop the Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Wellbeing (FISW).
6. Noted that the work to develop the FISW will mostly focus on how to use the data from accepted statistical frameworks such as the SNA and SEEA to develop well-being and sustainability indicators and how to communicate use of these indicators to users.
7. Noted the proposal for the Expert Group to work in a nimble and agile manner (due to the fast-changing developments in the beyond GDP field) on a volunteer-driven basis and the suggestion to work nimbly by adopting the Delphi method to gather the views of selected experts to reach consensus on a core set of indicators.
8. Advised that the timeline to prepare the FISW should take into account the (a) capacity of countries to fully participate in the process to prepare the FISW, given the

ongoing and upcoming updates of various statistical manuals and their subsequent implementation and (b) needs of the proposed independent high-level expert group to develop recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators that go beyond GDP, as described in paragraph 59a of the [Pact for the Future: Rev.1](#).

Discussion on the implementation of the Network's work program for 2024

9. Welcomed the organization of sprints on data strategies, housing data and the use of artificial intelligence in statistical work to respond to the evolving economic landscape and user needs as part of the Network's 2024 work programme, which was endorsed at the 55th session of the Statistical Commission.

10. Agreed with the proposal for the data strategies and housing data sprints to each produce a primer, encapsulating what had been learned to serve as a tool for organizations working on developing a data strategy or a housing statistical framework

11. Noted that the organizers of the sprints should (a) ensure that the primers are discoverable and (b) consider using artificial intelligence tools to prepare the first drafts of the primers to overcome key obstacles such as the lack of resources.

12. Suggested that the future work programmes of the Network could consider statistics linked to individual satisfaction and well-being, such as access to transport infrastructure and waste management indicators and observed that these statistics and indicators could be included in the FISW as well.