

Seventh Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians Online, 5 December 2024 Conclusions

André Loranger, Co-Chair of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians (Network) and Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada, opened the meeting. He encouraged members to suggest topics for inclusion in the future work programmes of the Network.

The meeting started with a keynote presentation on the case for sub-national economic statistics, which was followed by a presentation on recent Network activities and planned work and an update on the activities of the Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement.

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 Address: The case for sub-national economic statistics

2. Appreciated the presentation on the methods to compile sub-national economic statistics in the United States by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
3. Noted the usefulness of organizing a sprint for compiling agencies to share experiences on the compilation of sub-national economic statistics which could provide guidelines to address issues such as which set of economic statistics should be used for purposes such as the distribution of budget and tax revenue when both the national and sub-national governments have the mandate to produce economic statistics.
4. Noted that Morocco and Oman could share their experiences, while the United Arab Emirates could serve to illustrate a complex case due to price differentials between its seven emirates.

Recap of recent Network activities and sprints, as well as announcements on planned work by the Network

5. Appreciated the update on the recent activities of the Network and its planned activities.
6. Agreed with the proposals to organize sprints on measuring net zero initiatives and impact and the compilation of sub-national economic statistics in the 2025 work programme of the Network.

Update on the activities of the Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement

7. Appreciated the update on the activities of the expert group on well-being measurement (EGWM) and its proposal to form six task teams (work, housing, digital well-being, subjective well-being, composite indices and communications) to contribute to the work of the Secretary General's independent high level expert group (HLEG) to develop recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complement and go beyond gross domestic product.

8. Noted that the list of proposed members for the HLEG has been sent to the Secretary General for approval and recommended that the co-chairs of the EGWM should organize a meeting with the co-chairs of the HLEG once it has officially been formed to discuss how the EGWM can align its work with the objectives of the HLEG.
9. Agreed with the proposals for the EGWM to (a) report directly to the Statistical Commission from 2026 and (b) clarify the representation role of delegates to capture diversity of voices.