

Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians Online, 18 September 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 update on the activities of the Network, which was followed by a panel discussion on statistical registers.

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.

Update on Network activities

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. .

Panel discussion on statistical registers

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](#).