Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group on Economic Statistics

Towards a Final Report
Meeting #5
November 3, 2020
Starting the journey

1. Review the governance and propose changes if needed
2. Review priority areas for statistical updates
3. Provide recommendations on working methods
4. Engage with a broader set of stakeholders
5. Challenging the system with new agile approaches
GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NETWORK OF STATISTICAL GROUPS WERE UNDERTAKEN IN THE FALL OF 2019 TO TAKE STOCK ON OVERALL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS.

THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY AREAS

THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM SEEN NOT TO BE BROKEN; NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSIVENESS

SYSTEM IS REACTIVE AND SLOW IN ADJUSTING TO USER DEMAND; PRACTICAL AND AGILE APPROACH PREFERRED

CONSENSUS ON THE NEEDS TO PRODUCE MORE GRANULAR DATA; INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THAT NEED ACROSS METHODS, TOOLS AND STANDARDS

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT ARE VITAL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Mapping out the system highlighted complexities
Priority areas were identified
FOC Group – Expected outcomes for the system of economic statistics

Better collaboration and networking between NSOs and users to strengthen analytical and data management capabilities enabled through the exchange and sharing of knowledge, governance, partnerships, and technology.

Global statistical infrastructure and data solutions provide better national data solutions to produce statistics through partnerships with academia and private sector.

Better working methods and aligned governance arrangements to operate as a coherent, collaborative, organization that is inclusive of the different actors the system.

The system of economic statistics is responsive to meet our fast-evolving economies and the rapidly changing information demands of policy makers.
Networking: Collaboration and user consultation

- To continuously review and validate the global research agenda and its priorities for the entire system of economic statistics.
- To establish direct communication channels and mechanisms; to jointly work on innovative global data solutions at scale.
- To adopt a data steward role in addition to data producers and actively partner with academia and data owners in the public and private sectors.
Transforming and challenging: Statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions

- To prioritize global use cases for co-investment and co-development in
  - a) common data acquisition and access;
  - b) data sharing;
  - c) common data infrastructure and common resources; and
  - d) common technological solutions

- To implement specific and targeted use cases, possibly starting with use of data science and engineering techniques for development of real-time measures

- To leverage existing platforms and promote global data solutions through better collaboration between statistical and academic community and private sector of the developed countries and developing countries.
Enabling: Institutional arrangements and governance

• To continue to align existing working methods and terminology of Committees of Experts

• To establish a group that facilitates the networking, coordination and communication between the different actors in the system of economic statistics and promotes global partnerships with academia and the private sector for a responsive system of economic statistics that functions efficiently in response to changing user demands

• To create group with the mandate to coordinate and manage the articulation of a new manual with the accounts and tables for the interrelationship between the society and the economy.
Experimenting, integrating and documenting: Statistical framework and methods

- To adopt strategies for the continuous and iterative update of global statistical standards
- To pursue a broader integration framework (economy, environment, society) with the objective to arrive at an overarching accounting framework or “system of systems”
Pre-briefs indicated most were positive

87% had a generally positive view of the recommendations; 13% had a neutral or negative view

39% expressed concerns between disparities of ability between developing and developed countries

35% would like to see more detail (particularly an implementation plan)

26% did not see the need for additional committees

9% expressed concerns of over-reach (recommendations went too far)

9% thought the recommendations lacked ambition (could have gone further)
Drafting a Final Report

• Content
  • Goals of the FOC Group
  • Findings (based on consultations, mapping of the system)
  • Framework
  • Recommendations
  • Next steps