



2nd Meeting of the Friends of the Chair on Economic Statistics

Results of the Consultations - Economic Statistics Working
Groups



Delivering insight through data for a better Canada



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Q1. Priority areas for the update of the system of economic statistics include digitalization, globalization, economic well-being, economic inequalities, sustainability, climate change, intangible assets, household production, human capital and the informal sector. **In addition to the above, are there gaps / issues that have a global reach that need to be addressed?**

- General agreement with priorities
- Currently addressed in global initiatives
- Several specific gaps / priorities identified in multiple domains
 - All included in the overarching priorities specified
 - Need for official statistics at a more granular level
- Will need to be articulated for each priorities:
 - What is currently defined
 - Additional work required
- Need to develop harmonized concepts, standards, metadata and linkages across all priorities and across economic, social and environment.

Q2. Is there a need for additional global initiatives that could support NSOs in their transformation?

- Mixed answers:
 1. Current initiatives are effective to support current transformations but would benefit from:
 - Better coordination
 - Better focus on a limited number of high level strategic initiatives involving NSOs
 - Sharing experiences at a global level in a more organized and systematic way
 - Leveraging existing intelligence, tools and systems at the international level
 2. Need for additional initiatives – centered around two areas:
 - Harmonization and standardization of frameworks
 - Support to NSOs in the dialogue with large Digital Firms
 - Coordination of the access and international exchange of information

Q3. Does the governance structure supporting the key macroeconomic accounting frameworks (SNA, BOP, GFS, SEEA) need to be re-examined? If so, can you provide suggestions as to how the governance structure could be made more efficient and effective?

- Changes to the current governance structure are not needed
- Better coordination and alignment of activities between IOs is required
 - Improved dialogues / cross-pollination
 - Sharing priorities, learnings, memberships, research agenda
 - Avoid duplication of efforts
 - Global forum / meeting of all chairs of the groups
- No explicit support for the creation of an overarching supra organisational body having an authority to provide overall direction and set global priorities
- Streamlining of administrative obstacles / reports

Q4. Given the increasing availability of disaggregated and microdata and notwithstanding challenges related to microdata access, how can the current mechanisms be reinforced or adapted to meet these needs, or are new mechanisms needed?

- Consensus for more granular data and more granularity to the various international classifications
- Solutions proposed:
 - Methodological
 - Perturbation methods, synthetic data, small-area estimation
 - IT
 - Algorithms to query data on data owner platforms
 - Harmonization of standards
 - Units identifiers, products, transactions
 - Remove technical and institutional obstacles for data linkages and data sharing
 - Partnerships and collaboration
 - Key to access micro data and availability of disaggregated information
 - Private and public partnerships with large digital firms

Q5. The system of economic statistics is often portrayed as reactive and slow in adjusting. Do you agree? if so, are new institutional arrangements needed to make it more responsive to changes in user and policy needs?

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- System accurately portrayed as reactive and slow in adjusting to user demand
 - The nature of official statistics is associated with the production of high-quality information
 - Stability in measurement is important for macroeconomic statistics
- Changes in institutional arrangements are not seen as the solution
- Collaboration, partnering, simplify the sharing of learnings, methods and challenges
 - Avoid duplication of efforts and increase responsiveness
- More agility needed to develop definitions / standards / frameworks
 - Development and implementation slow and complex
 - Revision cycles should be shorter / divided in smaller pieces
- Collaborative international production model (ex. Land use data from satellite images developed centrally)

Q6. Do NSOs and International Organizations need to accelerate its pace of innovation and degree of experimentation?

- Recognition of the importance of innovating and developing experimental statistics for NSOs and IOs
 - Experimentation for more timely statistics, ML and AI in production process, big data, new cost-effective approaches, new standards, new estimates outside Macroeconomic boundaries
- Support comes with cautions:
 - Perception of experimental statistics as official statistics
 - Impact on public trust
 - Appropriate messaging / quality statements required
- Partnerships with academia and researchers is central to support innovation and experimentation
 - Exposed to new methods / share learning experiences
 - Accelerate the pace of innovation