

1st Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics

UNHQ, New York, USA

28 – 30 May 2019

Agenda

Tuesday 28 May: 1 – 5pm

Venue: Room 1523 in the United Nations Secretariat Building

1pm – 1:30pm

Session 1 Welcome and Introductions

Anil Arora, Statistics Canada, Chair of the Friends of the Chair Group

Stefan Schweinfest, United Nations Statistics Division

1:30pm – 5pm

Session 2 The future system of economic statistics

Moderator Konrad Pesendorfer, Statistics Austria

This session will take stock of the current system of economic statistics and initiate discussions about a possible future state. The discussion will focus on the characteristics of a future system such as expected timeliness of, detail, and access to data as well as the type of data and services expected from a national and international statistical system.

- a) The future design of a system of economic statistics within the Sustainable Development Goals and other Results frameworks. ([UN network of economists to address emerging global policy issues and SDGs and Italy, Mexico and Canada to look at how budget performance and results frameworks are impacting data requirements](#))

UN Network of economists – Ms. Dawn Holland, UNDESA and Mr. Hamid Rashid, UNDESA

Italy: Mr. Federico Giammusso, Ministry of Economy and Finance

Mexico: Mr. Enrique Ordaz, INEGI

Canada: Mr. Anil Arora, Statistics Canada

- b) The future design of a system of economic statistics from the perspective of international agencies. ([IMF, OECD and Eurostat to provide their organizational priorities](#))

IMF: Mr. Louis-Marc Ducharme

OECD: Mr. Paul Schreyer – via video

Eurostat: Ms. Mariana Kotzeva

- c) The future design of a system of economic statistics from the regional and NSO perspective. ([African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Mexico and Canada to address priority setting for their region/nation](#))

AfDB: Mr. Tabo Symphorien, AfDB
ADB: Mr. Ivo Havinga, UNSD, on behalf of ADB
IsDB: Mr. Ousmane Seck, ISDB
Mexico: Mr. Enrique Ordaz, INEGI
Canada: Mr. James Tebrake, Statistics Canada

- d) Potential mechanisms to ensure priority areas for development are identified and acted upon. ([Australia and UNECA to address institutionalizing collaboration between economists and statisticians](#))

Australia: Mr. David Kalish, ABS
UNECA: Mr. Oliver Chinganya

Wednesday 29 May: 9 – 5pm

Venue: Room 1523 in the United Nations Secretariat Building

9am – 10:30am

Session 3 A responsive and relevant system of economic statistics

Moderator: Konrad Pesendorfer, Statistics Austria

Plenary: Final reflections on and summary of Session 2

10:30am – 1pm

Session 4 Towards an infrastructure to develop and maintain a responsive and relevant system of economic statistics

Moderator James Tebrake, Statistics Canada

This session will explore the current global and national infrastructure that is in place to produce and disseminate economic statistics and initiate discussion to determine if this system is sufficient. The intended outcome of this session is to identify if there are any parts of the national and international statistical infrastructure that require updating or development. This session will also examine the current practices used to update and implement statistical standards and discuss ways the current process might be streamlined and improved to allow for a more responsive and relevant system of economic statistics.

- a) Status report on updates to statistical manuals and frameworks. ([UNSD to provide stock-take which covers: domain, organization, status of guidance, etc.](#))

UNSD: Mr. Ivo Havinga, UNSD

- b) Stock-take of statistical developments – national and regional perspective. (Canada, Denmark, USA and African Development Bank to provide a stock-take of current national and global initiatives from the perspective of an NSO and regional bank)

Canada: Mr. André Loranger, Statistics Canada

Denmark: Mr. Jorgen Elmeskov, Statistics Denmark

USA: Mr. Erich Strassner, BEA

AfDB: Mr. Tabo Symphorien, AfDB

- c) Plenary on statistical Infrastructure. (Discussion on the current set of statistical infrastructure and how the process might be streamlined and improved)

1pm – 3pm

Lunch

3pm – 5pm

Session 5 The institutional transformation of NSOs – New methods, services and roles

Moderator Mariana Kotzeva, Eurostat

This session will explore the new ways that NSOs are producing estimates, disseminating data and providing access to their users. The discussion will focus on whether the existing frameworks are properly leveraging these new data sources and methods and if not, what steps need to be taken to ensure these new methods, services and roles are incorporated into our infrastructures.

- a) New data sources and methods including big data, AI, and machine learning. (Saudi Arabia, Brazil and UNSD to address new data sources and methods from various perspectives)

Saudi Arabia: Mr. Fahad S. Altekhaifi

Brazil: Roberto Olinto Ramos, IBGE

UNSD: Ivo Havinga, UNSD

- b) New services including microdata access and linking. (Eurostat and Australia to provide reflection on new services from global and national perspectives)

Eurostat: Ms Mariana Kotzeva, Eurostat

Australia: Mr. David Kalish, ABS

- c) New roles as data stewards. (Austria and Canada to address role on roles as data stewards)

Austria: Mr. Konrad Pesendorfer, Statistics Austria

Canada: Mr. Anil Arora, Statistics Canada

- d) Staff skills and capabilities. (Indonesia to address skills and capabilities required to support the transformation and approaches for building them)

Indonesia: Mr. Kecuc Suhariyanto, BPS Indonesia

Thursday 30 May: 9 – 3pm

Venue: Conference Room E in the United Nations Conference Building

9am – 12:30pm

Session 6 A governance structure that ensures a responsive and relevant system of economic statistics

Moderator David Kalisch, Australian Bureau of Statistics

This session will outline the current governance framework related to standard setting, data reporting arrangements, priority setting and identify areas of duplication, overlap, and burden that can be addressed to help make the development and updating of the system of economic statistics more responsive and relevant.

- a) Current governance inventory. (UNSD to reflect on current governance arrangements for economic statistics standards)

UNSD: Ivo Havinga, UNSD

- b) Governance from the viewpoint of NSOs. (Canada and Denmark to reflect on potential principles to guide governance setting)

Canada: Mr. James Tebrake, Statistics Canada

Denmark: Jorgen Elmeskov, Statistics Denmark

- c) Future state discussion. (Discussion item, no supporting material required)

12:30pm -1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm – 3pm

Session 7 Friends of Chair Group Work Program

Moderator Andre Loranger, Statistics Canada

Based on the discussions from the various sessions, this session will be used to develop the work-plan of the Friends of the Chair over the next year.

- a) Workplan and Broad Timetable (UNSD Secretariat and Statistics Canada to provide reflection on workplan and timetable)