Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics

High Level Seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics
3-5 June 2019
Shanghai, China

United Nations Statistics Division

Mandate and Tasks of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics

- Mandate (2-years till 2021)
  - from Statistical Commission (in 50th Session in March 2019) and report back in 2020 and 2021 to Statistical Commission

- Tasks
  - review of relevance and responsiveness of the system of economic statistics
  - a stock-take of existing initiatives and recommendations to take these forwards in an update of statistical infrastructure and institutional arrangements of the system of economic statistics
  - progress issues of the statistical development that have already reached a high level of maturity
  - an assessment on the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the governance of the current system – update procedures and institutional arrangements, including creation of High Level Group on Economic Statistic's

Members of the Friends of the Chair Group

United Nations Statistics Division

Member countries (NSIs), statistical agencies and development banks (DB)

- Africa: South Africa, UN Economic Commission for Africa and African Development Bank
- Asia and Pacific: Australia, Indonesia and Asian Development Bank
- Latin America: Brazil, Mexico and Interamerican Development Bank
- North America: Canada (chair) and United States
- West Asia: Saudi Arabia and Islamic Development Bank
- Europe: Austria, Denmark and Eurostat
- Other: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and United Nations

Timeline of the Friends of the Chair on Economic Statistics

Meetings and consultations

- FOC Group meetings
  - May (New York) and November 2019
- Regional Consultations in 2019
  - Africa: HL Seminar (ECA, Addis Abbaba, October
  - Asia Pacific: HL Seminar (Shanghai, June), Economic Statistics Week (ESCAP, Bangkok, June) and SIAP Management Conference (SIAP, Chiba, December)
  - Latin America and Caribbean: HL Seminar (ECLAC, Santiago, November)
  - West Asia: High Level Group (ESCWA, Lebanon, November)
- Global consultations of NSIs and agencies on priority setting for the update of the system (September/October 2019)
- UN Global Forum on Economic Statistics (2020)

Key messages (tentative, report is still being drafted)

- Future system of economic statistics
  - Meet new user and policy demand - *new economics for sustainable development* informing global mega trends with broader measures of progress linked to 2030 Agenda
  - Evolution of the System of National Accounts (S. Kuznets, M. Keynes, W. Leontief, R. Stone –SNA 1968), 1993 SNA (harmonization of macroeconomic manuals) and 2008 SNA (reflection financial crises in 1990s)
  - Update possibly with common core as umbrella framework with satellite extensions that inform on outcomes on society and environment
  - Elaboration of integrated micro data sets that can inform the performance of government programs and support evidence based policy making
  - Priority setting for update based on priorities of both developed and developing countries

Key messages (tentative, report is still being drafted)

- Statistical infrastructure to be responsive and relevant
  - Many new products are being developed and have to be prioritized at global UN level:
  - Satellite accounts on digital economy, global value chains, education and training, health care, distribution of income, consumption and wealth, environment, infrastructure, oceans, productivity, etc.
  - Local and community statistics for which geographical detail is added
  - Experimental estimates for government sectoral programs and for budget performance management
  - Work on accuracy and timeliness

Key messages (tentative, report is still being drafted)

- Institutional transformation of NSOs- new methods, services and roles
  - extending and rebranding the statistical system
  - new partnership with private sector and scientific community on data, methods and technology
  - new methods of blending traditional with non-traditional data sources – data as an asset
  - sharing and exchanging administrative information across the whole of government for evidence based policy making – data stewards
  - geospatial referencing of data and statistics for local and community representations
  - collaborating together data, methods, learning and partners at national and global level through trusted data and technology platforms
  - harnassing AI and ML techniques and increasing staff capabilities in data science

Key messages (tentative, report is still being drafted)

- Governance structure for future state of the system of economic statistics that is responsive and relevant
  - assess efficiency and effectiveness based on agreed set of principles – consultation with users (country led), using systems approach for integration of statistics, duplicity of work, etc.
  - make inventory of governance arrangements
  - formulate the scope, components and characteristics of a responsive and relevant system of economic statistics
  - possible high level group on economist statistics to advice on priorities at the global level to Statistical Commission across the whole of the system of economic statistics