Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group on Economic Statistics

High-Level Seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics
November 18, 2019
Santiago, Chile

Susie Fortier, Statistics Canada
Rationale for the creation of the group

Increased data needs
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has resulted in significant new data demands which requires highly disaggregated information
- Inclusion of the externalities of economic activity on social and environmental outcomes
- Measure activities of multinational enterprises at the global scale; understanding of their global production arrangements and interlinkages
- Flow of services and goods across an increasingly integrated global supply chain and digitalized world

Infrastructure
- How can standards be updated and implemented more quickly? (i.e. SNA 2008)
- Could experimental estimates be released for emerging issues? (i.e. Cannabis in Canada)
- Need for Cloud based global platforms and tools

Governance
- Multiple Expert Groups, Committees, Task Forces in Organisation with different mandates
- Relation / Hierarchy between them is not well defined
- Likely a duplication of efforts
Membership and participation

CANADA (chair)

AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BRAZIL
DENMARK
INDONESIA
MEXICO
SAUDI ARABIA
SOUTH AFRICA
UNITED STATES

AfDB
ADB
Italy
ECA
IMF
OECD

Eurostat
IADB
ISDB
World Bank
Drivers for change to current system of Economic Statistics

- Digitization
- Economic inequalities
- Economic well-being
- Climate change
- Human capital
- Globalization
- Informal sector
- Household production
- Sustainability
- Economic well-being
- Household production
- Globalization
Objectives of the FOC

- Review the Governance to assess the efficiency and effectiveness and propose changes if needed
- Develop mechanisms on-going communication between economists and statisticians
- Take stock of existing initiatives and make a recommendation to take these forwards in an update of the system of economic statistics
- Take forward issues of the statistical update that have already reached a high level of maturity
- Undertake global consultation to ensure all regions and sectors have input into the work of the FOCG
Work plan and timeline

- **May 2019**: First meeting
- **Sept-Oct 2019**: Global consultation
- **Nov 2019**: Compile and analyse consultation results
- **Dec 2019**: Second meeting
- **Dec 2019**: Assess and propose updated system and possible governance changes
- **March 2020**: First report to the Commission
- **March 2021**: Final proposal on changes to system and governance structure
- **Year 2**: Final report to the Commission

- **Nov 2019**: Second meeting
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- **March 2021**: Final report to the Commission
# Annex – Who was consulted

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<tr>
<th>United Nations Statistical Commission</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa Group on Prices Indices</td>
<td>Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM, IMF)</td>
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<td>Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics</td>
<td>Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee (GFSAC, IMF)</td>
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<td>Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers</td>
<td>Working Party on National Accounts (WPNA, OECD)</td>
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<td>Voorburg Group on Service Statistics</td>
<td>Working Party on Financial Statistics (WPFS, OECD)</td>
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<td>London Group on Environmental Accounting</td>
<td>STEWP (OECD)</td>
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<td>Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics</td>
<td>Expert group Directors of macroeconomic statistics (DMES, Eurostat)</td>
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<td>Global Steering Committee on the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics</td>
<td>Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics (ILO)</td>
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<td>Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting</td>
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<td>Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications</td>
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<td>Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts</td>
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<td>United Nations Regional Commissions</td>
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