



# Findings of the Network's Beyond GDP Sprint Complementing the SNA Update and the SG's Beyond GDP Initiative



**UNESCWA and UNECA joint Beyond GDP  
Webinar, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**



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# Overview of Network and GDP Sprint



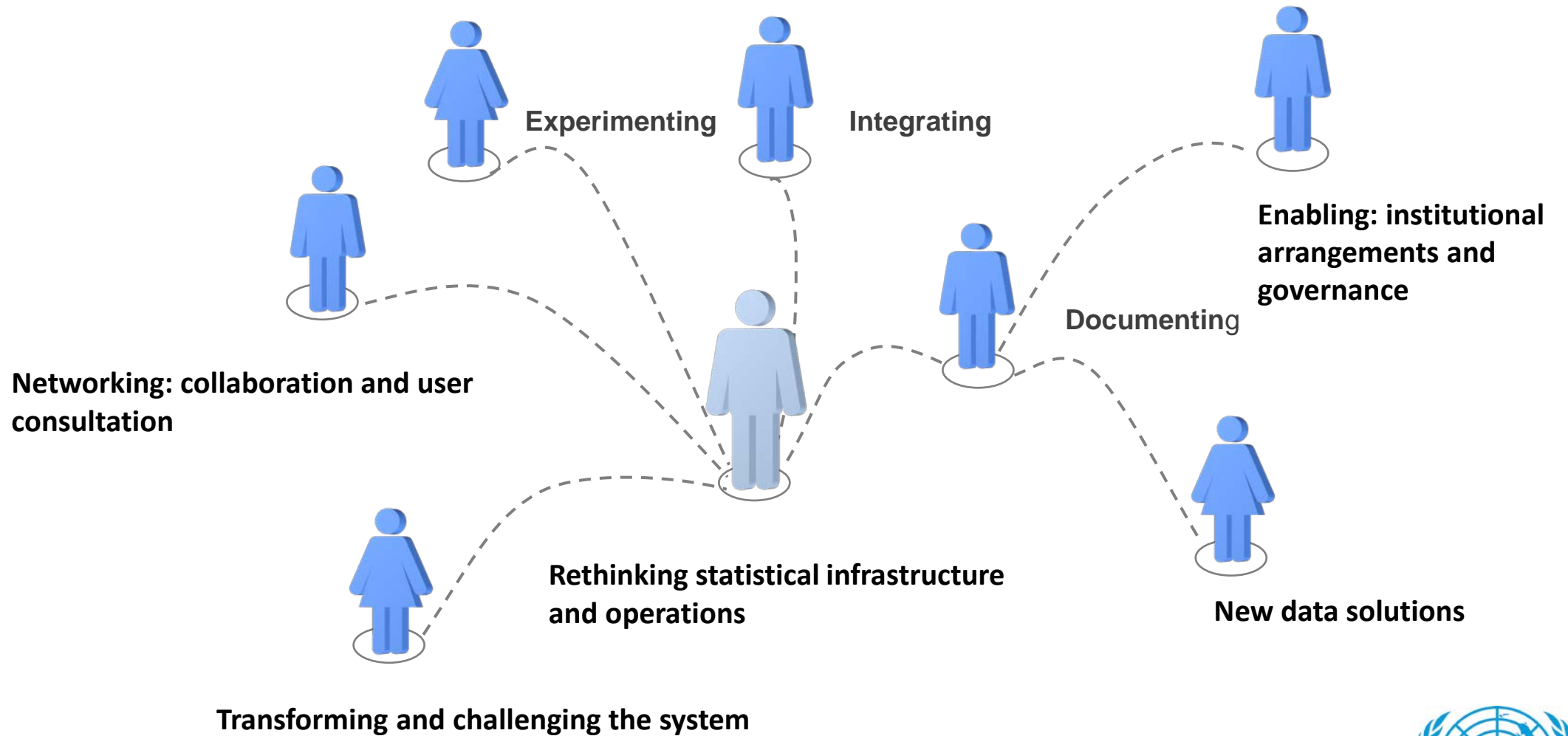
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# Network's Objectives



# United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – membership

<b>Co-chairs</b>	Argentina	Mongolia	Asian Development Bank
Canada	Australia	Netherlands	Economic Commission of Africa
Maldives	Bhutan	New Zealand	Economic Commission of Europe
	Canada	Oman	Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>Bureau</b>	Colombia	Palestine	Economic Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific
Canada	Costa Rica	Poland	Economic Social Commission for West Asia UNESCWA
Maldives	Indonesia	Saudi Arabia	Eurostat
Netherlands	Italy	Seychelles	IMF
United Kingdom	Lesotho	South Africa	Islamic Development Bank
United States of America	Maldives	Tunisia	OECD
United Nations	Mexico	United Kingdom	UNSD
		United States of America	World Bank



# Thematic Sprints achieving defined outcomes – 2022 and 2023

Organization of the  
UN Network of  
Economic  
Statisticians

Beyond GDP

Communications and  
outreach  
(forthcoming)

Acquisition of private  
sector data related to  
Global Value Chains

Inclusion of owner-  
occupied housing in  
Consumer Price Index



## Beyond GDP Sprint

Six Sprint Sessions between March and June 2022

- An average of 110+ participants per session
- National Statistical Organisations (Europe, North and South America, Australia, Asia, Africa and Island Nations)
- Central Banks (Bank of England, ECB, World Bank)
- International organisations (OECD, UN, INSEE, WHO, UNCTAD, Eurostat)
- Experts and academics (UK ESCoE, Imperial College London, King's College, Vienna Institute of Demography, UCLA, University of Eindhoven, Human Development Report Office, Cambridge University, etc.)

# Beyond GDP Sprint

## Topics covered:

- ✓ Distributional and wellbeing initiatives associated with the update of the System of National Accounts
- ✓ Wellbeing Initiatives Associated with and that Extend the System of National Accounts: Aggregate Frameworks, Time-Use, and Household Satellite Accounts
- ✓ Challenges around Modern Capitals, both those within the National Accounts and those presently excluded
- ✓ Mapping 'Beyond GDP' Indexes, Indicator Frameworks, and Wealth Approaches
- ✓ Population, Society and Well-being: Socio-demographic disaggregation of National Accounts

# Findings of GDP Sprint and Next Steps



## Measuring Well-Being and Sustainability

### SNA Update

- Define a broader framework of accounts to monitor well-being and sustainability
- Not to redefine the current set of macroeconomic indicators
- Develop accounts and indicators so that countries can produce internationally comparable statistics going beyond economic performance
- Proliferation of alternative measures to GDP – modify and expand these measures
- Measurement of well-being and sustainability warrant a broader framework to analyze interrelations and trade-offs

### SG's "Our Common Agenda"

- GDP alone insufficient for measuring success
- Global decision-making fixed on short term gain and ignores the long term consequences of decision making
- To achieve the SDGs the world needs to do economic analysis based on today's realities and figure out how to measure progress and prosperity
- Called for "new metrics that value the life and wellbeing of the many"

## Beyond GDP Sprint Outcomes

### Needs identified from Sprint

- Aligned with the SG's 'Our Common Agenda' and the SNA update, develop improved dashboards, wider use of distributional metrics, new composite indices, and inclusive wealth indicators
- Emphasized need for an Integrated Statistical System for Inclusive and Sustainable Wellbeing that would use a range of statistical standards and outputs to give a comprehensive picture of the modern world



## Next Proposed Steps

The Network proposes a shared research and testing agenda for a comprehensive statistical system which would comprise:

- Existing SNA and SEEA standards
- A People-centered accounting system
- A Central Framework for economic and social welfare

**People-centered system which explains the relationship between the various indicators available today and their potential use**

**A central framework comprised of three strands:  
Wellbeing, social cohesion and sustainability**



## Next Proposed Steps (continued)

- The proposed System would leverage ongoing work in various related areas, such as that on the **National Transfer Accounts, National Time Transfer Accounts and Quality of Life, WHO System of Health Accounts, UNESCO National Education Accounts, ILO Labour Statistics, UNICEF Child Statistics, World Bank – Comprehensive Income, UNEP – Inclusive Income, Human Development Index**
- The System would build on internationally agreed standards, concepts, definitions and classifications
- provide a “link” with the work of the HLCP Core Group
- The most common statistical indicators available today, especially existing SDG indicators, would be examined and utilized
- Tailor indicators to specific country requirements.



## Timelines

- **End of October 2022** – Prospectus was publicly shared with members of the Network
- **October - November 2022** – various regional consultations the Global Conference on Macroeconomic Statistics for the Future, to be held in Brussels
- **March 2023** - UN Statistical Commission – agree on a formal mandate on the Beyond GDP shared agenda
- **April 2023 – February 2024** – Preparation of first draft of thematic notes
- **March 2024** - UN Statistical Commission – seek feedback and comment on the first draft of thematic notes
- **April 2024 – February 2024** – Preparation of revised draft thematic notes and over-arching proposed framework
- **March 2025** - UN Statistical Commission – submission of recommendations for new system's framework architecture



## Collaboration is key

- ❖ Various communities are engaged in different *economic statistics* initiatives, including the regional steering groups led by regional commissions
- ❖ Essential to consult with regional expert groups for which regional Network consultations are organized in consultation with the five regional commissions
- ❖ Progress on *various economic, socio-demographic, and environment statistics initiatives* is a team sport, that requires cooperation between national statistical offices, international organizations, academia, business and civil society – breaking down barriers between economic, population and environment statistics
- ❖ Development of missing people-centered components of the System architecture for measuring wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainability needs to be inclusive of global and national perspectives, including the Global South



## Collaboration is key (continued)

- The Network does not have the capacity to carry out this work alone
- A number of partners have come forward:
  - Statistics Netherlands, UK ONS, Statistics Canada, UNDP HDO, OECD WISE, and UN Statistics Division, US BEA, Paris School, INSEE, UN DESA Population Division, World Bank, UNEP, Cambridge University, the forthcoming Population and Demographics Friends of the Chair Group, National Transfer Accounts Network, WHO, and UNESCO
- It is important to ensure that expert groups and task forces already engaged in related work join this partnership



## Consultations

- The Network has initiated consultations with the countries in the Global South and North through webinars organized with the regional commissions.
  - Discussions such as the one today are meant to inform, exchange and gather feedback
  - it vital to ensure that the proposed integrated statistical system meets the statistical and user needs of all
- The Network recognizes that further expert consultations are needed to clarify the proposed social and demographic accounts' scope, purpose, and policy applications, and that of the central framework.
- During its continued consultations, the Network expects to complement the conceptual model with best practices for the integrated statistical system's data collection strategies using administrative records and registers, surveys, data-sharing arrangements, and institutional collaboration within the national statistical systems.
- The extensive consultations on the prospectus in the coming months will allow for its update and expected submission to the upcoming Statistical Commission in March 2023 for its consideration.







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# THANK YOU!



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