



Review of priorities for economic statistics and national accounts

Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics
in the Arab region

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Outline of presentation

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- Transformative agenda
- Big data
- Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)
- e-learning on economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators
- International programme on short-term statistics
- Globalization



Transformative agenda

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- Involves modernizing statistical systems to meet increased demand for detailed and timely data to monitor progress towards the goals and targets for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Features
 - Redesigns traditional statistical processes based on a common business architecture to ensure better integration and efficiency
 - Improves access to and use of administrative data for official statistics
 - Enables the collection of disaggregated data
 - Explores the use of non-traditional data sources



Big data

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- One example of non-traditional data source
- The Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics has initiated work to assess big data issues pertaining to
 - Methodology
 - Quality
 - Technology
 - Data access
 - Legislation
 - Privacy
 - Management and finance and cost-benefit analysis
- To understand how big data can potentially be used for producing or complementing official statistics, including national accounts



- Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts has been actively involved in supporting SDMX activities at the national level such as
 - IMF-African Development Bank initiative on data exchange for African countries
 - UNSD-Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland project to exchange and disseminate development indicators using SDMX
- Task Force on International Data Cooperation (TFIDC), under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics, has developed procedures for data cooperation agreements between participating international organizations to streamline and improve the efficiency of the collection, exchange and dissemination of national accounts and related economic data



- TFIDC has recently successfully concluded the first pilot on GDP aggregates and population to ensure that GDP and some related indicators are identical across the respective databases of the participating international organizations
- Future work of TFIDC includes
 - Improvements of the technical platform
 - Work on a pilot for sector accounts data
 - Identification of other pilots for improving data cooperation among international organizations



- UNSD will provide guidance to target countries to map national databases for national accounts, SUT, trade statistics, industry statistics and energy statistics to the relevant SDMX data structure definitions (DSDs)
- Activity will be part of the development account project for the SDGSs
- Activity will be carried out by UNSD in close collaboration with ongoing efforts of regional and international agencies



e-learning on economic statistics for measuring economic statistics related SDG indicators

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- **UNSD will**
 - Develop training material and e-learning courses
 - Collaborate with regional commissions to conduct regional training workshops and e-learning courses
- **Activity will be part of the development account project for the SDGSs**
- **Topics include**
 - National accounts
 - Supply and use tables
 - Statistical business registers and the link to trade statistics
 - Industry statistics
 - Energy statistics
 - Short-term statistics



International programme on short-term statistics

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- Overall objective
 - To provide standard methodology for generating high-quality early warning and business cycle indicators to ensure their international comparability and communication strategy for such indicators
- Deliverables - four handbooks have been prepared
 - Economic tendency surveys
 - Cyclical composite indicators
 - Data template and metadata for short-term statistics
 - Rapid estimates



International programme on short-term statistics

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- Activities
 - Conduct training on the four handbooks in collaboration with regional commissions and other organizations
 - Develop e-learning materials on the compilation of selected short-term statistics in cooperation with relevant international/regional organizations



Globalization

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- Guidance to improve the measurement of economic and trade statistics in a global context is being developed
- Guidance will
 - Provide a national perspective on globalization based on a global supply chain (GVC) model which will allow for multi-country integrated decomposition of specific GVC industries in a multi-country supply chain of goods and value adding services and institutional arrangements
 - Develop multi-country integrated presentation of production, income, assets, liabilities, and environmental-economic transactions
 - Address firm heterogeneity and cross border asymmetries
 - Promote micro-data linking with improved statistical business registers as a basis



Thank you