High Level Seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics for the Arab Region

Agenda Item 3

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Inventory of current governance arrangements for economic statistics standards

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Existing Governance Arrangements

- Developed over time to meet immediate/urgent needs

- Based around statistical subject matters

- Exist in stovepipes or silos with little engagement between groups

- Report individually to various governing bodies

Existing Governance Arrangements

- Arrangements have served us well up till now but room for improvement

- Need to be more responsive and agile to emerging issues

- Need to be more connected across various subject matter areas to address topical issues

- Need to find more efficient ways of operating and deliver greater value to countries

Show Placemat

- Points to mention:
  - Not exhaustive at global level
  - Doesn't have regional element

- But it does start to demonstrate
  - The historical and ad hoc nature of the system
  - The lack of links between groups
  - The size and number of organisation involved in the system

Guiding Principles

ACCOUNTABILITY

Commitment on outputs

Timetable for deliverables

Specific decision-making authority after consultation

COORDINATION

To improve responsiveness of service delivery and establish greater coherence between deliverables.

Consultation on priorities

TRANSPARENCY

Consultation with stakeholders

Transparency for users

Governance – Domain-specific Expert Group Level

OPTION 1   Introducing cross cutting themes

OPTION 2   Seeking strategic alliances

OPTION 3   Broadening of mandate of existing statistical groups

OPTION 4   Establishing new committees of experts to fill strategic gaps

Membership, Terms of Reference and Reporting Relationships

All expert groups become inter-governmental in nature	**City groups establishing working relations with existing expert groups**
1.1 Intergovernmental governance by default	2.1 Informal relationship with expert groups
1.2 Inter-agency groups gradually adopt intergovernmental governance	2.2 Formal relationship with expert groups

Next Steps

Discussion at the 2nd FOC meeting

Agreed to focus on creating networks between groups

Focus of FOC's 2nd year work plan, initiating with UNSC

Network the System

Increase collaboration and coordination

1. Create a network of Chairs of existing groups
    - Include groups operating in UN system as well as those in OECD, IMF etc
    - Chairs would have the option to join 'coalition of the willing'
2. Give the network a measurement problem to solve
    - Ideas for problems: digital platforms, MNEs, informal economy
    - Groups would work on different elements of the problem in coordinated way
3. Provide network with expected outcomes, outputs and timeframes
    - Mechanism to piloting and testing

Challenge the System

To be more innovative and nimbler

Groups would also be expected to adopt new ways of working

- More iteration in the development of products/outputs
- Greater use of new technologies
- Finding new way to balance challenges of continuity (time series) and experimentation/change