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 intergovernmental in nature

1.1 Intergovernmental governance by default

1.2 Inter-agency groups gradually adopt intergovernmental governance

City groups establishing working relations with existing expert groups

2.1 Informal relationship with expert groups

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
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