

# Day 1 summary

## SIAP Management Seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics

### Demands and challenges

1. Demands on statistical systems for economic statistics are increasing
2. Demands include
  - Integrated data on economic, social and environmental dimensions
  - Disaggregated data, including rural/urban, subnational, etc
  - Tourism satellite accounts, SEEA accounts, inequality statistics
3. GDP remains important; economic statistics should be developed to augment, not replace GDP
4. Challenges include
  - Quality, including availability and timeliness,
  - Financial and human resources
  - National and subnational coordination
5. Special challenges for countries with small populations, including small island states
  - Low number of staff in statistical offices
  - Too many indicators from national and international commitments

## Responding to the demand

1. Prioritization of which statistics should be produced needs to be country led and country driven
2. Collaboration between statisticians and users needs to be strengthened to ensure that statistics is relevant and used
3. Statistical literacy needs to be built at all levels, including to enable users to better articulate their demands for statistics
4. There is a need to make much better use of data already available; better integration of the national statistical system is part of addressing this problem
5. Communication and outreach by statistical offices need to be scaled up
6. Use of common methodology, definitions and classifications is key to achieving integration across the national statistical system and to ensure comparability over time and between countries.

Five themes

## Globalization

- There is a need to agree on guidance and methodology at the global level on measuring value chains
- Certain concepts and definitions need to be clarified including what is an enterprise given their multinational nature
- Better coordination is needed in order to ensure that Regional and Global Input-Output tables can be produced (one of the major difficulties is the incongruence in data between countries); this is related to putting in place mechanisms for countries to share trade data confidentially
- There is a need to produce Regional and Global input output tables in order to better meet the needs of policy makers.

## Digitalization and e-commerce

- Work needs to be done to properly define e-commerce (what is in scope?)
- How do we define and measure the value of data? Guidance is needed.
- E-wallet/money—how do we leverage transactions that are made electronically to measure e-commerce activities?
- What is the value added of the digital economy?

## Inequality

Should be part of policy discussion; there are issues with capturing outliers. Areas of focus:

- Distributional analysis of: income, expenditures, consumption, education, employments, assets, access to services
- How often should inequality data be reported in order to be policy relevant?
- There is a need for disaggregation, especially subnational inequality data
- Data should also be disaggregated by age and gender.

## Beyond GDP / Well-being

- NSO should play a leading role for measuring well-being; such work should be statistically sound and based on the principles of official statistics
- There is a need to GDP to be complimented by other measures:
  - Subjective measures of happiness
  - Equality measures
  - Adjusted measures of GDP (e.g. adjusting for environmental degradation)
- Trust in institutions is important as well as measures of social capital, education and health

# Sustainability/SDG

## Priority areas include

- Climate change statistics/Green growth framework
  - Disaster related statistics
  - Poverty
- Land and water resources (SEEA type of accounts more broadly)
  - Ocean accounts
  - Land resources
- Sustainable Tourism accounts
- Social indicators
  - Education especially quality of education
  - Health specially relating to immunization and other important aspects
  - Labor data (including data on unemployment and underemployment)