Follow-up to the Beyond GDP initiative by the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians

Presentation of the UN Network on Economic Statisticians

National Accounts Annual Seminar Latin America and the Caribbean

Emerging issues and new challenges in the measurement of economic statistics: an agenda for change
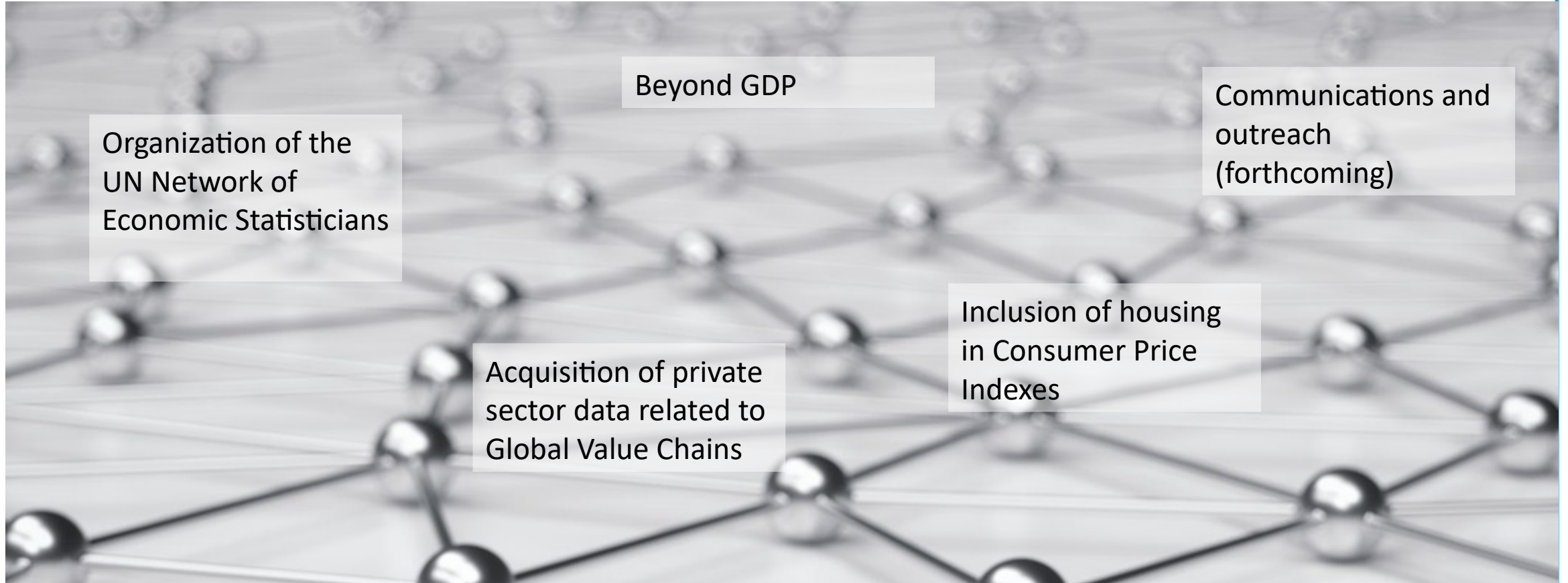
ECLAC, 3 – 6 October

United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – an introduction

- Established by 52nd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (decision [52/105)](#) to:
  - Facilitate networking, co-ordination and communication on new innovations, experiments, and best practices for the purpose of making progress on priorities to keep economic statistics relevant.
  - Operate under a clearly defined mandate to provide a transparent and collaborative horizontal co-ordination mechanism for all existing statistical committees and groups
  - Co-ordinate with statistical committees and groups, as appropriate, for the purpose of measuring the multidimensional relationships between the economy, environment and society of the 2030 Agenda

United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – membership

Co-chairs	Argentina	Mongolia	ADB
Canada	Australia	Netherlands	ECA
Maldives	Bhutan	New Zealand	ECE
	Canada	Oman	ECLAC
Bureau	Colombia	Palestine	ESCAP
Canada	Costa Rica	Poland	ESCWA
Maldives	Indonesia	Saudi Arabia	ESCWA
Netherlands	Italy	Seychelles	Eurostat
United Kingdom	Lesotho	South Africa	IMF
United States of America	Maldives	Tunisia	Islamic Development Bank
United Nations	Mexico	United Kingdom	OECD
		United States of America	UNSD
			World Bank

The Network operates through thematic sprints that seek to achieve defined outcomes

Beyond GDP

Communications and outreach (forthcoming)

Organization of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians

Inclusion of housing in Consumer Price Indexes

Acquisition of private sector data related to Global Value Chains

United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – Summary

- 2022 work program has an organization and management structure comprising the Network members, Network's Bureau (leads of Sprints), steering groups for Sprints, and Sprint's participating countries and agencies
- Significant participation of global, regional, and national statistical community
  - 80-100 participants in each 15 Sprint sessions across 4 sprints -
    - Organization, user consultation, and communication
    - Beyond GDP
    - Global Facilitation of Data Access of Privately held data (with Global Value Chain focus)
    - Measurement of the OOH component in the CPI
- Regional consultations organized by Network with regional commissions – ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA, and ESCAP – October and November 2022
- Dedicated Network session on Global Conference on Macroeconomic Statistics for the Future

United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – Beyond GDP Sprint

Objectives

- Probe the integrated approach to measuring well-being, cohesion, and sustainability by identifying generally agreed areas of high priority for research
- Reflect on the landscape beyond updates to various standards (e.g. SEEA, SNA, international trade statistics, ISIC & CPC) and consider what opportunities they will present
- Probe development of a more integrated & multi-disciplinary framework (in terms of population, social impact and ecological footprint)

Organization/Meetings

- Led by UK ONS and US BEA with support of the Bureau of the Network
- Motivated by UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda report
- Meetings
  - 10 March 2022
  - 24 March 2022
  - 5 April 2022
  - 21 April 2022
  - 5 May 2022
  - 31 May 2022

United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – Beyond GDP Sprint
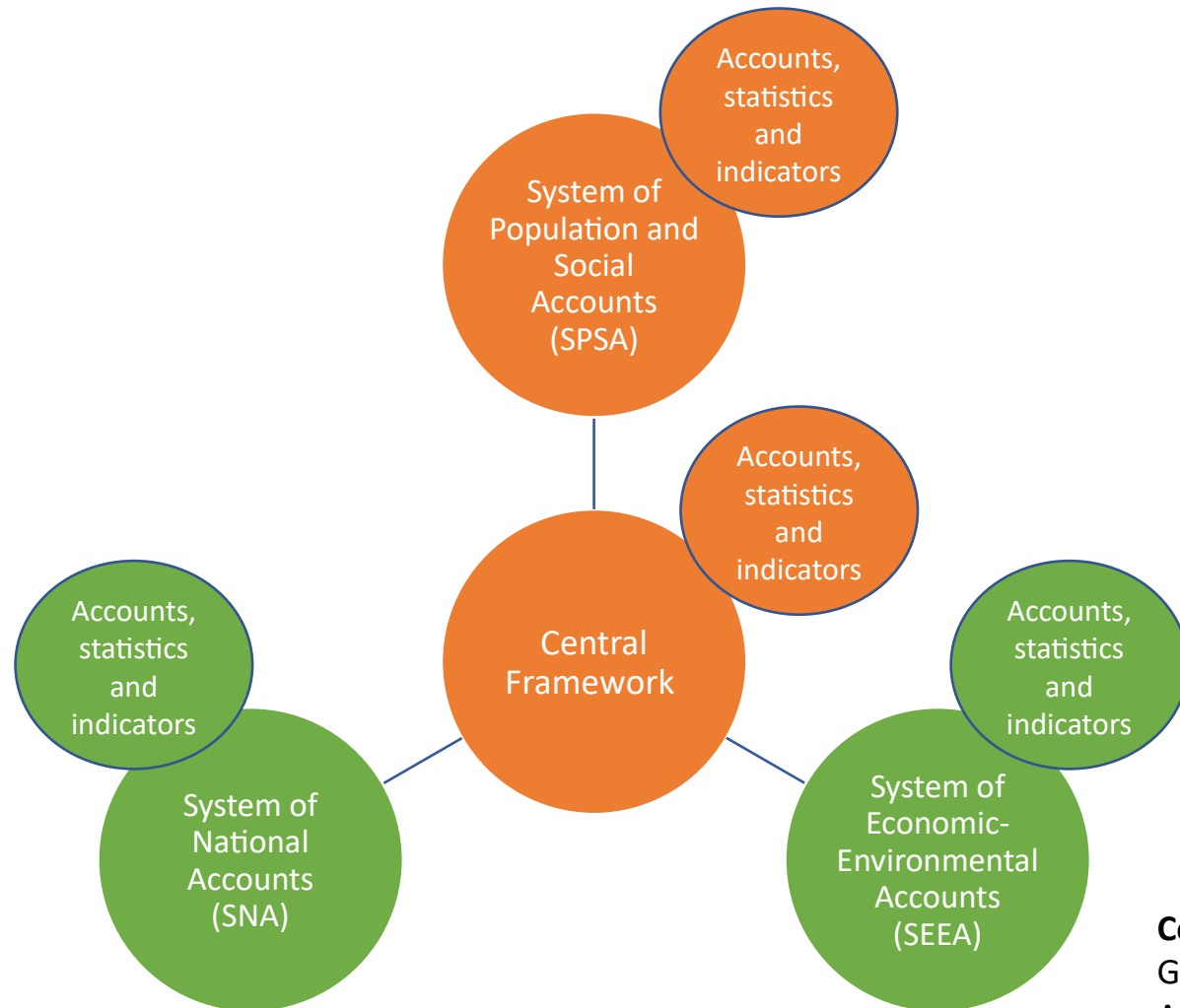
Outcomes

- Supported UN Secretary-General's 'Our Common Agenda', including improved dashboards, wider use of distributional metrics, new composite indices, and inclusive wealth
- Emphasized need for integrated System' Architecture for wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainability to utilize range of statistical standards and outputs to give a comprehensive picture of the modern world, and provide a coherent framework within which users can utilize different menus of data to meet complex policy questions

Next steps

- Shared research and testing agenda for a new system architecture with four thematic components in a prospectus
  - Accounting framework – describes relationships between socio-demographic statistics and indicators to support the measurement of well-being, cohesion, and sustainability
  - Well-being – develop a comprehensive dashboard of core indicators and composite indices (link to SDGs)
  - Inclusion – enhance well-being and distributions in aggregated and disaggregated accounting
  - Sustainability – bring together comprehensive and inclusive wealth accounting, broader scope of capital than SNA-capital, with a focus on consistent measurement to provide a fuller landscape of the trade-offs involved in achieving economic welfare

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System Architecture for Wellbeing, Inclusion, and Sustainability

Qualifications for the System:

A broad consultative program for the System to take place and the terms used may need to be revisited once we consult with other partners/experts such as the socio-demographic community of statisticians, academics and policy analysts for SPSA

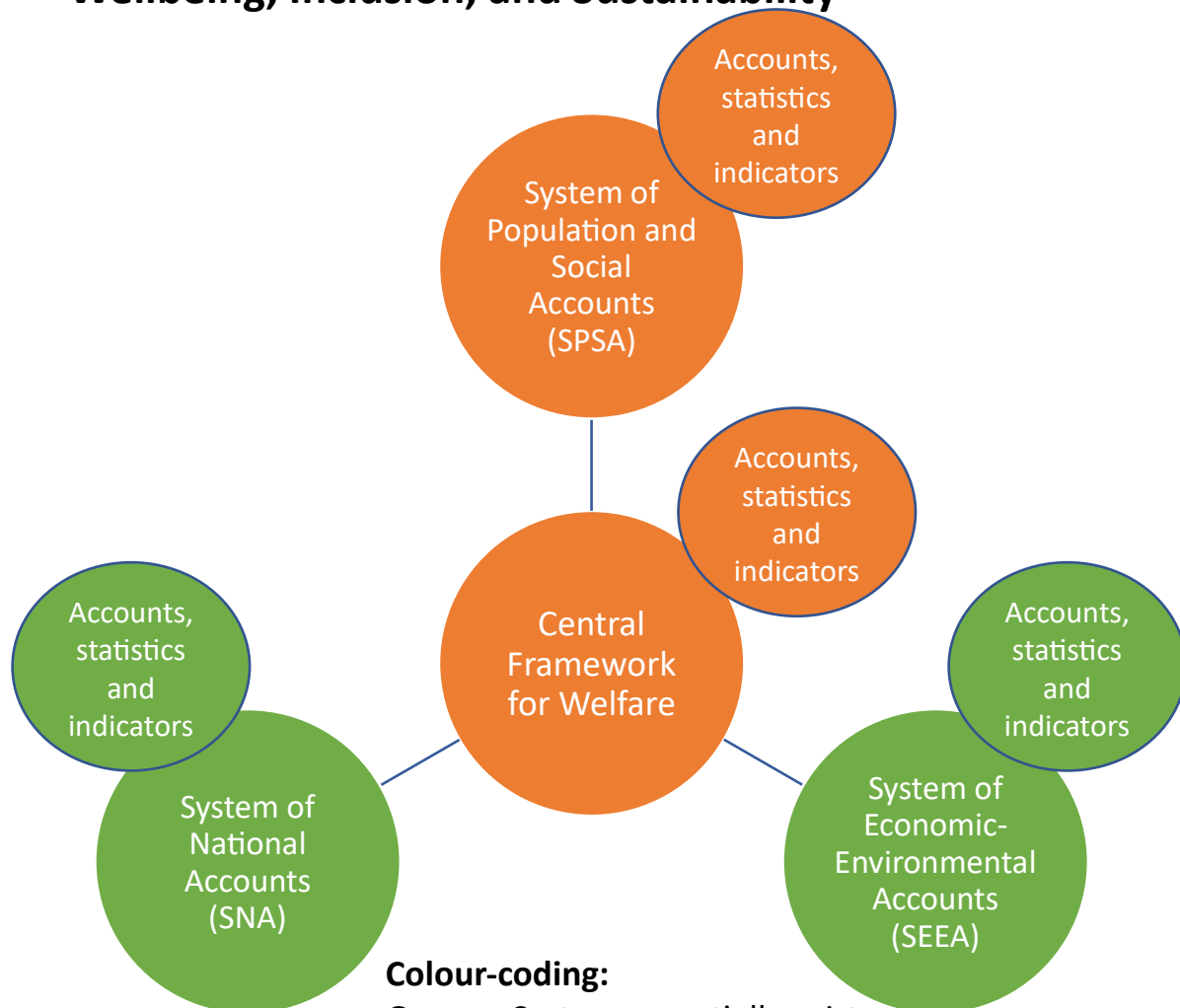The System needs to be linked to SDGs...that's what countries are currently focusing on!

The timeframe and institutional collaborative arrangements for the development of System of Population and Social Accounts and Central Framework to be determined.

Colour-coding:
Green – System essentially exists
Amber – Significant components already exist and can be integrated without interrupting current statistical delivery

DESA | **Statistics Division**

System Architecture for Wellbeing, Inclusion, and Sustainability

Actions for the System of Population and Social Accounts (SPSA)

1) Seek engagement of the forthcoming Friends of the Chair for Population and Social Statistics to support development of an SPSA, and work in partnership with socio-demographic statistical and related policy and academic communities, including from countries from the Global South

2) Launch a process to map out how to assemble this population and social statistics framework including:-

What is the purpose and scope of SPSA in measuring SDG indicators complementing the SNA and SEEA? What are the policy questions it can answer?

Where do accounts, statistics, and indicators exist which can form the basis for SPSA, including:

- Chapters from forthcoming 2025 SNA draft which do not relate to core SNA framework
- National Transfer Accounts (NTA) and related manuals on National Time Transfer Accounts and National Inclusion Accounts (NIC) – disaggregation by age, gender, and education using gender, non-market work, and time accounting practices
- WHO System of Health Accounts (health expenditure accounts)
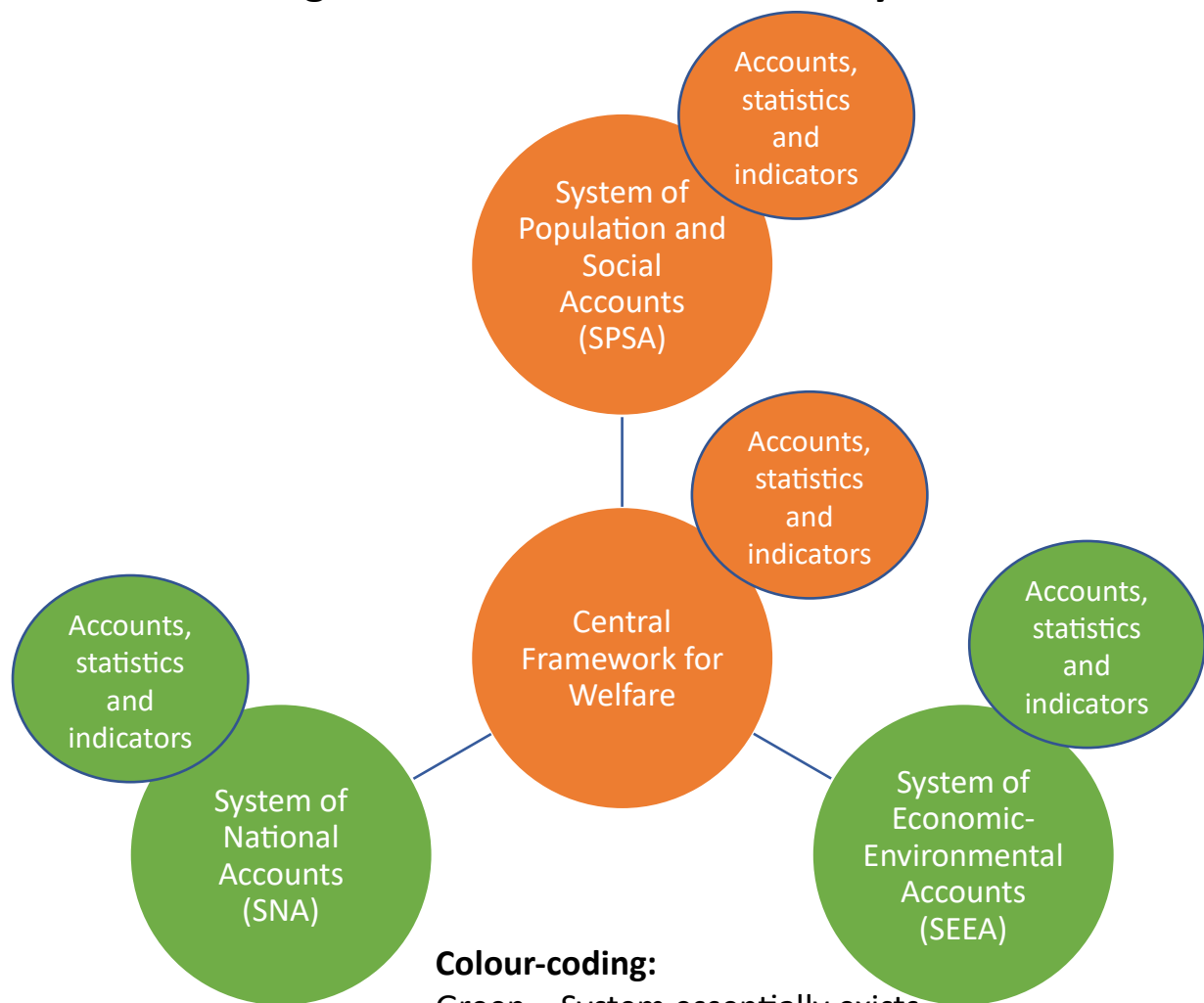- UNESCO National Education Accounts (education expenditure accounts)
- Time use indicators and accounts and other socio-demographic indicators
- Other existing metrics as mapped in Network's 'Beyond GDP' Sprint on wellbeing, cohesion (distributions), and sustainability (capitals such as social and human capital)

What gaps remain / need further development activity?

- How to avoid duplication of efforts with other mechanisms?

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System Architecture for Wellbeing, Inclusion, and Sustainability

Accounts, statistics and indicators

System of Population and Social Accounts (SPSA)

Accounts, statistics and indicators

Accounts, statistics and indicators

Central Framework for Welfare

Accounts, statistics and indicators

System of National Accounts (SNA)

System of Economic-Environmental Accounts (SEEA)

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Actions for Central Framework for Wellbeing, Inclusion, and Sustability

1) Develop a Central Framework that meets 'Beyond GDP' requirements by integrating existing methods, techniques, measures and indicators from SNA, SEEA, SPSA and other frameworks which explains:
- How different domain systems and their measures relate to one another;
- How the Central Framework supports and informs the SDG indicator framework
- How Central Framework accounts, statistics and indicators meet different policy-needs; and,
- How policy-makers can use this data to understand the trade-offs between the economic, the social, and the environment metrics.

2) Central Framework would be drafted based on three key domains:
- Measuring sustainability – capitals framework bringing together economic (produced and financial), natural, human, and social capitals
- Measuring inclusion – measuring distributions in understanding inequalities and the risks, resilience, and vulnerabilities of different population groups
- Measuring well-being – using a dashboard indicators and composite indexes to understand the fundamental trade-offs between the economic, the social, and the environment sphere.

Concluding thoughts

- 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