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Report of the Network of Economic Statisticians

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with the Economic and Social Council decision 2024/312 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, which is submitted to the Commission for discussion and decision.

* [E/CN.3/2025/1](#).



Report of the Network of Economic Statisticians

I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-fifth session, held in New York from 27 February to 1 March 2024, the Statistical Commission adopted decision 55/108 (see [E/2024/24](#), chap. I.C), in which it:

(a) Commended the Network of Economic Statisticians on: (i) successfully organizing the “beyond gross domestic product” sprint 2023 and the international statistical classifications sprint; (ii) increasing communication and engagement with Network members through quarterly and informal meetings; and (iii) organizing an online consultation with regional commissions to determine and scope the statistical priorities of the global South;

(b) Welcomed the progress of work on the five use cases from the data access sprint to advance methods and principles of data access in close cooperation with the private sector;

(c) Endorsed the creation of a multidisciplinary expert group to take forward the recommendations presented in the report of the Network ([E/CN.3/2024/10](#)) and to develop a framework for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being, recognized the potential synergies between the Network and the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, and encouraged collaboration between the two initiatives;

(d) Commended the work of the international statistical classifications sprint in developing a set of recommendations to update international statistical classifications more frequently;

(e) Approved the work programme of the Network for 2024, in particular:

(i) The continuation of the five data access use cases;

(ii) The activities of the multidisciplinary expert group to take forward the recommendations of the “beyond gross domestic product” sprint 2023;

(iii) The organization of other sprints addressing identified priority topics, such as housing data, data strategies to manage and use information for the benefit of users, and the potential of utilizing artificial intelligence in statistical work in collaboration with relevant groups and communities to avoid duplication.

2. The present report provides an overview of the activities of the Network of Economic Statisticians from the end of the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission to November 2024 and its proposed work programme for 2025. Section II contains an overview of the membership of the Network and information on the Network’s progress in implementing its work programme in 2024 and on its proposed work programme for 2025. The action to be taken by the Commission is set out in section III.

II. Status of membership, achievements in 2024 and the work programme for 2025

3. The Network currently comprises 38 members from 28 Member States (including 19 countries from the global South) and 29 members from international and regional organizations, including the five regional commissions of the United Nations, and academia. The Network is currently chaired by Canada and Maldives. The Co-Chairs, in close cooperation with the Network’s Bureau and secretariat

(comprising the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat), develop an annual work programme for the Network and monitor the progress of the various components of the programme. The Bureau currently consists of the two Co-Chairs, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Division.

4. The Network aims to align its activities with the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics with regard to an agile, collaborative and responsive system of economic statistics, based on four thematic workstreams: (a) networking (collaboration and user consultation); (b) transforming and challenging the system (statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions); (c) enabling the system (institutional arrangements and governance); and (d) experimenting, integrating and documenting the system (statistical framework and methods).

5. The Network supports the establishment of an agile, collaborative and highly impactful approach to improve the responsiveness of the system of economic statistics to swiftly evolving policy demands. To this end, the Network facilitates better cooperation and networking among national statistical offices of all Member States, in close consultation and collaboration with international and regional statistical organizations and bodies. Regular consultations with various stakeholders and Network members have highlighted the need for better cooperation and networking to enable national statistical offices to reimagine their business models, develop innovative and coordinated statistical programmes, and adopt best practices and working methods, in collaboration with other government agencies, academia, private and non-governmental organizations, to produce trusted, reliable and timely statistics catering to user demands.

6. The Network regularly undertakes user consultations and promotes communication and partnerships through regional webinars and its quarterly meetings in order to help the system of economic statistics to identify emerging themes and common priorities and discover and address duplications and gaps in the work programmes of statistical groups and entities. Continued dialogue is expected to enable the system to operate coherently, collaboratively and inclusively for the different actors involved.

7. The Network will continue to facilitate a better and more responsive system of economic statistics that will pivot towards integrated economic statistics by extending the statistical framework in support of the measurement of the world's swiftly evolving economies and enabling experimentation to support the rapidly changing information demands of policymakers. This should also allow the system of economic statistics to achieve improved granularity and timeliness, as well as better integration of the measures of the economy, society and the environment to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. At the recent Summit of the Future, world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, a blueprint to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, ranging from climate change and artificial intelligence to escalating conflicts and increasing inequality and poverty. In action 53 of the Pact, they recognized that sustainable development must be pursued in a balanced and integrated manner. They also reaffirmed the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, noting that these measures should reflect progress on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation. Accordingly, the Secretary-General was requested to establish an independent high-level expert group to develop

recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complement and go beyond gross domestic product, in close consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, taking into account the work of the Commission, building on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and to present the outcome of its work during the eightieth session of the General Assembly. It was also decided to initiate a United Nations-led intergovernmental process following the completion of the work of the independent high-level expert group in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Commission, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, in line with their respective mandates, on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, considering the recommendations of the Secretary General's high-level expert group. To support the implementation of action 53, the Network will work together with relevant groups, such as the newly formed Expert Group on Well-being Measurement, to contribute to the work of the high-level expert group through the Network's 2025 work programme and to the subsequent intergovernmental process through its future work programmes.

9. Given its focus on action to improve the system of economic statistics through networking and enabling the system by engaging with existing statistical groups and entities, rather than creating another layer of governance, the Network has adopted sprints as the most appropriate, cost effective and inclusive working method. Sprints have not only sped up the development of the system for shared priorities but have also provided an opportunity to hear a diverse range of voices. Sprints have also enhanced the Network's ability to act in an agile fashion to formulate statistical responses to rapidly evolving socioeconomic and environmental circumstances by enabling the Network to deliver against accelerated time frames and produce specific outputs relating to shared priorities. The sprints have also facilitated the identification of emerging themes and priorities and enabled the discovery and addressing of duplication and gaps in the programmes of work of statistical groups and entities. The use of sprints has enabled the Network to facilitate better understanding of existing data solutions through trusted services provided by global and regional statistical infrastructure, including data collection and access, the examination of existing statistical methods with a view to improving data quality and international comparison, and the development of proposals for measuring inclusive and sustainable well-being.

10. In 2024, three sprints were successfully completed, and one was in progress. The international statistical classifications sprint, led by the Network and the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, was completed in January and helped to advance the work on workstream (b), "Transforming and challenging the system (statistical infrastructure and operations, and data solutions)". The data strategy sprint, led by the Network, Statistics Canada, the Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand and the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, was completed in October and also helped to advance the work on workstream (b). The housing sprint, led by the Network, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, the Maldives Bureau of Statistics and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), was completed in October and helped to advance the work on workstream (d), "Experimenting, integrating and documenting the system (statistical framework and methods)". The ongoing artificial intelligence and data science for economic statistics sprint, led by the Network and the Data Science Leaders Network, will contribute to the work on workstreams (b) and (d). In addition, the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement, the formation of which was endorsed at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, began its work to develop a framework for sustainable and inclusive well-being. A

change was also made to the scope of the follow-up work from the data access sprint, information on which is provided below.

11. In 2025, on the basis of feedback received at its previous meetings, the Network proposes to organize the following two sprints, while acknowledging that additional sprints may be included following further discussions with other groups and communities:

(a) Measuring net zero initiatives and their impact sprint: the Paris Agreement, which was adopted by 196 parties at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris on 12 December 2015, contains a call for global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide to fall by about 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030 and to reach net zero around 2050. This is one of the greatest challenges facing humankind and requires a complete transformation of the way in which humans produce, consume and move about.¹ As the world transitions, economic actors will have to consider different methods and approaches to develop a sustainable future. Economies and economic measures will be affected in varying ways. National statistical offices will need to keep pace by updating traditional measurement practices to reflect these adaptations to ensure that economic measures remain up to date. The objective of this sprint is to focus international discussions on the net zero measurement plans of national statistical offices and related challenges, including filling data gaps and establishing links with existing frameworks and standards. Where appropriate, case studies will be compared and best practices considered;

(b) Compilation of subnational economic statistics sprint: many countries produce subnational economic statistics, for example, by state, province, territory, metropolitan area or local area, that are critical for developing policies, allocating government resources, understanding the impacts of economic shocks and natural disasters, and locating businesses, among many other uses. Many countries worldwide, including in Asia, Europe, North America and South America, produce regular subnational economic statistics. However, there are few, if any, international forums for economic statisticians to share their experiences in compiling subnational economic statistics, and few, if any, international guidelines on standards or approaches to such statistics for national statistical offices. The sprint will gather experts from national statistical offices worldwide to share their approaches to, ideas for and challenges in compiling subnational economic statistics.

12. In its fourth year of activities since its formation, the Network has matured into an established international statistical community, evidenced by high levels of engagement and participation in its sprint meetings, which are attended by over 100 participants and presenters from all regions of the world. The Network believes that this working model continues to gain momentum, and that the Network has become a forum where members actively raise issues that preoccupy their organizations, as they view the Network as a resource that provides them with opportunities and pathways to identify solutions to these issues. This has led to a more organic development of the Network's undertakings, which have become more driven by participants' inputs rather than by initiatives put forth by the Bureau, which was the initial approach taken. As this process develops further, the Network's relevance and effectiveness will continue to grow, and with it, its added value to and impact on the statistical community.

13. Over the past year, the Network's Bureau has continued to focus on improving the impact and usefulness of its activities for members of the Network as well as the broader statistical community. The Bureau has continued to organize quarterly

¹ See www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition.

meetings for Network members, which feature keynote speakers on topics of interest and discussions of these topics, and to provide general updates on Network activities. The Network has been very deliberate in fostering collaboration with other statistical groups through its activities. Sprints are designed to be inclusive, are open to all interested parties and have focused on expanding knowledge within the statistical community. Network members have had discussions with the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics to facilitate the continuous exchange of insights, with a focus on shared themes that contribute to the two bodies' twin long-term goals of developing a framework on social and demographic statistics and an integrated framework for well-being measurement. In the remainder of the present report, explicit reference will be made to other collaborative arrangements with Member States, statistical groups and international organizations.

A. International statistical classifications sprint

14. The aims of the international classifications sprint were to raise awareness of the importance of international classifications among both internal and external users; to support outreach by the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications to engage national statistical offices; to provide an additional forum for discussing and sharing modern ways of updating and implementing classifications; and to highlight the importance of investing in classification work as a foundation for data integration. The sprint, which was completed in January 2024, produced a set of recommendations on updating international statistical classifications more frequently, which were endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session. More details on the sprint are available in the report of the Network for that session ([E/CN.3/2024/10](#)).

B. Data strategy sprint

15. Data have been an important by-product of the digital economy and businesses. Governments and citizens are seeing an explosion in the volume of data and data analytics technologies. This new data environment poses real challenges to Governments and citizens alike, as it is becoming ever more difficult to distinguish between reliable and fake data and to develop good strategies to protect and harness data to meet user needs. Statistical organizations are best positioned to lead data stewardship initiatives in their countries for the benefit of the entire ecosystem. This includes developing data strategies that reinforce data quality, promoting privacy-enabled data access and data-sharing, ensuring the use of approved data standards and advancing data literacy.

16. To showcase the work done in this area, as well as to provide a valuable forum for sharing knowledge with national statistical offices and other organizations that are developing or improving their data strategies, the Network, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, the Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand and the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, organized a sprint on this topic. The sprint's webinar series began on 4 June 2024 with a webinar explaining the purpose of a strategy for better leveraging data holdings and how to build one, followed, on 10 September, by a webinar outlining a road map for implementing such a strategy, with consideration given to the issues and challenges that need to be overcome. The sprint concluded on 8 October with a webinar highlighting concrete national and international examples of the tactical and operational aspects of such strategies, as well as the key role of collaboration and cooperation in ensuring their success.

17. The three webinars attracted a wide range of participants, and each webinar was attended by about 120 to 160 people. An outcome of the sprint was the “Data strategy primer: framework and best practices for developing a data strategy”, a jointly created document that provides information on how to develop or improve national data strategies. Developed through close cooperation between several partners (Statistics Canada, the Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand, the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Division), the primer, which is available as a background document to the present report, provides a basic introduction of the purpose, framework, mechanisms and applications of data strategies. While the content is aimed primarily at national statistical offices and public services, the guidance, tools and tangible lessons learned offer insights for any organization seeking to develop or update a data strategy.

C. Housing sprint

18. Housing outcomes are a confluence of economic, demographic, environmental and regulatory factors, shaped by the diversity and sustainability of cities and communities. They transcend personal experiences and have impacts on markets and the economic performance of countries around the world. The housing sprint, organized by the Network in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, the Maldives Bureau of Statistics and UN-Habitat, explored the development of a comprehensive framework for measuring housing outcomes and provided an opportunity to share some of the more common housing indicators, data needs and data challenges. Presenters also showcased innovative approaches to data development (with the use of artificial intelligence, remote sensing and administrative data) and data integration techniques.

19. The sprint consisted of two webinars with an audience that included housing specialists from national statistical offices and other government agencies, domain-specific expert groups and committees, and other relevant stakeholders. The webinars were attended by about 105 to 150 participants from the statistical and policy communities. In the light of the wide support for the idea of developing an internationally recognized framework for housing statistics, the organizing group developed a primer entitled “Making the case for an international housing statistics framework”, which is available as a background document to the present report. The primer advocates a global framework for measuring the housing sector and contains proposals for the basic elements of such a framework.

20. During the first webinar of the sprint, which was held on 26 June 2024, a deep dive was taken into Statistics Canada’s framework for housing statistics. The reasons why housing data matter from the point of view of policymakers and other users were also addressed. This was followed by a second webinar on 23 October, during which participants were provided with examples of the most common housing indicators that are needed and produced, as well as some of the more common challenges encountered by national statistical offices in producing housing data. Furthermore, presenters showcased innovative approaches to overcoming some of these challenges, such as with the use of administrative data, web scraping, satellite imaging, artificial intelligence and other techniques.

21. In response to the feedback that it might be inconvenient for Member States in the Asia-Pacific region to attend the sprint webinars given that they typically begin at 7 a.m. local time in New York, a shortened version of the sprint was organized under the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Asia-Pacific Stats Café series at 11 a.m. local time in Bangkok, on 2 December. The organization of this regional sprint webinar also supported the Network’s aim of promoting experimentation in and the testing of inclusive working methods. The regional sprint

will serve as a blueprint for the use of existing communication and collaboration channels of regional commission to share the Network's activities.

D. Artificial intelligence and data science for economic statistics sprint

22. The sprint on artificial intelligence and data science for economic statistics is an ambitious initiative that underscores the critical role of advanced technology in modernizing economic statistics for informed decision-making. This collaborative sprint, co-organized by the Network and the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, in close collaboration with the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre of the United Arab Emirates, the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland and the International Monetary Fund, and bringing together economic statisticians and the data science community, aims to enhance statistical production by integrating cutting-edge artificial intelligence and data science tools and identifying impactful and replicable use cases. This sprint comprises two webinars, held on 7 November and 12 December 2024, and a concluding in-person international symposium to be hosted by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre of the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 20 to 22 January 2025. These events represent a cohesive, multistage approach to creating actionable frameworks for the efficient integration of artificial intelligence into the data workflows of national statistical offices.

23. The sprint has three main objectives for advancing the quality and reach of economic statistics. The first is to develop a comprehensive repository of impactful artificial intelligence and data science use cases that streamline data production and analysis, which is critical for efficient policy support. The second objective is to explore generative artificial intelligence applications that could transform the dissemination and interpretation of economic data, making insights more accessible and comprehensible to a broader audience and for economic decision-making. The third objective is to tackle essential strategic issues, including data security, the ethical deployment of artificial intelligence and cross-domain integration, all of which are crucial for the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence and data science in statistical practices.

24. At the core of the sprint's agenda are use cases studies that illustrate the powerful applications of artificial intelligence and data science in economic statistics, such as reproducible analytical pipelines for statistical production and machine learning models for nowcasting gross domestic product and other critical economic indicators. These use cases demonstrate how innovative artificial intelligence methodologies can enhance the reliability, timeliness and quality of economic statistics, including for agricultural activity estimation and the analysis of transportation and supply chain data. By emphasizing cross-community collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the sprint encourages national statistical offices to adopt best practices in artificial intelligence and data science, ensuring that statistical agencies are guided to meet future economic challenges with robust, artificial intelligence-enhanced solutions.

25. The sprint also prioritizes skills development and capacity-building within national statistical offices to ensure a sustainable trajectory of artificial intelligence adoption. The discussions should allow the identification of key areas where upskilling is needed, including technical expertise in machine learning, data privacy management and artificial intelligence ethics. Through the webinars, the international symposium and the drafting of a Data Science Leaders Network playbook, the sprint aims to provide national statistical offices with resources and frameworks to cultivate the skills required to effectively leverage artificial intelligence. The sprint is designed

to enable national statistical offices not only to integrate artificial intelligence and data science into their current workflows but also to create a foundation for ongoing artificial intelligence-driven innovation in economic statistics.

26. The first webinar, on 7 November, was attended by about 250 participants. It featured presentations on artificial intelligence and data science initiatives in statistical production and on artificial intelligence and data science for the compilation of economic indicators to inform policies, and a panel discussion on use cases and their applicability and challenges, the steps needed to build the capacity and skills required within national statistical offices to effectively leverage artificial intelligence and data science technologies, and future directions.

E. Expert Group on Well-being Measurement

27. Following the adoption of decision 55/108 by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, the Network's Bureau engaged, in early 2024, in consultations on and the design of a model for the new Expert Group on Well-being Measurement. The Network does not have a large standing secretariat or other funded support structures and thus relies on volunteers. The Bureau therefore recognized the need for the Expert Group to operate in a similar fashion. The Bureau interpreted the Commission's decision to allocate this task to the Network as an endorsement of the flexible working model that had been the Network's hallmark. Such a model was therefore proposed in the terms of reference proposed to the Bureau of the Expert Group in September 2024. Having been reviewed positively by the Bureau of the Expert Group, the terms of reference and initial papers were submitted to the Expert Group for consideration at its inaugural meeting on 21 October 2024.

28. At the meeting, the terms of reference, which are available as a background document, were approved for endorsement by the Commission, and Mohammed Hasan of the United Arab Emirates and Richard Heys of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected as Co-Chairs of the Expert Group. An update on previous work was presented; a discussion was held on the working arrangements with the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, with whom the Expert Group desires to form a strong and sustained working partnership; and the immediate work requirements were presented and approved by the members.

29. An important point was raised regarding the relationship between the Expert Group and the Commission. Well-being is a cross-cutting issue covering the economic, environmental and social domains. The fact that the Expert Group reports to the Commission through the Network, as in the present report, might imply that one domain is favoured over the others. While it is appropriate for the Network to report on the logistics of establishing the new Expert Group, the Commission is invited to express its views on whether the Expert Group should: (a) given its multidisciplinary nature, submit an annual report on the progress of its work directly to the Commission for discussion and decision beginning from 2026; or (b) continue to report through the Network, as in the present report. In keeping with the Network's mandate, it might be preferable for the Expert Group to report directly to the Commission.

30. Since the first meeting of the Expert Group, six initial task teams (on work, housing, digital well-being, subjective well-being, composite indices and communications) have been formed with the aim of supporting the work of the Expert Group by showcasing the latest work in established and new domains and on cross-cutting issues. A meeting of the leaders of the six task teams was organized on 13 November 2024 to discuss the approach to the work and timetables for the

preparation of briefing notes. The six task teams have begun to organize, or are in the process of organizing, online meetings to discuss their respective areas of work, with the aim of delivering briefing notes relevant to the Expert Group early in 2025.

F. Follow-up use cases from the data access sprint

31. The data access sprint organized in 2022 identified five specific use cases for pursuing the process of building a relationship with private data holders in the tourism industry, the semiconductor industry, e-commerce, the retail industries and the horticultural industry. The teams for the use cases had begun to implement their respective work plans. However, due to limited capacity and difficulties in engaging relevant actors from outside the statistical community, activities related to the proposed use cases were limited in 2024. Statistics Netherlands, the coordinator of the relevant task team under the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, is considering changing the scope of the work to a new portfolio of activities, which would be focused more on generic aspects related to accessing external data sources, such as Knowledge Commons, data governance issues and the organization of and participation in data spaces, and would be aimed at developing guidelines and frameworks.

32. The focus of the Network is more generally on developing recommendations from its sprints for follow-up by other groups. The new activities under the proposed change in the scope of the work appear to be outside the auspices of the Network. Where appropriate, the new activities will therefore be covered in future reports of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics to the Commission.

G. Outreach activities and Network meetings

33. With the support of its Bureau, the Network participated in several outreach activities and organized a number of meetings in 2024. These events provided the Network the opportunity to gather input to guide its future work programmes.

Outreach activities

34. In September 2024, at the invitation of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, the Network participated in a panel discussion on the topic “Strengthening coordination with inter-agency working groups and groups from intergovernmental organizations” at the seventh meeting of the Committee. The panel discussion gave the Network an opportunity to highlight its activities and share its views on how it can contribute to efforts to advance the integration of business and trade statistics into other statistical domains. The Network also participated virtually in a panel on the topic “Global housing indicators and partnerships” at the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, convened by UN-Habitat on 6 November. The panel discussed how data networks and housing data ecosystems respond effectively to the housing crisis and how international collaboration helps cities and national statistical offices to overcome the knowledge and skill gaps in developing housing statistics in the face of the global housing crisis. During the session, UN-Habitat presented its new housing indicator framework and highlighted its collaboration with civil society, countries and initiatives of international organizations, including the Expert Group on Well-being Management. In 2024, members of the Bureau gave talks on the Network in various forums, including the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence Conference on Economic Measurement, held in May 2024, the thirty-eighth general conference of the International Association for Research in Income and

Wealth, held in August 2024, and the Conference of European Statistics Stakeholders held in October 2024, to increase the visibility of its activities.

35. In 2025, the Network will continue to hold regional consultations through the organization of dedicated regional events, the participation of Network members in events organized by regional commissions or agencies and the participation of regional experts in future Network sprints. Moreover, the Network will enhance its global consultations with steering groups, committees and other expert groups by seeking networking, co-production and co-investment opportunities for organizing and participating in global events. The scope of the global and regional consultations will extend beyond economic statistics, in view of the priority given to advancing the integrated statistical system for inclusion and sustainable well-being and the multidisciplinary and multidimensional nature of this endeavour.

Network meetings

36. In 2024, the Bureau continued to organize quarterly meetings to increase communication and engagement with its members, update them on current and planned activities and gather input regarding the priorities on which the Network should focus. Two online meetings, one in May and the other in September, were organized. The meeting in May featured a keynote presentation on the topic “Big data for official statistics: a perspective from prices statistics in Brazil” by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics. In line with the Network’s aim of experimenting with new working methods, the meeting in September featured a panel discussion on the objectives of statistical registers and the challenges involved in developing them. In addition, at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, an informal meeting was organized to facilitate a discussion on the benefits of, and solutions for, developing a process for aligning existing international statistical standards by coordinating manual updates and the research agendas, and to provide an update on recent Network activities. The quarterly Network meetings and the informal meeting also provided an opportunity for regional commissions to share their views on the statistical priorities in their regions and how the Network can address these priorities in its work programmes. A Network meeting is scheduled for December 2024. In addition to the above-mentioned meetings involving the members of the Network, the Bureau also organized fortnightly meetings in 2024 to discuss the progress of the Network’s work programme and other issues.

37. In 2025, the Bureau will continue to organize Network meetings to update members on the progress of its work programme. Each meeting will feature a keynote presentation on a specific emerging issue, after which the Network will assess the feasibility of addressing the issue in a thematic sprint in collaboration with the relevant community and stakeholders. Where appropriate, informal meetings will be organized to continue the discussions initiated at the Network meetings or to promote the work of the Network to various stakeholders. In addition, regular Bureau meetings will be organized to discuss the Network’s work programme and other topical issues.

III. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

38. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To express its views on the progress made by the Network and its sprints, including the data strategy sprint and its primer, the housing sprint and its primer, and the artificial intelligence and data science for economic statistics sprint;**

(b) To express its views on the activities of the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement and endorse its terms of reference;

(c) To express its views on whether the Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement should submit an annual report on the progress of its work directly to the Commission for discussion and decision beginning from 2026 or continue to report through the Network, as in the present report;

(d) To endorse the work programme of the Network for 2025, in particular the proposed sprints on measuring net zero initiatives and their impact and the compilation of subnational economic statistics.
