

CES 22 June 2020: comments and questions from the chat

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Item 2: Globalisation and the future of economic statistics

	12:57 PM
Russia_Mikhail_Gundarev : Dear Colleagues, Below is the question for discussion: Do national statistical offices (NSOs) plan to stick to CATI and CAWI surveys after the COVID-19 crisis is over? Or are NSOs planning to resume face-to face surveys? What opinion do international organizations have on this issue?	
	12:58 PM
UNCTAD_Henri_Luomaranta : We see a strong policy demand for linking economic and social outcomes to offer more granular statistics, e.g. to assess social equity in business, MNEs as employers or skills as a factor of productivity. These issues often fall in between statistical domains. Especially the Nordics have done such linking to analyse the impacts of economic globalization and distribution of benefits for example by gender, types of jobs or education. Are NSOs looking at improving the linking of individuals to firms, and how can the CES support these types of activities?	
	01:09 PM
COLOMBIA_Juan_OVIEDO : While agreeing that official statistics face the challenge of providing more advanced analysis based on microdata and more sophisticated modeling tools, we recognize that we must double our efforts to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration schemes between the NSO's and decision – makers regarding the use of microdata. The importance of furthering our understanding on this matter was highlighted under the Latin American Economic Outlook of 2019 "Development in transition" when it was underscored that among the "new" development traps that act as a barrier to further inclusive and sustainable growth in the LAC countries, there is one named "the productivity trap". Under this approach higher productivity levels demand more diversified economic structures with more sophisticated goods and services. The stakes on this matter has risen when we take into account the impacts of the current crisis in the labour market. In this matter we have been seeing worrying data regarding unemployment rate, the percentage of the employed population that has vulnerable jobs, and labor informality.	
	01:10 PM
Canada Anil Arora : An excellent summary of framing. Thank you Elliot.	
	01:11 PM
UN-DESA_Elliott_Harris : Thanks for the kind words, Anil	
	01:12 PM
Canada Anil Arora : Covid brings a number of the strengths and the challenges of the current system of economic statistics to the forefront!	
	01:12 PM
MEXICO_Julio_Santaella : If NSOs are going to be using experimental indicators from alternative data sources, we will need to expand our quality assurance framework in the same direction.	
	01:14 PM
Finland, Marjo Bruun : Julio, I think that is a challenge that can be solved :). And, yes, it needs to be taken into account in our work.	
	01:16 PM
IMF - Louis Marc Ducharme : We have tools and frameworks (ex; DQAF) that can help framing the quality assurance issue. We have to adapt them	
	01:16 PM
ESTONIA Mart Mägi : Agree with Julio, and also we need to strengthen our communication for maintaining and increasing trust for new data sources (like banks)	
	01:17 PM
Canada Anil Arora : Agreed fully. Maintaining trust, quality and privacy are key.	
	01:19 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

Showing the value add of statistical agencies through relevant and timely products and analysis will help build trust and access to alternative sources of data.

01:20 PM

UNITED_KINGDOM_Jonathan_Athow :

Agree completely Anil. We have a great position to show leadership on quality and coherence.

01:21 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

Good presentation Jonathan. you hit all the high points.

01:24 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

Thank you to all the active participants of the FOC for their excellent advice and active participation this past year. Mapping the current system and already making some steps towards streamlining it make the work real!

IMF - Louis Marc Ducharme

01:39 PM

With the COVID - 19 crisis, technical assistance and advices to countries from International agencies had to change: going from long term structured TA to Just-in-time advices (ex.how to collect prices when we cannot send interviewers

Canada Anil Arora :01:40 PM

Changes in global value chains; the more prominent role of digitalization and impacts on local economies; the value of data; productivity are all important issues to tackle in a post covid world!

Canada Anil Arora :01:41 PM

All excellent points to ponder Paul!

MEXICO_Julio_Santaella :01:41 PM

I agree with Anil

IMF - Louis Marc Ducharme :01:40 PM

agree these are important issues

Canada Anil Arora :01:42 PM

The recent work being led by the IMF is very pertinent!

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut :01:43 PM

If I would be to pick the most important one, that would be changes in global value chains... if any

Ireland Pádraig Dalton :01:44 PM

Agree with all of the points made. User engagement is key but so also is user education.

COLOMBIA_Juan_OVIEDO :01:44 PM

The vulnerabilities of the labor market arising from COVID19 for countries under which informality plays a role become an enormous challenge to integrate the new social and economic dimensions of official statistics in order to allow them to be relevant and to inform sound and evidence based public policies.

PrivateSector(USA)_Grant_Cameron :01:45 PM

Regarding FOC work program: the next crisis will be different from the COVID crisis. FOC work program needs to carefully trade off process improvement that promote process and product adaptability more generally to respond better for the next crisis against the need to adjust existing stats that were found deficient during covid (e.g. Paul on the home school quality

New Zealand_Rachael_Milicich :01:45 PM

What is the value that we think we can offer to the holders of global data? Finding an exchange of value has been key in our COVID-19 work and securing more data.

Canada Anil Arora :01:46 PM

I think it is important to assess both the Economic System as well as various components where we need to look at better use of new data sources to provide more timely, integrated and quality data and analysis.

We welcome your current experiences and ideas on the future of the Economic system! Thank you.

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut :01:46 PM

The question of productivity dynamics missing the expectations puzzle will still be valid after COVID

UNITED_KINGDOM_Jonathan_Athow :01:47 PM

Interested to hear from NZ, it is sometimes difficult to know quite what 'offer' will appeal to data holders to get them to work with us.

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut :01:47 PM

and following this, what is the role of globalisation in it

Canada Anil Arora :01:48 PM
Agreed Dominik!

Canada Anil Arora :01:50 PM
An iterative approach as Louis-Marc proposes is going to be key for us to remain relevant!

UNITED_KINGDOM_Jonathan_Athow :01:49 PM
Dominik - productivity might be more important after Covid.

Finland, Marjo Bruun :01:50 PM
When governments want something they use legal framework to offer a tradeoff - legal business.

UNITED_KINGDOM_Jonathan_Athow :01:51 PM
Also agree with Louis Marc Ducharme - having statistical frameworks that move quickly important prerequisite for relevant statistics. Your R&D example is a good one.

CZECH REPUBLIC Marek Rojicek :01:51 PM
The reaction of statistics to ekonomi

New Zealand_Rachael_Milicich :01:52 PM
Happy to connect with Jonathan and share our experience.

Canada Anil Arora :01:53 PM
Thank you Geir! Well done in chairing...and working through the technical challenges!

UNITED_KINGDOM_Jonathan_Athow :01:52 PM
I think we have found the limits of legal frameworks in getting data - we need ongoing cooperation, and that is difficult to put into law! It is a part of the picture, but not the whole.

CZECH REPUBLIC Marek Rojicek :01:53 PM
agree with UK

COLOMBIA_Juan_OVIEDO :01:53 PM
Jonathan addresses a highly relevant point! Cooperation first.

IMF - Louis Marc Ducharme :01:53 PM
thanks for a good session

GERMANY Stefan Hauf and Jörg Decker :01:54 PM
Agree with UK. And we need this new framework nationally and internationally.

Poland_Dominik_Rozkrut :01:56 PM
Good session!

Latvia Aija Zigure :01:56 PM
Thanks for very interesting session!

ALBANIA ELSA DHULI :01:57 PM
We also agree with Germany and UK.

ALBANIA ELSA DHULI :01:57 PM
Thank you for the presentations and the very comprehensive session.

UNITED_KINGDOM_Jonathan_Athow :01:57 PM
Thanks to all. Sounds a high degree of agreement on the main issues.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga :01:57 PM
excellent session

SPAIN_Antonio_Salcedo :01:57 PM
Thank you for the papers and presentations

Russia_Georgy_Oksenoyt :01:58 PM
Thank you! Very informative!

ITALY_GianCarlo_Blangiardo :01:58 PM
Thank you for very good work

Canada Anil Arora :01:58 PM
Thank you Ivo for your excellent work for keeping the group moving forward!

Item 3. Measuring digital transformation

02:29 PM

IMF - Louis Marc Ducharme :

COVID crisis has accentuated the disparity in income distribution

02:34 PM

UNSD - Ivo Havinga :

great cross walk Anil on the impact of technology on economy, inequality and well being

02:35 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

Covid is certainly showing a greater need for an integrated picture; raising the need for these measures...

02:37 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

Agreed on the need for a holistic approach Dominik!

02:39 PM

COLOMBIA_Juan_OVIEDO :

• DANE has sought to strengthen its positioning on this matter which we consider is essential to face the complex challenges associated with the Covid-19 crisis. One of the main strategies has been to rely on a strong international statistical community. Since last April, DANE became the chair the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In this group, topics on population connectivity, Internet access and skills for its use are analyzed. We invite you to reach to your colleagues that work on the matter to actively participate in this scenario.

02:38 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

The work of the OECD, Eurostat and IMF is going to be critical and offers lots of opportunities for greater coordination across the UNECE region!

02:40 PM

IMF - Louis Marc Ducharme :

in the context of COVID, measuring outcomes is key

02:39 PM

Paul Schreyer OECD :

absolutely, the challenge then is linking outputs, outcome and policy measures

02:40 PM

Canada Anil Arora :

True indeed!!

02:40 PM

ITALY_Marina_Gandolfo :

Very interesting sessions: many lessons can be drawn quickly from the reaction that different NSOs have been able to develop during the Covid crisis, in terms of ability to maintain data collection in the lockdown situation, to develop quickly new tailored surveys (both on business and households), in using new sources of data, etc. Some of those developments if made systematic can result in new way of producing statistics. An important issue to be tackled is the need for users of improving the timeliness of short term indicators as well as of other structural statistics; the recent experience has put this topics on the forefront and it is possible to start to discuss new progresses that are now possible due to positive changes in data capturing approaches. As for the training our experience tell us the importance of the growth of a digital culture supporting the official statistics production. Istat has been investing in digital competences development of its staff, both The training courses are currently delivered on software and applications tool supporting data processing and analysis, such as excel, R and SAS. Training investment on IT security was also carried out, addressed to all the staff. As for the use of technological tools, the online training offer has increased – especially in the past weeks, when, due to the COVID-19 emergency, all courses were turned into online webinars and training packages, thus making personnel get more and more often in touch with online applications and tools, and promoting a general development of a digital culture

02:41 PM

UNSD - Ivo Havinga :

mainstreaming the work of ITU on ICT and innovation in business and trade statistics is critical