



UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP ON
WELL-BEING MEASUREMENT

The Growing International focus on Inclusive and Sustainable Well-being and the Contribution of the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement

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UN Expert Group on Well-being Measurement

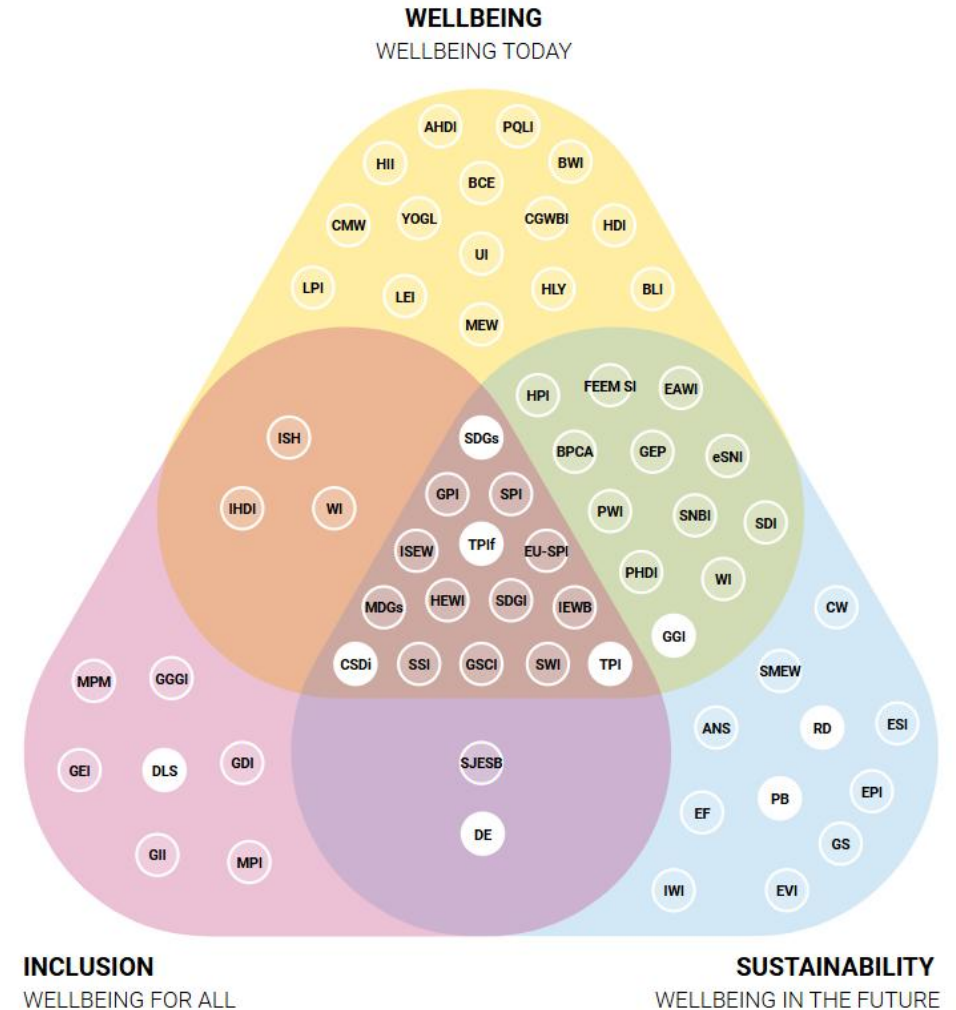
Our Journey



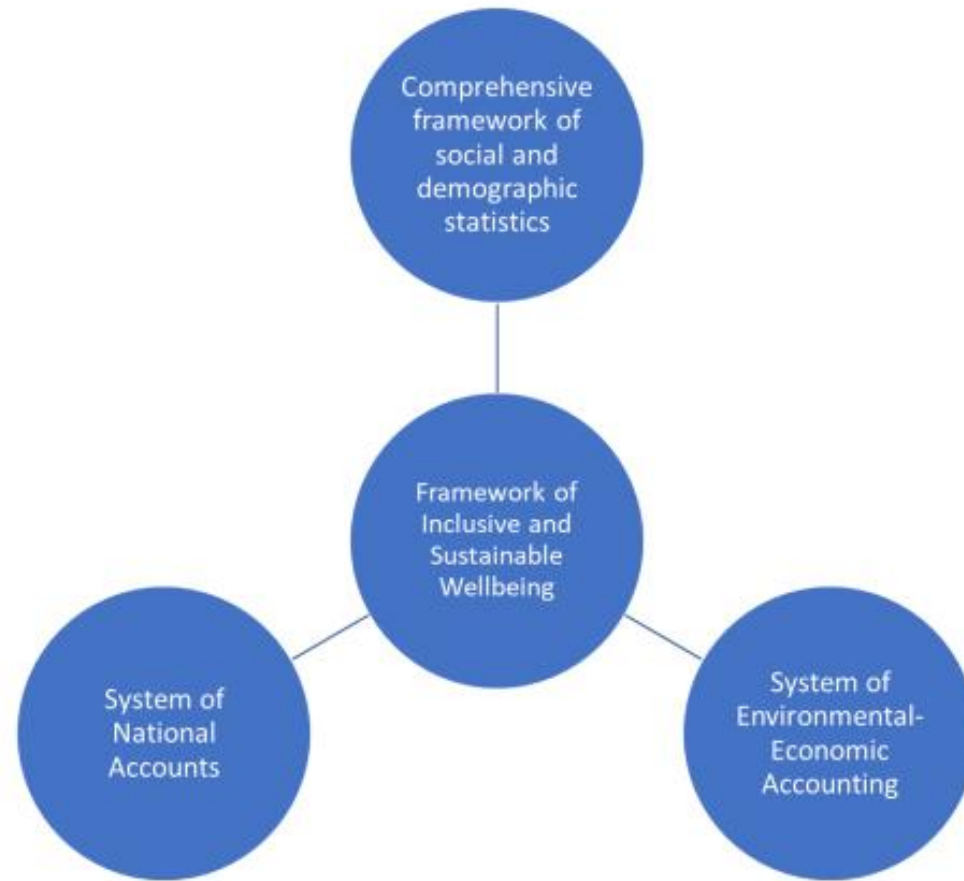
- The Expert Group will:
 - i) Accommodate diverse communities and methods and **synthesize a consensus** on the contents of the Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Well-being (FISW), whilst recognizing the imperative of a streamlined set of metrics which best meet user need.
 - ii) Commission, review and propose to the United Nations Statistical Commission a draft text of the FISW for consultation and testing.
 - iii) Commission appropriate pilot compilation of statistics and data, from a diverse range of countries to fully explore suitability and feasibility. Pilot exercises which demonstrate the capacity of NSIs with limited resources to deliver should be prioritized.
 - iv) Develop a communications strategy to aide uptake and appropriate usage of the data made available. User and producer interest is vital to secure access to well-informed resources with the required skills and knowledge to make this proposal a reality.

Key lessons from the sprints

- 1) Huge amount of international work, there has been no lack of effort...
- 2) ...but the key outstanding gap is bringing together a standardised consensus which is widely and uniformly used.
- 3) There are a number of key dimensions which are widely used in conceptual frameworks...
- 4) ...and it is feasible to bring these together.
- 5) However, some key questions remain to be resolved.



Placing the Framework for Inclusive and Sustainable Well-being at the centre of the existing data landscape



Established Task-teams

- Templates and Chapter Designs
- Where and How to use Composite Indicators
- Work
- Health
- Environment
- Education
- Digital well-being
- Subjective well-being

Fitting with the High Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP

“To achieve the progress we need, **the well-being of people and the planet** must be at the centre of what we measure and value.

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General



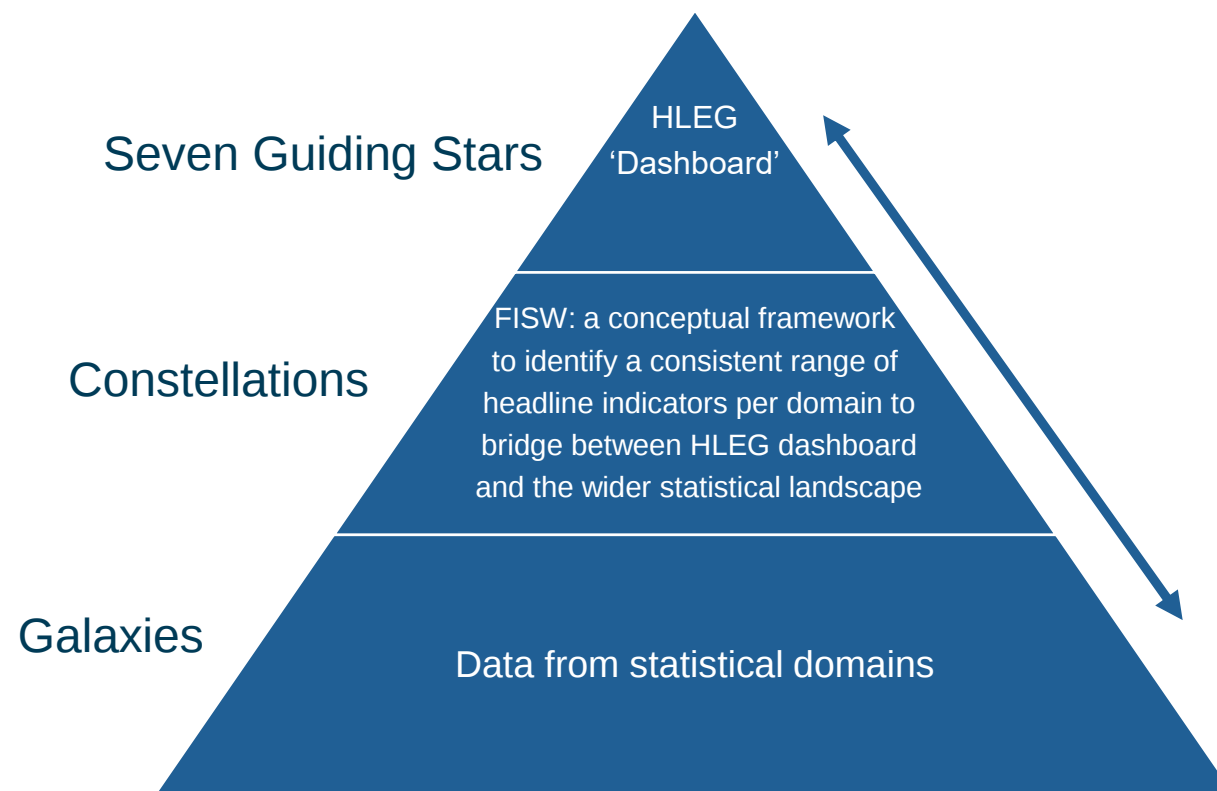
- Strategic alignment – what will we do, what will they do?
- Prioritised workload – ensuring we support the High Level process
- Need to reflect HLEG’s findings in our work
- Interim report available - <https://www.un.org/en/beyondGDP/documents>



HLEG Interim Report

- A proposal for a high-level dashboard comprising seven areas (the precise metrics are still up for debate but some examples are highlighted):
 - **Material Well-being** – household income/consumption, opportunity and job quality, time use and access to leisure, and economic security (**access to housing, the internet**, and safety nets).
 - **Health** – maternal and childhood health, healthy life expectancy, chronic disease rates.
 - **Education** – access to pre-school, high school, and higher education, having knowledge and skills to participate in the labour market and social life.
 - **Environmental Quality** – clean air and water, absence of pollutants, loss of biodiversity.
 - **Subjective Well-being** – life satisfaction, meaning/purpose, hope, agency, emotional states, satisfaction with mental/physical health, perceptions of safety, trust, and governance.
 - **Social Capital** – sense of belonging, **ability to participate**, friends or family to rely on when in need.
 - **Governance** – safety and security, **ability to participate in societal decisions and activities**, absence of discrimination
- A proposal for additional extended / adjusted GDP metrics, which would sit beside our existing GDP and extended GDP metrics like inclusive income:
 - **vGDP** – a version of GDP removing goods and services which can be considered ‘bads’ – weapons, cigarettes – or ‘reactions to bads’ – e.g. locks and barbed wire, and which do not add additional value on their own.
 - **eGDP** – a version of GDP which makes adjustments for inequality – so the more unequal the country the lower the eGDP number will go
 - **sGDP** – a version of GDP to account for sustainability – which I read to mean adjusting market prices for the impact of externalities (e.g. shadow prices). This is clearly the most difficult given such shadow prices do not exist.

Can we provide a link between the HLEG and existing statistical domains, within the Valuing What Counts landscape?



Proposed Timeline

The timetable for delivery of Version 1, therefore, is as follows:

- a. **September 2025 – March 2026:** identification of preferred metrics to populate bridging tables by task-teams
- b. **September 2025 – January 2026:** parallel development of chapter templates
- c. **January 2026:** EGWM signs off chapter templates and proposed bridging tables
- d. **March 2026:** expected HLEG final report
- e. **March 2026 – June 2026:** EGWM to reflect on alignment with HLEG outcomes and General Assembly conclusions, comparing proposed bridging tables to HLEG report requirements
- f. **June 2026:** Sign-off by EGWM of FISW design to permit development of draft chapters by task-teams.
- g. **June 2026 – September 2026:** development of draft chapters by task-teams, incorporating feedback
- h. **September 2026:** Sign-off by EGWM of draft chapters for consultation
- i. **October 2026 – November 2026:** global consultation on draft chapters
- j. **December 2026:** final revision of chapters.
- k. **January 2027:** sign-off of finalized version one FISW by EGWM to UNSC.

Developing a consensus conceptual framework

Constructing a consensus framework – agreeing the key dimensions

Brundtland lenses	Key Dimensions	Dimensionality
Here and Now	Well-being	Stocks
Elsewhere	Inclusion	Flows
In the Future	Sustainability	Distributions

Normative nature	Statistical Pillars	Domains	Data composition
Subjective	Economic	SDGs	Natural indicators
Objective	Social	OECD Better Life	Composite indicators
	Environmental	Assorted alternatives	

The interplay between Brundtland and the key dimensions

Brundtland lenses	Key Dimensions	Dimensionality	
Here and Now	Well-being	Stocks	
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Constructing a consensus framework – subjective and objective measures

Brundtland lenses	Objective Wellbeing	Inclusion	Sustainability
Here and Now			
Elsewhere			
In the Future			

Normative nature	Statistical Pillars	Domains	Dimensionality
Subjective	Economic	SDGs	Stocks
Objective	Social	OECD Better Life	Flows
	Environmental	Assorted alternatives	Distributions
Data composition			
Natural indicators			
Composite indicators			

Constructing a consensus framework – pillars and dimensions

Brundtland lenses	Subjective Well-being	Objective Well-being	Inclusion	Sustainability
Here and Now				
Elsewhere				
In the Future				

Data composition	Statistical Pillars	Domains	Dimensionality
Natural indicators	Economic	SDGs	Stocks
Composite indicators	Social	OECD Better Life	Flows
	Environmental	Assorted alternatives	Distributions

Constructing a consensus framework – pillars and dimensions

Brundtland lenses	Subjective Well-being	Objective Well-being	Inclusion	Sustainability
Here and Now	Individual subjective well-being Business Sentiment	Economic, social, and environmental flow measures	Non-geographical Economic, social, and environmental distributions	Economic, social, and environmental depreciation and depletion measures
Elsewhere	Geographical inequality data and distributions	Economic, social and environment geographical measures and distributions	Economic, social and environment geographical distributional measures	Economic, social and environmental investment measures by geography
In the Future	Social Capital stocks	Economic, social, and environmental investment measures	Inter-generational (investment) measures	Economic, social and environmental stock measures

Data composition

Natural indicators

Composite indicators

Domains

SDGs

OECD Better Life

Assorted alternatives

A hypothetical housing example

Brundtland lenses	Subjective Well-being	Objective Well-being	Inclusion	Sustainability
Here and Now	Contentment with housing quality and availability Threat of dispossession	Prices / rents : income Citizens able to access housing in their community. Energy / carbon consumption per property Over-crowding / Safety	Distribution of housing quality by income / ethnicity / gender / disability People by characteristic without access to quality/ safe housing	Energy consumption of housing Depreciation and depletion of the housing stock
Elsewhere	Regional contentment with housing, including distributions	Economic, social and environment cross-border measures	Distribution of housing quality by groups by region People by characteristic without access to quality housing by geography	Regional investment in sustainable / quality housing
In the Future	Business Sentiment in the Construction sector	Investment in sustainable / quality / social housing	Investment in housing to meet changing needs (e.g. aging demographic)	Sustainable housing stock

Subjective measures
of well-being

Objective drivers of well-being