

Eighth Meeting of the  
**United Nations Economists Network (UNEN)**

Tuesday, 14 May 2020  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
e COVID-19 response of the UN system; (d) Update on  
preparation of UNEN report for the 75th anniversary of the UN, including the work of the core  
group and the peer review process; and (e)

Mr. Ivo Havinga, Statistics Division, DESA, added that good progress has been made in resolving issues related to globalization, digitalization and integrated measures of economic activity, the wellbeing of people and environmental sustainability. It is expected that dedicated Task Teams established for each of the priority areas will be drafting guidance notes on the issues during 2020. He expressed appreciation for broadening the discussion and extending it to UN economists.

Mr. Harris thanked Mr. Schweinfest and Mr. Havinga for the presentation. He stressed that he encouraged alternative thinking in UNEN and linking the work of UNEN to statistical issues.d at Tc 0 Tw dm14.0

Mr. Harris referred to the DESA initiative in support of CCA and noted that he would circulate it to UNEN members. He acknowledged that UNEN members had expressed broad support for engagement with CCA processes with the caveat of aligning UNEN involvement to existing mechanisms. Policy inputs should be broadly applicable and would be channeled through the RECs. Mr. Harris noted that he would consult DCO on a possible contribution of UNEN to the CCA process.

### **C. UNEN's specific contribution to the COVID-19 response of the UN system**

Mr. Harris thanked the working group leads who had prepared the one-pagers on COVID-19 and biodiversity, and on COVID-19 and inequality (circulated prior to the meeting). He encouraged other working group leads to prepare one-pagers on COVID-19 and frontier technologies, demographic trends, and urbanization. Mr. Harris also asked to continue the discussion initiated at the 7th UNEN meeting on any areas in the UN system response to COVID-19, where UNEN could leverage the global analytical work on the crisis from the economic and social perspective, and feed into the work being done at the regional and country levels.

The question was raised how UNEN work on COVID-19 could be aligned with the Secretary-General's COVID-19 policy briefs. A proposal was made to discuss the COVID-19 crisis in the larger context of risk we face. This could be the topic of a thematic brief. It was suggested to develop a separate thematic brief on COVID-19. UNEN members agreed that the issue of COVID-19 would have to be treated in the UNEN report in an integrated manner. It was suggested that the work of various entities on COVID-19 should be shared more broadly.

### **D.**

## **E. Any other business**

Mr. Harris concluded the meeting by thanking UNEN members for their active participation. He reiterated that he would speak with DCO regarding a possible contribution of UNEN to the CCA process. He would also re-circulate the list of thematic briefs to UNEN members and ask for updates to the list.