# Well-being and Sustainable Development

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# **UN SG's Synthesis Report**

- The year 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to end poverty, transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting our environment, ensuring peace and realizing human rights.
- We are at a historic crossroads, and the directions we take will determine whether we will succeed or fail on our promises. With our globalized economy and sophisticated technology, we can decide to end the age-old ills of extreme poverty and hunger. Or we can continue to degrade our planet and allow intolerable inequalities to sow bitterness and despair. Our ambition is to achieve sustainable development for all.
- Transformation is our watchword. At this moment in time, we are called to lead and act with courage. We are called to embrace change. Change in our societies. Change in the management of our economies. Change in our relationship with our one and only planet.

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Work on developing alternative measures of progress, beyond GDP, must receive the dedicated attention of the United Nations, international financial institutions, the scientific community, and public institutions. These metrics must be squarely focused on measuring social progress, human wellbeing, justice, security, equality, and sustainability. Poverty measures should reflect the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. New measures of subjective wellbeing are potentially important new tools for policy-making.

## The last ten years: a transformational movement

 In October 2014 we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the first OECD World Forum on "Statistics, knowledge and policy"



 The Palermo Forum was the starting point of a process that today, thanks to the efforts made in all continents to take the "Beyond GDP" agenda forward, the world has recognised as vital

#### The last ten years: key steps

- October 2004: First OECD World Forum on "Statistics, knowledge and policy"
- 2005: "Global project on measuring the progress of societies" established
- July 2007: Second OECD World Forum and "Istanbul Declaration"
- November 2007: European Conference "Beyond GDP"
- January 2008: Establishment of the "Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission"
- August 2009: EC Communication on "GDP and Beyond"
- September 2009:
  - OECD Framework on "Equitable and sustainable well-being"
  - SSF Report
  - G20 Communique
- October 2009: Third OECD World Forum and OECD Roadmap
- 2011: OECD Better life initiative and Better life index
- 2012 Fourth OECD World Forum
- September 2015: Adoption of the SDGs
- October 2015: Fifth OECD World Forum

## Theoretical background

#### Economic literature:

- Role of information in "Games Theory" (Nash, Akerlof, Rothschild and Stiglitz, etc.)
- Role of information in rational expectations models (Muth, Lucas, etc.)

#### Political sciences literature:

- Role of information in models for democratic choices (Downs, Wittman, Alesina, etc.)
- Role of information in political process and elections (Swank, Visser, etc.)

Clear conclusion: "shared information" is fundamental to improve markets functioning and minimise social welfare losses

#### The value added of official statistics

$$Vtsu = Ptsu - Ctsu$$

Vtsu = value added at time t

Ptsu = value of production

Ctsu = intermediate costs

Where do we classify the production of statistics?

----> ISIC: public services

Where does the value of a service come from?

----> SNA: change in the consumer

What kind of change should happen in a consumer of statistics?

----> more knowledge

#### The value added of official statistics

$$Ptsu = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i \left[ (Qsu \cdot Rmsu) \cdot Rsu_i \cdot Fsu_i \cdot Ls_i \right]$$

Q = statistics produced

Rm = role of media

R = relevance

F = trust

I = literacy

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