

High-Level Expert
Group on
BEYOND
GDP

**Presentation of the High-Level Expert
Group's Emerging Recommendations**

11 November 2025

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United
Nations

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE
OUTCOME DOCUMENTS
September 2024

Pact for the Future,
Global Digital Compact,
and Declaration on Future
Generations

ACTION 53. WE WILL DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK ON MEASURES OF PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO COMPLEMENT AND GO BEYOND GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

We recognize that sustainable development must be pursued in a balanced and integrated manner. We reaffirm the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product. 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. We decide to:

- a) **Request the Secretary-General 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 Statistical Commission, building on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to present the outcome of its work during the eightieth session of the General Assembly;
- b) 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 Statistical 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.



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Agenda

- HLEG mandate and background
- The need for our work
- Measuring what matters: Our goals
- 3-part framework
- Core domain proposals
- Beyond GDP and GDP
- From metrics to impact
- Key questions that the HLEG are currently discussing

HLEG Mandate and background

- Mandate: Develop a limited set of **universally applicable, country-owned indicators** reflecting the **multidimensional nature of sustainable development**, per the *Pact for the Future*.
- **14 experts** from diverse academic and policy backgrounds
- Builds on **existing frameworks** while introducing **new thinking**.

The need for our work

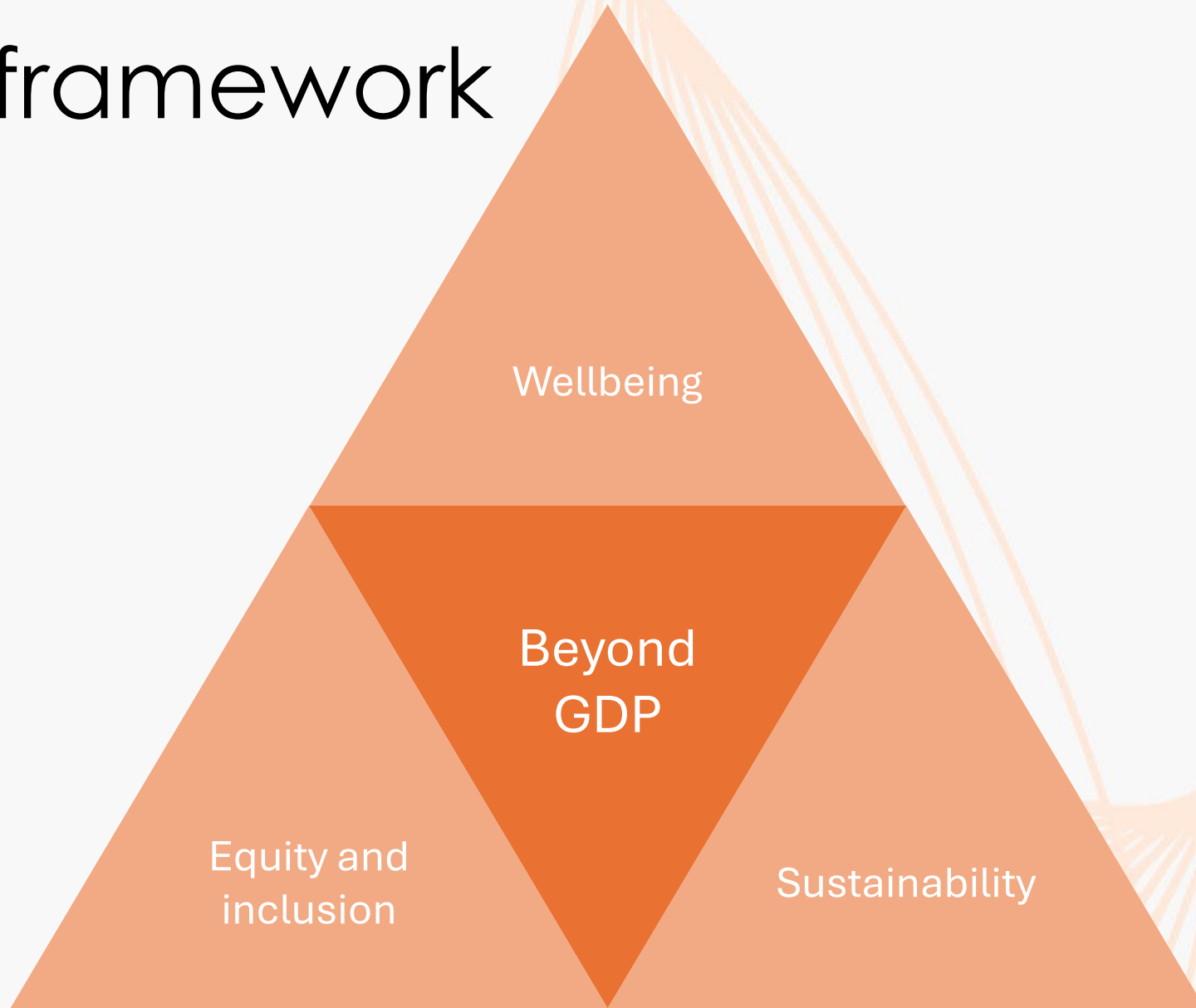
“Human lives are battered and diminished in all kinds of different ways, and the first task... is to acknowledge that deprivations of very different kinds have to be accommodated within a general overarching framework.”

- Amartya Sen

Measuring what matters: Our goals

- Reflect current material wellbeing more accurately
- Beyond income
- Beyond averages
- Beyond today
- Cross-country interconnectedness / externalities

3-part framework



Core domain proposals

Domain	Example
Material wellbeing	Being materially secure and having livelihood opportunities. <i>Examples: Household income, employment, opportunity, job quality, unpaid work</i>
Education	Being knowledgeable, educated, and having skills to participate in many aspects of life. <i>Examples: High school completion, PISA scores, access to higher education</i>
Health	Being healthy, and having a long, fulfilling life. <i>Examples: Maternal mortality, life expectancy, adult physical and mental health measures</i>
Subjective Wellbeing	Having more positive emotional states than negative ones, and having purpose and agency to pursue life goals. <i>Examples: Evaluative, emotional, trust</i>
Social Capital	Being connected and participating in one's community. <i>Examples: Sense of belonging, having someone to count on, sharing meals with friends or family</i>
Governance	Being safe, respected and empowered. <i>Examples: Safety and security, democracy and institutions, human rights</i>
Environmental quality	Living in an ecologically safe and sustainable environment. <i>Examples: clean air and water, absence of pollutants, loss of biodiversity.</i>

Beyond GDP and GDP

- **Complement GDP, not replace it:** The goal of our frameworks is to complement, not to replace GDP.
- **However, suggestions to adjust GDP** will be proposed: valued GDP, equitable GDP, sustainable GDP.

From metrics to impact

- **Framework aims to link drivers with outcomes:** indicators need to be sensitive to actions by policymakers, NGOs, etc.
- **Political buy-in:** examples of national institutionalization of Beyond GDP metrics. Our initiative will promote guidance, templates, and capacity building to help countries do this. Similar investments into statistical capacity.
- **Engaging with Beyond GDP sceptics:** Recognising similar initiatives and building on complementarities not competition.

Key remaining tasks for the HLEG

- **Domain finalization**
- **Selection of indicators**
- **Measurement challenges**
- **Influence and uptake**

Thank you

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