

**Beyond GDP – Informal Consultations of the Co- facilitators of the
intergovernmental process on Beyond GDP and Launch of the final report of the
High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP**

Concept Note

Date: 7 May

Time: 3-6 pm NYT

Location: Conference Room 2

I. Context

Few economic indicators have shaped modern governance as profoundly as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Originally conceived as a narrow measure of economic output, GDP has, over time, come to serve as a broader proxy for human progress — informing the priorities of governments, the benchmarks of international institutions, and prevailing narratives of societal advancement. Yet the measure remains silent on key dimensions of progress, and incentivizes activities that are depleting our planet. Over recent decades, there has been a growing movement arguing that the continued overreliance on GDP constitutes an anachronism at the heart of contemporary policymaking — and one increasingly difficult to justify.

For this reason, when adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States committed to developing measures of progress that complement GDP by 2030. This was reiterated in *The Pact for the Future*. In Action 53 of the Pact, Member States agreed on two consecutive steps. First, they requested 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.”

Second, they agreed to 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.”

In May last year, the Secretary-General appointed a High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP. The 14-member Expert Group was tasked with developing recommendations for a limited set of country-owned, universally applicable indicators that go beyond and complement GDP.

With the final report by the High-Level Expert Group to be presented and shared with the General Assembly, the first step outlined in Action 53 of the Pact for the Future is fulfilled. The Group’s final report represents an important step towards expanding the data used to inform policy decisions and

prioritizations. As the process now moves from an expert-led, technical phase into a Member State-driven political process, it will be essential to translate these findings into a shared understanding of how we measure progress. Ultimately, these metrics can drive behavior change in how societies think about and pursue progress.

II. Objectives

This meeting is convened by the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process on Beyond GDP and marks their first informal consultations, following their appointment by the President of the General Assembly. At the same time, the meeting provides the High-Level Expert Group with an opportunity to present its final report to Member States. Member States will have an opportunity to provide statements and questions and to deliberate on how to take this agenda forward.

III. Draft Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
3.00 pm – 3.10 pm	Opening and Remarks by the Co-Facilitators of the Intergovernmental Process, H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett (Guyana) and H.E. Héctor Gómez Hernández (Spain)
3.10 pm – 3.15 pm	Remarks by the 80th President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Annalena Baerbock
3.15 pm – 3.20 pm	Remarks by the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Antonio Guterres
3.20 pm – 3.30 pm	Presentation of the final report by the Co-Chairs of the High-Level Expert Group, Mr. Kaushik Basu and Ms. Nora Lustig
3.30 pm – 5.50 pm	Remarks from the floor by Member States
5.50 pm – 5.55pm	Remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. Amina Mohammed
5.55pm- 6:00pm	Closing remarks by the Co-Facilitators.