

Twenty-second Meeting of the
United Nations Economist Network (UNEN)

Thursday, 9 December 2021
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Chief Economist of the United Nations, introduced the agenda: i) Policy Briefs on Digital Economic Transformation, Innovative Finance, and New Economics for Sustainable Development (NESD).

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Mr. Nobuya Haraguchi, UNIDO, informed participants that the notes on Digital Economic Transformation had been synthesized and would be further refined prior to wider circulation. He briefly presented the draft and addressed questions raised by participants. It was agreed that the revised draft would be circulated within the Network in January.

It was also envisaged that the draft on Innovative Finance would be finalized in January for circulation and comments by UNEN members.

Mr. Harris provided an update on the work of the drafting team for the New Economics for Sustainable Development (NESD) umbrella paper. He reported that the next meeting of the drafting team would be held on 10 December. The umbrella paper was organized according to the following topics: i) Overarching narrative/outline; ii) interlinkages among and between concepts; iii) contributions of concepts to the SDGs; and iv) policy recommendations. Mr. Harris stressed that the umbrella paper was making a compelling case for the importance of NESD in view of the shortcomings of mainstream economics.

Mr. Harris recalled that drafts had been circulated for the following briefs: i) Blue economy; ii) Circular economy; iii) Green economy; and iv) Social and solidarity economy. Drafts were expected for i) Purple/care economy; ii) Orange/creative economy; iii) Yellow/attention economy; and Frugal innovation.

Mr. Harris informed participants that he will leave DESA by the end of December and his role as chair of UNEN was winding down. DESA would communicate the new arrangements for UNEN in due course. Mr. Harris thanked everybody for the time and efforts they had spent in the past 3 years to contribute to the unique work of UNEN.