

# The Financial Crisis and Information Gaps

## Recommendation 16: Distributional information

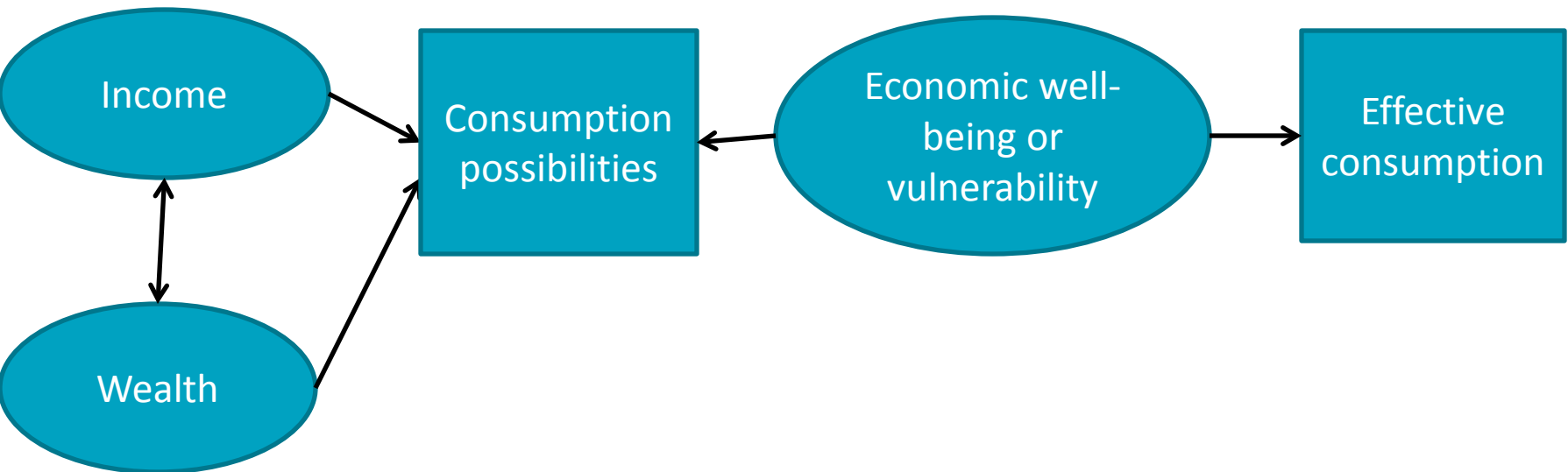
Senior Officials Conference  
Basel, April 8 and 9, 2010

# G-20 recommendation

- *Statistical experts to seek to compile distributional information (such as ranges and quartile information) alongside aggregate figures, wherever this is relevant. The IAG is encouraged to promote production and dissemination of these data in a frequent and timely manner. The OECD is encouraged to continue in its efforts to link national accounts data with distributional information.*
- Lead agency: OECD
- In co-operation with: ECB, Eurostat, UNSD, WB

# Why important?

- Economic vulnerability requires information on income, wealth and consumption
- Relevant for social policy but also for macro-prudential reasons
- Link with NA needed for exhaustive notions of income, consumption and wealth



# Current reporting

- National studies (e.g., France, Netherlands, Germany) with explicit links between micro-information and NA aggregates
- National and international surveys (mainly) on income & its distribution but typically without links to NA

# Current tasks

- OECD & Eurostat: rallying support among members, task forces being set up to define common methodology and implement pilot studies for micro-macro linkages
- OECD: methodological work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth (initiated by Australia and Canada)
- ECB: co-ordinating the launch of a Eurosystem Household Finance and Consumption Survey conducted in the 16 euro area countries by the National Central Banks - first set of methodological studies and estimates completed in 2012

# Current tasks

- World Bank: international household survey network develops improved survey guidelines in credit and debt, consumption, education, health, migration and remittances, social capital, etc.
- UN Population Division/Department of Economic and Social Affairs handbook on National Transfer accounts

# Way forward

- Develop internationally accepted methodology
- Enlarge number of participating countries
- Encourage period reporting at national level

# Questions

- From a macro- or micro-prudential perspective, what is the most pertinent type of distributional information about households?
- What are the main gaps in terms of coverage of the available micro-data on households' income, consumption and wealth?
- What steps could be taken to define methodological standards and guidelines for the measurement of household assets and liabilities, bringing together both national account and survey experts?
- Should priority be given to collecting more distributional micro-data on household income, consumption and wealth and on their integration within a national account framework?