



Overview of Main Messages Emerging from Recent IMF Bilateral Consultations with G-20 Economies

Global Conference on the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative

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Introduction

- ❖ IMF staff undertook bilateral visits, and one regional conference in Frankfurt during the first half of 2013 involving 16 G-20 economies.
- ❖ Also, a technical meeting was held in Moscow to which 19 G20 economies were represented.
- ❖ From these discussions, a very clear set of messages emerged.
- ❖ Most importantly, there was a strong sense of ownership and commitment to implementing the DGI by the G-20 economies.
- ❖ Three main headings: key findings, key challenges and constraints, and G-20 DGI going forward.

Key Findings (1)

- ❖ There is continued commitment and support among G-20 authorities to implement the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative.
- ❖ Good progress in implementation is being made:
 - ❖ although pace of progress varies.
- ❖ Majority of consulted authorities give high priority to data to measure domestic vulnerabilities and cross-border financial interconnections:
 - ❖ Sectoral accounts, general government data, and BIS IBS, and CPIS.
 - ❖ Residential real estate prices.
 - ❖ Debt securities and financial sector data.
- ❖ Closer inter-agency coordination, both at the international and national level.
- ❖ Noticeable interest in learning of the progress in other G-20 economies.

Key Findings (2)

- ❖ Need for closer and regular interaction with policy makers and data users to promote the use of data from the DGI and, more broadly, communicating of the analytical benefits of the data.
- ❖ Emphasize on comparability and consistency of data among G-20 economies, and the importance of producing high quality data:
 - ❖ The Principal Global Indicators website is supportive of this but is not widely known.
- ❖ DGI is a point of reference and benchmark for the development of economic and financial statistics; encouraging development of economic and financial data domestically; and higher recognition for statistical work.
- ❖ Interest in sharing experiences and knowledge across G-20 economies.

Key Challenges and Constraints (1)

- ❖ Source data was overwhelmingly seen as the major constraint:
 - ❖ Nonfinancial corporate, households, local governments, nonbank financial institutions (shadow banks).
 - ❖ Large countries with many entities to cover.
- ❖ Burden on the official sector of the DGI, not least to....
 - ❖ convincing entities to report the necessary data sometimes without legal backing.
- ❖ Burden on the financial institutions, taking account also of the financial sector regulatory reforms underway.
- ❖ Coordination across domestic agencies.

Key Challenges and Constraints (2)

- ❖ Need for technical assistance and training, and in some instances practical compilation advice from international agencies:
 - ❖ particularly sectoral accounts and general government finance
- ❖ Staff with the necessary experience.
- ❖ Coordination with other statistical initiatives such as the implementation of SNA and *BPM6*, and with other standards like banking and accounting standards.
- ❖ Some authorities consulted raised concerns on releasing sensitive/confidential /estimated data, as well as the cost effectiveness of certain aspects of the FSB/IMF recommendations.

G-20 DGI Going Forward (1)

- ❖ The DGI is a well formulated, but ambitious program and economies would like to make progress in implementing the existing recommendations before considering further enhancements.
- ❖ Some enhancements/fine tuning may be needed within the existing recommendations
- ❖ Among the ideas for enhancements included:
 - ❖ Global liquidity indicators, capital flows data, vulnerability indicators, labor statistics, and private debt.
- ❖ Other messages included:
 - ❖ Greater coordination among international agencies on the data collection and dissemination is a positive development to be encouraged

G-20 DGI Going Forward (2)

- ❖ Looking closely at the requirements of the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus, and ascertaining the extent to which they can be met, and the challenges to be faced.
- ❖ Need to share GSIFI data among relevant authorities.
- ❖ Need to assess the possibilities arising from new datasets being collected and promote their use.
- ❖ Turn the “development” recommendations into practical data requirements.
- ❖ Set priorities and benchmarks for the DGI recommendations taking account of the diverse circumstances of G20 economies.

Summary

- ❖ Positive feedback on the G-20 DGI with a strong sense of ownership and commitment.
- ❖ Need to strengthen data sources.
- ❖ The DGI is well formulated but ambitious so...
 - ❖ focus should be on implementing existing recommendations
 - ❖ although some clearer specification of data requirements for some recommendations might be considered.