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Beyond GDP Expert Panel FGDs: Briefing on Global High Level Expert Group (HLEG), March 11th 2026

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Outline

- **Background on HLEG**
- **Evolution of conceptual thinking & proposals**
- **Reflections for Malaysia**

High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Beyond GDP

- **Purpose: End over-reliance on GDP**, address its limitations; **Make the invisible, visible** & reflect well-being, equity & inclusion, & environmental sustainability
- Mandated by **GA adoption of the Pact for the Future 2024** (Action 53)
- **Does not seek to replace GDP, but supplement it.** HLEG cognizant of importance & support for GDP-type metrics (has shaped direction of thinking)
- **Aims for a new framework, that allows for better, more complete, application of wider (multi-dimensional) metrics** to support decision-making
- **Highly credentialed experts**, global membership. **Supported by UNCTAD**
- **Formal timeline/ outputs:** See chart, **ends in report to GA81.** Will be followed by **inter-governmental (political) process**, member state inputs

Membership of the HLEG

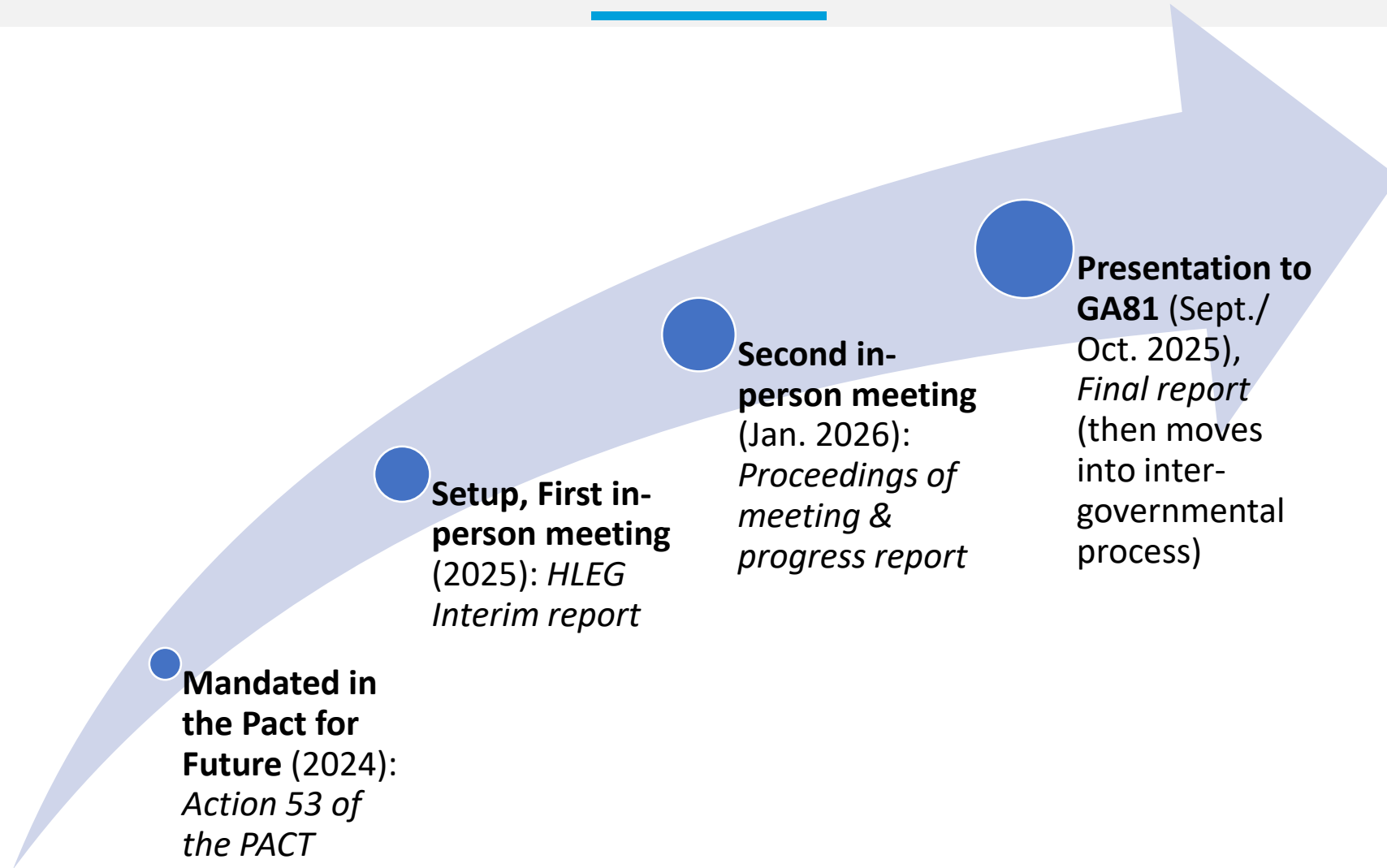
- **Co-Chairs (2)**

- Kaushik Basu –Professor of International Studies, Cornell University
- Nora Lustig –Professor Emeritus of Latin American Economics, Tulane University

- **Members (14)**

- Assem S. Algursan – General Director of Economic Statistics, Saudi Arabia
- Martine Durand – Expert in Official Statistics; former OECD Chief Statistician
- Haishan Fu – World Bank Group Chief Statistician & Director of the Development Data Group
- Enrico Giovannini – Professor, University of Rome
- Tor Vergata; former Italian Minister and former OECD Chief Statistician
- Carol Graham – Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution; Professor, University of Maryland
- Naila Kabeer – Emeritus Professor, London School of Economics
- Damien King – Executive Director, Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI)
- Pham Khanh Nam – Rector of the College of Economics, Law & Government, HCMC Vietnam
- Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi – President & CEO, African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)
- Mari Pangestu – Envoy of the President of Indonesia ; former Managing Director, World Bank
- Joseph E. Stiglitz – Professor, Columbia University; Nobel Laureate in Economics
- Leonard Wantchekon – Professor, Princeton University; Founder African School of Economics

Timeline & key outputs



HLEG Interim Report

- Does not seek to end the use of GDP, **but to provide supplementary insights & challenge its pre-eminence**
- Informed discussion at 1st-inpsesosn meeting
- Early **technical thinking responded to the well-documented critiques**
 - New analytics: GDP plus multiple metrics within dashboard approach, but with a focus on outcome measures
 - Perception-based metrics are under consideration

Adjusted GDP

v-GDP (Valued goods & services)

e-GDP (Inclusion & equality)

s-GDP (Environmental sustainability)

Dashboard

Multidimensional metrics – HPI etc.

10 (?) SDG type indicators

Perception-based metrics – human happiness

Proceedings at 2nd In-Person Meeting

- Some change in direction [dashboard prioritized](#), adjusted GDP metrics deprioritized
- **3 pillars** (guiding concepts) & **7 domains** (clusters of indicators)
- **Principles for selection:** (1) Scientifically robust & SDG-aligned; (2) Policy-relevant & outcome-focused; (3) Simple to communicate
- **Disaggregated** where relevant & allowing for **national customization**
- Position not clear on whether specification would be mandated
- Plus, emphasis on [wealth \(environmental & social welfare\) accounting](#) (the SEEA etc.)
- **Falls short of adjusted-GDP**, but would facilitate (parallels efforts in the SNA2025)

Dashboard

Well-being

Equity & Inclusion

Sustainability

Material Well-being

Health

Education

Environmental Quality

Subjective Well-being

Social Capital

Governance

Reflections for Malaysia

- **Foremost Beyond GDP is highly relevant for Malaysia as a UMIC approaching HIC status;** inadequacies of GDP become more pressing at higher income levels
- **DOSM capacity & its global engagement is a real advantage.** Has developed environmental accounting (SEEA) & MY Well-Being Index & MY Happiness Indexes
- **Develop a Malaysian Beyond GDP framework** consistent with the global dashboard, with strong localization.
- **Pioneer use of adjusted GDP metrics – making use of national capacity & resources**
- **Develop the expert group arrangement,** via formalization, building national networks & making regional/ international linkages (make use of participatory channels)
- **UN channels:** UNCTAD HLEG outreach (Govt & civil society); *Coalition for Beyond GDP* (Govt) & *Beyond GDP Global Alliance* (civil society) – both led by Spain
- **Further civil society channels:** Well-being Economy Alliance, Social Progress Imperative



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Thank you - Q&A?
