

Where we stand: global and regional developments

Session 1

Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for the SDGs for High-Level Official Statisticians

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

30-31 May 2017

Reminder: Data in the 2030 Agenda

- Need for quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to help with measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind
- Use of data and information from existing reporting mechanisms where possible
- Intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries
- Commitment to developing broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product

Targets on data, monitoring and accountability

- 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries ... to **increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts**
- 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to **develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries**

Global SDG indicator framework

- Process:
 - Since [Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals](#), 26-27 Sept 2016, Almaty, Kazakhstan
 - Participation of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan among countries present here
 - [Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators](#) (IAEG-SDGS)
 - Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data
- Decisions: [United Nations Statistical Commission](#) (UNSC)
- Current framework and updates on revision process
- IAEG-SDGs work after UNSC48

Quick reminder: IAEG-SDGs

- Established at [UNSC46](#), Mar 2015
- Comprising [27 United Nations Member States](#)
- Developed **initial set** of indicators between Jun 2016 and Feb 2016
- [UNSC47](#) go-ahead in Mar 2016
- Tier system introduced at [3rd IAEG-SDGs meeting](#) in Mar/Apr 2016

Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data

- Prepared by the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Informally launched at 1st UN World Data Forum on 15 Jan 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa
- Intended to provide a framework for discussion on, and planning and implementation of, statistical capacity building necessary to achieve scope and intent of 2030 Agenda
- 6 strategic areas

Cape Town Global Action Plan strategic areas

1. Coordination and strategic leadership on data for sustainable development
2. Innovation and modernization of national statistical systems
3. Strengthening of basic statistical activities and programmes, with particular focus on addressing the monitoring needs of the 2030 Agenda
4. Dissemination and use of sustainable development data
5. Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development data
6. Mobilize resources and coordinate efforts for statistical capacity building

UNSC decisions on the framework

[UNSC47](#) (Mar 2016)

- ... *agreed, as a practical starting point, with the proposed global indicator framework ... subject to future technical refinement*

[UNSC48](#) (Mar 2017)

- **Agreed** with revised indicator framework proposed by IAEG-SDGs
 - As contained in [Annex I](#) of the session's draft report
- Emphasized that the global indicator framework is intended for **global follow-up and review** of the 2030 Agenda
 - And that the global indicators are **not necessarily applicable to all national contexts**

UNSC48 decisions on SDG indicator work plan

- Annual (minor) refinements
- Comprehensive reviews to be presented to UNSC sessions in 2020 and 2025
 - Could include addition, deletion, refinement or adjustment of indicators
- Possible additional indicators
 - Have to be part of a comprehensive review
 - Should be mindful of potential additional reporting burden on countries

Selected other relevant UNSC48 decisions

- Agreed on mechanism for IAEG-SDGs membership and chairmanship to rotate
- Recommended **use of national data** and that adjustments / estimates of country data be undertaken in **full consultation with countries** and through **fully transparent mechanisms**
- Expressed support for the United Nations Statistics Division (USND) country data lab project where national and international data are presented side by side
- Agreed on draft resolution recommended for adoption by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Approved Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data

Current global indicator framework

- Set of **230 indicators** under **3 tiers**:
 - **Tier 1**: 83 indicators conceptually clear with established methodology and standards available and related data are regularly produced by countries
 - **Tier 2**: 59 indicators as Tier 1, but related data are not regularly produced by countries
 - **Tier 3**: 83 indicators for which there are no established methodology or standards
 - Includes indicators for which methodology and standards are being tested
 - Many refer to reporting on agreements or qualitative review of policies, and are therefore not statistical in nature
 - The remaining 5 indicators fall under multiple tiers

Work of IAEG-SDGs after UNSC48

Revised definition of tiers (as of 20 Apr 2017):

- **Tier 1:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least **50% of countries and population in every region where indicator is relevant**
 - See [regional groupings](#)
 - 82 indicators
- **Tier 2:** As Tier 1, but data aren't regularly produced by countries
 - 61 indicators

Work of IAEG-SDGs after UNSC48 (cont.)

- **Tier 3:** No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested
 - 84 indicators

Total number of indicators would be 232, with 5 under multiple tiers

Recent regional developments

- [ESCAP Committee on Statistics](#)
 - [5th session](#), Dec 2016, Bangkok
 - Participation of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan among countries present here
- [Asia-Pacific Conference: Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics for Agenda 2030](#)
 - Mar 2017, Bangkok
 - Participation of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia among countries present here

Collective vision of and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community

- Input provided at the Sept 2016 Almaty workshop
- Adopted at 5th session of the Committee on Statistics
- Further elaborated upon at the Mar 2016 Bangkok Conference

Vision of the Asia-Pacific statistical community

... by 2030, national statistical systems are enabled and empowered to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements for Agenda 2030.

Collective action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community

The idea is that:

- All producers and users of official statistics within countries
- Including the business sector and civil society
- With the support of relevant subregional, regional and global organizations
- Can, working in close collaboration with each other, accelerate the transformation of official statistics

Action areas:

A. Engaging users and investing in statistics

B. Assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics

C. Integrated statistics for integrated analysis

D. Modernizing statistical business processes

E. Having requisite skill sets

- Each of the action areas include indicative lists of regional resources that may be developed and/or promoted collaboratively
- More in coming sessions
 - In particular on action areas C, D and E