



Task Team on Sustainable Tourism: Updates

13th IAEG-SDGs Meeting | Plenary

Bangkok, Thailand

8 November 2022

Agenda

1. Background
2. Objectives
3. Membership
4. Working modalities
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Background: Tourism indicators in the SDGs

At the adoption of the global indicator framework in 2017, three tourism related indicators were included in the framework:

- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth
 - **Target 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products**
 - *Indicator 8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate*
 - *Indicator 8.9.2: Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs*
- Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production
 - **Target 12.b: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products**
 - *Indicator 12.b.1: Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools*

Background: 2020 comprehensive review

In the 2020 comprehensive review, the following changes to the tourism indicators were proposed and decided upon:

- *8.9.2: “Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs”* was **deleted** since it was still a Tier III indicator
- The replacement and additional proposals submitted by UNWTO were
 - *8.9.2 Number of employees in tourism industries.*
 - *8.9.3 Energy use by tourism industries*
- The IAEG-SDGs decided that that replacement and addition indicators did not directly address target 8.9 which is “**devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products**”

Background: Sustainable tourism indicator today

Indicator 8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate is the sole indicator for Target 8.9 on sustainable tourism in the global indicator framework



Background: UN Statistical Commission decisions

- In March 2021, at its [52nd session](#), the Statistical Commission encouraged the IAEG-SDGs “to continue to implement and refine indicators, and requested the Group to work with relevant custodian agencies to **develop and test a methodology for indicators on sustainable tourism**, in preparation for submission at the 2025 comprehensive review, as this indicator is of **particular importance to the least developed countries, landlocked least developed countries and small island developing States.**”
- In February and March 2022, at its [53rd session](#), the Statistical Commission asked the IAEG-SDGs “to work in close coordination with the custodian agency on **a proposal for indicators on sustainable tourism to better monitor target 8.9** and report on progress on this to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.” The Commission also “approved the proposed work programme of the Group, and requested **the inclusion of the work on sustainable tourism.**”



Background: Constitution of the Task Team on Sustainable Tourism

Following the direction from the Statistical Commission, the IAEG-SDGs has discussed indicators for sustainable tourism at several monthly meetings in 2022:

- In the March meeting, the IAEG-SDGs received updates from UNWTO on their work on measuring sustainability in tourism and discussed various options for way forward.
- In April-July, the IAEG-SDGs decided to create the Task Team on Sustainable Tourism and invited members who have expressed interest in joining the task team.
- The first meeting of the task team took place on **8 September 2022**.



Objectives

To **discuss, build consensus on, and develop a detailed proposal** for sustainable tourism indicators to better monitor Target 8.9.

Proposal to be ready in time for submission to and consideration by the IAEG-SDGs during the **2025 comprehensive review** of the global indicator framework.



Members

1. Canada (Co-Chair of IAEG-SDGs)
2. Grenada (IAEG-SDGs)
3. Hungary (IAEG-SDGs)
4. Malaysia (IAEG-SDGs)
5. Trinidad & Tobago (IAEG-SDGs)
6. Austria (Co-Chair of UNWTO Committee on Statistics)
7. Spain (Co-Chair of UNWTO Committee on Statistics)
8. Bolivia
9. Chile
10. Uruguay
11. Fiji
12. Samoa
13. The Seychelles
14. UNWTO
15. ESCAP Pacific Office
16. South Pacific Tourism Organization
17. UNSD (Secretariat)

Meetings

- Modality: Virtual
- Frequency: Quarterly, or more frequently as dictated by workload
- Inter-meeting collaboration through emails and other platforms

Governance

- Co-chairs elected by members
- UNSD serves as Secretariat



Tentative timeline and workplan

August 2022	Preparatory work by the Secretariat and the IAEG-SDGs in setting up the task team
September 2022	First meeting of the task team; finalize membership and elect co-chairs; discuss and agree on TORs, timeline, and workplan
November-December 2022	Initial review of possible indicators; prepare brief updates for the 54 th session of the Statistical Commission
January-December 2023	Search, screen, and select indicators; prepare draft proposal
January-March 2024	Consultation process for the draft proposal
April 2024	Finalize proposal
May 2024	Submit final proposal for sustainable tourism indicators to the IAEG-SDGs

THANK YOU!

