

**Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group
on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**
Bangkok, Thailand, 26-28 October 2015

Informal note on the organization of the meeting

(As of 14 Oct. 2015)

Purpose of the meeting

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*¹.

With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States agreed that “The global indicator framework, to be developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, will be agreed by the Statistical Commission by March 2016 and adopted thereafter by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in line with existing mandates.” According to its timeline, the IAEG-SDGs will have to finalize its global indicator framework proposal by end of November, in time for the report to be submitted to the Commission. The second meeting of the IAEG, being held from 26-28 October, aims to reach consensus on that indicator proposal.

Based on the mandate given by the Member States, “This framework will be simple yet robust, address all Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including for means of implementation, and preserve the political balance, integration and ambition contained therein.” This means, as it was communicated earlier to us, that the global indicator framework must cover all targets. Therefore, it will not be an option to delete all suggested indicators for a specific target, without indicating how this target will be measured.

Organization of the meeting

The meeting will be organized in a way that makes the most effective and efficient use of the available time. Given the large number of targets and indicators, there will be on average only approximately 45 minutes of discussion time per goal. Therefore, the following is suggested:

- a) Based on the evaluation of the indicator proposals by the members of the IAEG-SDGs through a questionnaire sent on 28 September, the indicators will be grouped into three groups: the ones with general agreement, the ones with some unresolved issues, and the ones where it appears that more in-depth discussion is still needed and methodology development needs to be undertaken.
- b) The first group of indicators for which general agreement exists will be set aside and included in the proposal for final review in November. These groups of indicators will not be discussed at the meeting. However, if several members indicate to the Co-Chairs the need to discuss one of these indicators, the Co-Chairs will consider the request.

¹ [A/70/L.1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1&Lang=E)
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- c) The meeting will review and seek agreement on the second group of indicators, those where existing issues can be reasonably worked out by the members of the IAEG-SDGs, with some further explanation provided by the agencies if needed.
- d) Indicators in the third group will be taken up in special sessions organized by themes, bringing together IAEG-SDGs members and relevant experts from the observers, over the course of 2015-2016. A detailed work plan will need to be developed and agreed to cover all indicators included in this group.
- e) The discussion will be conducted by groups of goals, and not goal by goal, in order to efficiently allocate time to individual intervention.
- f) Interventions have to be decision oriented and focused on the specific indicators, expressing agreement or disagreement, or suggesting a solution, and be based on the summary of comments already provided; issues of general nature will be discussed under other agenda items.
- g) IAEG-SDGs members will speak first, followed by observer countries, and followed by agencies. Interventions will be limited to a maximum of 2 minutes. The Co-Chairs may decide to limit the number of intervention and speaking time, interrupt repetitive statements and close the discussion on a specific set of indicators.
- h) Additional sessions closed to IAEG-SDGs members only will be organized late evening or early morning to provide members with more time for their discussion.

Indicators in the third group and any other indicators on which there is no clarity or general agreement, will be included in the proposal, clearly indicating that methodological development is underway. This will be part of the whole proposal to be submitted for approval by the Statistical Commission at its 47th session.

The Statistical Commission will also be requested to agree on a procedure that would allow later refinement of any of the agreed indicators when necessary, based on specific circumstances, including when new tools and methodologies become available.

The Co-Chairs, supported by the Secretariat will summarize the results of the meeting and prepare an indicator proposal which will be finalized in consultation with the IAEG-SDGs by end of November.