

Civil Society statement at the 3rd meeting of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators in Mexico city from 30 March to 1st April, 2016.

Delivered by Vladimir Cuk, IDA - Friday, 1st April 2016.

- Civil society organizations present at this meeting would like to thank you for creating the space for exchange and collaboration with the civil society representatives
- We would like to recognize the big step that the group made since the last meeting in Bangkok when it comes to creating the space for civil society voices.
- we are recognizing that statisticians at the national offices in the past were not typically involved in creating the partnerships with the civil society representatives at global level and thus the dynamics of this meeting are even more welcomed.
- While participation at these meetings has been inclusive, it is especially important for the group to build upon its efforts to engage with a wide range of stakeholders – including UN Agencies, civil society, subnational and local governments, academia and the private sector – and strengthen transparency and inclusivity of its work outside of these meetings. This will be in the interest of the IAEG-SDG's own legitimacy and ownership of the outputs that this group produces.
- In this context, open meetings are an enabler of inclusivity, participation and transparency which as stated before can increase legitimacy. As civil society organisations we are hesitant to validate a process where even though we are present at the venue, we are not actually aware of discussions, debate and decisions being made because they are being held at closed door meetings.
- Other points we would like to point out for improvements as well as to provide recommendations for way forward:
 - o thus far there was no established mechanism for consultation and work with the civil society organizations between the meetings of the IAEG
 - o the tier system proposed at this meeting has not included collaboration with civil society. Going forward, there needs to be a space where the IAEG receives our inputs regarding the tiering of the indicators. During this meeting we have made some comments on this regard. We are submitting all our statements which we hope you will taken them into consideration.
 - o We are particularly interested in engaging in potential indicators review process and would like to reiterate our request to be part of this process as well.
 - o Regarding work around sub-groups, we hope that these groups will be transparent in their work, and we would like also to propose that the civil society organizations are involved in the

work of the working groups such as the working group of disaggregation of data, on metadata compilation, and global monitoring

- o On the tiering and metadata processes, we urge the expert group to be thorough and inclusive of a wide range of data sources outside of official statistical system. These additional and complementary data sources can help fill data and capacity gaps that NSOs have acknowledged throughout discussions to date.
- o Last, but not least, we wish to reiterate a recommendation made to the Co-Chair yesterday, that is, that criteria be clearly set out if categories such as “custodian agencies” or “involved agencies” will be agreed. A key criteria would be to review the track record, potential contribution and capacity.