

Closing remarks

Thank you everyone for participating in the 14th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs. Over the last 2 days we have heard some sobering statistics related to the stagnation or even deterioration of the situation facing the global community, but this is a concrete illustration of the power of the global indicator framework. The framework provides the measurement – they are the mileage markers on our journey. As a result of the pandemic, it appears we have been driving our bus in reverse and in a snowstorm. But despite the stormy weather, there remains a glimmer of hope which the optimist in me clings to – which is the global community has the tools to address the issues, and the statistical community can continue the crucial role in continued implementation of the Global Indicator Framework, providing high-quality robust statistical information. Policy makers can use this information, to put the bus into drive and move us forward and out of the storm. And indeed, we can drive our bus on the autobahn – where there is no speed limit so there is hope that we can achieve much of the agenda in the 6 years remaining.

As a statistical community, we heard some very interesting presentations on implementation, monitoring and reporting over the last 2 days, showcasing innovative work within NSOs, and international agencies and I was excited to hear how these groups are focussing on reporting on vulnerable groups to ensure we leave no one behind. We had a lively discussion regarding lessons learned to date and we need to harness these lessons to help pave the way and provide the GPS coordinates for the next development initiative so that our bus does not go off a cliff. And of course, we note that 2025 comprehensive review is the next piece of major work of the group.

So over the next several months I would ask you to continue the amazing work you have been doing related to measurement – including focussing on increasing data disaggregation. also please pay close attention to the Comprehensive review timelines and guidelines we provided this morning (and the presentation will be provided).

I would like to thank our colleagues at Statistics Denmark for hosting our group – Neils for agreeing to host us, to Peter, Lars, Annette and other Stats Denmark

colleagues – thank you for your support over the last few days and for the preparation as I know it was a lot of work.

To UNSD colleagues- thank you for the excellent secretariat support.

To my IAEG-SDG member colleagues – thank you for sharing the chairing duties and for your very active participation.

To all others – thank you for attending and sharing and contributing to our discussions here and to your important work.

With that – we can close this meeting and I wish you all safe travel home and look forward to seeing you in the virtual world and hopefully in person sometime in the not too distant future.

Let's turn this bus around and get back on the road!!

