

**COMMENTS ON THE REPORT OF
THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS
ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

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Australia

As requested, the ABS has focussed attention on the proposal regarding statistics, and on the capability of the statistical system to measure the proposed targets.

The statistical community must play an important role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and significant investment in official statistical systems will be needed if the aspirations of the HLP report are to be met. In particular, if benchmarks against the proposed targets and indicators are to be available in 2015. There is little time to waste if the statistical community wants to be a leader in this area.

The ABS has an important role to play in assisting capability and capacity building efforts in the Asia and Pacific region, and our comments on the Report come from an Australian as well as regional perspective. In addition, I will be writing to Haishan Fu, the Director of the Statistics Directorate in the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific encouraging their involvement.

Briefing

MEASUREMENT ASPIRATIONS OF THE HLP POST-2015 REPORT – AN ABS PERSPECTIVE

Executive Summary

The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda establishes an overall vision, a set of five drivers, and a goal-target-indicator framework conducive to measurement, monitoring and reporting of progress in the eradication of extreme poverty through sustainable development.

A key measurement theme of the HLP Report is integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of a Post-2015 Development Agenda. The ABS supports this theme and notes that the actual drivers and the goal-target-indicator framework proposed by the HLP implicitly includes a fourth area – governance. The ABS has recently undertaken a major public consultation exercise with the Australian community, governments and business sector which strongly supported governance as an important dimension for measuring progress. The ABS notes that HLP also recognises the importance of governance to sustainable development, and the recognition of the benefits of integrating economic, social, environmental and (implicitly) governance aspects of a Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The HLP Report calls for a data revolution to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens, and recommends establishing a Global Partnership on Development Data to develop a global strategy to fill critical gaps, expand data accessibility, and galvanise international efforts to ensure a baseline of post-2015 targets is in place by January 2016. The ABS strongly supports the HLP objective of a data revolution, the three areas identified (fill gaps, expand data accessibility and galvanise international efforts), and the intensity that is evoked from the use of the word ‘revolution’

The global statistical community should play a pivotal role in shaping and influencing the data revolution. A data revolution should focus on more than just data delivery – it should also include investment in the development of concepts, measurement frameworks and classifications and standards, and recognise the importance of drawing indicators from integrated statistical systems such as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in order to deliver indicators that are internationally coherent, consistent and comparable.

A data revolution would require significant investment in official statistical systems, including capability building, if it is to make a difference and if 2015 benchmarks are required (as proposed by the HLP). The HLP calls for a transformational shift to build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all - a well-functioning and well-resourced official statistical system is essential for government accountability. Because of this critical role of the official statistical system to government accountability, the ABS would strongly advocate that an effective official statistical system be included as a target in its own right, with an appropriate set of measures to be developed. In terms of the illustrative goals framework in the HLP report, such a target would sit readily under Goal 10 – “Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions”.

The (illustrative) goals and targets in the HLP are extremely ambitious from a measurement perspective, for Australia as a developed nation and even more so for developing nations (a significant number of which are in the Asia and Pacific region). The scale of effort that would be required to deliver quality measures should not be underestimated, and would differ for each of the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions as well as by country.

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A data revolution could manifest in a number of ways. For example, a data revolution could include championing the conceptual development of the relatively new domain of governance, through to the implementation of existing conceptual frameworks such as the System of National Accounts and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. A data revolution could also bring together the global statistical community to build on regional efforts, such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe's recent report by the Taskforce on Measuring Sustainable Development to advance statistics or the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's work to define core sets of economic and social statistics that all countries of the region will aspire to provide by 2020 .

The ABS supports the idea of a global partnership on development data, and is firmly of the view that such a partnership should be led by the official statistical system under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission¹. A global partnership would be a significant undertaking, and would need to be properly resourced and with appropriate governance structures in place to ensure the desired objectives of the HLP can be achieved. An early task of such a partnership would be to determine the scope of its activities. Whilst the HLP Report proposes a partnership for development data, the ABS would see benefit in a partnership for *sustainable* development data, and both human development and millennium development data efforts included in scope of the partnership's remit.

The HLP Report makes no explicit reference to existing mechanisms for improving the quality of statistics and information available to citizens, such as the leadership role of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The HLP Report also makes no explicit reference to the request from the Rio+20 conference that the United Nations Statistics Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organisations, launch a program of work in the area of broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decision, building on existing initiatives. The lack of explicit reference to the Rio+20 declaration mandate for the UN Statistical Commission reinforces that there is still some way to go to get the importance of official statistics to development goal measurement forefront in the minds of policy makers. The ABS would support efforts to avoid duplicative and additional coordination activities being developed and put in place from the Rio+20 conference and for a post-2015 Development Agenda.

In terms of the proposed goal-target-indicator framework articulated by the HLP report, the ABS has undertaken an analysis of the statistical themes using the integration themes (social, economy, environment and governance) and offers the following observations.

Overall, there is a hierarchy of development and maturity within the statistical system. In broad terms, the economy dimension could be considered 'gold' in terms of the level of maturity and adoption of internationally-agreed standards, frameworks, measurement tools, particularly amongst developed nations (in developing nations, economic statistics may not be as 'shiny' as for developed nations, it they are still gold in comparison to the social, environmental and governance dimensions). Society would win the 'silver' medal in terms of level of maturity and adoption of internationally-agreed standards, frameworks and measurement tools, followed by environment with 'bronze' and governance a 'tin'.

Economic dimension

- The economic dimension covers common statistical themes across both macro and micro-economic issues including consumption, jobs, production, productivity, expenditure, trade and financial stability. Australia's statistical system has the capability to deliver economic data against the HLP's (illustrative) goals.

¹ The Commission is the apex entity of the global statistical system, it is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities especially the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level.

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- The ABS is part of a Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics in the Asia and Pacific region, and is able to report that the themes of the HLP report are consistent with those where countries in Asia and the Pacific want to improve capacity and capability. ABS is actively engaged in activities to build capacity and capability currently (for example in Indonesia), however further work needs to be done.

Society dimension

- The society dimension covers the common statistical themes of demography, health, education and training, vitals, income, as well as disaggregations such as age, gender, geography, disability and ethnicity. The theme also covers access to services such as education, healthcare, clean water, electricity and telecommunications. Universal human rights and freedom from fear and conflict are other themes. Note that subjective wellbeing, such as life satisfaction, and social capital, such as relationships and connections are not explicit in the HLP report. Australia's statistical system has the capability to deliver population and social data against the HLP's (illustrative) goals, though on various frequencies and with varying quality for disaggregations.
- The ABS is co-chair of a Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics in the Asia and Pacific region, and in February 2013, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed a basic set of population and social statistics to guide capacity and capability development in the region. The themes of the HLP report are consistent with those endorsed by the Commission. However, much work needs to be done for nations in Asia and the Pacific to be able to deliver statistics in these areas as there are significant challenges still to be overcome in many smaller and developing nations in the ESCAP region to create a robust social statistics system beyond Population Census activities.

Environment dimension

- The environment dimension covers common environmental themes of water, energy, biodiversity, management of natural resources, and climate. The environment dimension includes both biophysical measures (such as water quality) as well as statistical measures (such as water use). These statistical and biophysical themes are under various stages of development in Australia, with many of the issues and challenges of reporting on biophysical themes highlighted in the Sustainable Australia Report 2013 and in the 2011 State of the Environment report. Australia has the capability to deliver environmental statistics against a substantial number of the HLP's (illustrative) goals but is currently underinvested to do so. Australia is currently developing and implementing a National Plan for Environmental Information to improve the quality and coverage of environmental information in Australia and efforts are being made to extend it past just biophysical measures.
- There is currently no Technical Advisory Group on Environment Statistics in Asia and Pacific region. However, ABS understanding of the state of environment statistics in Asia and the Pacific region is that there would be considerable development needed. The ABS has received funding to build the capacity of Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia to produce environmental accounts aligned with the WAVES partnership over the next three years.

Governance dimension

- The governance dimension covers themes such as accountability, peace, rule of law, freedom of speech and media, access to justice, partnerships, and corruption. These themes are consistent with those under development in Australia for Measures of Australia's Progress. Australia's statistical system has the capability to deliver governance-related data against the HLP's (illustrative) goals but is not currently resourced to do so.
- The Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific have included governance in scope of their deliberations. The ABS is able to report that, like Australia, governance is an area in need of considerable statistical attention and development in Asia and the Pacific region.

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- There is considerable work to be done by the statistical community to develop concepts, measurement tools, and put in place statistical programs to meet information needs in the area of governance, and there is currently no mechanism in the global statistical community for bringing together a program of work similar to that which is done for economic statistics, social statistics, and environment statistics. A particular issue in the area of governance is the current lack of statistics produced by National Statistical Offices in this area, and therefore by default, the use of non-official sources such as the World Gallop Poll. The quality of these non-official sources will increasingly become an issue with heightened levels of international transparency and scrutiny. The global statistical community may wish to learn from past lessons with initiatives such as the Human Development Report, and take an active role early on to shape and influence the quality and integrity of data sources for the governance dimension of the HLP's (illustrative) goals.

The ABS supports the HLP recommendation for an independent and rigorous monitoring system. Furthermore, it commends the HLP suggestion to make use of the UN's five regional commissions as part of coordinating mechanisms.

The ABS notes the HLP support for the UN's System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the World Bank's Wealth Accounting and Valuation to Ecosystem Services (WAVES). ABS played a leading role in the development of the UN's System of Environmental-Economic Accounts and their role in measuring the impact of not only governments and businesses, but also society on sustainable development. The ABS is now playing a leading role in the implementation of SEEA both within Australia's environment statistics program as well as the Asia and Pacific region.

The ABS supports the HLP suggestion to identify a single locus of accountability for the post-2015 agenda and strongly encourages the United Nations Statistical Commission be a critical partner in this arrangement.

The HLP has identified seven cross-cutting themes (peace, inequality, climate change, cities, youth, girls and women, and sustainable consumption and production). Whilst the HLP only refers to a single Global Sustainable Development Outlook, thematic based reports are also common throughout the United Nations system. It is conceivable that thematic based outlooks, such as a Global Sustainable Development Outlook on women, peace, climate change or inequality may also be produced. A thematic approach would put additional pressure on statistical systems to produce a core set of statistical outputs for each of these population groups or themes.

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Background

The UN Secretary-General appointed a High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP) in July 2012 to advise him on the post-2015 Development Agenda. The panel's co-chairs are the UK Prime Minister Cameron, Indonesian President Yudhoyono, and Liberian President Johnson-Sirleaf. The other 24 members are from a mix of government, civil society and the private sector in developed and developing countries.

The HLP released its report on 30 May 2013. The report makes a contribution to international discussions on the post-2015 Development Agenda. The report centres on eradicating extreme poverty and transforming economies by 2030 through sustainable development, building on the spirit and best of the MDG Agenda and the Rio+20 process.

The HLP broadens the MDG Agenda into addressing the very poorest, the most excluded, the effects of conflict on development, good governance and institutions that guarantee the rule of law, free speech and open and accountable government, inclusive growth to provide jobs, integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, and sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Australia is currently developing its whole of government position on the post-2015 Development Agenda. Australia has signalled it wants to see a global development agenda that prioritises poverty eradication through a sustainable development path, and builds on the strengths of the MDGs and Rio+20.

ABS supports the development of a robust measurement framework for any emerging post-2015 development and post-Rio+20 agenda. The ABS is internationally recognised as a leader amongst statistical agencies, and has strong and productive professional relationships with the global statistical community. In particular, ABS has strong and productive relationships with national statistical offices in the tripartite seat Australia shares on the Open Working Group (Netherlands and United Kingdom) that is taking forward the Rio+20 outcomes, and is also an active leader and participates in efforts to build measurement capacity and capability within the Asia and Pacific region.

General themes identified by the HLP – a measurement perspective

The HLP articulates a set of five 'big transformative shifts' (also referred to as drivers, objectives and priorities) to drive the post-2015 agenda. The HLP then offers a set of illustrative goals and targets to show how the transformative changes could be expressed in precise and measurable terms.

A major measurement theme of the HLP is integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. This theme is central to the second transformative objective (put sustainable development at the core) and is also expressed in the context of mobilizing social, economic and environmental action together to eradicate poverty irreversibly. "The scope of the post-2015 agenda is so broad – blending social progress, equitable growth and environmental management". (HLP 2013:13)

Transformational Shifts (drivers, objectives, priorities)

The HLP concludes that the post-2015 Development Agenda should be a universal agenda driven by five big transformational shifts to achieve the objective of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 through a "universal, people-centered and planet-sensitive development agenda" (HLP, 2013:28).

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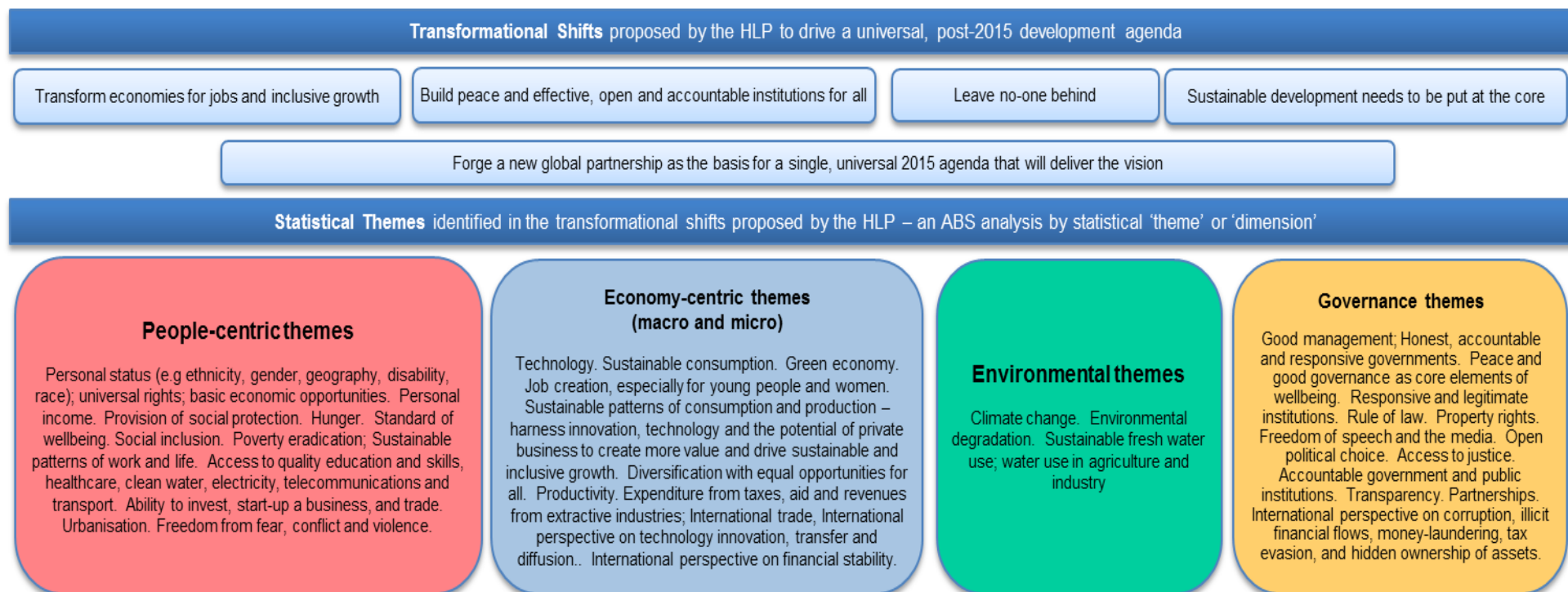
These shifts or drivers are:

1. **Leave no-one behind** – “to give every child a fair chance in life, and to achieve a pattern of development where dignity and human rights become a reality for all, where an agenda can be built around human security.”
2. **Sustainable development** needs to be put at the core
3. **Transform economies** for jobs and inclusive growth – “so that growth is sustained over the long term and provides more good jobs and secure livelihoods.”
4. Build peace and **effective, open and accountable institutions** for all
5. Forge a new **global partnership** as a basis for a single, universal 2015 agenda that will deliver the vision – “bringing together the many groups in the world concerned with economic, social and environmental progress”.

Diagram 1 illustrates the measurement themes in the HLP’s description of these transformational shifts. The measurement themes have been grouped by the four dimensions of society, economy, environment and governance to demonstrate the breadth of the measurement challenge presented by the HLP and the recognition the HLP gives to social-economic-environmental integration.

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Diagram 1: Statistical themes identified in the transformational shifts proposed by the HLP – an ABS analysis by statistical dimension



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A goal-target-indicator framework

The HLP offers a set of illustrative goals and targets to show how the transformative changes could be expressed in precise and measurable terms. There are 12 universal (illustrative) goals and 54 focused and quantitatively measurable targets.

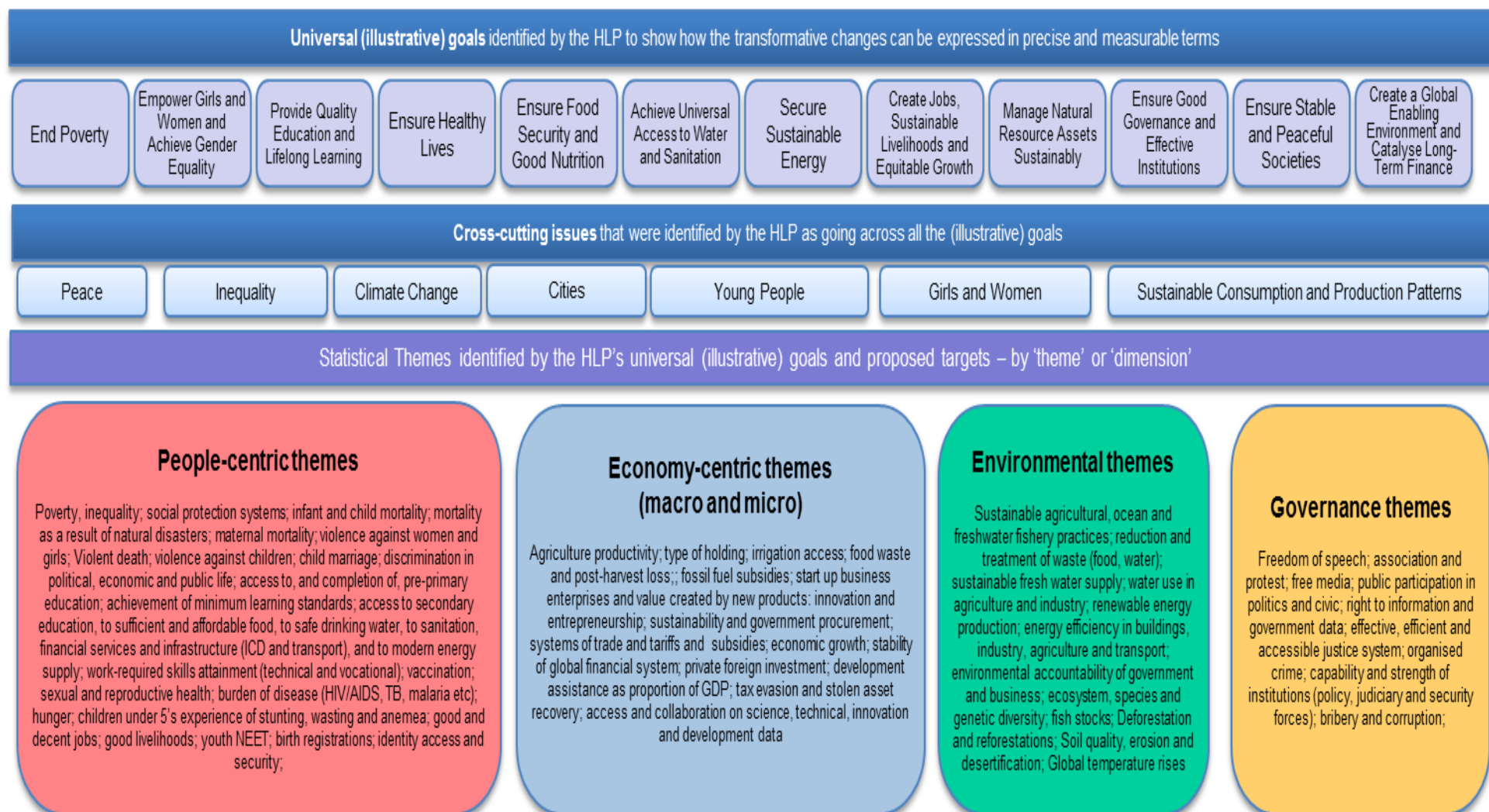
The universal (illustrative) goals are:

1. End Poverty
2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality
3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning
4. Ensure Healthy Lives
5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition
6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation
7. Secure Sustainable Energy
8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth
9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably
10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions
11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies
12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance

Diagram 2 illustrates the measurement themes in the HLP's description of the (illustrative) goals. The measurement themes have again been grouped by the four dimensions of society, economy, environment and governance used by the ABS to measure progress, to demonstrate the breadth of the measurement perspective presented by the HLP and the recognition the HLP gives to social-economic-environmental integration.

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Diagram 2: Measurement themes in the HLP’s universal (illustrative) goals



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Cross-cutting issues

In addition to articulating five transformative shifts (or drivers) and a goal-target-indicator framework, the HLP recognises that several issues are not directly addressed through a single goal, but are treated in many of them (HLP 2013:16). The HLP identifies seven cross-cutting issues across the goals. The seven cross-cutting issues are:

1. Peace
2. Inequality
3. Climate Change
4. Cities
5. Young People
6. Girls and Women
7. Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

ABS views on the capability of the statistical system to measure the proposed goals and targets

As diagram two demonstrates, a key measurement theme of the HLP Report is integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of a post-2015 Development Agenda. Whilst the HLP Report itself only refers to the commonly used three pillars of economic, social and environmental, the ABS notes that HLP also recognises the importance of governance to sustainable development, and the recognition of the benefits of integrating economic, social, environmental and (implicitly) governance aspects of a Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In terms of the proposed goal-target-indicator framework articulated by the HLP report, the ABS has undertaken an analysis of the statistical themes using the integration themes (social, economy, environment and governance) and offers the following observations.

Overall, there is a hierarchy of development and maturity within the statistical system. In broad terms, the economy dimension could be considered ‘gold’ in terms of the level of maturity and adoption of internationally-agreed standards, frameworks, measurement tools, particularly amongst developed nations (in developing nations, economic statistics may not be as ‘shiny’ as for developed nations, it they are still gold in comparison to the social, environmental and governance dimensions). Society would win the ‘silver’ medal in terms of level of maturity and adoption of internationally-agreed standards, frameworks and measurement tools, followed by environment with ‘bronze’ and governance a ‘tin’.

Economic dimension

- The economic dimension covers common statistical themes across both macro and micro-economic issues including consumption, jobs, production, productivity, expenditure, trade and financial stability. Australia’s statistical system has the capability to deliver economic data against the HLP’s (illustrative) goals.
- The ABS is part of a Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics in the Asia and Pacific region, and is able to report that the themes of the HLP report are consistent with those where countries in Asia and the Pacific want to improve capacity and capability. ABS is actively engaged in activities to build capacity and capability currently (for example in Indonesia), however further work needs to be done.

Society dimension

- The society dimension covers the common statistical themes of demography, health, education and training, vitals, income, as well as disaggregations such as age, gender, geography, disability and ethnicity. The theme also covers access to services such as education, healthcare, clean water, electricity and telecommunications. Universal human

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rights and freedom from fear and conflict are other themes. Note that subjective wellbeing, such as life satisfaction, and social capital, such as relationships and connections are not explicit in the HLP report. Australia's statistical system has the capability to deliver population and social data against the HLP's (illustrative) goals, though on various frequencies and with varying quality for disaggregations.

- The ABS is co-chair of a Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics in the Asia and Pacific region, and in February 2013, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed a basic set of population and social statistics to guide capacity and capability development in the region. The themes of the HLP report are consistent with those endorsed by the Commission. However, much work needs to be done for nations in Asia and the Pacific to be able to deliver statistics in these areas as there are significant challenges still to be overcome in many smaller and developing nations in the ESCAP region to create a robust social statistics system beyond Population Census activities.

Environment dimension

- The environment dimension covers common environmental themes of water, energy, biodiversity, management of natural resources, and climate. The environment dimension includes both biophysical measures (such as water quality) as well as statistical measures (such as water use). These statistical and biophysical themes are under various stages of development in Australia, with many of the issues and challenges of reporting on biophysical themes highlighted in the Sustainable Australia Report 2013 and in the 2011 State of the Environment report. Australia has the capability to deliver environmental statistics against a substantial number of the HLP's (illustrative) goals but is currently underinvested to do so. Australia is currently developing and implementing a National Plan for Environmental Information to improve the quality and coverage of environmental information in Australia and efforts are being made to extend it past just biophysical measures.
- There is currently no Technical Advisory Group on Environment Statistics in Asia and Pacific region. However, ABS understanding of the state of environment statistics in Asia and the Pacific region is that there would be considerable development needed. The ABS has received funding to build the capacity of Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia to produce environmental accounts aligned with the WAVES partnership over the next three years.

Governance dimension

- The governance dimension covers themes such as accountability, peace, rule of law, freedom of speech and media, access to justice, partnerships, and corruption. These themes are consistent with those under development in Australia for Measures of Australia's Progress. Australia's statistical system has the capability to deliver governance-related data against the HLP's (illustrative) goals but is not currently resourced to do so.
- The Technical Advisory Group on Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific have included governance in scope of their deliberations. The ABS is able to report that, like Australia, governance is an area in need of considerable statistical attention and development in Asia and the Pacific region.
- There is considerable work to be done by the statistical community to develop concepts, measurement tools, and put in place statistical programs to meet information needs in the area of governance, and there is currently no mechanism in the global statistical community for bringing together a program of work similar to that which is done for economic statistics, social statistics, and environment statistics. A particular issue in the area of governance is the current lack of statistics produced by National Statistical Offices in this area, and therefore by default, the use of non-official sources such as the World Gallop Poll. The quality of these non-official sources will increasingly become an issue with heightened levels of international transparency and scrutiny. The global statistical community may wish to learn from past lessons with initiatives such as the Human Development Report, and take an active role early on to shape and influence the quality and integrity of data sources for the governance dimension of the HLP's (illustrative) goals.

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Relationship to Measures of Australia’s Progress (MAP)

The HLP has proposed a data revolution to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens. In 2009, the Report of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress noted it is important to measure what matters, not simply what can be measured

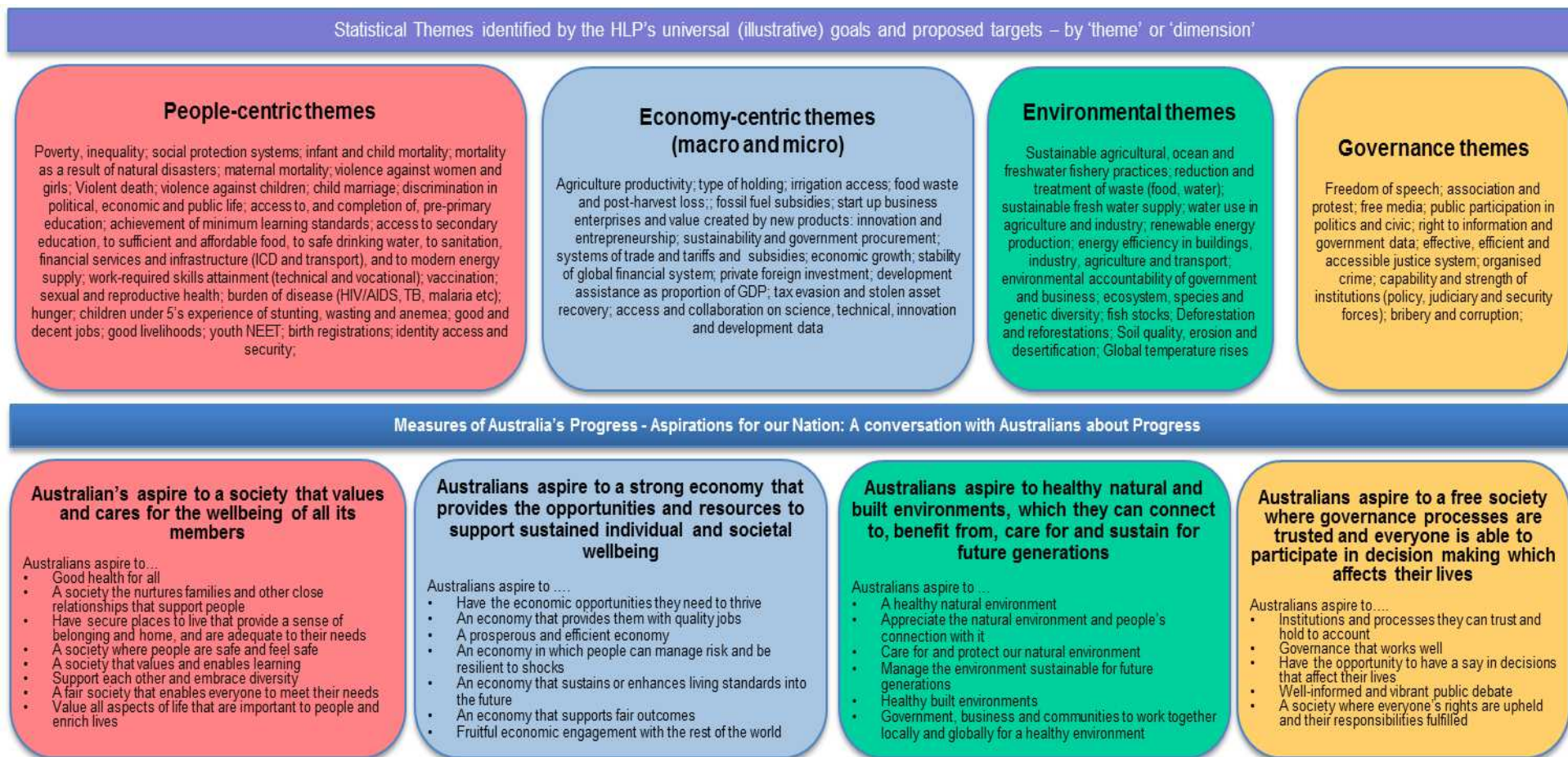
For over a decade, measuring progress – providing information about whether life in Australia is getting better – has been a major focus for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Ten years on from the ABS’ first release of Measures of Australia’s Progress, the ABS undertook a national consultation to review MAP, ensuring it remains relevant to today’s society – that it measures what Australian society cares about. In November 2012, the ABS released ‘Measures of Australia’s Progress – aspirations for our nation: a conversation with Australians about progress’² to provide an account of the aspirations that came from the consultation.

Diagram 3 illustrates the measurement themes in the HLP’s description of the (illustrative) goals in conjunction with the aspirations which came from the consultation with the Australian public. There is considerable similarity between the measurement themes in the HLP report and the aspirations of Australian’s for life in Australia.

² [1370.0.00.002 - Measures of Australia's Progress - Aspirations for our Nation: A Conversation with Australians about Progress, 2012](#)

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Diagram 3: Measurement themes in the HLP’s universal (illustrative) goals and Measures of Australia’s Progress – aspirations for our nation: a conversation with Australians about progress



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HLP views on ‘universal’

The HLP concludes that the **post-2015 Development Agenda** is a universal agenda.

In terms of the five identified **transformative shifts**, the HLP states that they “apply to all countries” but does not specifically dictate the actions each country should undertake. “They are universally relevant and actionable. The details may vary, and responsibilities and accountabilities will inevitably differ in line with the circumstances and capabilities of each country.” (HLP 2013:7). The HLP “recognises that there are enormous differences among countries in resources and capabilities But every country has something to contribute. Countries are not being told what to do: each country is being asked what it wants to do, on a voluntary basis, both at home and to help others in meeting jointly identified challenges.” (HLP 2013:7)

The HLP recognises that **goals** are not binding in international law, and refers to them as “tools of communication, inspiration, policy formulation and resource mobilisation”. (HLP 2013: 13) It calls for the goals to be SMART – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound - and to reflect what people want to achieve as outcomes, without dictating how nations should achieve those outcomes. The HLP also proposes two possible models for the adoption of goals: either all goals would be adopted by all countries, with locally identified actions, or countries could alternatively select the goals they will focus on and adopt.

In terms of metrics and targets, the HLP does seem to imply a common, shared set of globally agreed metrics but with nationally-set targets. “... because the scope of the post-2015 agenda is so broad – blending social progress, equitable growth and environmental management – it must have clear priorities, and include shared global metrics as well as national targets. It is around these that the global community can organize itself.” (HLP 2013:13) “In most cases, national targets should be set And in some cases, global minimum standards that apply to every individual or country should be set.” (HLP 2013:15). This model may have a range of implications for the desirability of comparability in data and adoption of standards and frameworks for key metrics.

HLP views on data

The HLP calls for a **data revolution for sustainable development**, “with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens”, signalling the importance not only of an improved global evidence base to support this work but also improved dissemination and communication of information to empower and engage citizens in the development process. This is key to building accountability for governments, consensus and support for the successful implementation of a post-2015 Development Agenda.

The HLP recommends establishing a **Global Partnership on Development Data** to, “as a first step, develop a global strategy to fill critical gaps, expand data accessibility, and galvanise international efforts to ensure a baseline of post-2015 targets is in place by January 2016.” This is a key opportunity for a strong contribution by the international statistical community to the success of the Post-2015 Agenda.

The data revolution will “improve the quality of statistics and information that is available not just to governments, but also citizens... This will empower citizens, providing them with information via exploitation of new connectivity and communications channels to collect information, engage and disseminate information. New technologies and methodologies, such as crowd sourcing will be important to achieving these goals. Governments should be ensuring their citizens have access to public information.”

“A true data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for

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statistical systems.” The HLP acknowledges that where “... data for indicators are not yet available, investments in data gathering will be needed. When indicators are not already agreed or are unclear (for example, in defining quality), we suggest inviting technical experts to discuss and refine their models and methods.” (HLP 2013:15).

ABS views on the HLP proposal regarding statistics

The HLP Report calls for a data revolution to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens, and recommends establishing a Global Partnership on Development Data to develop a global strategy to fill critical gaps, expand data accessibility, and galvanise international efforts to ensure a baseline of post-2015 targets is in place by January 2016. The ABS strongly supports the HLP objective of a data revolution, the three areas identified (fill gaps, expand data accessibility and galvanise international efforts), and the intensity that is evoked from the use of the word ‘revolution’

The global statistical community should play a pivotal role in shaping and influencing the data revolution. A data revolution should focus on more than just data delivery – it should also include investment in the development of concepts, measurement frameworks and classifications and standards, and recognise the importance of drawing indicators from integrated statistical systems such as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in order to deliver indicators that are internationally coherent, consistent and comparable.

A data revolution would require significant investment in official statistical systems, including capability building, if it is to make a difference and if 2015 benchmarks are required (as proposed by the HLP). The HLP calls for a transformational shift to build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all - a well-functioning and well-resourced official statistical system is essential for government accountability. Because of this critical role of the official statistical system to government accountability, the ABS would strongly advocate that an effective official statistical system be included as a target in its own right, with an appropriate set of measures to be developed. In terms of the illustrative goals framework in the HLP report, such a target would sit readily under Goal 10 – “Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions”.

The (illustrative) goals and targets in the HLP are extremely ambitious from a measurement perspective, for Australia as a developed nation and even more so for developing nations (the majority of which are in the Asia and Pacific region). The scale of effort that would be required to deliver quality measures should not be underestimated, and would differ for each of the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions as well as by country.

A data revolution could manifest in a number of ways. For example, a data revolution could include championing the conceptual development of the relatively new domain of governance, through to the implementation of existing conceptual frameworks such as the System of National Accounts and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. A data revolution could also bring together the global statistical community to build on regional efforts, such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe’s recent report by the Taskforce on Measuring Sustainable Development to advance statistics or the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific’s work to define core sets of economic and social statistics that all countries of the region will aspire to provide by 2020 .

The ABS supports the idea of a global partnership on development data, and is firmly of the view that such a partnership should be led by the official statistical system under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission³. A global partnership would be a significant undertaking, and would need to be properly resourced and with appropriate governance structures in place to ensure

³ The Commission is the apex entity of the global statistical system, it is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities especially the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level.

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the desired objectives of the HLP can be achieved. An early task of such a partnership would be to determine the scope of its activities. Whilst the HLP Report proposes a partnership for development data, the ABS would see benefit in a partnership for *sustainable* development data, and both human development and millennium development data efforts included in scope of the partnership's remit.

The HLP Report makes no explicit reference to existing mechanisms for improving the quality of statistics and information available to citizens, such as the leadership role of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The HLP Report also makes no explicit reference to the request from the Rio+20 conference that the United Nations Statistics Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organisations, launch a program of work in the area of broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decision, building on existing initiatives. The lack of explicit reference to the Rio+20 declaration mandate for the UN Statistical Commission reinforces that there is still some way to go to get the importance of official statistics to development goal measurement forefront in the minds of policy makers. The ABS would support efforts to avoid duplicative and additional coordination activities being developed and put in place from the Rio+20 conference and for a post-2015 Development Agenda.

Outputs and monitoring actions proposed by the HLP

The HLP report clearly recognises and proposes a monitoring process. The HLP emphasises that in order to learn from the challenges experienced in advancing the MDGs, the post-2015 Development Agenda must incorporate clear goals, with measurable targets to ensure desired outcomes are achieved and progress towards these outcomes can be monitored.

The HLP recommends that **goals** be “accompanied by an independent and rigorous monitoring system, with regular opportunities to report on progress and shortcomings at a high political level.” The “agenda should including monitoring and accountability mechanisms involving states, civil society, the private sector, foundations, and the international development community It will need to be informed by evidence of what works....” (HLP 2013:13).

The HLP does not call for the **targets** to be binding, but does suggest the targets be monitored closely.

Furthermore, the HLP recommends that “The **indicators** that track the targets should be disaggregated to ensure no one is left behind and targets should only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups.”

In terms of another aspect of accountability and information, the HLP notes the need for governments and businesses to account for their impact on sustainable development. In this regard, the HLP also proposes that , “in future – at the latest by 2030 – all large businesses should be reporting on their environmental and social impact – or explain why if they are not doing so. Similarly, governments should adopt the UN’s System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, along with the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) introduced by the World Bank,.... These metrics can then be used to monitor national development strategies and results in a universally consistent way.” (HLP 2013:24).

The HLP makes three suggestions to “assist with a coordinated and cooperative international approach to monitoring and peer review” of the post-2015 agenda. First, the UN should identify a single locus of accountability for the post-2015 agenda. This locus could “produce a single Global Sustainable Development Outlook, jointly written every one or two years by a consortium of UN agencies and other international organisations.”. Second, the UN “should periodically convene a global forum at a high political level to review progress and challenges ahead”. The forum could be advised by an independent advisory committee. Third, “reporting and peer-review at the regional

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level could complement global monitoring”, and suggests the UN’s five regional commissions, with regional development banks, member governments and regional organisations could form part of an improved coordinating mechanism in each region, discuss and report on the sustainable development agenda in advance of the global forum.”. (HLP 2013:22).

ABS views on the HLP proposal regarding outputs and monitoring actions

The ABS supports the HLP recommendation for an independent and rigorous monitoring system. Furthermore, it commends the HLP suggestion to make use of the UN’s five regional commissions as part of coordinating mechanisms.

The ABS notes the HLP support for the UN’s System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the World Bank’s Wealth Accounting and Valuation to Ecosystem Services (WAVES). ABS played a leading role in the development of the UN’s System of Environmental-Economic Accounts and their role in measuring the impact of not only governments and businesses, but also society on sustainable development. The ABS is now playing a leading role in the implementation of SEEA both within Australia’s environment statistics program as well as the Asia and Pacific region.

The ABS supports the HLP suggestion to identify a single locus of accountability for the post-2015 agenda and strongly encourages the United Nations Statistical Commission be a critical partner in this arrangement.

The HLP has identified seven cross-cutting themes (peace, inequality, climate change, cities, youth, girls and women, and sustainable consumption and production). Whilst the HLP only refers to a single Global Sustainable Development Outlook, thematic based reports are also common throughout the United Nations system. It is conceivable that thematic based outlooks, such as a Global Sustainable Development Outlook on women, peace, climate change or inequality may also be produced. A thematic approach would put additional pressure on statistical systems to produce a core set of statistical outputs for each of these population groups or themes.

Measuring for Sustainable Development and the post-2015 agenda

A Joint CBS/ONS/ABS paper for the Friends of the Chair Group

Executive summary

- **This paper aims to provide input for the Friends of the Chair Group in response to paragraph 38 of the final document of the *Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*, which asks for broader measures of progress on the basis of existing statistical work. This paper reflects the position of the National Statistical Institutes of the Netherlands (CBS), the United Kingdom (ONS) and Australia (ABS).**
- **There is a need to agree a common high level framework for SDGs (including terminology regarding the concepts of progress, well-being and sustainability), that would allow some flexibility at a national level for selecting relevant indicators.**
- **NSIs must be actively involved in setting national targets so that measurable indicators are selected to monitor progress.**
- **NSIs should be involved in selecting new data sources (as part of the Data Revolution), to ensure statistical quality, robustness and confidentiality is not jeopardised. Besides, indicators should meet the requirements and quality standards of official statistics.**

1. Why measure sustainable development?

There is a widespread understanding that society needs a better statistical ‘compass’ to shift emphasis from measuring economic phenomena to measuring sustainable development. Focusing only on economic efficiency and the material aspects of life does not necessarily foster sustainable human well-being. For decades societal and public policy debate has been primarily informed by the economic key indicator GDP. This narrow focus has enabled the current situation where the world faces a series of crises, among which are the climate and the financial crisis. Therefore, society is in need of a compass which truly focuses on people’s well-being in the broadest sense of the word, including all dimensions of sustainable development.

2. You can’t manage what you can’t measure

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are being developed, deal with themes relevant to human well-being and sustainable development. However, significant work needs to be done to make these goals ‘measurable’.

Purpose of measurement: Once universal goals and national targets are set it is of vital importance to show whether societies are on a development path reaching these goals. In other words, indicators should be made available to monitor a countries progress.

The final document of the *Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development* outlines an agenda for further activities.¹ Two possible directions are relevant. First, paragraph 38 of the outcome of the conference states that **“We recognize the need for measures of broader progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard we request the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organisations, to launch a programme of work in this area building on existing initiatives”**.

Secondly, the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference point to the need for policy action and formulation of policy goals. Paragraph 104 of the outcomes of this conference states that **“we recognize that goals, targets and indicators, including where appropriate gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress”**. The document proposes that the UN community formulate Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to replace or improve upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Importance of measurement in the High Level Panel Report:

In the Millennium Development Goal process sometimes goals and targets were defined, and only later on did it become obvious that no indicators were available to measure some goals as was pointed out in a paper of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the MDGs (IAEG-MDG) earlier this year. At times, this hampered the MDG process, since it made the monitoring and measuring progress very difficult. Therefore a closer alignment is needed between those setting goals and targets and those responsible for measuring them is needed. This will ensure that statistical capabilities are available, or can be built, and statistical expertise is used in their design to prevent us falling into the same trap as the MDG's. It is quite promising that the High Level Panel set up by the UN Secretary General pleads in favour of a *data revolution*. In chapter four of its Report the High Level Panel Group states that **“better data and statistics will help governments track progress and make sure their decisions are evidence based: they can also strengthen accountability”**. If no direct measures are possible, partial or indirect measures can be chosen.

We need to be clear what the data revolution means. As NSI's we should ensure that use of new data sources (big data and open data) does not jeopardise statistical quality, robustness and confidentiality.

3. *Measuring Sustainable Development in a Global Context*

In a response to the increasing plea for a new statistical system, in 2009 Nobel Prize winners Joseph Stiglitz and Armatya Sen (with the renowned French economist Jean-Paul Fitoussi) wrote the *Report on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress*. This ground-breaking report led to a wide range of measurement initiatives, of which the UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Taskforce for Measuring Sustainable Development (TFSD) is an important one. Its Final Report was endorsed by the Commission of European Statisticians in June 2013. This Task Force makes a distinction between three conceptual dimensions of human well-being, i.e. human well-being of the present generation in one particular country (referred to as 'here and now'), the well-being of future generations ('later') and the well-being of people living in other countries ('elsewhere').

¹ Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Agenda item 10. Outcome of Conference (June 19th 2012).

The TFSD framework strives to harmonise the existing measures of sustainable development on a solid conceptual basis, and proposes an indicator set without claiming to provide a one-size-fits-all solution. Although the proposed sustainability themes are universal, there is room for selecting country-specific indicators (for the selection of themes and suggested indicators identified by the TFSD see Annex 1). This is of crucial importance as in the past often the least developed countries opposed statistical initiatives from the western world, simply because they felt that the well-being issues addressed in those frameworks were not relevant to them (reflecting a lack of consultation with least developed countries in their development). Similarly, developed countries have not engaged with statistical initiatives designed for the developing world (e.g. the MDGs), as the goals were not seen as relevant to them.

It should be noted that the TFSD was a group consisting of high-income countries. To ensure that the work was also relevant for other countries, the Task Force checked the data availability for the small set of indicators on a global level and linked these outcomes to the measures suggested in the Millennium Development Framework (the codes for the MDG indicators can be found in Annex 2).

Table 1. Small set of indicators-global coverage and their relevance for the MDG's

Theme	Indicator	Worldwide Availability (nr of countries)	MDG indicators
Subjective well-being	Life satisfaction	135	
Consumption and income	Final consumer expenditure	210	1.4
	Official Development Assistance (ODA) received	143	8.1-8.5; 8.9
	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	134	1.1; 1.2; 1.6
	Gender pay gap	68	3.1-3.3
Nutrition	Malnutrition prevalence	160	1.8; 1.9
Health	Life expectancy at birth	185	4.1-4.3; 5.1-5.6; 6.1-6.10; 7.9
Labour	Employment rate	145	1.5; 1.7
Education	Educational attainment	184	2.1-2.3
Housing	Urban population in slums	91	7.10
Leisure	Leisure time	20	
Physical safety	Death by assault/homicide rate	186	
Land and ecosystems	Bird species threatened	214	7.1; 7.6; 7.7
Water	Water abstractions	93	7.4-7.6; 7.8
Air quality	Urban exposure to particulate matter	173	
Climate	CO ₂ -emissions	229	7.2; 7.3
Energy resources	Energy consumption	187	
	Energy dependence		
Non-energy resources	Domestic material consumption	200	
Trust	Public sector management	82	
Institutions	Voter turnout	194	
Physical capital	Gross capital formation	156	
Knowledge capital	R&D expenditures	116	
Financial capital	Government debt	84	8.10

Note: The codes relating to the MDG indicators can be found in Annex 2.

This overview shows that the main indicators suggested by the TFSD are available for a large number of countries, and not necessarily just for the high-income countries in the Western world (while noting that the comparability and quality of the indicators across countries is also an important consideration). Besides, the main areas that were included in the MDG framework are covered by this small set of indicators.

4. Comparing suggested goals and targets in the Rio+20 context with the TFSD work

One of the results of the Rio+20 Conference is that a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) will be formulated. The SDG's or at least a new set of agreed global goals is expected to replace the old MDG's. Several attempts were made to suggest important goals, targets and indicators in the field of well-being and sustainable development. First, the High Level Panel produced a Report, which was very well received. Also the Sustainable Development Solutions Network led by Professor Sachs, mandated by the UN Secretary General, has produced lists of goals and targets. Annex 3 compares these initiatives and links the suggested goals and targets to the measurement framework as put forward by the Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development.

The work of the High Level panel (see Annex 4 for the full list of goals and targets) presents suggested targets that are quite focused and often also "measurable". In fact for many of these suggested targets indicators are already available. Looking at the scope of the suggested goals and targets, it is clear that the High Level Panel built upon the previous Millennium Development Goal Framework. Classical themes such as nutrition, health and education are included in the new list. 23 of the 54 targets deal with important issues of the well-being in the "here and now". It is quite striking that no target on happiness or life satisfaction is suggested, all the more as a recent UN resolution http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/309 invites Member States to pursue the elaboration of additional measures that better capture the importance of the pursuit of happiness and well-being in development with a view to guiding their public policies. The World Happiness Report: <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2960> says that 'Happier countries tend to be richer countries'.

There is less emphasis on the inter-generational aspects in the High Level Panel Report, even though some targets are suggested in the field of environmental issues. However, no targets are defined for financial and economic assets. The international dimension (i.e. the ways in which countries affect the well-being and sustainable development of the rest of the world) is completely missing. Compared to the MDG initiative, however, many new targets are suggested in the field of institutions (including governance, rule of law etc.). Apart from the three well-known pillars (economy, environment and society) a fourth one on institutions and governance has emerged.

The suggested targets of the SDSN are much less focused than those of the High Level Panel Forum, and are harder to measure. In many cases several targets are combined in a way that proper measurement becomes impossible (see for example target 5c. *promote healthy diets and physical activity, discourage unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking and excessive alcohol intake, and track subjective wellbeing and social capital*). However, the SDSN identifies a number of important issues neglected by the High Level Panel, such as subjective well-being, trust and population. Moreover, the SDSN puts quite some emphasis on institutional matters.

A third UN initiative concerns the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, which published a Report *Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 development agenda*. This Report which often makes reference to the Final Report of the Taskforce for Measuring Sustainable Development does not suggest any goals or targets, but suggests some areas for future research. This Report strongly focuses on institutional matters and distributional issues.

Conclusions

1. The Goals and Targets suggested in the High Level Panel Report are quite focused. The suggestions made by the SDSN and the Task Team are of a more general nature which makes measurement quite difficult.
2. The measurement framework and suggested indicators as put forward by the UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development (TFSD) forms a good basis to build an indicator set on sustainable development, linked to the new SDG's.
3. The conceptual distinction made by the TFSD between human well-being "here and now", "later" and "elsewhere", stresses the most important dimensions of human well-being and its sustainability. It would be good if the SDG's would also pay attention to each of these three dimensions.

Recommendations

1. The "here and now" dimension is well covered by the High Level Panel, and builds on the excellent work done in the Millennium Development Goals initiative. However, housing and subjective well-being (measured in terms of happiness or life satisfaction) are quite serious omissions.
2. The Taskforce for Measuring Sustainable Development paid ample attention to the "later" dimension by means of the so-called capital approach. Goals and Targets on important resources such as economic, natural, human and social capital are quite scarce in the UN suggestions presented so far. For natural capital (energy and non-energy reserves, land & ecosystems, climate, as well as water and air quality) a couple of targets are included.

On the basis of a broad survey of academic literature The Final Report of the Taskforce for Measuring Sustainable Development stresses the importance of including institutional and social capital in a sustainable development framework. It is good to see that a large number of targets on institutions (or: governance) is included. However, it should be noted that the "measurability" of this aspect of social life is still in its infancy. Besides, targets on the strength of social support (an important determinant of absence of corruption and the degree of personal freedom) is missing.

Targets on economic capital are absent (physical capital, R&D). It would be good if more attention would be paid to the stocks and flows approach, put forward by the UN and the World Bank in their work on Wealth Accounting.

3. The international dimension of sustainable development ("elsewhere") is completely lacking in the High Level Panel Report. Especially when assessing the global problems of climate change and bio diversity losses, the impact that a country has on the well-being of the rest of the world is of great importance.
4. In the light of the ambitious list of Goals and Targets put forward by the High Level panel, we also stress the need for a data revolution. This revolution is especially needed in the light of a lack of statistical capacity and a lack of financial resources in most developing countries. However, the work of the Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development shows that especially in the field of economic and environmental goals and targets lots of measures are already available. This information, which is largely generated within the realm of official statistics, may be used building an international dataset on sustainable development which may serve as an empirical underpinning of the SDG's.

Annex 1. The framework for measuring sustainable development: indicators

Themes (1)	Thematic categorisation			
	Conceptual categorisation (dimensions)			Policy-relevant indicators (5)
	Human well-being (‘Here and now’) (2)	Capital (‘Later’) (3)	Trans-boundary impacts (‘Elsewhere’) (4)	
TH1. Subjective well-being	Life satisfaction			
TH2. Consumption and income	Final consumption expenditure; Distr: Income inequality; gender pay gap		Official Development Assistance (ODA); Imports from developing countries	GDP per capita; Labour productivity
TH3. Nutrition	Obesity prevalence			
TH4. Health	Life expectancy at birth; Distr: Distribution-health	Life expectancy at birth Distr: Distribution-health		Healthy life expectancy at birth; Suicide death rate; Health expenditures; Smoking prevalence
TH5. Labour	Employment rate Distr: Female employment rate, Youth employment rate	Employment rate Distr: Female employment rate, Youth employment rate	Migration of human capital	Hours worked; Average exit age from labour market
TH6. Education	Educational attainment; Distr: Distribution-education	Educational attainment Distr: Distribution-education		Expenditures on education; Competencies; Early school leavers; Lifelong learning
TH7. Housing	Living without housing deprivation			Housing stock Investment in housing; Housing affordability
TH8. Leisure	Leisure time			
TH9. Physical safety	Death by assault/homicide rate			Expenditures on safety
TH10. Land and ecosystems	Land assets Bird index	Land assets Bird index	Land footprint (foreign part)	Protected areas; Nutrient balance; Emissions to soil; Threatened species
TH11. Water	Water quality index	Water resources	Water footprint (foreign part)	Water abstractions; Emissions to water
TH12. Air quality	Urban exposure to particulate matter	Urban exposure to particulate matter		Emissions of particulate matter; Urban exposure to ozone; Emissions of ozone precursors; Emissions of acidifying substances
TH13. Climate		Global CO ₂ concentration; State of the ozone layer	Carbon footprint (foreign part)	Historical CO ₂ emissions; GHG-emissions; GHG-emissions intensity; CFC emissions
TH14. Energy resources		Energy resources	Imports of energy resources	Energy consumption; Energy intensity; Renewable energy
TH15. Non-energy resources		Non-energy resources	Imports of non-energy resources	Domestic material consumption; Resource productivity; Generation of waste; Recycling rate
TH16. Trust	Generalised trust; Bridging social capital	Generalised trust; Bridging social capital		Contact with family and friends; Participation in voluntary work
TH17. Institutions	Voter turnout Distr: Percentage of women in parliament	Voter turnout Distr: Percentage of women in parliament	Contribution to international institutions	
TH18. Physical capital		Physical capital stock	Exports of physical capital	Gross capital formation
TH19. Knowledge capital		Knowledge capital stock	Exports of knowledge capital	R&D expenditures; Knowledge spillovers
TH20. Financial capital		Assets minus liabilities	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	Consolidated government debt; Current deficit/surplus; Pension entitlements
<i>Context</i>				<i>Size of population</i>
<i>Monetary aggregates</i>		<i>Economic capital, Natural capital, Human capital, Social capital</i>		

Annex 2: List of Goals, Targets and Indicators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) initiative

Goals and Targets (from the Millennium Declaration)	Indicators for monitoring progress
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day 1.2 Poverty gap ratio 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	
Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	
Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	4.1 Under-five mortality rate 4.2 Infant mortality rate 4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	
Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate 5.4 Adolescent birth rate 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) 5.6 Unmet need for family planning
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years
Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets 6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with

	tuberculosis 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO ₂ emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP) 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums ⁱ
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	
Target 8.A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	<i>Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.</i>
Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally	<u>Official development assistance (ODA)</u> 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes
Target 8.B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries	
Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	<u>Market access</u> 8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity
Target 8.C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	<u>Debt sustainability</u> 8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	
Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	8.14 Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants 8.15 Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants 8.16 Internet users per 100 inhabitants

Annex 3: Goals and Targets suggested by the UN compared with TFSD work

Themes	High Level panel Report	SDSN Report (Sachs)
TH1. Subjective well-being		5c
TH2. Consumption and income	1a,1c, 12d	1a, 2a, 4b, 10b
TH3. Nutrition	5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e	1a, 6a
TH4. Health	4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e	1a, 5a, 5b, 5c
TH5. Labour	8a, 8d	3c
TH6. Education	3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 8b	3a, 3b
TH7. Housing		
TH8. Leisure		
TH9. Physical safety	1d, 11a, 11c	4c
TH10. Land and ecosystems	9c, 9d, 9e	6b, 9a
TH11. Water	6a, 6b, 6c, 6d	
TH12. Air quality		
TH13. Climate	12c	8a, 8b
TH14. Energy resources	7a, 7b, 7c, 7d	8a
TH15. Non-energy resources		
TH16. Trust		5c
TH17. Institutions	2b, 9a, 9b, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 11b, 11d, 12a,12b,12e	1c, 2b, 4a, 8c, 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 10c
TH18. Physical capital	8c	
TH19. Knowledge capital	12f	
TH20. Financial capital	(12b)	
<i>Distribution</i>	1b,2a, 2c, 2d	6c, 7a, 7b, 7c
<i>Context - Population</i>		2c

Note: The codes in this table refer to the specific targets mentioned in the High Level Panel report (see Annex 4) and in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Annex 5)

Annex 4: *Illustrative Goals and Targets of the High Level Panel Report*

1. End Poverty

- 1a. Bring the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day to zero **and** reduce by x% the share of people living below their country's 2015 national poverty line.
- 1b. Increase by x% the share of women and men, communities, and businesses with secure rights to land, property, and other assets.
- 1c. Cover x% of people who are poor and vulnerable with social protection systems.
- 1d. Build resilience and reduce deaths from natural disasters by x%.

2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality

- 2a. Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against girls and women.
- 2b. End child marriage.
- 2c. Ensure equal right of women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank account.
- 2d. Eliminate discrimination against women in political, economic, and public life.

3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning

- 3a. Increase by x% the proportion of children able to access and complete pre-primary education.
- 3b. Ensure every child, regardless of circumstance, completes primary education able to read, write and count well enough to meet minimum learning standards.
- 3c. Ensure every child, regardless of circumstance, has access to lower secondary education and increase the proportion of adolescents who achieve recognized and measurable learning outcomes to x%.
- 3d. Increase the number of young and adult women and men with the skills, including technical and vocational, needed for work by x%.

4. Ensure Healthy Lives

- 4a. End preventable infant and under-5 deaths.
- 4b. Increase by x% the proportion of children, adolescents, at-risk adults and older people that are fully vaccinated.
- 4c. Decrease the maternal mortality ratio to no more than x per 100,000.
- 4d. Ensure universal sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- 4e. Reduce the burden of disease from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and priority non-communicable diseases.

5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition

- 5a. End hunger and protect the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food.
- 5b. Reduce stunting by x%, wasting by y%, and anemia by z% for all children under five.
- 5c. Increase agricultural productivity by x%, with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation.
- 5d. Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels.
- 5e. Reduce postharvest loss and food waste by x%.

6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation

- 6a. Provide universal access to safe drinking water at home, and in schools, health centers, and refugee camps.
- 6b. End open defecation and ensure universal access to sanitation at school and work, and increase access to sanitation at home by x%.
- 6c. Bring freshwater withdrawals in line with supply and increase water efficiency in agriculture by x%, industry by y% and urban areas by z%.
- 6d. Recycle or treat all municipal and industrial wastewater prior to discharge.

7. Secure Sustainable Energy

- 7a. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- 7b. Ensure universal access to modern energy services.
- 7c. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency in buildings, industry, agriculture and

transport.

7d. Phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.

8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth

8a. Increase the number of good and decent jobs and livelihoods by x.

8b. Decrease the number of young people not in education, employment or training by x%.

8c. Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and ICT.

8d. Increase new start-ups by x and value added from new products by y through creating an enabling business environment and boosting entrepreneurship.

9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably

9a. Publish and use economic, social and environmental accounts in all governments and major companies.

9b. Increase consideration of sustainability in x% of government procurements.

9c. Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

9d. Reduce deforestation by x% and increase reforestation by y%.

9e. Improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion by x tonnes and combat desertification.

10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions

10a. Provide free and universal legal identity, such as birth registrations.

10b. Ensure people enjoy freedom of speech, association, peaceful protest and access to independent media and information.

10c. Increase public participation in political processes and civic engagement at all levels.

10d. Guarantee the public's right to information and access to government data.

10e. Reduce bribery and corruption and ensure officials can be held accountable.

11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies

11a. Reduce violent deaths per 100,000 by x and eliminate all forms of violence against children.

11b. Ensure justice institutions are accessible, independent, well-resourced and respect due-process rights.

11c. Stem the external stressors that lead to conflict, including those related to organised crime.

11d. Enhance the capacity, professionalism and accountability of the security forces, police and judiciary.

12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance

12a. Support an open, fair and development-friendly trading system, substantially reducing trade-distorting measures, including agricultural subsidies, while improving market access of developing country products.

12b. Implement reforms to ensure stability of the global financial system and encourage stable, long-term private foreign investment.

12c. Hold the increase in global average temperature below 2⁰ C above pre-industrial levels, in line with international agreements.

12d. Developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20% of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries; other countries should move toward voluntary targets for complementary financial assistance.

12e Reduce illicit flows and tax evasion and increase stolen-asset recovery by \$x.

12f. Promote collaboration on and access to science, technology, innovation, and development data.

Annex 5: Proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Targets by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Sachs)

Goals and Targets are for 2030 unless otherwise noted. Targets marked with () need to be specified At country or sub--national level. Each target will require one or more indicators to be developed at a Later stage.*

GOAL 1: END EXTREME POVERTY INCLUDING HUNGER

- Target 1a. End absolute income poverty (\$1.25 or less per day) and hunger, including achieving food Security and appropriate nutrition, and ending child stunting (MDG 1).
- Target 1b. [Other suitably revised targets of MDGs 2---7 included here or below.]
- Target 1c. Provide enhanced support for highly vulnerable states and Least Developed Countries, to address the structural challenges facing those countries, including violence and conflict.*

GOAL 2: ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

- Target 2a. Each country reaches at least the next income level as defined by the World Bank.³
- Target 2b. Countries report on their contribution to planetary boundaries⁴ and incorporate them, together with other environmental and social indicators, into expanded GDP measures and national accounts.*
- Target 2c. Rapid voluntary reduction of fertility through the realization of sexual and reproductive health rights in countries with total fertility rates above [3] children per woman and a continuation of voluntary fertility reductions in countries where total fertility rates are above replacement level.*

GOAL 3: ENSURE EFFECTIVE LEARNING FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD

- Target 3a. All girls and boys have equal access to quality early childhood development (ECD) programs.
- Target 3b. All girls and boys receive quality primary and secondary education that focuses on learning outcomes and on reducing the dropout rate to zero.
- Target 3c. Youth unemployment rate is below [10] percent.

GOAL 4: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL INCLUSION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL

- Target 4a. Monitor and end discrimination and inequalities in public service delivery, the rule of law, access to justice, and participation in political and economic life on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, and social or other status.
- Target 4b. Reduce by half the proportion of households with incomes less than half of the national median income (relative poverty).
- Target 4c. Prevent and eliminate violence against individuals, especially women and children.*

GOAL 5: ACHIEVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING AT ALL AGES

- Target 5a. Ensure universal access to primary healthcare that includes sexual and reproductive healthcare, family planning, routine immunizations, and the prevention and treatment of communicable and non--communicable diseases.
- Target 5b. End preventable deaths by reducing child mortality to [20] or fewer deaths per 1000 births, maternal mortality to [40] or fewer deaths per 100,000 live births, and mortality 30 under 70 years of age from non---communicable diseases by at least 30 percent compared with the level in 2015.⁶
- Target 5c. Promote healthy diets and physical activity, discourage unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking and excessive alcohol intake, and track subjective wellbeing and social capital.*

GOAL 6: IMPROVE AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS AND RAISE RURAL PROSPERITY

- Target 6a. Ensure sustainable food production systems with high yields and high efficiency of water, soil nutrients, and energy, supporting nutritious diets with low food losses and waste.*
- Target 6b. Halt forest and wetland conversion to agriculture, protect soil resources, and ensure that farming systems are resilient to climate change and disasters.*
- Target 6c. Ensure universal access in rural areas to basic resources and infrastructure services (land, water, sanitation, modern energy, transport, mobile and broadband communication, agricultural inputs, and advisory services).

GOAL 7: EMPOWER INCLUSIVE, PRODUCTIVE, AND RESILIENT CITIES

-Target 7a. End extreme urban poverty, expand employment and productivity, and raise living standards, especially in slums.*

-Target 7b. Ensure universal access to a secure and affordable built environment and basic urban services including housing; water, sanitation and waste management; low-carbon energy and transport; and mobile and broadband communication.

-Target 7c. Ensure safe air and water quality for all, and integrate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efficient land and resource use, and climate and disaster resilience into investments and standards.*

GOAL 8: CURB HUMAN-INDUCED CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

-Target 8a. Decarbonize the energy system, ensure clean energy for all, and improve energy efficiency, with targets for 2020, 2030, and 2050.*

-Target 8b. Reduce non-energy-related emissions of greenhouse gases through improved practices in agriculture, forestry, waste management, and industry.*

-Target 8c. Adopt incentives, including pricing greenhouse gas emissions, to curb climate change and promote technology transfer to developing countries.*

GOAL 9: SECURE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY, AND ENSURE GOOD MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

-Target 9a. Ensure resilient and productive ecosystems by adopting policies and legislation that address drivers of ecosystem degradation, and requiring individuals, businesses and governments to pay the social cost of pollution and use of environmental services.*

-Target 9b. Participate in and support regional and global arrangements to inventory, monitor, and protect biomes and environmental commons of regional and global significance and curb trans-boundary environmental harms, with robust systems in place no later than 2020.

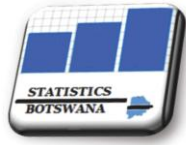
-Target 9c. All governments and businesses commit to the sustainable, integrated, and transparent management of water, agricultural land, forests, fisheries, mining, and hydrocarbon resources to support inclusive economic development and the achievement of all SDGs.*

GOAL 10: TRANSFORM GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

-Target 10a. Governments (national and local) and business commit to the SDGs, transparent monitoring, and annual reports --- including independent evaluation of integrated reporting for all major companies starting no later than 2020.*

-Target 10b. Adequate domestic and international public finance for ending extreme poverty, providing global public goods, capacity building, and transferring technologies, including 0.7 Percent of GNI in ODA for all high-income countries, and an additional \$100 billion per year in official climate financing by 2020.

-Target 10c. Rules for international trade, finance, taxation, business accounting, and intellectual property are reformed to be consistent with and support achieving the SDGs.



Statistics Botswana Response on The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

(Call for contributions from the FOC Group's members)

1. General Comment on the HLP Report

The bold report on the global vision is very inspiring since it provides the needed rallying point for a common agenda to work towards. Further, it provides a platform for statistical practitioners to make meaningful value added towards the realization of the world being envisioned.

2. Specific Comments

i) Wanted: a New Data Revolution

The thinking around the envisaged data revolution is perfectly in order. However, whilst the recommended 'Global Partnership on Development Data' is a noble idea, without clear terms of reference and practical operational modalities, it is not immediately possible to conceptualize the delivery capability of the forum.

ii) Universal Goals, National Targets

The set of 12 goals cover critical areas that underpin the main theme of the 2030 global vision. Therefore the need for additional goals is not justifiable against the inherent danger of an overloaded set of goals.

Goal 1: a) Reducing the number of persons living below \$1.25 is ok as something to work towards but in practice achieving that is impossible. Any 'Normal Distribution', even a result of robust and well-balanced policies and initiatives, will have tails on both sides.

G1b: Rights to land, property and assets are better ascribed to individuals (women and men) rather than communities and businesses.

Goal 2: The goal on the Empowerment of Girls and Women and Achievement of Gender Equality and associated targets are good and should not require any debate. However, in addressing the 'How' aspect, the tendency is to focus on the legislation, with less attention on the need to vigorously address the stereotypes, paradigms, and cultural settings. For instance a legislation on child marriages would have limitations (especially on enforcement) within some communities (e.g. the ethnic minorities), if the local customs and culture condones such. Similarly there is need to vigorously educate or sensitize men on the individual, societal and national gains from gender equality.

Goal 6a) Leaving the definition 'safe drinking' to countries is good, rather than being overly prescriptive, especially considering situations in many developing nations.

6b: Although the target is fine, in addressing the "How" aspect there is need to go beyond just access since access may not necessarily guarantee use. Survey questions may just focus on access not paying attention to the use especially in some cultural settings where the cultural paradigm effect may yield very low usage rates.

Goal: c, d & e) the need to balance education and sensitization with legislation is very important considering the seemingly insignificant use of natural resources for subsistence purposes since cumulatively that could result in a huge impact.

Goal 11: The targets are fine but again the role of education and sensitization need to be pursued vigorously rather than just focus on the statutes.

Cameroon

My contribution is related to the Chapter 4 and Annex I of the Report of the HLPE on the Post-2015 Agenda.

1- Chapter 4:

I quite agree the important role Government Statistical Offices (GSO) and the International Organisations have to play, in particular in developing countries. In the past, they played a very important role and they have to continue in the same way. In fact GSO receive means from their government and the official donors. One of the main actions that GSO will have to ensure is to easy acces to statistics databases to all the users at the national or international level.

ii) It's very important to get an agreement on the Agenda and the set of goals too. We have to find out a good way to involve the all UN countries during the phase of adoption. We have to take into account the necessity to mobilise financial resources to implement the Post-2015 Agenda at the national level and ensure a baseline for Post-2015 targets are in place by January 2016 as proposed in the Report.

2- Annex I

I share the idea to have three sets onf indicators (1.2. and 3) as specified in page 30. In fact, the statistical capacity is not the same from a country to another, even in developing countries. So , we have chance to choose, at national level, according to the existing and future national statistical capacity (human, technical and financial resources). For instance, it may be very difficult for some developing countries to produce appropriate indicators as regards Goals 9 to 12. So, that countries need appropriate support from international organisations.

Eurostat

In general this is a well written report full of good intentions, but it lacks information on how the intentions will be put into practice. However it sets out the need for establishing one **single sustainable development agenda**, with ending poverty, reducing exclusion and inequality, building prosperity and tackling environmental challenges as overall goals. It proposes a new way of working: a clear process would need to be set up through which progress could be measured towards **specific goals and targets**. This is a unique opportunity for us, as part of the international statistical community, to bring in our knowledge and experience in providing the statistics for the indicator setting process.

The goals and targets proposed are a good starting point but need to be examined and where necessary adapted and completed. The document proposes the establishment of a global partnership on Development Data. I would rather focus first 1) on the **establishment of official statistics**, so as to ensure independence and quality of the data and 2) on the establishment **of sufficient capacities** in all countries to deliver these official statistics in a consistent and stable way assuring a quality data collection for the longer term.

Over the last decade we have – in the European Statistical System – set up a system **with more than 100 indicators (out of which a small key subset was selected)** to monitor the three strands of sustainable development and we are ready to share this experience with the international community. Since 2010 we have also the experience of **target setting** through the Europe2020 strategy which established 5 headline targets monitored through 8 headline indicators. In this perspective it is also important that we take full benefit of the experience gained with the **target/indicator setting in the MDG process**. Amongst the lessons learned from the MDG process, it was stressed that the universal goals and targets should be translated into **national targets** and that countries need to have **ownership** of the data.

While I fully agree with the importance of a good monitoring process, I am rather reluctant to call the data collection to be set up a 'data revolution.' I would rather focus on **building on what we have** and taking benefit of new information technology whenever this could help **to improve quality and timeliness** of the data collection.

France

As requested, Insee's comments have focused on the proposals of the HLP report regarding statistics and on the capability of the statistical systems to measure the proposed targets.

A single framework

We welcome the HLP report's proposal for a single sustainable development agenda. The MDG post-2015 process and the work on the SDGs need to be brought together towards one overarching framework with common priority challenges and objectives. We have to be careful that other initiatives, such as those of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network or the Open Working Group ones, are underway and will propose other frameworks and themes. These frameworks have to converge and it should be done at an early stage. The post 2015-framework should be universal, encompassing developing and developed countries.

A global partnership led by official statistics

The HLP report calls for a data revolution to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens. The panel recommends establishing a Global Partnership on Development data to develop a global strategy to fill critical gaps, expand data accessibility and galvanize international efforts. We support these proposals because high quality statistics are crucial to guide public actions. We cannot manage what we cannot measure.

However we have to define first what are meant by "data revolution" and global partnership. The global statistical community should be involved. Open Data, Big data and geographical information systems are new data sources that can, under specific circumstances, give the opportunity to produce cost-effective statistics. Yet we have to ensure that these new data sources guarantee high statistical quality, robustness and confidentiality. That is why the role of official statisticians is crucial for developing a common measurement system based upon statistics produced by each country. Like ABS and Istat, Insee supports the idea that the global partnership on development data should be led by the official statistical system under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission.

Add an explicit target relating to the development of official statistics

The illustrative goals and targets presented in the HLP report are extremely ambitious from a measurement perspective, both for developed and developing countries. For instance, there is considerable work to be done to needed information on governance or on the joint distribution of people with different income, genders, disability and age. This will require significant statistical investment, which in turn require additional financial resources. Therefore, as mentioned by ABS, OECD and Istat, Insee suggests that one specific target relates to the development of sound national

statistical and the associated capacity building which are needed to monitor the post-2015 agenda. Such a target should be added to Goal 10 -Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions- This will ensure that financial support will be granted for the achievement of this goal.

A single set of post 2015 universal goals with country specific targets and indicators

The HLP report's proposal for 12 goals and more than 50 related targets seems relatively ambitious for statistical monitoring systems and the targets are probably not relevant in all countries.

That's why we support ABS/CBS/ONS and OECD proposals to agree a common high-level framework for the post 2015 development agenda that would allow some flexibility at a national level for selecting relevant indicators. It is indeed of crucial importance for the acceptance by all countries, whether developed or not. Indeed, countries face global challenges that need to be addressed at the global level. Yet they also have regional, national and local specificities that need to be taken into account. For instance, for the goal "end poverty", countries may have different levels of ambition.

Based on EU2020 experiences, we suggest each goal have a core set of targets and indicators agreed at international level. However, the speed and the level for each target are determined by countries in a transparent process. Countries can also define additional targets and indicators. Usually targets should be associated with the same indicators, but different indicators can monitor sometimes even common targets.

Statisticians will have to provide finely-tuned indicators for the small set of global goals and indicators reflecting universally agreed outcomes. They will have to thoroughly study the indicators to be provided, also with regard to their content (informative value, coverage, reliability of data sources).

Need for early engagement of statisticians

Statisticians should be early involved in the process because their suggestions concerning measurement options may also influence the formulations of targets. Though setting the targets and value is a normative task, policy-makers should be aware which data and indicators already exist, how they can be used and where capacity building is needed. Monitoring and reporting will be crucial features of the post-2015 agenda.

Statisticians should assure that the measurement is based on a sound conceptual framework to avoid political bias. We regret that no targets address the international dimension of sustainable development (*i. e. how our actions impact other countries*) in the HLP framework, especially when assessing the global problems of climate change and bio diversity losses (goal 9). No target for waste management and recycling is proposed though it is an important dimension for natural resources management.

Germany

We have read the HLP Report with great interest. In order to avoid repetitions, especially of comments about which there seems to be consensus, we will mainly provide additional information and go into some detail. In doing so, we would like to draw upon the long-standing experience of the Federal Statistical Office in setting up, implementing and enhancing statistical monitoring systems to support political decision-making processes. We had the opportunity to gather such experience when we set up statistics-based monitoring systems in support of politics at national level and when we actively participated in the work of international and supranational bodies. Important examples at the national level are a broad sustainability strategy adopted more than 10 years ago for a sustainable development in Germany and a multitude of statistical monitoring systems to support political decision-making in specific areas such as integration, gender equality, etc.

With a view to the above mentioned experiences, we should like to remark as follows on the proposals and comments in the HLP Report:

(1) General approach and content

We welcome the approach of the HLP to establish the Post 2015 Agenda on a broad, empirically validated and future-oriented basis which

- . puts the focus on human beings
- . is to apply to all nations and regions in the world, and
- . seeks to consider social, economic and ecological dependencies in an integrative manner.

In our opinion, the breakdown into 12 goals and related targets ensures that the various stakeholders and society as a whole will find it relatively easy to identify with the Post 2015 Goals. There also is enough leeway for regional and/or thematic priorities. However, it seems rather ambitious to supplement the 12 goals and their more than 50 targets with a statistical monitoring system of sufficient quality that is accepted worldwide and largely harmonised, especially with regard to its currentness, informational value and reliability.

We recommend

- that statistical monitoring in support of political decision-making be restricted to a relatively small number of informative (leading) indicators. This would be an advantage for all parties involved as it makes it easier for political decision-makers to take decisions which will then be accepted more readily by those concerned. For the citizens, the related information will be easy to access and easy to understand (see p. 23 of the Report). Data suppliers and those responsible for the monitoring should thoroughly study the indicators to be provided, also with regard to their content (e.g. informative value, coverage, reliability of data sources)

- that these (leading) indicators be integrated as a core element also into other leading indicator systems or new systems to be developed (such as environmental and/or social reporting systems at the level of the United Nations)
- that targets and possible indicators be fine-tuned to be compatible with each other; comparable discussions at national level in Germany have shown that statisticians' suggestions concerning measurement options may also influence the formulation of targets .

(2) Methodological and technical approach

We welcome the proposal that the Post 2015 Strategy should not only succeed the MDGs but also build upon MDG experience. This means that the applicability of the indicators used so far must be checked thoroughly.

The Report refers to an imminent "data revolution". We think that it has to be made clear which phenomena are meant here and, even more, how they will influence the data offered by the bodies of official statistics. There is a multitude of more recent developments - mention be made, for instance, of open data, big data, geographical information systems - which may fundamentally change the data sources to be used.

We recommend

- that future considerations also account for more recent developments like those mentioned above and for the opportunities and risks they present when they are used as information sources for monitoring purposes
- that there be a closer cooperation, especially at the level of the United Nations, not only under established programmes but also in the context of new projects such as the establishment of an Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
- that possibilities to regionalise and present/visualise indicators at small-area level be also considered when selecting and defining the indicators to support the strategy. After all, the HLP Report repeatedly refers to the significance which the Post 2015 Strategy has for (large) cities and developments at local level.

(3) Work plan and schedule of the FOC

It is planned (see p. 25 of the Report) for the UN General Assembly to adopt the Post 2015 Strategy in 2015. The new strategy shall be implemented from January 2016. We welcome the fact that the work of the FOC is closely coordinated with the discussions at the level of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) and that it will be possible to specify the content at least until February 2014. To us, it is essential that documents are provided which deal with the statistical implementation of each theme to be discussed by

the OWG. Open and transparent communication within the FOC, also on a generally accessible website, will help to achieve broad acceptance of the solutions suggested and, finally, of the decisions taken.

We recommend

- ensuring that the text of the documents dealing with the statistical implementation of the goals and targets for the OWG is limited to the essentials, easily accessible and generally comprehensible. This is all the more important when no oral explanation can be given by the FOC
- checking whether the FOC could focus even more on taking proactive steps in their work/commenting. This would be an advantage as excessive workloads arising at times could be spaced out to the benefit of work on the content.

Hungary

First, it is important to stress that setting and adopting development goals like the MDGs was not only instrumental in achieving many of those goals, it was also instrumental in setting up monitoring mechanisms and thereby it was instrumental in a number of countries in strengthening the statistical systems that provide data and indicators for monitoring progress.

This well-structured and comprehensively elaborated study on the new global partnership presents the results of fruitful collaboration of an international reflection group with members of different background of expertise and coming from countries of different level of development.

After studying the contents, it shows that feasibility has been examined from different aspects and that the document intends to present a global strategy that is closely built on the UN Millennium Development Goals. It also aims at benefiting from the experience and lessons learnt of the efforts made so to realise this goals.

We would like to highlight and welcome the conclusion to merge social, environmental and economic dimension of sustainability as it has been reflected in Monrovia Communiqué of the High-Level Panel February 2013 “Our vision and our responsibility is to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development...”

Ending poverty is the key measure in reaching post 2015 MDGs. We highly appreciate and agree with the idea to think differently on ending poverty and believe it is an essential part of sustainable development. By including the achievements of sustainability in the fight against poverty it ensures to reach higher level of measures to establish and increase welfare.

The report mentions that developing countries need to participate in the transformative changes that are needed. These countries have many challenges ahead but in their case the operation of well-established official statistics is of crucial importance, because many of them are of shortage to provide reliable, comparable and trustworthy statistics.

We also welcome Annex I where the document presents universal goals and national targets that orientate developing countries and provide guidance for further development. These goals are very comprehensive, however we would have welcome any indication on what other information will be needed to achieve these targets and what role the international statistical community can play. Next step should be to agree on the expected data or ratio indicated in this annex.

Secondly some aspects to be considered for the future.

In our view, the current MDGs, the post-2015 development agenda, sustainable development indicators, measuring progress „beyond GDP” and measuring well-being are best treated in an integrated manner as the relevant indicators are partly overlapping and many of them are definitely interrelated. Moreover, the national statistical services need to deal with the various development and sustainability indicators in an integrated manner in order to provide best quality data and be cost-

effective at the same time. Therefore, we recommend that setting the post-2015 development agenda and the ongoing efforts related to setting sustainable development goals go parallel and that the work related to these goals will be coordinated.

The United Nations Statistical Commission is the designated intergovernmental expert body responsible for the development of all indicators in the context of monitoring UN development agendas. The Commission has been active for 66 years and is the centre of the Global Statistical System; it is very successful in the development of global methodological standards and recommendations and in the building of related statistical capacity. In particular the last 13 years the UN Statistical Commission provided technical oversight to the Inter-agency and expert group on MDGs, responsible for compiling the global and regional data for the annual MDG progress report of the Secretary General.

Unfortunately, the UN Statistical Commission has not been involved in 2000 in the development of the MDG indicator framework, which later lead to measurement problems. The statistical community since then has urged the appropriate bodies and institutions to involve statisticians at an early stage in the development of indicator and monitoring frameworks, in order to ensure that well-defined, objectively measurable, relevant and available indicators are defined in the target setting process. As regards substantive issues, it is advisable to carry out ex ante analyses of current social, economic and environmental processes as a preliminary to target setting. As regards measurement issues, an analyses of the availability and quality of national data suited both for international comparison and for comparison over time is also necessary.

It should be noted that the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons called, in their recently published report, for „a data revolution for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens”, in particular with a view to empower people with information on the progress towards the targets. This request or recommendation can of course be generalised; statistics is one of the tools of democracy and empowerment; reliable statistics empower people to make informed choices.

Further investment in national statistical systems, in country capacities for data collection, data processing and analysis is inevitable, in particular if data at a more disaggregated territorial level or for population groups with special needs or special circumstances are to be produced. The indicators, to the extent possible, have to be based on official statistics. This requires the ongoing development and upgrading of national statistical services in terms of human resources as well as technology and methodological innovation. It would be to the benefit of the future development agenda if it would contain a target related to the development of sound national statistical systems and the associated capacity building. The sustainability of statistics is crucial both for target setting and for monitoring progress towards the agreed targets. However, the selection of indicators should also consider resource implications for national statistical services, and this may be a limitation in developed countries, too.

INDIA

The Report is certainly a very valuable contribution to the discussion on the post 2015 Development Agenda, and raises a large number of very important issues. I think the emphasis of the Report for a new data revolution is something that the Statistics Community should take very seriously. Going beyond that on specifics, I find that the goals proposed in some cases, are very ambitious and will require significant development of statistical capacity, particularly in developing countries, for effective monitoring and tracking. I hope to send a somewhat detailed assessment of the recommendations based on our experience for all of you to examine, but at this time I wish to make some general observations.

1. Developing disaggregated indicators based on Gender, Geography, Income, Disability etc. may prove to be a very challenging exercise and we may need to limit ourselves in some practical ways.
2. There are other goals specially those which seek to create legal and judicial framework which may not be amenable to statistical measurement.
3. Further there are goals where international comparison may be difficult as country practices may differ due to differences in history, culture and social structures. In such cases, appropriate relative measures of description which are sensitive to cultural diversity may need to be evolved. Thus for instance, one of the goals talks about increased public participation in political process and increased civic engagement in all levels. While in India these rights are constitutionally guaranteed, it is not immediately apparent to me how can these be measured statistically and compared across countries in a meaningful manner. There are other phrases related to resilience vulnerability etc. which similarly would need to be carefully defined.
4. I think this Report as well as our earlier experience with MDG monitoring clearly bring out the need for a parallel discussion on availability of indicators and the ability of statistical systems particularly in the third world to measure them.
5. I do not wish to sound very negative but I do want to point out that ambitious goals will need to be accompanied by equally ambitious commitment to statistical capacity building. I am putting these thoughts down with a view to provoke greater discussion amongst the Members of the Group on this issue.

With regards,

T.C.A. Anant

ITALY

We reaffirm that the Friend of the Chair (FOC) should aim at having a proactive role in the process which will lead to the definition of the final set of SDGs indicators. We believe the forthcoming General Assembly is an opportunity to better base the activities of the FOC within the whole process leading to the approval of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is important that in future activities the FOC will establish formal interaction with all the relevant actors and working groups.

As already noted by other members of this group, we very much support the proposal by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) to establish a “Global Partnership on Development Data”. The UN statistical commission is the place where the world official statistic community is represented and the Friend of the Chair is its expression to deal with measurement of humanity progress. In order not to limit our action to the production of comments to the different reports produced, we propose the FOC discusses the opportunity to propose itself as chair of the so-called “Global Partnership on Development Data”.

FOC should promote that as a general procedure the process of target selection and definition cannot be independent from the analysis of the actual measurability of different phenomena and of data availability . Statistical constraints must therefore be taken into account during the whole discussion through the participation of official statisticians.

We here propose some observations regarding the report produced by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons but, as highlighted in the CBS/ONS/ABS paper, we need to take into account the many contributions emerging on the post-2015 debate.

Additional statistical considerations can be obtained from the document of the UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda : Statistics and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda , published in July 2013. Among others, the report deals with how to measure inequality, indicators on population groups, subjective indicators of well-being, composite indexes, indicators of governance, rule of law, peace-building, violence and conflict, human rights. Also on this report we may need a discussion within FOC.

Although we are now focusing on the HLP report, further attention is needed on the framework proposed by the Sustainable Development Solution Network developed on the An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development Report , which although very similar presents a number of differences in the selected goals and targets. The more recent report from the Secretary General A life of dignity for all (A/68/202) should have been object of discussion of the Friend of the chair, too.

The comparison proposed by the CBS/ONS/ABS paper on the principal documents is of great use and shows how the work done by the UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Task Force is an excellent base for discussion.

The HLP report provides a most valued framework of analysis which includes not only the post-2015 goals but also the operative targets, thus offering a first very useful element of discussion towards the definition of the SDGs. The proposed framework of goals and targets is strongly legitimated by the very broad consultation process in which the most relevant instances raised by the various global and local stakeholders have been taken into account.

It is well-established that the limits to human development lie in the finiteness of resources , the different speed of adoption of innovations, in population dynamics, in the continuing inequalities between social groups and between generations.

We have very much appreciated the relevance that the report dedicates to the so-called “New Data Revolution” and the launch of a “Global Partnership on Development Data” is of primary importance. The role of official statisticians is therefore crucial for developing a common measurement system and a monitoring system based upon statistics produced by each country.

It is important, for the global acceptance of the SDGs, that targets are differentiated among universal ones and those which need to be defined at national level. However, based also on European experience , it is important to alert on the risk that allowing countries to set their own targets may not necessarily create a “race to the top”. A great effort of public visibility of the processes which will lead to the national target will be needed in the next two years.

It is still not clear whether the indicators chosen to monitor the targets can be differentiated among countries. The chance to have targets at country level is linked to the chance of having different indicators. Usually targets should be associated with the same indicators, but sometimes even common targets can be monitored with different indicators. This may be the case, for example, of the poverty goal when aiming at increasing the share of people enjoying selected assets: the assets considered in poverty measurement in developing countries may refer to the UNDP MPI, while in Europe set of asset may refer to the index of severe deprivation..

For the measurement of sustainability it is crucial to develop economic, environmental and social accounts, within the framework of the National accounts. In HLP report this kind of approach is proposed only for environmental and economic accounts referring to the SEEA (under the natural resources goal), but not for social aspects. It is important to highlight that also the social level needs to be challenged in coming years.

International interconnection need to be further developed in order to better assess how countries affect well-being and sustainability of the rest of the world as stressed by the UNECE/OECD/Eurostat report.

A general goal on the development of the official statistics used to monitor the targets would be desirable, in line to what already proposed by OECD and ABS. This is essential to inform citizens on the achievement of development goals and to guide governments in channeling financial resources to the specific functions.

Inside the poverty eradication goal a target on housing conditions should be made explicit. At this stage it is not clear whether this issue is included among the assets considered in goal 1b

Demographic changes and international flows of migration are not sufficiently addressed although being quite relevant for the sustainability issues. Moreover, there is no mention of the importance played by women empowerment for demographic changes.

A stronger attention to individual well-being might include the use of subjective indicators and the evaluation of aspects of daily life such as social relationships and leisure.

We also believe that a target on waste treatment and waste cycles should be included to take into account the environmental impact and the sustainability of our models of consumption.

The proposed goals and targets present a number of challenges to the international statistical system. In a number of cases targets are measurable, the indicators already exist and are regularly produced for most countries; in other cases only few countries already produce the data, thus implying a renewed national and international effort on data production. In a few cases the phenomena recalled by the target are of difficult measurability leading to either the use of proxies of the phenomenon or to a correction of the target itself.

Major obstacles to the selection of indicators due to measurement problems may be summarized as follows:

Definition of the concepts : Some concept used in the target remain vague and are not clearly defined leaving a margin of uncertainty on what has to be measured to monitor the related phenomena (i.e. vulnerability, protection system, public life, inefficient subsidies).

Laws vs. phenomena : when targeting rights, it is not clear whether the indicators should refer to the existence of laws which guarantee those rights or whether the rights are actually respected.

Data quality : A number of phenomena are of difficult measurability and the existing estimates may lack the quality standards as defined by official statistics. This may be the case of corruption, illicit flows and tax evasion.

Differentiation of chosen indicators among countries . As said before, some goals may require the indicators to be differently defined among countries, as for example the assets to be considered in the “End poverty” goal or for the full vaccination.

Jamaica

The report will help to focus the discussions on the post 2015 Development agenda. Jamaica fully supports the need to strengthen data and statistics for accountability and decision making purposes.

Some of the proposed goals however are ambitious and might prove difficult to implement in some developing countries.. As part of the process therefore, the strengthening of the statistics system in these countries should also be given some priority. Assistance from the international community as well as the commitment from national governments are essential for successful implementation.

OECD

These comments have been informed by the useful contributions already provided by other members of the FOC and we have tried not to repeat some of the points already made, notably the relevance of the report of the UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force on Sustainable Development. However, we would like to express our strong support for the ABS emphasis on developing a statistical framework for the measurement of governance; and for the argument made in the joint CBS/ABS/ONS contribution that a single set of post-2015/SDGs universal goals, with country-specific targets and indicators, would avoid repeating a situation where “the least developed countries opposed statistical initiatives from the western world, simply because they felt that the well-being issues addressed in those frameworks were not relevant to them ... (while), developed countries have not engaged with statistical initiatives designed for the developing world (e.g. the MDGs), as the goals were not seen as relevant to them (either)”.

On this background:

- -We welcome the HLP report as a basis for discussion on a post-2015 framework. We also agree with the notion that the new framework should aim at both finishing the job of the MDGs (i.e. eradicating extreme poverty) and going beyond the MDGs in the direction of a “single, universal post-2015 agenda”. While, at this stage, few seem to disagree with this objective (in particular, in the light of the parallel SDGs process), achieving it will remain challenging.
- -We note that many of the ideas in the HLP report echo the OECD’s own perspective on the post-2015 agenda, as summarized in the document available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/POST-2015%20Overview%20Paper.pdf> . In this document, we argue that the post-2015 framework should be universal (i.e. move beyond an exclusively developing-country focus), holistic (i.e. encompassing both the poverty and human development agenda of the current MDGs, as well as a broader well-being perspective) and based on a set of measurable and meaningful goals (i.e. goals that can be defined and measured by the countries themselves). The OECD work on measuring well-being beyond GDP (How’s Life?) provides an example of a holistic and multidimensional perspective to people’s life that, in our perspective, has a claim to be relevant to developing, emerging and developed countries. One novel element of the OECD framework is that it encompasses not just those objective features of the life of each person that are well-recognized by the human development perspective (e.g. income, health and education) but also dimensions that are relational (i.e. pertaining to how individuals relate to other members of their family, their community, etc.) and subjective (i.e. pertaining to both people’s own evaluations and feelings, as well as to people’s self-reports of their objective conditions). The OECD paper also argues in favour of a two-level approach to goal-setting, combining:
 - a small set of global goals reflecting universally-agreed outcomes; and

- more specific targets and indicators, reflecting countries' specific level of development, context, responsibility and capacity .
- We agree on the importance of the five transformative shifts identified in the HLP report, as they refer to issues that are clearly universal and salient to the experience of developed, emerging and developed countries. While the illustrative set of “goals and targets” presented by the HLP in Annex 1 of the report provides one perspective to what will be an essentially political-decision, we note that:
 - Different sets of “universal goals” have been put forward (e.g. by the HLP, by the Sustainable Development Solution Network), while other “themes” are being discussed by the Ambassador-level Open Working Group that is advancing the implementation of the Rio+20 declaration. While there is much in common among these goals/themes, there are also differences. Agreement on these universal dimensions should be reached early on in the process, and ideally before entering the discussion on targets and indicators.
 - Not all the targets detailed in Annex 1 of the HLP report ‘talk’ to the concerns of many countries around the world. A case in point is the challenge to “end poverty”: while the HLP’s suggestion of framing poverty targets in terms of national poverty lines, alongside absolute income-threshold for extreme poverty, is an important development, this does not come to terms with the fact that not all countries have national poverty lines, and that those that exist have different levels of ambition. While ending extreme poverty is clearly the priority for a post-2015 framework, the very success of the MDGs and the rapid growth of the emerging economies imply that many people are exiting extreme poverty: it follows that targets should also be considered for other parts of the income distribution.
 - While the HLP characterizes all goals as “universal” (i.e. inspirational), it categorize targets into “national”/local” and (for a few of them) “global”; within the latter, it distinguishes between “global minimum standards” (e.g. a level of maternal mortality of 40 per 100,000) and those setting a “common measurable standard” (e.g. doubling the share a renewable energy). Some of these distinction are not clear-cut (e.g. will global targets apply to each individual country, or to the world as a whole?) and will require further consideration. The HLP’s requirement that “targets will only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups” (irrespectively of the measurement challenges that it raises, see below) also sets the bar at a very high level: in practice, how demanding the targets are will depend on practical decisions on what is regarded as “relevant groups” in different fields.
- -On the statistical side:

- We very much agree with the emphasis given by the HLP to the importance of a data revolution (involving “government statistical offices, international organizations, civil society organizations, foundations and the private sector ”) to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens, and of a Global Partnership on Development Data to make it happen. As stressed in the comments by ABS, this partnership should reach beyond statistical capacity building in less developed countries (an area where PARIS21 and the Busan Action Plan for Statistics could provide a critical point of departure) to include the development of concepts, frameworks, classification and standards in those areas where they do not currently exist. This is clearly a long-term endeavour, which will require setting priorities and coordinating the activities of various bodies. The OECD (through its Committee on Statistics) is already contributing to this goal through its work on “the How’s Life? statistical agenda” and stands ready to contribute further.

- We welcome the recommendation that “national accounting for social and environmental effects should be mainstreamed by 2030” (p.17) and the call on governments to “adopt the UN’s System of Environmental-Economic Accounts”. We note that no system similar to the SEEA exists on the social side. OECD work to incorporate information on disparities among households with different characteristics in the SNA is contributing to this goal.

- We also note that the HLP never refers to the measurement of subjective well-being and, more generally, to people self-reports of their conditions and aspirations: extending statistical reporting to these areas would align well with the HLP’s emphasis that the post-2015 framework be “grounded in the voice of people”. The OECD Committee on Statistics has taken a number of initiatives in these fields (e.g. the recently published OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-Being), and the OECD stands ready to contribute to the initiatives by the UN Statistical Commission and UN regional bodies to make further advances in this field.

- We would like to stress the critical role that official statistics should play in monitoring the post-2015 and SD goals, and the huge challenge that this will imply. This is true both for the need to extend official statistics to new areas (such as governance, access to justice, freedoms, decent jobs, political participation, subjective well-being) and, even more, for the HLP’s call for “a plan for measuring progress that compares how people with different income, levels, gender, disability and age, and those living in different localities are faring”. While the importance of getting information on the joint distribution of people’s achievements is well recognized by the statistical community, few countries come close to meet that ambition: while a political demand may help moving towards that goal, progress can only be incremental, with some

breakdowns (e.g. educational attainment) easier to implement than others (e.g. household income).

- The practical considerations mentioned above underscore a more general issue, i.e. the importance of consulting the statistical community before a set of targets is agreed, so as to assess the feasibility of developing indicators pertaining to them. We would also suggest that consideration be given to establishing a common measurement instrument, based on comparable definitions and classifications, to monitor the agreed universal goals.
- It will also be important that the monitoring system proposed by the HLP relies upon statistics produced by each country, so as to avoid the current situation whereby many of the indicators used in the MDG are 'educated guesses' made by the international agencies producing them. This will require that the National Strategies for Statistical Development (NSDS) and other national and regional initiatives in the statistical areas be aligned to the requirements of the post-2015 and SDGs strategies.
- We support the suggestion, made by ABS, that one specific goal (to be regularly monitored) relates to the production of the statistics needed to monitor the post-2015 and SDGs goals. This will imply that financial support is granted by international donors and other stakeholders for the achievement of this goal. We also suggest that detailed policies and programmes aimed to achieve the post-2015/SDGs goals routinely include, as one of their deliverables, statistics allowing their evaluation.

Paris 21

1) We welcome the prominent emphasis given in the report on measurement, data and statistics. One of the main roles of PARIS21 over the last 14 years has been to lobby for increasing the use of statistics for evidence-based policy making and holding decision makers accountable. This report shows that this vocation is now mainstreamed.

2) We welcome the attention given to innovation and new technologies for real-time monitoring of development results and stand ready to actively help in moving this agenda forward. We suggest establishing a close link with on-going efforts made with the FOC group on Big Data as well as regional initiatives (see UNECA for Africa and [Open data for Africa project from the AfDB](#)).

3) We find the idea of the establishing of a Global Partnership on Development Data interesting and suggest enlarging it to include an explicit objective on “Statistical Capacity Development”. PARIS21 sees itself as the natural nucleus of such a partnership, already bringing together various data producers and users. This being said, the objective and added value of – yet another – global partnership bureaucracy would need to be clarified as would the precise meaning of “data revolution” (by whom, on what, how, with what timeframe). PARIS21 sees its own comparative advantage in this discussion as complementing the UN-Stat commission’s activities and to help bridge to the larger (open) data community.

4) We welcome the proposal to develop a “global strategy to fill gaps....” and PARIS21 has started a discussion with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the precise content and shape this possible project could take. We suggest, as a necessary first step, carrying out a stock-taking exercise assessing the supply and demand for data and statistics in developing countries. The main objective of this project would be to document and assess the situation with respect to data availability, comparability and quality.

5) PARIS21 will be organizing an event on this topic on Thursday 26th of September in New York at the margins of the UNGA. More details will be placed on the PARIS21 website (<http://www.paris21.org/>) in the coming weeks. There is a feature page already on this event <http://www.paris21.org/node/1593>. All members of the FOC’s group are cordially invited to join!

Philippines

It would be important to have the SDGs and the post 2015 agenda truly integrated and identify broad measures of progress.

In the recently held Inter-agencies and Expert Group (IAEG) meeting on the MDGs, I mentioned that I have actually been getting more and more concerned that while it is good to be ambitious for the post 2015 agenda, but we have to be also realistic. The MDGs did not benefit much from inputs from statistical offices of the developing world, and in the end, while progress has been made, this progress has also been very uneven, with the very poor countries making the least progress (and on occasion, even having nothing to report because of poor capacity to generate information). Even the Philippines itself only has only 30 of the 60 MDG indicators, and much of the national (and sub-national) targeting merely adopted global targets, without understanding empirical trends, and whether such targets are realistic. Clearly, capacity building has to be developed even on the issue of targeting and monitoring. The regularity by which we should collect information is still not even understood, i.e. if we are to have even regular poverty monitoring --- must it be done every five years, three years, or yearly --- especially if indicators are not changing much. Country specificities (particularly starting conditions) don't quite match with the global targeting.

And while I don't want to be extremely of the development community, but there is a need for improved coordination among the donors. Existing partnerships have to be strengthened. I have noted much of the assistance given by PARIS 21, multilateral institutions, and even bilateral help (ABS has been most helpful to the PH Statistical System). But while these technical and financial assistance have been helpful since national statistical offices need adequate resources, but this should not be to the extent of confusing us on our priorities. I am surprised to note that some countries have not even had any surveys in over a decade (as reported by someone from the Economic Commission for Africa).

I have been hearing the "favorite" terms "data revolution" very often, but recognized that it seems to be a catch all for so many things (on making statistics especially on development more timely, and meaningful to our stakeholders by using new methodologies and technologies). But, we have to define properly what this entails, and perhaps this may mean different things for countries in different stages of statistical development.

Clearly, the effort to expand work on governance and the environment should be lauded, but there must also be real focus, else we may be setting ourselves for failure.

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Contribution to the FOC Group for broader measures of progress¹.

Reflections on the high level panel of eminent persons on the post-2015 development agenda.

The report is clear in its recommendations for using a limited number of goals and targets with a follow-up of indicators to create an urgency and a focus to the sustainable development agenda. The report also concludes that the time is right to merge the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability and to create a single agenda rather than many parallel.

These issues place a demand for statistics and for new types of analyses. By contemplating annex I with the illustrative goals and targets of the report, the following reflections come to mind.

The illustrative goals are 12 in number, and they are similar to the goals that most countries or regions with sustainable development indicators are focusing on. (Poverty, gender equality, education, health, nutrients, clean water, clean energy, jobs, safeguard ecosystems, good governance, peace & justice, global enabling environment)

There are statistics developed that can be used to illustrate important aspects of these themes. As has been discussed in the contributions from the statistical community to the post-2015 development agenda for example the written input from ABS and also in the joint comments of CBS, ONS and ABS, there are good foundations to be used that have already been developed in the statistical community.

However, there are three areas of improvement that need to be considered in order for the follow-up of the targets to become truly efficient. These areas could be part of the communication that the FOC group contribute in the OWG process.

- 1) Need to develop national data in the countries where each issue is most important and where the data is only estimated now.
- 2) Need for communication between the statistical community and other data providers such as the researchers and the organisations that are part of the development process.
- 3) Need to make statistical data available for analyses of the interlinkages between the different themes. The economic data need to be disaggregated so that the activities and transfers that matters most to the environmental and social development can be distinguished. The system of Environmental and Economic Account is a good foundation for this type of development. More work needs to be done to include the social aspects before the statistics are able to fully support an integration.

¹ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/default.htm>

Develop national data

The statistical community is already assisting countries that want to expand their statistical programs. A stronger coordination and financing mechanism would be valuable to speed up the process in order to have the possibility to make good quality baselines for 2015. Also, the development of new statistics could benefit from using accounting frameworks to build in the possibility for interlinking of data sets from the beginning.

Communication with other data providers and analysts

Some of the indicators that are used to create awareness on sustainability issues are provided by other organisations than the statistical community. As is seen with the big data development and the creation of new social platforms, also data that picture quicker processes than what national statistics normally do can become part of the follow-up. We appreciate that the goal to publish and use economic, social and environmental accounts in all governments and major companies is mentioned as part of goal number 9 (Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably).

Some of the suggested indicators are more qualitative than what official statistics are normally. An example is the discussion on jobs, where there is a discussion on measuring good jobs or decent jobs, as followed by the ILO. In the statistical community the number of jobs can be measured in different ways, but the qualification of what is good or decent would typically not be reported on a national basis. Even when such indicators are used to create awareness, the analysis of what needs to be done in order to change the development needs to be fed with good statistics.

Merging social, economic and environmental dimensions

The experiences from developing the different components of the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts in various countries can be used to integrate some of the major environmental economic aspects in the sustainability agenda. The theme of sustainable and inclusive growth and more specifically the sustainable production and consumption theme does merge economic concerns with environmental and to some extent social issues.

UNECE

I am writing to share some information on the UNECE involvement and contribution to the UN process of consultations on the various initiatives related to the Rio+20 outcome document, post-2015 development agenda, High-level panel report, Open Working Group, etc. - an overwhelming process thus far. I thought the information could be of interest to the Group.

Since May this year the UNECE Statistical Division has commented on various UN documents, including on the High-level report, and continues to do so. I read with great interest the contributions by CBS/ABS/ONS, OECD, Eurostat, Sweden and others. This information is useful for us to see whether our comments provided so far through the UN system consultative process are in line with the Group's views and also to collect new ideas for the future. We support the comments made in these contributions and in particular the points raised in the Joint CBS/ABS/ONS contribution where reference is made to the Recommendations of the Joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat Task Force on measuring SD.

UNECE Statistical Division has contributed extensive comments to both, the post-2015 development agenda and the discussion on defining SDGs through 2 channels - the network of 60 or so UN agencies and through the Regional Commissions' consultations. My Division is the UNECE focal point to the UN Task Team on measurement and monitoring, which also evaluated lessons learned from the MDGs.

The Joint CBS/ABS/ONS contribution refer to the Report "Statistics and Indicators for the post 2015 agenda" where had an impact with our comments; the report refers to the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Report on measuring SD endorsed by the CES in June and also a number of other proposals concerning lessons learned from MDGs. Furthermore, the Report "Statistics and Indicators for the post 2015 agenda" by the UN system Task team was launched in Geneva on 4 July during a side event of the ECOSOC. I chaired the event and we could raise again a number of relevant issues regarding the post-2015 agenda and future SDGs.

More recently the issue of what is meant by "data revolution" was discussed by the UN senior managers in a video conference, including the Deputy SG and Executive Secretaries of UN Regional Commissions (RCs). As a follow-up we commented on the issues raised, held a teleconference of the Heads of Statistical Divisions of the RCs and UN Statistics Division and will further discuss the issue next week at a meeting in Ankara.

Another discussion that took place last week among the senior UN managers in a broad video conference was dedicated to the topic: "The UN Statistical system - key priorities for SD and post 2015 agenda". The Executive Secretaries of Regional Commissions participated. I accompanied the

our Executive Secretary and could follow the discussion. A number of relevant issues were raised. This is an important development - "jamais veu" in my UN experience. The most senior UN officials spent 40 minutes talking about the importance of statistics. Of course Stefan Schweinfest could say more on this since the video conference was organised with DESA involvement.

In early November the UNECE together with regional partners (UNDP, ILO, UNFPA, etc) will organise a Regional consultation on the Post-2015 development agenda - a multi-stakeholders consultation involving Member states governments, NGOs and academia. One session will be dedicated to "The power of measurement: Monitoring Progress in Sustainable Development " which is being organised with the involvement of UNECE Statistical Division.

In all discussions and consultations so far within the UN system process I can see some consensus emerges around the following main issues.

- define what is meant by "data revolution" in practical terms;
- the need to produce statistics in an innovative way, using new technologies and in a cost effective and efficient way
- the need for an appropriate measurement framework; targets, indicators and their monitoring
- the need for financial and human resources for developing statistics - "We need sustainable statistics to measure sustainable development" .
- the importance of capacity building;
- governance of the monitoring process once the goals, targets and indicators are agreed - there is not much discussion so far
- the role of UN Regional Commissions and the importance of strategic partnerships

United Kingdom

The UK fully supports the outcomes of the HLP Report and the five transformative shifts. However, we would like to include the following points for consideration:

- We support the OECD observation that the Report does not include subjective well-being (people's assessment of their own conditions and aspirations) as one of the areas that requires measurement.

There is increasing recognition that more subjective measures of well-being can usefully supplement more objective variables to provide a fuller picture of a country's well-being.

- The UK supports the HLP call for a data revolution to “draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems”. However, as statisticians we must ensure that measures are appropriate, robust and hold up under scrutiny.
- The big and open data movements are possible thanks to technological progress. But ultimately, the success of these efforts hinges on how these data are converted into trustworthy information that meets the needs of users. A data deluge alone cannot foster knowledge creation or encourage democratic debate. A good understanding of the strengths and limitations of the different data sources that are available is an essential starting point for generating better quality, more useful information for international development.

As NSIs we should ensure new data adheres to an agreed set of quality standards and that there is understanding around the quality of data offered before it is used.

There is a national need to prioritise data gaps, to ensure that efforts to build statistical capabilities are done so in an economical, coordinated and meaningful manner.