

PGA Informal Briefing on the Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs

Thursday, 28 January 2016

Speech of the co-Chairs of the Inter-agency and expert group on Sustainable development goal indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues,

It is my honour to update you on the work of *Inter-agency and expert group on Sustainable development goal indicators* for the development of a global indicator framework for the SDGs.

Since its establishment at the last Statistical Commission, the IAEG-SDGs has worked very intensively for the development of the indicator framework within the time frame established by the political process, concentrating on ensuring that the indicators are technically sound and can be used for global monitoring, while maintaining national ownership.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to give you a brief summary of the activities carried out by the IAEG-SDGs including during the first period of work -- before the last informal briefing to the GA, which took place on November 5th:

The IAEG-SDGs held two physical meetings in June and October 2015. The next meeting is planned for the end of March in Mexico. The IAEG held two consultations:

- July – August 2015:* one part among the IAEG-SDG members, and then among observers regional and international agencies and countries that were not members of the IAEG-SDGs
- August – September 2015:* an open consultation on the indicators proposals with all countries, regional and international agencies, civil society, academic and the private sector.

Since November, the group carried out two more open consultations:

- 4-7 November 2015:* a brief open consultation with experts from international agencies, non-IAEG Member States and other stakeholders on indicators coded “green”. Inputs and proposals were received from over 600 observers and other stakeholders.
- 9-15 December 2015:* an open consultation on indicators coded “grey”. Inputs and proposals were received from over 400 observers and other stakeholders.

A detailed description of the work of the IAEG-SDGs and the proposal of global SDG indicators are presented in the report of the IAEG to the UN Statistical Commission. The set of global indicators consists of 229 indicators, including 149 “green” indicators and 80 “grey” indicators. The “green” indicators are those for which the consultation process was completed.

The “grey” indicators, marked with an asterisk in the report to the Statistical Commission are currently being reviewed by the IAEG Members. They will be presented in an updated version of the list of indicators expected to be issued as an Addendum paper to the Statistical Commission in mid-February. The Statistical Commission will review the proposal and submit it to ECOSOC and GA for adoption.

The global indicators will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels to be developed by Member States. Member States will develop their national indicators in line with the principle of the 2030 agenda that targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Indicators for thematic monitoring are also being developed in a number of areas.

Distinguished delegates,

The 2030 Agenda is ambitious and transformational. Member States have pledged that no one would be left behind. In order to ensure that no one is left behind, the IAEG-SDG Members have agreed that indicators should cover the specific groups of population and other disaggregation elements specified in the targets. They have also agreed to include an overarching principle of data disaggregation to accompany the indicators. These coming months the Group will further discussion how to operationalize data disaggregation in the implementation of the global indicator set.

The Secretary-General has been mandated to produce an annual SDG progress report to support follow-up and review at the High-level Political Forum. Data will be produced by national statistical systems and information will be aggregated at the sub-regional, regional and global level.

The mechanism for data flows from countries to the international statistical system need to be further defined. It is essential to further strengthen the coordination function of the national statistical offices.

Statistical capacity building is essential for many national statistical systems to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda. This is where the IAEG-SDGs and the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building are working closely. The HLG will work on the strategic plan for statistical capacity building and enable countries to be able to fully implement the SDG indicators.

Distinguished delegates,

Once the list is agreed upon by the Statistical Commission, the IAEG-SDGs will concentrate on the implementation phase. The first important step will be the assessment of the status of the indicators proposed. The indicators will be classified into three tiers:

- a first tier for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available;
- a second tier for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available; and,
- a third tier for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed.

Indicators under tier II and especially under tier III, are those where refinements and improvements will be needed over the coming years as better tools and more data become available.

Overall, during the year ahead, the IAEG-SDGs will carry out the following 8 main activities:

1. Define global reporting mechanisms
2. Establish the tier system for the indicators
3. Review of data availability for Tier I and Tier II indicators and develop a plan for increasing the data coverage of Tier II indicators
4. Establish a work plan for further development of Tier III indicators
5. Develop procedures for methodological review of indicators
6. Develop further guidance on data disaggregation
7. Continue the discussion of interlinkages across targets and goals, and use of multi-purpose indicators
8. Hold 2 meetings: one in March 2016 and one in Fall of 2016

Your excellencies this is my report. I am at your disposal to answer any questions or comments you may have.