

Civil Society Statement on National, Regional and International Statistical Data Flows and Data Collection at the 4th meeting of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators in Geneva city, 17-18 November, 2016.

Delivered by Jennifer Vinas-Forcade, Latin America and Caribbean Youth Alliance on behalf of Civil Society organisations present

Mr. Co-Chair:

As the Inter-Agency Expert Group moves forward to define the indicators for the SDGs, Member States are moving towards implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. Some are already preparing reports, while others are waiting for the complete indicator framework, losing valuable time.

SDGs follow-up at the global level requires data collection at the regional and national levels. The sooner indicators are available, the earlier methodologies for ambitious data collection and data flow are defined and agreed, the more useful those will be for the implementation & review processes. To help define the roadmap, our suggestions:

1. We would ask that the Inter-Agency Expert Group sets baselines from which to measure progress at the earliest possible date: for Governments to report advances and for civil society organizations to use in advocacy.
2. We recognize the important role that National Statistical Offices play in ensuring that SDGs indicators are owned by governments. Custodian agencies can come up with helpful estimates, but it is statistical offices at country level which use household surveys -with representative samples- to have accurate numbers which reflect reality.
3. We support the strengthening of National Statistical Offices, where necessary, to ensure that they can collect the required data, and urge that resources become available for capacity-building as a priority. We would support for each target- a ladder of indicators of growing ambition to stimulate acquiring the know-how.
4. Many CSOs regularly collect data. Please make us part of the working groups for the indicators we have -or can develop- expertise in. We are and will be happy to contribute.
5. We recognize that comparability IS important, but not, however, at the expense of only agreeing in the least-common-denominator.
6. Where feasible, regions can play an important role developing an adapted indicator framework,. For example, Latin America & Caribbean are compiling indicators from the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus to simplify data-collection nationally.

Fifteen years are not a long time, and more than one has already gone by, with enthusiasm starting to fade. Member States and civil society organizations need not only the global indicator framework, but also national level frameworks as a matter of urgency.

(thank you)