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Request for 'Fast Track' Tier Reclassification of SDG indicator 16.1.2 "Number of conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause"

Dear Co-chairs of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs,

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as custodian agency of indicator 16.1.2, is pleased to submit a request for reclassification of this indicator as Tier 2, for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development *seeks to strengthen universal peace and commits to redouble efforts to resolve or prevent conflict.* It recognizes that *there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.* Counting deaths occurring in situations of armed conflict is therefore essential to the measurement of the Agenda, including and beyond its Goal 16. Monitoring conflict-related deaths is also necessary to help protect civilians and other potential victims, ensure respect of humanitarian and human rights standards, and understand the patterns and consequences of armed conflicts.

The conceptual, methodological and data collection framework for this indicator has been developed by OHCHR based on international legal standards, existing statistical classifications, and on a groundwork of established practices on casualty recording by United Nations (UN) entities working in situations of armed conflict. It is the result of an extensive series of consultations involving National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant stakeholders.

The pilot study confirmed the relevance and practicability of the main features of the definitional, methodological and data collection framework developed for this indicator. It has also demonstrated that data on documented direct conflict-related deaths of civilians, from official sources (UN entities/NSO), are available for most of the deadliest situations of armed conflict, in the SDG regions of Southern Asia, Western Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa, Latin America and Europe.

The metadata and other supporting documents on the recommended methodology accompany this request. We remain available to provide further information and support to the IAEG-SDG.

Yours sincerely,

Peggy Hicks
Director
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division