Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Statistics Division

**Eleventh Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group
on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**
3-5 November 2020
Venue: virtual

Report

I.   Introduction

1.   The eleventh meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) took place from 2-5 November 2020 virtually. An IAEG-SDG member meeting took place on 2 November 2020, followed by a plenary session, attended by all participants, on 3-5 November 2020.

2.   The main objectives of the meeting were to: i) review the tier classification of indicators and update on missing data submissions; ii) review the refinement proposals of the global SDG framework; iii) discuss the work of the IAEG-SDG sub-group on metadata review; iv) review the work of the three working groups of the IAEG-SDGs: SDMX, geospatial information, measurement of development support; v) discuss the progress made by the work stream on data disaggregation; vi) discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and SDG indicators; vii) share best practices on implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs, including national, regional, and global SDG reporting; viii) share current data innovations and initiatives for SDG monitoring and implementation; ix) introduce and present capacity building activities for SDGs; and discuss other related issues.

3.   At the plenary session, Ms. Albina Chuwa of Tanzania, co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the eleventh meeting of the IAEG-SDGs. Ms. Chuwa mentioned that this meeting was hosted virtually due to COVID-19 and wished all participants to stay safe and healthy. She also stated that while the meeting was a bit truncated, the main work programme areas were still covered. Ms. Francesca Perucci, Chief of the Development Data and Outreach Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division, also offered opening remarks expressing gratitude to all the colleagues for contributing to the SDG Report and all products, including the global database. Ms. Perucci also highlighted the work of the General Assembly SDG Moment, which is a special event on SDGs in light of the decade of the action. She also stressed that the preparation for next year's SDG Report would begin soon and

will highlight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting had over 377 registered participants, including representatives from 21 member countries of the IAEG-SDGs, 35 observer countries, 43 regional and international organisations, and over 149 stakeholders from civil society organisations, academia, private sector and other organizations.

4.   All documents of the meeting, including presentations for each agenda item and recordings of each day's meeting , are available on the website of the 11th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-11/).

II.   Update on latest events and on the work of the IAEG-SDG working groups

5.   Agenda item 2 was introduced by the Secretariat, who provided a summary of some recent events, including the High Level Political Forum and the General Assembly SDG Moment. A presentation given by the Secretariat on this agenda item (2) is included on the meeting website.

6.   Agenda item 3 included updates on the work of the High-Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB) and the main outcomes of the virtual 2020 World Data Forum held in October 2020. A presentation was given by Ms. Ola Awad of the State of Palestine, co-chair of the HLG-PCCB. The presentation for this agenda item (3) is included on the meeting website.

7.   Agenda item 4 was introduced by the Secretariat, providing a summary of the decisions reached at the 51st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020 and the updates on the SDG indicator website reflecting the updated global indicator framework. The presentation for this agenda item (4) is included on the meeting website.

8.   Agenda item 6 included updates on the progress made by the three working groups of the IAEG-SDGs: SDMX, geospatial information and measurement of development support. All presentations for this agenda item (6) are included on the meeting website. During the discussion, participants discussed the training programs of SDMX generation for national statistical offices; an introduction and the dissemination of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap; and the main objectives of the measurement of development support working group.

III.   Data availability review and refinements of the global SDG framework

9.   Agenda item 7 was introduced by the Secretariat and noted that there are no remaining tier III indicators in the framework. The Secretariat then provided an update of changes in tier classification of Tier I and II indicators based on data availability. One indicator was recommended to be reclassified from Tier I to Tier II due to insufficient data coverage (indicator

16.1.1) and reclassification of 12.b.1 was pending until data submission in December. Eleven indicators were recommended to be reclassified from Tier II to Tier I due to increased data availability (1.5.1, 2.c.1, 4.a.1, 10.4.1, 10.7.3, 10.7.4, 10.b.1, 13.2.2, 15.8.1, 15.9.1 (a), 16.7.1 (a)). A review of data submitted to the global database showed that there are 29 indicators with missing data.   Among these missing submissions, 25 indicators have a projected date for submission of data and 3 indicators require additional follow-up with custodian agencies to either provide a submission date or a data collection plan. All indicator changes and the list of indicators with missing data can be found in the presentation under this agenda item (7) on the meeting website.

10.   Agenda item 8 was introduced by the Secretariat on reviewing refinements to some of the indicator names in the framework, which will be formally submitted to the UN Statistical Commission at its 52nd session in March 2021. There are eight indicators with a proposed minor refinement (2.5.2, 3.d.2, 4.2.1, 4.c.1, 10.7.3, 12.c.1 (a), 13.2.1/13.b.1, 14.1.1). The presentation for this agenda item (8) is included on the meeting website.

IV.   The IAEG-SDG sub-group on metadata review

11.   Agenda item 9 was introduced by Ms. Cara Williams of Canada, member of the IAEG-SDGs, who provided the background and main objective of the newly established IAEG-SDG metadata sub-group, highlighting that the quality of metadata language should be improved for translatable and machine-readable formats. The meeting then discussed the focus of this sub-group which should be primarily on metadata language improvement and metadata and data consistency review. The work will be in collaboration with the SDMX working group and in through communicating with custodian agencies to ensure consistency of the metadata. The presentation for this agenda item (9) is included on the meeting website.

V.   SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting – national, reginal and global

12.   Agenda item 11 included five presentations by country, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders highlighting best practices on implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at regional, thematic and country levels. UNECE introduced the second edition of the CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs composing new adjustments to reflect progress at the regional and national levels. It also discussed potential action plans for countries and the dissemination plan of the Road Map. UNDP presented the SDG 16 Data Reporting Platform for NSOs to input data, which facilitates collecting data by National Statistical Systems. UNICEF and World Bank then jointly presented capacity building support on monitoring the indicator 1.2.2, including the data collection and validation systems. As one of the custodian agencies of this indicator, UNDP also stated the multidimensional poverty index could be one additional measurement for indicator 1.2.2. Malaysia presented its national experience on the VNR process,

including SDG governance of implementation and reporting mechanism, SDG implementation and outcomes, and other SDG publications. Finally, Development Initiatives described one community-driven data project that involved collaborations of civil societies and national governments. It then emphasized the importance of community-driven data to ensure that no one is left behind. All presentations for this agenda item (11) are included on the meeting website.

VI.   COVID-19 pandemic and the SDGs

13.   Agenda item 12 included three presentations by country and agencies focusing on COVID-19 impacts on SDGs. Canada provided a summary on the COVID-19 related SDG indicator selections. The current list includes about 65 indicators with a high degree of COVID-19 impact. CCSA then introduced the first and second volumes of "How COVID-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective", that consists of multifaceted impacts of the pandemic including using nowcasting and forecasting with trustworthy data. Finally, UNSD and World Bank jointly introduced the Global Survey of NSOs as one of the statistical COVID-19 responses by the international community. They also highlighted the key findings from the survey, including extensive and ongoing impacts on statistical operations.

14.   After these presentations, a discussion on the agenda item highlighted that there is also a need to assess environmental impacts, especially waste management caused by the pandemic. Others noted the strategy that member states were using to collect data amid the COVID-19 pandemic, such as crowdsourcing, panel surveys, and estimates, while countries and agencies stressed the importance of new and innovative methods for data collection and the integration between new and traditional data sources. All presentations for this agenda item (12) are included on the meeting website.

VII.   Data disaggregation

15.   Agenda item 13 was introduced by the Secretariat highlighting the recent work of the IAEG-SDGs and UNSD on data disaggregation, including the Handbook on data disaggregation developed by the ADB and UNSD; a compilation of existing tools and materials for data disaggregation; and updates on the work of small area estimates. Sweden then presented their experience on data disaggregation and the process of preparing their first country report focusing on leaving no one behind. UNHCR presented their ongoing report focusing on forced displacement related disaggregated SDG indicators and shared some of the key findings of this work.

16.   During the discussion after these presentations, the Secretariat noted that the compilation document on data disaggregation tools would be is a living document and will expand to include other disaggregation dimensions. Others also highlighted that in some cases, dedicated data

collections might be necessary to ensure no one is left behind. Finally, it was mentioned that to better balance the sample size and cost of data collection, integration of different data sources and data collection methodologies is needed. All presentations for this agenda item (13) are included on the meeting website.

VII. Data innovations and initiatives for SDGs

17.   Agenda item 14 included four presentations on different data innovation initiatives to support SDG data collection and monitoring. The Secretariat provided an overview of an administrative data collaboration project, highlighting the need to strengthen capacity to ensure data availability to policymakers, especially under the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat then jointly presented its work on the Data4Now project with Colombia, who shared their experience measuring SDG Goal 1 and Goal 4 indicators with new technologies to collect data integrated with traditional data sources. IDinsight presented their ongoing project in India called Data on Demand, which aims to reduce the time and cost of household surveys, while ensuring high accuracy. Following the presentation provided by IDinsight, the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) presented its ongoing work and its future work plan, including strengthening capability in the post-COVID era and enhancing innovation and collaboration in household surveys.

18.   After these presentations, several countries mentioned the importance of administrative data for monitoring and evaluation, highlighting the need for collaborative work to improve data quality in line with the National Quality Assurance Framework. It was also mentioned that the Data4Now project would be promoted more widely by engaging with more partners. There were also discussions on the new household survey model developed by IDinsight, focusing on its cost and main challenges such as communication with surveyors remotely. With regard to the ISWGHS, the discussion mainly focused on the innovation of household survey infrastructure under the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the potential integration between household surveys and the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in developing countries, while ensuring data quality. All presentations for this agenda item (14) are included on the meeting website.

VIII. Capacity building activities for SDGs

19.   Agenda item 15 included five presentations by country and agencies on different capacity building initiatives to facilitate monitoring, reporting, and dissemination of SDG data. The first presentation from Mozambique focused on their involvement and achievement in the UNSD-DFID project on SDG monitoring. It also included information on the AfDB Open Data Platform, which is being used for the dissemination of SDG indicators. The Secretariat then introduced the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians, highlighting the main

objective of the Network to build a professional network to help national governments build resilient and sustainable national data and information systems for the full implementation of the SDGs. PARIS21 provided updates on their pilot work of Capacity Development 4.0 (CD4.0), including pilot projects on SDG monitoring in two countries. UNECA presented their work for capacity building, highlighting the need for statistical capacity to African countries for 52 indicators without any data. Finally, UNESCAP presented regional data dissemination efforts and SDG monitoring and implementation, such as their annual progress report and data reporting platform.

20.   Following these presentations, there was a brief discussion on the scope of the membership in the Global Network. The link of the Network is included in the presentation. Others also discussed the integration of ADAPT, an online platform developed by PARIS 21 for data planning, highlighting planned trainings on this tool. In terms of statistical capacity building amid the COVID-19 pandemic, PARIS 21 indicated that the CD4.0 guideline is under development in collaboration with NSOs and agencies while UNECA and UNESCAP pointed out that almost all activities are virtual and all information regarding capacity building initiatives can be found in the dedicated websites and platforms. UNECA then indicated the ongoing effort on capacity development of the African Statistical Coordination Committee to build synergies among Africa countries. All presentations for this agenda item (15) are included on the meeting website.

IX.   Work plan and next steps

21.   The IAEG-SDGs work plan for November 2020 – March 2021 and its workplan for the following year were presented as the final agenda item by the Co-Chair of the group. A summary of the key items in the work plan are included below and the presentation for agenda item 16 is also available on the meeting website. Additionally, quarterly open virtual meetings of the IAEG-SDGs are posted on the following website: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/.

22.   The work plan of the IAEG-SDG for the remainder of 2020 includes several key items, including preparing the group's report to the 52nd session of UNSC and the background documents on COVID-19 related indicators; guidelines on small area estimation; and the Handbook on data disaggregation for SDGs.

23.   The work plan for March 2021 – February 2022 includes five key areas of work as described below:

1. Focus on the implementation of the indicator framework, including integration of geospatial information and statistics; share experiences and best practices on monitoring the SDGs, including on national SDG platforms and dashboards and best practices for

communicating data for the SDGs; encourage data innovations, including automating data and metadata transmission using SDMX; and review and making recommendations on capacity building for SDGs in coordination with the HLG-PCCB;

2. Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata and improve the overall quality of metadata for the SDG indicators through the work programme of the metadata sub-group;

3. Continue the work stream on data disaggregation in order to provide further guidelines and liaise with the other working groups and existing mechanisms for the data disaggregation work;

4. Continue the work of the IAEG-SDG working groups on SDMX, Geospatial Information and Measurement of Development Support, and review the workplans of the working groups to ensure that they are in line with the work of the IAEG-SDGs;

5. Hold quarterly open meetings and the 12th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in the fourth quarter of 2021, and continue to interact through monthly meetings.

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**Eleventh Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group
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3-5 November 2020 | 8:00-11:00 am NYC EST
Venue: virtual

Provisional Agenda

Tuesday, 3 November 2020

For information

1. Opening session (Ms. Viveka Palm, Sweden and Ms. Albina Chuwa, Tanzania, IAEG-SDG co-Chairs and Ms. Francesca Perucci, UNSD) *(8:00 am – 8:10 am)*

2. Updates from the High-Level Political Forum and General Assembly Event on SDG Moment (Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD) *(8:10 am – 8:20 am)*

3. Update on the work of the High-Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 and the World Data Forum 2020 (Ms. Ola Awad, State of Palestine, HLG-PCCB co-Chair) *(8:20 am – 8:30 am)*

4. Updates on the revised global indicator framework and SDG indicator website (Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD) *(8:30 am – 8:40 am)*

5. Q&A session *(8:40 am - 8:50 am)*

For discussion

6. Update on the working groups of the IAEG-SDGs: *(8:50 am – 9:35 am)*

    a. SDMX (Ms. Melisande Chabanne, France, Chair)

    b. Geospatial information (Mr. Kevin McCormack, Ireland, co-Chair)

    c. Measurement of Development Support (Ms. Ann Lisbet Brathaug, Norway, co-Chair)

    d. Q&A session *(15 min)*

Short break (5 min)

7. Data availability review of Tier I and II indicators and corresponding updates to the tier classification and status update on missing submissions of data in the framework (Ms. Heather Page, UNSD) *(9:40 am – 10:00 am)*

8. Refinements of the global SDG framework: review of proposals (Ms. Heather Page, UNSD) *(10:00 am – 10:10 am)*

9. Metadata review (Ms. Cara Wiliams, Canada, IAEG-SDG member) *(10:10 am – 10:25 am)*

    a. Work of the IAEG-SDG sub-group

    b. Review of procedures for updating metadata

10. Q&A session *(10:25 am – 10:45 am)*

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

11. Implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs (including national/regional/global SDG reporting) *(8:00 am – 9:15 am)*

    a. CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0 (Ms. Renata Bielak, co-chair, CES Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs and Ms. Stela Derivolcov, UNECE Secretariat)

    b. SDG Reporting Platform for Goal 16 (Ms. Mariana Neves and Ms. Aparna Basnyat, UNDP)

    c. Indicator 1.2.2 (Mr. Mark Hereward, UNICEF, co-custodian with World Bank and UNDP)

    d. Voluntary National Review: Malaysia (Ms Nazaria binti Baharudin, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

    e. Stakeholder citizen-generated data (Ms. Claudia Wells, Development Initiatives)

    f. Q&A session *(25 minutes)*

Short break (5 min)

12. COVID-19 pandemic and SDGs *(9:20 am – 10:10 am)*
    a. COVID-19 related SDG indicators (Ms. Cara Williams, Canada, IAEG-SDG member)

    b. How Covid-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective (Ms. Angela Me, UNODC, CCSA co-chair)

    c. Statistical COVID-19 responses (Mr. Alberto Zezza, World Bank and Mr. Luis Gonzalez, UNSD)

    d. Q&A session *(20 min)*

13. Data disaggregation: *(10:10 am – 11:00 am)*

a.　Update on IAEG-SDG/UNSD data disaggregation work: (UNSD)

　　Handbook, compilation of existing methodologies/tools and small area estimation

　　b.　Sweden: First country report with a focus on vulnerable populations (Ms. Viveka Palm, Sweden/IAEG-SDG co-Chair)

　　c.　UNHCR: Thematic report on SDG indicators disaggregated by forced displacement (Mr. Andrea Pellandra, UNHCR)

　　d.　Q&A session *(20 min)*

Thursday, 5 November 2020

14.　Data innovations and initiatives for SDGs *(8:00 am – 9:00 am)*

　　a.　Collaborative on Administrative Data (Ms. Vibeke Nielsen, UNSD)

　　b.　Data4Now (Mr. Luis Gonzalez, UNSD and Ms. Karen Chavez, Colombia)

　　c.　Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) (Ms. Haoyi Chen, Coordinator, ISWGHS)

　　d.　Data and evidence tools for decision making (Mr. Andrew Fraker, IDInsight)

　　e.　Q&A session *(20 min)*

Short break (5 min)

15.　Capacity building activities for SDGs *(9:05 am – 10:15 am)*
　　a.　Mozambique: country presentation from UNSD-FCDO project on SDG monitoring (Ms. Marta Chaquisse, INE Mozambique)

　　b.　Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians (Ms. Yongyi Min,UNSD)

　　c.　PARIS21 capacity building activities (Ms. Julia Schmidt, PARIS21)

　　d.　Capacity development activities in Africa for the 2030 Agenda (Mr. Oliver Chinganya, UN ECA)

　　e.　Capacity development activities in Asia-Pacific for the 2030 Agenda (Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, UN ESCAP)

　　f.　Q&A session *(20 min)*

16.　Workplan and next steps (IAEG co-Chair) *(10:15 am – 10:45 am)*

17.　Other business/closing (IAEG co-Chair) *(10:45 am – 10:50 am)*

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