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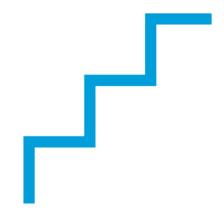
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The IAEG-SDG sub-group on metadata review

11th Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, 3 November 2020

IAEG-SDG Metadata sub-group: Description of Work

- The IAEG-SDG metadata sub-group will address current and future issues identified in the metadata documents, aiming to improve the overall quality of metadata for the SDG indicators to facilitate better SDG indicator implementation for countries.

- This work will be linked to existing initiatives such as the metadata template developed by the IAEG-SDG working group on SDMX, translation projects by countries and partner agencies, and the work on updating the E-handbook on SDG Indicators.

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Responsibilities

The sub-group will be responsible for the following activities:

1) Grammatical and editorial review of all metadata in English to improve their readability and ensure that each document is machine-readable so that the metadata can be easily translated into other languages.

2) Conduct a review of all metadata with regard to inconsistencies, missing definitions, missing sub-indicators and/or other information critical to understanding the indicator and its computation method. The proposed changes should not change the agreed methodology of the indicators.

3) Ensure coherency between metadata and data reported in the global SDG indicator database.

4) Liaise with the SDMX working group on any adjustment of the metadata as needed based on the recently developed SDG metadata template generating the Metadata Structure Definition (MSD) for SDMX dataflows.

Membership & Timeline

The following IAEG-SDG member countries are part of the sub-group: Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Sweden, Tanzania.

The group proposes the following timeline:

☐ **November 2020-January 2021:** Review of Tier I indicators (language and full review)

☐ **February-April 2021:** Review of Tier II indicators (language and full review)

☐ **November 2020-April 2021:** Liaise with the SDMX working group on any adjustment to the metadata as needed based on their standard metadata template

Review of procedures for annual metadata updating

1. UNSD reviews the submitted metadata update in track change *(if metadata is not in track change, UNSD will kindly ask custodian agency to resubmit the changes with track change. A MS Word version of the metadata is available on the metadata repository page)*. If the updates in track change do not significantly change the methodology, metadata proceeds to the last step. If the methodology is significantly changed, metadata proceeds to step 2.

2. UNSD sends the updated metadata to the IAEG-SDGs for their review and approval. IAEG-SDGs will contact agencies if they require additional information/explanation of the proposed changes.

3. Updated metadata files (PDF and MS Word versions) are sent to the UNSD data team who will further format the metadata before posting to the metadata repository page.

•   *Please note that the UNSD data team will send out a request for data/metadata updates annually at the end of the year. All other metadata updates would be initiated by the custodian agencies.*

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Thank you.