

# Agenda item 10b: Work of the IAEG-SDG metadata sub-group

UNSD  
13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs  
Plenary  
8 November 2022



# IAEG-SDG Metadata sub-group: Description of Work

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- The IAEG-SDG metadata sub-group addresses 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.
- The group conducts reviews 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. Also aim to ensure coherency between metadata and data reported in the global SDG indicator database.
- The following current and former IAEG-SDG member countries are part of the sub-group: [Canada](#), [Colombia](#), [Denmark](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Ireland](#), [Malaysia](#), [Sweden](#)
- This work is linked to 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](#).

# STATUS- First batch of review

- **There are 241 metadata files in the repository** (*some of the 231 unique indicators have multiple metadata files*)
- **The metadata subgroup has reviewed 131 metadata files in the first batch**
  - comments and suggested edits to the metadata files were sent to the agencies on 3 Feb 2022
  - 94 of the 131 metadata files sent to agencies have been uploaded (37 still with agencies)

*List of 37 metadata files from first batch still with agencies*

<a href="#">Metadata-01-02-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-10-04-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-13-0b-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-16-03-03.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-01-04-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-11-03-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-13-02-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-16-06-02.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-03-04.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-11-07-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-13-0a-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-16-07-02.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-04-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-12-03-01a.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-14-02-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-16-10-02.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-04-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-12-03-01b.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-14-0a-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-17-01-01.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-05-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-12-04-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-14-0c-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-17-01-02.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-06-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-12-04-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-15-05-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-17-07-01.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-0d-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-12-05-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-15-08-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-17-14-01.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-03-0d-02.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-12-06-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-15-09-01.docx</a>	<a href="#">Metadata-17-19-02b.docx</a>
<a href="#">Metadata-08-0b-01.docx</a>	-	-	-

# STATUS- Final batch for review

- The metadata subgroup is currently reviewing the remaining 110 metadata files in the final batch (35% reviewed; deadline: end of November 2022)
  - comments and suggested edits to these metadata files will be sent to the agencies towards the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023 (so that the comments/edits can be considered for any metadata updated for the 2023 SDG Reporting cycle)
  - the 37 metadata files from the first batch will also be re-sent to the agencies (previous slide)

Goal	# of metadata files in the final batch	still being reviewed	submitted to Secretariat
1	7	7	-
2	5	-	5
3	12	5	7
4	3	-	3
5	7	-	7
6	7	7	-
8	3	3	-
9	6	6	-
10	9	9	-
11	10	10	-
12	3	3	-
13	3	3	-
15	2	2	-
16	17	17	-
17	16	-	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>38</b>

# Reminders for Agencies on metadata

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- [Missing sections should be completed.](#) If not applicable, please include 'Not applicable' (no period). If you are not sure what information should be included, please kindly refer to the metadata template. Some sections should not be left blank or with 'Not applicable' (i.e. classifications, institutional mandate, data collection calendar, etc.).
- [Metadata need to refer to the series included in the database](#) (please list the series also in 0.d. Series section)—if there are different calculations or units for different series, all of that information should be provided.
- [Unit of measure:](#) The unit description in the metadata could start with the most important information, i.e. percent, followed with a short description that explains this (in parenthesis perhaps) if necessary/needed.
- [Where possible and applicable, make the method of computation a formula](#) (with definition for each variable) and where possible, use an equation editor to ensure clarity. Please avoid many words in the formulas. Metadata is being converted into machine readable format and those versions used for translation. Words in formulas are not easy to convert and translate.
- [Check links:](#) Any links included in the metadata should be [hyperlinked](#) and the link should be working (otherwise replace or remove).
- [Please avoid tables](#) in the 'Series' or 'Related indicators' sections.
- [Please align the name of the institution](#) across all metadata (it should be the same).
- [Try and make as generic as possible](#) the following sections to avoid annual updates: 1) Data release calendar; 2) Data collection calendar; 3) Data availability: time series
- [Use of acronyms:](#) Please be sure to include a reference to the full name for any acronyms that you include in the metadata. Please treat each section separately with regard to acronym usage, as the document will not always be read as one page and some sections could be selected for view in the [SDMX Metadata Database](#).

# Reminders for Agencies: Review Criteria used by the sub-group

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## 1. Editorial and Grammatical check

- a) Editorial review
  - i. Sentences make sense (correct usage of language)
  - ii. Is all the required information included in the document? Are all relevant sections complete? (if not applicable or no information, please indicate)
- b) Grammar and spelling review
  - i. Sentences are complete
  - ii. Words are spelled correctly (please run a spell check)

## 2. Consistency check

Is the metadata complete?

- a) Does the document contain the necessary information for the collection of all sub-indicators?
- b) Does the metadata include the computation methods?
- c) Does the metadata include anything else that should be provided to understand and compute the indicator?

## 3. Coherence check

Are the time series reported in the UN Global SDG Database compliant with the metadata?

- a) Is the indicator in line with the metadata?
- b) Is the data reported in the Global database a proxy? If so, is it noted in the metadata?
- c) Is a unit of measurement correctly provided?

THANK YOU!

