

Lessons from a Decade of SDG Monitoring: Strengthening Global Frameworks for Acceleration to 2030

Wednesday, 11 February 2026 | 8:00-9:45 am

Welcome remarks

Greetings, everybody, from the UN Statistics Division!

I am delighted to welcome you to this webinar in advance of the upcoming 57th session of the UN Statistical Commission.

My thanks to the IAEG-SDGs co-chairs and members, the Task Team on Lessons Learned, our country colleagues, custodian agencies, and partners for convening this timely discussion.

Colleagues

In the final half-decade of the 2030 Agenda, the question before us is not only *how far have we come*, but *how can we use what we have learned to accelerate progress now—and to inform what comes next*.

This is why reflecting on a decade of lessons in SDG monitoring, particularly the development and operationalization of the global indicator framework, is so important.

Over the past decade, the global SDG indicator framework has driven rapid methodological development in many areas, expanded data availability across nearly all goals, and strengthened the role of many national statistical offices as coordinators of increasingly complex data ecosystems.

We see this in the numbers.

In 2016, the IAEG-SDGs faced the unprecedented task of developing a global monitoring framework for 17 Goals and 169 targets.

Of the initial 232 indicators, close to 40 per cent lacked agreed methodologies or data systems and were classified as Tier III, requiring rapid methodological development across complex policy areas such as peace and justice, ocean health and gender equality.

By 2020, Tier III was effectively ended, with every indicator now supported by an agreed methodology.

This achievement reflects technical expertise and collaboration across custodian agencies, National Statistical Offices and partners, representing one of the largest coordinated statistical development efforts to date.

Over the same period, the global SDG database expanded nearly tenfold, from about 330,000 data points in 2016 to over 3 million by 2025.

In parallel there have been advances in disaggregation, although these are more uneven.

We have learned afresh about the power of disaggregated data to expose persistent inequalities and strengthen our effectiveness in applying the Leave No One Behind principle.

And we have also gained a fresh appreciation of the need for new methods, prioritization driven by clear principles, and sustained investment.

The SDG framework has also reshaped national reporting: the use of statistics in Voluntary National Reviews has grown steadily.

Around two-thirds of countries reporting in 2025 used visual and analytical tools, reflecting not just increasing data use and statistical capacity, but also a desire to communicate better, making themselves more accountable to their own citizens.

All this while, implementation has also revealed important lessons, with the statistical community navigating a complex landscape, balancing technical considerations of measurement and feasibility with policy imperatives aimed at ensuring inclusivity and ambition.

Methodological readiness has varied across domains, and the breadth of the framework, while essential, has also involved trade-offs and synergies at different levels, making the task of translating monitoring into actionable intelligence much more complex and country specific.

Friends,

As we look to accelerate action in the remaining years, it is important to remember that acceleration does not always come from radically new strategies, but rather from smarter use of what we already have.

Today's session will highlight the findings from the background document developed by the IAEG-SDGs Task Team on Lessons Learned from SDG Monitoring, complemented by regional, custodian and stakeholder perspectives.

The second part of the webinar will showcase country and custodian efforts to use data as a tool to accelerate progress toward 2030.

Our webinar is a chance to reflect on what has worked, where challenges persist, and how data can best be used to accelerate progress, supporting better decision-making and accountability in these final years.

What we discuss today will also inform how we approach the challenges of complex global goal setting in the future.

I look forward to learning from your experiences.

Thank you.