



IAEG-SDGs Guidelines on Data Flows and Global Data Reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals

**Inter-Agency Meeting on Preparation for the 2018 SDG Reports
28 February - 1 March 2018 | New York | Conference Room 5**

Agenda

- Mandate for the IAEG to draft guidelines
- Process of producing the guidelines
- Summary of overarching principles and key points from the guidelines
- The way forward



IAEG Mandate to Draft Guidelines

- At the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission “requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to develop guidelines on how custodian agencies and countries can work together to contribute to the data flows necessary to have harmonized statistics (48/101 (I))



Process

Related Events:

- The High-level Forum on Official Statistics at the 48th session of the Statistical Commission entitled “*Working together to measure progress towards the SDGs.*” The outcomes and key points of the Forum fed into the IAEG-SDGs discussions on these guidelines

5th Meeting:

- The IAEG presented an outline of the draft guidelines for discussion at the meeting and created a drafting group co-chaired by Germany and Cameroon



Process

- At the 6th IAEG meeting, an initial draft of the guidelines was presented for discussion. Inputs from CCSA and case studies on data flows prepared by both the IAEG and the UNECE-CES steering group on SDGs were also presented and discussed.
- Following the 6th meeting, the IAEG prepared a revised version of the guidelines and launched a global consultation on the document



Process

- Over 60 responses from countries and international and regional organizations were received during this consultation.
- The IAEG took these comments into consideration when revising the document and finalized the guidelines and submitted them as a background document to the Commission. They were uploaded to the website on 27 February (see link below).
- <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/BG-Item-3a-IAEG-SDGs-DataFlowsGuidelines-E.pdf>



Overarching Principles in Guidelines

- All activities of global statistical system must be conducted in full adherence with *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* and ECOSOC resolution 2006/6
- International agencies must also adhere to *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities*
- **Transparency**
- **Collaboration and communication**
- **Professional and scientific standards**



Key Points in Guidelines

- The guidelines build upon the success and lessons learned during the MDG period
- Global indicators should be primarily based on official Statistics and data from NSS
- The guidelines emphasize the role of NSOs as the coordinator of the NSS
- Custodian agencies should consult with countries when producing estimates if country data are not available



Key Points in Guidelines

- Metadata provided by agencies for the global indicators should follow global metadata template approved by IAEG-SDGs
- Countries must submit national metadata along with data to custodian agencies
- If a national contact person is identified by the NSO, this person should be copied on all emails between custodian agencies and data providers during the collection, processing and disseminating of data



Key Points in Guidelines

- If no national data are available, custodian agency will discuss with NSO/NSS, availability of other data sources and reach agreement on use and validation of these data and statistics
- Custodian agencies are strongly recommended to consult with countries on any adjustments made to national data in a fully transparent manner
- Custodian agencies should give national data providers a minimum of 1 month to validate adjusted data and statistics



Key Points in Guidelines

- Custodian agencies must provide the full methodology used when adjusting and harmonizing data for international comparability to countries
- If a country disagrees with methodology used to harmonize data or the value itself, they must provide their reasons for non-acceptance to custodian agency
- If no agreement is reached between country and agency, national data should not be included in global database, but may be used for calculation of regional and global aggregates



The Way Forward

- The IAEG-SDGs will work on a second document: *Best practices in SDG reporting*. This will be a living document and be updated as best practices are identified. The IAEG will request inputs from countries and agencies on examples of these best practices
- Work on implementation of these guidelines will begin at the 7th IAEG meeting in April, where a discussion on how to practically implement these guidelines will occur



Thank You

