Updates from the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission

Open virtual IAEG-SDG Meeting
Leaving no one behind: Data disaggregation for SDGs

Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD | 25 March 2021
#UN52SC in numbers - overview

1,000 delegates
- 800 delegates from Member States
- 200 delegates from agencies

135 countries registered in e-delegates, including:
- 18 countries from the list of infrequent attendance
- 3 countries who have not attended the Commission before
- 21 of 27 newly appointed DGs

54 agencies

Participation
- Written statements (500)
Side events

• 63 side events
  • 50 open and 13 closed
  • 1 more event on the World Development Report 2021 scheduled on 26 March at 8AM
  • Average attendance of open events—186 (range: 60 – 400)

Lessons Learned

• Advance submission of written statements
• Explore planned intervention/ speaker list
• Convene side events virtually and prior to the Commission
Draft Decision

• Draft decision was adopted on 10 March 2021 after a 10-day silence procedure
• Link to decision [here](#)
UNSC 52 Draft Decision: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report .., and **commended the Group** for its continued work on the implementation of the global indicator framework;

(b) **Expressed its appreciation for the progress made on the regular review of methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata.** Welcomed the creation of the subgroup on metadata to improve the quality of metadata and facilitate better implementation of the indicator framework;

(c) **Encouraged piloting of new indicator methodologies in countries with different contexts,** to improve capacity, ensure acceptability and feasibility of implementation at the national level;
UNSC 52 Draft Decision: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)

(d) Agreed to the proposed annual refinements ...;

(e) Encouraged the IAEG-SDGs to continue implementing and refining indicators and further requested the IAEG-SDGs to work with relevant custodian agencies to develop and test a methodology for indicators on sustainable tourism, so that it can be ready for submission for the 2025 comprehensive review as this indicator is of particular importance to LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS;

(f) Welcomed the dedicated work by the Group on COVID-19 challenges and SDG monitoring and the background document entitled “COVID-19 and the global SDG indicators”, as a useful and timely resource for countries to help identify SDG areas highly impacted by the pandemic;

(g) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made by the three working groups on Geospatial information, Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and the Measurement of Development Support, and took note of specific comments addressed to the three working groups on the work going forward;
UNSC 52 Draft Decision: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)

(h) Welcomed the dedicated work of the Group on data disaggregation, in particular the establishment of a task force on small area estimation and took note of the development of a compilation of tools and resources and the practical guidebook for data disaggregation.

Encouraged further work on data disaggregation and small area estimation with a view to providing additional comprehensive guidelines and tools for countries;

(i) Encouraged the Group to further incorporate data innovation in its work, including the integration of geospatial information and statistics for the 2030 Agenda; the sharing of experiences and best practices on SDG monitoring; the automation of data and metadata transmission using SDMX; and the development of guidelines for geospatial information and SDMX;

(j) Stressed the need for enhanced technical and financial support for countries to build capacity for monitoring, for the production of SDG indicators and for the modernization of statistical systems, including on SDMX, geospatial data integration and data innovation, in particular for African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
Encouraged the IAEG-SDG to explore ways to connect and align their work with the efforts of other international working groups and bodies, including the regional commissions;

Also noted the interest of some countries to become members of the IAEG-SDGs, to be considered by their respective regional mechanisms;

Requested the IAEG-SDGs and the custodian agencies to continue their dialogue to enhance the data flow process for global SDG reporting, including by identifying good practices in the implementation of the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the SDGs and to further refine tools to effectively coordinate data requests to countries, enabling more comprehensive reporting and validation and dissemination of data, and to reduce national reporting burden, including by making efficient use of existing regional mechanisms (or data platforms) where possible;

Approved the proposed work programme .....

UNSC 52 Draft Decision: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Item 3a)
Thank you.