**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED GOALS, TARGETS, AND INDICATORS
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Background

1. This document provides a (general) assessment on the proposed goals, targets, and indicators for the sustainable development agenda, particularly focusing on the Philippine Statistics Authority's perspective on the following:

    • Indicators **already in the proposal** whose inclusion in the list is perceived to be imperative;
    • Indicators **not included in the proposal** whose inclusion in the list is perceived to be necessary;
    • Among others.

2. This assessment is being done per request of the National Statistician.

Considerations during the Assessment

3. Perspective is mainly from the PSA, which may be "liberally" regarded as a possible representative of the views of national statistical systems from developing countries.

4. The assessment will also draw on earlier assessment/review exercises requested by various international organizations and/or development partners (e.g., FOC of the UN Statistical Commission, UNSD, among others).

5. The assessment contains two parts: 1) an overall/macro-level view/perspective in terms of the indicators that should be included and might have missed; and 2) technical/micro-level details of these indicators.

6. In the selection of the aforementioned indicators, the following, among others, were considered:

    6.1 National priority indicators as provided in the national development agenda;
    6.2 Indicators that have clearly demonstrated its actual policy/program use (i.e., **useful statistics** in its truest sense);
    6.3 Feasibility of monitoring the indicators (e.g., availability and/or established methodologies); and
    6.4 Past and current experience in monitoring the MDGs.

7. Assessment done is purely from a statistical perspective.

General Assessment

8. **Learnings from the MDGs in terms of MDG indicators that delivered the largest (and smallest) impact**

   Much has been said, analyzed, written, and discussed on the progress of achieving the MDGs through the indicators. Learning from these comprehensive and extensive work, for the selection of indicators that must be included in the list as well as those that have been missed out, two things may possibly be considered:

   1. Priority will be given on indicators that are deemed to deliver or monitor high-impact results/progress; and
   2. Priority will be given on indicators with little progress or those that may be considered as "unfinished business" of the MDGs.

9. **Selection of core indicator(s) that would generally represent the Goal of interest**

   The **MDG framework has 8 goals, 21 targets, and 60 indicators; but many national statistical systems, especially from developing countries, faced and/or are continuously facing difficulty monitoring some of these.**

   On the other hand, **the initial sustainable development agenda has proposed 17 goals, 169 targets and 304 indicators**[1] may be reasonably regarded as challenging to monitor for national statistical systems, especially among Least Developed Countries (LDC). Thus, it may be deemed critical to identify a core set of indicators per Goal (say, at least two indicators) that would generally represent the Goal of interest. In this way, national statistical systems can be guided as to the prioritization of the generation of indicators per Goal. Further, this can result to greater comparability across countries in the world (with the assumption that most of these countries are all able to monitor at least the two core indicators per Goal).

10. **Subnational monitoring of the proposed indicators should be consciously considered.**

    In the proposed 304 SDG indicators, the PSA appreciates the focus on inequalities as demonstrated by the desired disaggregation of most proposed indicators. For example,

    - *Target 1.1. Proposed Indicator 1, Proportion of population below $1.25 (PPP) per day,* requires for its disaggregation by **sex** and **age group**;
    - *Target 1.3. Proposed Indicator 1,* Percentage of population covered by social protection floors/systems, disaggregated **by sex, with break down by children, unemployed, old age, people with disabilities, pregnant women/new-borns, work injury victims, poor and vulnerable**, including one or more of the following: a) Percentage of older persons receiving a pension; b) Percentage of households with children receiving child support; c) Percentage of unemployed persons receiving unemployment benefits; d)Percentage of persons with disabilities receiving disability benefits; e) Percentage of pregnant women receiving maternity benefits; f)Percentage of workers covered against

---

[1] As of February 2015.

occupational accidents; and   g) Percentage of poor and vulnerable people receiving benefits

However, for the country to achieve its target by 2030, progress should first be achieved at the local level – and this makes it imperative for countries to likewise monitor the SDG indicators at the subnational level.

Hence, subnational monitoring of highly disaggregated indicators may be regarded as a challenge but should be consciously considered in the selection of indicators that must be included and are deemed missing in the current list.

Assessment of Specific Indicators

11. A data assessment on the proposed indicators was conducted focusing on the PSA's perspective on the following:

   • Indicators already in the proposal whose inclusion in the list is perceived to be imperative;
   • Indicators not included in the proposal whose inclusion in the list is perceived to be necessary.

12. Please find attached in Annex 1 the results of the assessment.