

Closing remarks of the OWG Co-Chair H.E. Mr. Csaba Körösi of Hungary
Informal meeting of the OWG on measuring progress
New York, 17 Dec 2013

Today has been a very enriching exercise for the members of the OWG. As Co-Chair of the OWG, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation on behalf of my Co-Chair H.E. Macharia Kamau of Kenya and myself to all those who brought the knowledge and their insightful ideas to the discussion.

Ms. Gabriella Vukovich in her presentation gave an excellent summary of the best ideas of what we can take forward. I would like to share with you seven points of what I believe we maybe can take away as members of the OWG from today's discussion.

1. The OWG recognizes the importance of considering measurement issues when making proposals for SDGs and targets. The OWG also recognises that a strong statistical support is required and will be required in all countries when we embark on this exercise to build goals and targets and indicators for their monitoring.
2. The OWG appreciates today's dialogue with the statistical experts, takes note of and welcomes their offer and concrete proposals to further support the OWG in its task. This offer will be considered. I also recognize the appeal by the statistical experts that there is a strong need for dialogue on national and regional levels between producers and users of data.
3. We feel the need to strengthen institutional capabilities in a great number of countries for producing and evaluating the data. That would require cooperation within the countries and the involvement of the national governments. It would also require cooperation among countries, including cooperation among the statisticians and measurement experts.
4. There was a very strong appeal from many that besides a single set of global goals and targets also a supplementary set of nationally and regionally relevant and applicable targets need to be considered.
5. The statistical community encouraged the OWG to understand, and at the same cautioned the OWG on the data revolution. Statisticians view such data revolution as a combination of the above dimensions and efforts, the application of national circumstances and relying on good quality data that are accessible, reliable, user friendly and supporting sustainable development implementation.
6. Two types of cooperation of statisticians in the process have been offered and can be envisaged: direct technical support to the OWG in its work on shaping measurable goals and targets; and a broader set of contributions which will be very useful when going for the post-2015 framework design which will actually be beyond the task of the OWG. That certainly will have to include the building of process monitoring, measuring progress and expert advice on capability development.

7. Reporting on progress will have to be designed according to international acknowledged standards but also designed and harmonized on national and other levels. This includes all stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation of the SDGs. In this context regions, cities and maybe even cooperate players were mentioned.

The dialogue has started. Let's hope the dialogue can further develop. The OWG also takes on the general message, that country ownership is essential for successful monitoring.

I like to thank once again all our presenters, all of you who came over to New York, who decided to spend the whole day with us. I like to thank the United Nations Statistical Commission for preparing this very first meeting at this level and of this type between data producers and data users.