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**Minutes on the meeting of the Friend of the Chair Group on broader measures of
progress, Thursday 6 March, 8:15-9:45, DC2-1949**

Organization of the work forward

A meeting was organised on Thursday 6 March 2014 from 8.30 AM to 9.45 AM in New York, back to back with the Statistical Commission to discuss how to carry forward the work of the FOC.

Based on the discussions and conclusions of the Commission, four items were suggested to the agenda of the meeting which reflects the various elements of the work program that was endorsed by the Commission (paras 58 and 59 of the report)

- Statistical support in the design of SDGs and post-2015 development agenda (ensuring measurability)
- Development of a goal-target-indicator monitoring framework
- Development and implementation of a monitoring framework
- Statistical development
- Broader measures of progress

Agenda item 1: Statistical support in the design of SDGs and post-2015 development agenda (ensuring measurability)

1. Participants were briefed about the ongoing OWG process:
 - a. A wide-ranging document identifying 19 focus areas has been issued and is discussed in the 9th meeting of the OWG from 3-5 March 2014;
 - b. The Technical Support Team (consisting of 40 UN agencies) has been requested to provide targets for each of the focus areas by 12 March;
 - c. It is expected that a 'zero' draft will be a next step in the work of the OWG;
 - d. Information on the OWG sessions is available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>;
2. Participants stressed the importance of effective and efficient involvement with the OWG
 - a. It was suggested to have a dialogue with the OWG during each of its meetings;
 - b. It is expected that UNSD will be requested to attend and participate in the meetings of the OWG starting from April onwards;
 - c. The importance of engagement of NSOs at national level was pointed out in order to sensitize policy makers participating in the OWG regarding the importance of measurement issues (and the required capacity);
 - d. It was pointed out that organizations are often requested individually to provide input to various elements of the process and activities, and have to make their own decisions to what extent to react and get involved.
3. Communication strategy
 - a. Policy makers should be given simple messages, insisting on the conditions for sound measurability, but also clearly pointing out the limits (some participants found it important to acknowledge that we still have not reached a satisfactory level of measurement of sustainable development).
 - b. Credibility and quality, together with fitness for purpose are the core strength of data provided by official statistics;
 - c. There is also a need to manage expectations from policy makers.
4. Participants agreed to evaluate the SDSN proposal for indicators, which is viewed as a useful case study, and to prepare a general and short formal communication within two week time as input to the SDSN but also to be shared with the OWG:
 - a. It was suggested to provide a 3 tier classification of the indicators: (A) feasible, (B) feasible with efforts, (C) very difficult/not possible within available time;



- b. It was suggested to refer to the statistical notes which will be updated taking into account all comments provided before the statistical commission;
- c. Stress need for ownership by NSOs;
- d. Official deadline for comment is 14 March; however, this is not a strict deadline - the deadline has now been extended until 28 March;

Some organizations have been and are responding individually.

Attendees were requested to share their input to the SDSN consultation which may be a useful reference for the response of the FOC. A draft communication will be sent for circulation shortly. The intention is to finalize and send it by 28 March.

Agenda item 2: Development of a goal-target-indicator monitoring framework

- 5. It was suggested to follow a systematic and proactive approach in the design of a monitoring framework and not to be primarily driven by the need to react to activities of others:
 - a. It was suggested to have a substantive report before the next UNSC – suitable for transmission to policy sphere
 - b. The report should have 2 parts: methodological part (elaborate concepts and principles) and operational part. The first part can be prepared earlier while the operational part should follow progress in the post 2015 DA process.
 - c. The issue of target differentiation by countries, together with global goals should be addressed in priority.

The Group shall start designing an action plan to launch reflection on the theoretical part.

Agenda item 3: Development and implementation of a monitoring framework

- 6. The FOC, UN regional Commissions and Paris 21 should start thinking about what it takes to develop and implement the monitoring framework in terms of resources (capacity building and funding).

Agenda item 4: Statistical development

- 7. It was suggested to identify and follow-up on areas where statistical development is required:
 - a. Household surveys: the World Bank is taking the lead;



- b. Governance, peace and security statistics: it has been put on the agenda of the 2015 UNSC; conference in Mexico; Cabo Verde supported by UNDP and multiple countries appears to take the lead; OECD also considers launching a group on governance statistics
 - c. Data revolution: Paris21 appears to be working on it;
 - d. Big data: The 2014 UNSC established a working group which will also reflect on the relevance of Big data for post-2015 monitoring;
 - e. Measurement of inequality and disaggregation of data: these important aspects have been addressed within relevant statistical notes; however given its importance for post-2015, measurement of inequality and the disaggregation of data has to be considered across all policy areas.
8. The need for coordination of these activities among and within agencies was mentioned.

Attendees are requested to identify any further specific areas that require development.

Agenda item 5: Broader measures of progress

9. It was agreed that this component of the work programme of the FOC should follow the agreement on the SD goals-targets-indicators framework.

Attendees are requested to participate in completion of the stocktaking exercise if they have not done so already.

The Director for Methodology and Statistical and
International Coordination

Signé : Philippe Cuneo



List of participants of the meeting:

The meeting was attended by the following countries and organizations: France and India (Co-Chairs); Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Eurostat, FAO, OECD, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNSD.

Agenda of the meeting

Based on the discussions and conclusions of the Commission, the meeting will discuss how to carry forward the work of the FOC.

The suggested agenda of the meeting reflects the various elements of the work program that was endorsed by the Commission (paras. 58 and 59 of the report). For illustration, expected/potential tasks, contributors and time frame are indicated:

1. Statistical support in the design of SDGs and post-2015 development agenda (ensuring measurability)

Tasks: further elaboration of statistical notes; evaluation of proposals of goals and targets; considerations regarding a goal-target-indicator framework; etc.

Who: rapid response team consisting of FOC countries and international organizations

Time: Immediately

2. Development of a goal-target-indicator monitoring framework

Tasks: target selection and specification, indicator selection

Who: FOC, countries, international organizations, UN Regional Commissions le foc est concerné pour le cadre conceptuel?

Time: 2014 - 2015

3. Development and implementation of a monitoring framework

Tasks: engagement in the debate on the data revolution, identification of required statistical work at national level; identification of capacity building and funding requirements; coordination of activities of international community and donors; mobilisation of support from policy level; development of a monitoring and reporting mechanism, etc.

Who: countries, UN Regional Commissions, international organizations, incl. Paris21, and others, such as corporate sector

Time: 2014 - 2015

4. Statistical development

Tasks: conceptual work in certain areas such as governance; methodological work to develop and use new or existing data sources (e.g. household surveys); development of target and indicators related to an effective statistical system

Who: countries and international organizations, organised independently or potentially as sub-groups of the FOC

Time: 2014 - 2015

5. Broader measures of progress

Tasks: completing inventory; exploring prospects for globally agreed measures of progress

Who: FOC

Time: 2014 - 2015



6. Agenda of work/ organization and participation

Other groups, arrangements and meetings will be addressing some of the tasks under 2., 3. and 4. as well. The FOC should keep itself informed about those activities and contribute or coordinate those as appropriate and required. The FOC is the designated working mechanism of the UNSC on post-2015 and will report back to the Commission in 2015.

