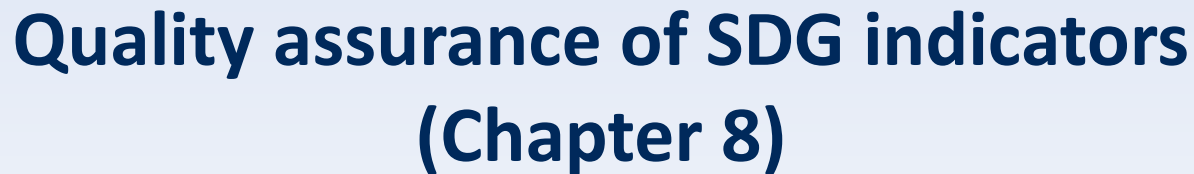


Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-18 October 2019

Session 6.3: Quality assurance for SDG indicators

**Matthias Reister, Chief
Development Data Section
Statistics Division, Development Data and Outreach Branch
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**





- Note:** This Chapter is primarily directed at the central coordinating body (typically the NSO) with overall responsibility for SDG monitoring and aims at assuring the quality of SDG data and statistics across the NSS and not of individual SDG indicators.

The special challenge of assuring the quality of the SDG indicator data and statistics

Background

- In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets are expected to guide the actions of the international community up to 2030.
- Subsequently, in July 2017, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/313 containing in its Annex the list of 232 global indicators.
- There is a comprehensive review in 2020 and in 2025.

The special challenge of assuring the quality of the SDG indicator data and statistics

The following 6 factors characterize the special challenge of assuring the quality of the indicator data and statistics for the monitoring of the SDGs:

1. The production of the SDG indicators may involve all members of the NSS as well as new or non-traditional statistics producers and data providers;
2. The set of identified global SDG indicators is large and diverse
3. Requires collecting additional data including from administrative and other data sources;
4. Countries are establishing their own national indicator frameworks according to their national circumstances and priorities;
5. Global SDG indicators when adopted in 2017 were at different stages of methodological development;
6. The disaggregation of the global SDG indicators is a major challenge for countries.

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

1. Relevant core recommendations #2, #3, #5

2. Role of National Statistical Office (NSO):

- Specific arrangements vary, but typically the NSO is the central coordination body of the NSS and has the following responsibilities
 - ☐ overall dissemination and reporting of the SDG indicators.
 - ☐ overarching responsibility in the assurance of quality for the SDG indicators.
 - ☐ Typically compiles the largest share of the SDG indicators that are included in the national SDG indicator framework.

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

2. Roles of the individual producers of the SDG indicator data and statistics

- Government ministries, departments and agencies, and other public and private entities are required to produce high quality data and statistics according to their respective mandates reflected in the laws and regulations of the country or other formal arrangements.
- All producers of SDG indicators are responsible for assuring the quality of their indicators by properly managing their statistical production processes and outputs.
- Some producers may not have the capacity and ability and will require assistance.

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

Requirements and elements to be assured of special importance for quality assurance of SDG indicators

- All UN NQAF principles and requirements are necessary for quality assurance of the SDG indicators.
- Four tables (one for each level of UN NQAF) identify **essential requirements or elements to be assured** for SDG data and statistics.
- The tables also include the rationale for their inclusion as well as a brief explanation of who is or should generally be responsible for their implementation.

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

Level A: Managing the NSS as part of assuring the quality of the SDG indicators

| Requirements / elements to be assured* | Rationale for inclusion and description of the responsibilities |
|--|---|
| Principle 1: Coordinating the national statistical system | |
| 3. As appropriate, review the legal and/or regulatory framework underpinning data collection activities of the NSS members and draft proposals for amendments, as necessary, to facilitate access to administrative and other data needed for the compilation of the SDG indicators. (1.1, 1.3 and 2.4 - 2.6). | <p><u>Rationale:</u> The data collection by the individual NSS members is regulated by applicable legislation and/or government regulation; they may need to be amended to allow for the compilation and sharing of data required for the efficient production of the SDG indicators.</p> <p><u>Responsibility:</u> Individual NSS members.</p> |
| 4. Review and update the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) (1.4 and 9.1) | <p><u>Rationale:</u> The NSDS needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the additional requirements for the monitoring of the SDGs.</p> <p><u>Responsibility:</u> The central coordination body (NSO) should initiate the review and update of the NSDS; all NSS members should actively participate in the work as required.</p> |

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

Level C: Managing the statistical processes as part of assuring quality of the SDG indicators

| Requirement / element to be assured* | Rationale for inclusion and description of the responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Principle 10: Assuring methodological soundness | |
| 1. Review and evaluate the methodology used for the production of the SDG indicators. (10.1 and 10.3) | <p><u>Rationale</u>: The methodology used for the production affects the output quality of the SDG indicators.</p> <p><u>Responsibility</u>: The central coordination body (NSO) and SDG-WG should conduct this activity together with the individual producers of SDG indicators.</p> |
| Principle 11: Assuring cost-effectiveness | |
| 1. Assess whether existing data sources and existing data can be used for the production of SDG indicators. (11.2 and 11.5) | <p><u>Rationale</u>: The use of existing data sources or existing data is normally more cost effective than the collection of new data.</p> <p><u>Responsibility</u>: The central coordination body (NSO), the SDG-WG and producers of SDG indicators should conduct this activity before committing to carrying out any new data collection.</p> |

THANK YOU

