

**10th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
13-15 April 2016, Paris, France**

Agenda item: 17

National accounts and SDGs

Introduction

The importance of high-quality, readily available national accounts data will continue to grow as the global statistical community moves towards monitoring the implementation of the newly agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The current set of proposed Sustainable Development Goal Indicators includes a number of indicators for which national accounts statistics will be critical. In order to respond to the increased demand for detailed and timely data to monitor progress towards the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, work continues on the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics and the modernization of statistical systems. This agenda requires a considerable, concerted and sustained investment in national statistical capacity-building based on the technical and institutional aspects of the integrated statistics approach.

Documentation

Paper: Extract of papers and presentations of the Third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

Main issues to be discussed

The AEG is requested to:

- Take note of the scope of national accounts in the SDGs and express its views on the meta data and data flows of these indicators.



**Third Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on
Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

**47th Session of the Statistical Commission:
Outcome on global SDG Indicators**

30 March – 1 April 2016

Mexico City, Mexico

Decision 1: Global Indicator Framework for goals and targets of 2030 Agenda

The Statistical Commission:

- a) Expressed **appreciation** to IAEG-SDGs, **supported its report**
- b) Asked IAEG-SDGs to maintain same level of **inclusiveness and transparency** of process so far
- c) **Agreed on revised terms of reference** of IAEG-SDGs, as presented in annex I of the report
- d) **Agreed as a practical starting point with proposed global indicator framework** for Goals and targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as reflected in the list of indicators presented in annex IV of the report, **subject to future technical refinement.**

Decision 1: Global Indicator Framework for goals and targets of 2030 Agenda (*cont.*)

The Statistical Commission:

- e) Requested IAEG-SDGs to take into account specific proposals for refinements of indicators made by Member States during the discussion
- f) Recognized that development of robust, high-quality indicator framework is a technical process that will need to continue over time, including by making use of expertise in other related expert processes, and requested IAEG-SDGs to provide its proposals and a plan for reviews of indicator framework to 48th session of Statistical Commission
- g) Agreed with proposed programme of work by IAEG-SDGs for implementation of global indicator framework and its proposed work plan for the coming year

IAEG-SDGs Programme of work

- Classify indicators into 3 tiers, based on their level of methodological development and overall data availability
- Establish adequate methodology for Tier III indicators, in consultation with specialized agencies and relevant experts
- Discuss available data sources and methodology for improved coverage of Tier II indicators
- Explore new data sources and data collection technologies, including through partnerships with civil society, private sector and academia
- Regularly review methodologies for indicators

IAEG-SDGs Programme of work (*cont.*)

- Establish baseline for tracking indicators
- Address question of periodicity of reporting
- Review and discuss data gaps and related capacity-building priorities, and transmit results to HLG
- Agree on format of compilation and dissemination of metadata on global indicators

IAEG-SDGs Workplan for 2016-2017

- a) Agree on global reporting mechanism, identifying entities responsible for individual indicators to be provided to the Secretariat
- b) Establish tier system for indicators
- c) Establish workplan to further develop Tier III indicators
- d) Establish procedures for methodological review of indicators and approval mechanisms
- e) Review data availability for Tiers I and II
- f) Develop guidance on disaggregation
- g) Continue discussion on interlinkages across goals and targets and multi-purpose indicators
- h) Hold two meetings (March 2016 and Fall 2016) and continue to interact electronically and via teleconference

Decision 1: Global Indicator Framework for goals and targets of 2030 Agenda (*cont.*)

- h) IAEG-SDGs to report back to the commission at its 48th session on progress made especially on plans to develop methodologies for indicators in tier III, including with work on definitions and standards to be agreed at international level for international comparability
- i) Emphasised that the global indicators are intended for global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring will be developed at the regional and national levels
- j) Emphasized that national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development and that national reviews are voluntary and country-led, will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities for all countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and other countries in special situations;

Decision 1: Global Indicator Framework for goals and targets of 2030 Agenda (*cont.*)

- k) Stressed that implementation of indicator framework will present a **challenge in many countries** and appropriate efforts to **strengthen national statistical capacities** will be needed, including by ensuring coordination between the IAEG-SDGs and the HLG; in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 capacity building will be particularly important in **developing countries, especially African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and other countries in special situations**;
- l) Agreed that compilation of global indicators will be based to greatest extent possible on **comparable and standardized national official statistics**, provided **by countries to international statistical systems** and that when other sources and methodologies are used, these will be **reviewed and agreed by national statistical authorities** and **presented in a transparent manner**;

Decision 1: Global Indicator Framework for goals and targets of 2030 Agenda (*cont.*)

- m) Agreed that **coordination between national statistical systems and international organizations is important**, including to ensure transparency and efficiency in reporting, avoiding duplications, and that attention should be given to **strengthening reporting capacity of poorer countries**;
- n) Agreed that improving **data disaggregation is fundamental** for full implementation of indicator framework and to fully reflect principles of 2030 Agenda to ensure no-one left behind and stressed that efforts should be made to **strengthen national capacities in this area** and to **develop the necessary statistical standards and tools**, including by establishing a **working group** to work on data disaggregation.



Global Reporting Mechanism

*Third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs,
30 March – 1 April, 2016, Mexico City*

Global versus national follow-up and review

* Global:

Objective ⇒ provide a **global assessment** of progress towards the achievement of SDGs

Target audience ⇒

- HLPF/General Assembly/country delegates,
- international community,
- general public,
- media,
- policy makers

* National:

Objective ⇒ focus **national development** debate on specific priorities and raise awareness of development needs

Target audience ⇒

- national policy makers,
- civil society,
- development partners,
- general public,
- media

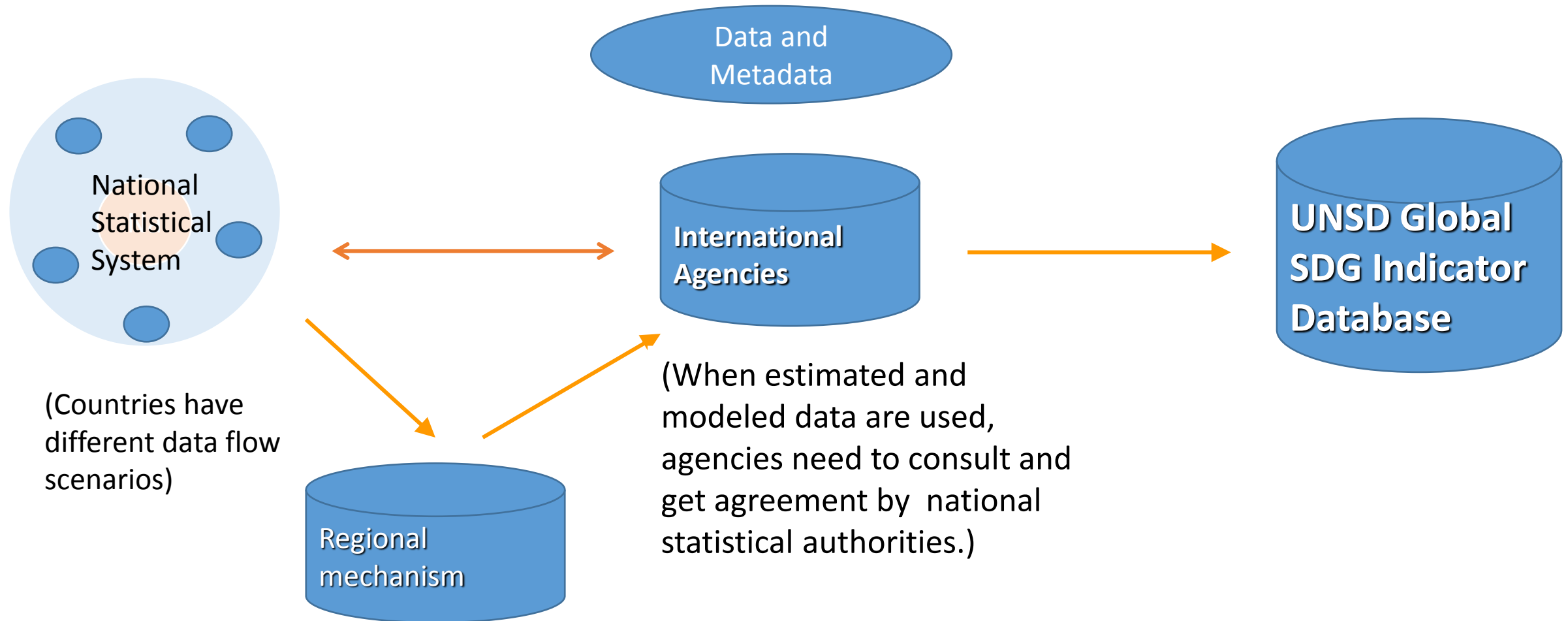
Role of National Data in Global Reporting

- 47th Statistical Commission Decision 1 (I): “Agreed that the compilation of global indicators will be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized national official statistics, provided by countries to the international statistical systems and that when other sources and methodologies are used, these will be reviewed and agreed by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner;”
- International agencies will
 - receive data from countries through well-established and further improved reporting mechanisms,
 - support increased adoption and compliance with internationally agreed standards at the national level,
 - and work for strengthening national statistical capacity and improving reporting mechanisms.

Role of National Data

- Differences between data published at the national level and at the global level by international agencies will need to be systematically addressed.
- Data should be collected according to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which were adopted by the General Assembly in 2014.
- Regional mechanisms will facilitate the data transmission process from the national to the global level.

Data flow from national to global level



Data flows

- Countries will provide their national data and metadata to international agencies, coordinated by the national statistical office, and facilitated as appropriate, by regional mechanisms;
- Countries may set up SDG data dissemination platforms for their national purposes and to allow general access to their data and metadata;
- International agencies will provide global and regional aggregates and accompanying metadata to UNSD for use in the annual progress report and inclusion in the SDG indicator database
- International agencies will provide country level data and accompanying metadata to UNSD for inclusion in a global SDG indicator database, which can be used to monitor indicator 17.18.1
- As much as possible, all data exchanges should strive to follow internationally established formats.

Harmonization and Technical Assistance

- International and regional entities should harmonize their data collection to reduce reporting burden of countries.
- International and regional entities will support countries in the
 - ✓ implementation of the SDG indicators according to their specific mandates with the aim to fill data gaps and achieve international comparability of national data;
 - ✓ implementation of integrated national SDG data platforms with the aim to increase data availability.



Metadata Compilation for the Global SDG Indicators

Third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs,
30 March – 1 April, 2016, Mexico City

Metadata Compilation for the Global SDG Indicators

Purpose:

- To provide information on the definitions, rationale, concepts and sources of the data for the global SDG indicators
- To promote international comparable data
- To provide a reference point and guidance for countries

Level of details:

- The amount of information will vary by indicator and reflect the level of methodology development. Limited information may be available for some of the less well-established indicators.
- With further development on the indicators, improved information will become available.
- The metadata can change over time as concepts, definitions and methodologies change.

SDG Indicator Metadata Database

Example: MDG Metadata Database

Select Series

Tree View Flat View

- [-] Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - [-] Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
 - [M] Population below \$1.25 (PPP) per day, percentage
 - [x] Population below national poverty line, total, percentage
 - [x] Population below national poverty line, urban, percentage
 - [x] Population below national poverty line, rural, percentage
 - [x] Purchasing power parities (PPP) conversion factor, local currency unit to international dollar
 - [M] Poverty gap ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP), percentage
 - [M] Poorest quintile's share in national income or consumption, percentage
 - [+] Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
 - [+] Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
- [+] Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education
- [-] Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
 - [+] Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Standardized Metadata Template

- 1. Goals and Targets addressed**
- 2. Definition and method of computation**
- 3. Rational and interpretation**
- 4. Disaggregation**
- 5. Sources and data collection**
- 6. Comments and limitations**

Standardized Metadata Template (Continued)

- 7. Current data availability / indicator tier**
- 8. Responsible entities**
- 9. Data collection and data release calendar**
- 10. Treatment of missing values**
- 11. Sources of differences between global and national figures**
- 12. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring**
- 13. References**

Work plan and next steps:

1. Finalising tier system:

- IAEG-SDGs will review the current proposal of tier system and come back with comments and suggestions by 25 April on Tiers I and II
- Secretariat will request agencies to provide the exact tools and reporting mechanisms from countries and the exact reference to agreements and the international standards and agencies will provide responses by 2 May
- The Tier I and II with the additional information will go back to the IAEG-SDGs
- IAEG-SDGs will review the revised proposals with additional information on Tier III indicators and will submit their comments by 31 May
- IAEG-SDGs will finalise the initial tier system by 29 July

2. Creation of

- a. subgroup of IAEG-SDGs (data disaggregation) (15 April)
- b. 3 working groups under the auspices of the IAEG-SDGs (SDMX, Geospatial information, and interlinkages) (15 April)

3. The 3 working groups will be open to other countries, international organisations and stakeholders by invitation based on level of expertise and area of work
4. Once the process of adoption of the global indicator framework by ECOSOC and the General Assembly is completed, IAEG-SDGs will take into account the specific proposals for refinement based on Statistical Commission decision 1 (e)
5. Develop a plan for reviews of the indicator framework to present to the 48th session of the Statistical Commission.
6. Secretariat will request international agencies to submit detailed plans for developing Tier III indicators (29 July)
7. Review and finalise plans proposed by international agencies to develop methodologies for indicators in tier III (15 September)
8. Secretariat will request IAEG-SDGs members to provide scenarios on data flows from national to international level (30 April)
9. 4th meeting of IAEG-SDGs will be held in the fall of 2016.

List of SDG indicators related to national accounts

1	1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)
2	1.a.1 Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes
3	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)
4	1.b.1 Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups
5	2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size
6	2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status
7	2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures
8	2.b.1 Producer Support Estimate
9	2.b.2 Agricultural export subsidies
10	2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies
11	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP
12	7.b.1 Investments in energy efficiency as a percentage of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services
13	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita
14	8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person
15	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex
16	8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP
17	8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP
18	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities
19	8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
20	8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate
21	8.9.2 Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex
22	8.b.1 Total government spending in social protection and employment programmes as a proportion of the national budgets and GDP
23	9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport
24	9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita
25	9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment
26	9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added
27	9.4.1 CO2 emission per unit of value added
28	9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP
29	9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure
30	9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added
31	10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers
32	10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators
33	11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services ¹
34	12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

35	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP
36	12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels
37	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries
38	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
39	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source
40	17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes
41	17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)
42	17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget
43	17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP
44	17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services
45	17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports
46	17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard