



International policy demand to monitor the effect of economic and other human activity on the environment

Ivo Havinga

United Nations Statistics Division

Regional Seminar on Developing a Programme for the
Implementation Programme of the 2008 SNA and the
Implementation Strategy for the SEEA Central Framework in
the Pacific Region

20-23 August 2013 Apia, Samoa



Today's global challenges

- Persistent inequalities
- Food and nutrition insecurity
- Knowledge challenge
- Growing environmental footprints
- Environmental sustainability
- Conflict, violence and insecurity
- Governance deficits
- Fiscal challenges
- Shifting demographics
(migration, urbanization, ageing)



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➔ **Urgent need to find new pathways in pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable global development**



Policy settings

- Post-2015 UN development agenda/SDGs
- Barbados plan of action, Mauritius strategy of implementation
- UNDESA UNEP UNDP OECD initiatives on Green Growth/Green Economy
- Broader measures of progress/Beyond GDP
- World Bank Natural Capital Accounting
- Aichi targets of CBD strategic plan 2011-2020 (e.g. Target 2)
- UNDP Poverty and Environment
- UNEP TEEB





Policy settings -- measurement

- Stiglitz Commission on the Measurement of Economic and Social Progress
 - "choices between promoting GDP and protecting the environment may be false choices once environmental degradation is appropriately included in our measurement of economic performance."
- European Union Beyond GDP initiative
 - "The Beyond GDP initiative is about developing indicators that are as clear and appealing as GDP, but more inclusive of environmental and social aspects of progress"
- OECD Better Life Initiative
 - "understanding what drives the well-being of people and nations and what needs to be done to achieve better progress for all"



Sustainable development goals



We are determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of commitment by the international community to move the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of the internationally **agreed development goals** including the Millennium Development Goals (para 18)



Para.38 of the Rio+20 report



“We recognize the need for broader measures of progress to complement GDP in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard, we request the UN Statistical Commission in consultation with relevant UN System entities and other relevant organizations to launch a programme of work in this area building on existing initiatives.”



Some Lessons learned from MDG Monitoring

- The link between environmental sustainability and the economy is weak
- Lack of unified theory or supporting integrated-statistical framework or international standard
- Developing countries do not have the statistical capacity to produce timely and relevant MDG indicators.
 - Often estimation by international organizations is required to impute missing data.



Post – 2015 Development Agenda

Vision and responsibility

1. End **extreme poverty** in all its form in the **context of sustainable development**
2. A **global, people-centred** and **planet-sensitive** agenda to address the universal challenges of the 21st century
 - Promoting sustainable development
 - Supporting job-creating growth
 - Protecting the environment
 - Providing peace, security, justice, freedom and equity at all level



Vision: The Future We Want for All

- Recognize the need for transformative change for inclusive, people-centered, sustainable development
- Build on the core values outlined in the Millennium Declaration....
- ...centred on **three fundamental principles**:
 - ✓ respect for human rights
 - ✓ equality
 - ✓ sustainability



Vision: *Realizing* the Future We Want for All

- ...and organizing global goals along **four interdependent dimensions:**
 - ✓ Inclusive social development
 - ✓ Inclusive economic development
 - ✓ Environmental sustainability
 - ✓ Peace and security



Vision: *Realizing* the Future We Want for All

- A high degree of **policy coherence** at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels is required
- A core set of '**development enablers**' to guide policy coherence but not aiming to be overly prescriptive



Vision: *Realizing the Future We Want for All*



We therefore acknowledge the need to further **mainstream** sustainable development at all levels **integrating** economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their **interlinkages**, so as to achieve sustainable development across all dimensions (para 3)





Progress

Several work streams:

1. **UN Task Team** (continue analytical work and support to the Open Working Group)
2. **UNDG consultations**: 70+ national consultations and 11 thematic consultations (peace and security, conflict and fragility, food security, environmental sustainability, water, energy, inequalities, population dynamics, health, education, ...)
3. **High-level Panel of Eminent Persons**: 3 co-chairs (Liberia, Indonesia, UK); 26 panelists; Special Advisor as ex-officio member)
4. **Special Advisor** to the SG on Post 2015
5. **Inter-government Open Working Group** on SDGs



Progress

- Report adopted by the General Assembly
 - *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (September 2012)*
- High-Level Panel
 - *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development (May 2013)*
- UN Development Group
 - *The global conversation begins (March 2013)*
- Sustainable Development Solution Network
 - *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development (June 2013)*



Implications for statistical community

- A need to bring statistical decisions into the political process of defining development goals, targets and indicators
- An early and adequate engagement of the statistical community is vital
- A leadership role for the national statistical offices in the national statistical system and engage with the national stakeholders
- A need to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to compile and report development indicators through balanced and resourced national statistical systems based on national priorities



- Fundamental rethink and transformational change in mainstreaming sustainable development
 - How we **set the statistical agenda**, how we **keep the agenda under review** and how we **promote the statistical agenda and the authority of official statistics**
 - How we engage within and between the national, regional and international statistical system with a **bottom-up approach based on national priorities**
 - How we **integrate policy and statistics** in our operations





System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

United Nations Statistics Division

Statisticians, politicians and policymakers, business sector, scientific/academic community, civil society and general public must join hands in data revolution





Thank you