

*Background Document/Discussion Paper*

*Multi-stage process for the development of the indicator framework and proposed terms of reference of the IAEG-SDG*

Prepared by

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**Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda, New York, 25-26 February**

Background document/discussion paper

Multi-stage process for the development of the indicator framework and proposed terms of reference of the IAEG-SDG

1. The roadmap that will be presented for the consideration of the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session (3-6 March 2015) by the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress envisions a multi-stage process for the development (and implementation) of an indicator and monitoring framework for the post-2015 development agenda under broad participation of Member States, agencies and other stakeholders. The roadmap suggests providing a final proposal of an indicator framework by end of 2015, and an initial proposal earlier, depending on the requirements of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. This roadmap may need to be adjusted based on the results of the ongoing political process, particularly as it concerns the decisions by Member States on how and when to address the issue of indicators, and any requirements resulting from the inter-governmental discussions on an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda.
2. The following multi-stage process is envisioned as based on the road map proposed by the Friends of the Chair and considering recent requests by the intergovernmental negotiations (the schedule is tentative):
  - (a) Stage 1: Initial proposal for a list of global indicators by mid-March 2015 in support of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda
    - The Statistical Commission (3-6 March 2015) will discuss further steps for the refinement of the initial proposal.
  - (b) Stage 2: First draft proposal for an indicator framework by mid-July 2015
    - UNSC (3-6 March 2015) will discuss roadmap and is expected to establish the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG)
    - First meeting of IAEG-SDG in April (the meeting may be virtual)
    - Formulation of draft proposal by mid-July 2015
  - (c) Stage 3: Second draft proposal for an indicator framework by end of December 2015 for discussion at the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission in March 2016
    - High-level summit in September 2015 is expected to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and its goals and targets
    - Inputs from IAEG-SDG by end of October 2015
    - Formulation of draft proposal by mid-December 2015 for submission as parliamentary document to the UNSC

## **Annex: Proposed Terms of reference for the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators**

1. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) will
  - (a) develop an indicator framework (and a list of indicators) for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account existing efforts by different groups of countries and organizations to be adopted by the Statistical Commission;
  - (b) guide the implementation of the approved indicator and monitoring framework, ensure the use of harmonised and agreed indicator definitions, share experiences with monitoring the SDGs and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity building;
  - (c) regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;
  - (d) monitor and report on progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global and regional levels;
  - (e) actively consider potential new data sources and explore the possibilities of partnerships with private companies, the research and academic community and civil society for data sharing;
  - (f) regularly review capacity building activities in statistical areas relevant to SDG indicators and make recommendations to be considered by the High-level Group on post-2015 monitoring, the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).
  - (g) Review and support work by the Secretariat for the development of an SDG data user forum, tools for data analysis and open dashboard on the state of SDGs
  
2. The group will consist of international agencies (which also represent existing monitoring groups) that are willing to support monitoring efforts in their area of expertise, the UN Regional Commissions and ten to fifteen representatives of national statistical systems (with at least a few of them on a rotating basis) which will ensure that the views of countries are appropriately considered. The Statistics Division will be the secretariat of the group, which will elect two Co-Chairs, one from a national statistical office and one from an international agency. The existing global monitoring groups, generally composed of representatives of national statistical systems and experts from international agencies, working on specific indicators will contribute to the work of the IAEG-SDGs. In addition, global monitoring groups will be formed bringing together national and international experts for the selection and definition of indicators to monitor progress in new and emerging areas covered by the new goals and targets.
  
3. The group will conduct its work in an open and inclusive manner and will invite private sector and civil society to contribute its expertise and experiences on indicators and innovative ways of data compilation.

4. The group will meet physically twice a year, and otherwise conduct its work electronically. Participation in the physical meetings is self-funded. A limited number of developing countries may receive funding, if available and according to practises followed in the IAEG-MDG.