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Africa comments

Comments on the Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators “(E/CN.3/2016/2)”

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First and foremost, the Africa group do recognize UNSD - IAEG-SDG's efforts in coordinating the process. The Africa region welcomes the report of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Africa group also appreciates the participatory approach used as an excellent mode of reaching every country, international organizations, CSO's, academia and the rest. The group considers the report as very comprehensive and support recommendations with the following comments:

1. In relation to section I paragraph 3, it is useful to note that while IAEG-member countries were expected to consult with countries in their regions, such consultations were not easy to undertake effectively given the very tight schedule that had been set for the work of the IAEG. It is important therefore that going forward, there should be adequate time allocated for more consultation at both national and regional levels.
2. As regards the points of discussion outlined in section V, it is important that there be a discussion on how to enhance interaction between the IAEG and the HLG. Such interaction is needed particularly to work out and implement the intended strengthening of statistical capabilities and enhancement of capacity building support for developing countries, least developed countries, middle income countries and small island developing countries.
3. There is a need for further discussion on the planned annual reporting on the SDGs so that there is clarity regarding what may be considered to be minimum reporting by countries. Many countries may not be able to report on all the SDG indicators annually. For a meaningful annual global monitoring, some minimum report should be expected from all countries. Development of a grading system of countries on reporting may be a useful incentive for countries to report more adequately.
4. As the way forward, for the developing countries, capacity building in the production of the complex indicators and especially those indicators relating to complicated

statistical frameworks like SEEA, FDES and others are very important. Capacity building at institutional level, human development and application of technologies and innovations in terms of cost effective data production becomes imperative.

5. In terms of ensuring quality of the data and capitalizing on the data revolution, there is a need of establishing Global SDG's Labs that will deal with data visualization using dashboards, data analysis and data dissemination. As such NSO's should be the goalkeepers to monitor the quality of the data from all sources and to serve as focal person to all other actors at the national level. The pros of NSO's to lead a process is that, the system are already established what is required is built from the existing system rather than starting a new one that will involve costs.
6. Lastly, there is a need of establishing a global financial framework that will work out on new investments on data production. This could be achieved by incorporating private sector, scientists, researchers, decision makers, politicians in all levels.