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## **Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

### Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices, this report describes the activities undertaken in 2019 by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 50/101, including: (a) tier classification updates and methodological development of tier III indicators; (b) the 2020 Comprehensive Review of the global SDG indicator framework; (c) update of the ongoing activities on the workstream on data disaggregation; (d) activities of the three working groups on interlinkages, Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) and geospatial information, respectively. The Commission will also have before it a background document: "Second report of the interlinkages working group on SDGs".

The Statistical Commission is invited to comment on progress made by the IAEG-SDGs and the direction of its future work. The points for discussion by the Commission are set out in paragraph 40 of the present report.

\* E/CN.3/2020/1.

#### I. Introduction

1. As mandated in General Assembly resolution 70/1, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) was tasked with the development and implementation of the global indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The group developed a global indicator framework, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, on 6 July 2017, in resolution 71/313 on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The present report describes the work carried out by the group from March 2019 to December 2019 for the implementation of the global indicator framework, on the basis of the work programme agreed by the Commission and in accordance with Statistical Commission decision 50/101. Part II of the report summarizes the IAEG-SDG work on the current indicator framework, its biannual and virtual meetings and membership rotation. Part III focuses on the process of final indicator proposals based on the 2020 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework. Part IV and Part V present the activities of the work stream on data disaggregation and the three working groups, respectively. Part VI describes the work programme of the group for the upcoming year. The last part of the report lists the key points for consideration and discussion of the Statistical Commission.

#### **II.** Implementation of the global indicator framework

3. In 2019, the Group held two physical meetings, each attended by 125-150 representatives from member countries, observer countries, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. Between meetings, the Group continued to interact electronically and held 15 WebEx's and teleconferences over the course of the year.

4. The ninth meeting, hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, was held in Beirut, Lebanon from 25 to 28 March 2019. The tenth meeting, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21 to 24 October 2019. At the two meetings, the Group reviewed progress made on the methodological development of tier III indicators, and reviewed and updated the tier classification; discussed the process of the 2020 Comprehensive Review and the specific proposals for replacement, revision, addition, deletion and refinement that were under consideration; discussed ongoing work on data disaggregation and its future work plan; discussed how new data sources can be used to facilitate monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, including integrating geospatial information with statistics for monitoring the SDGs; reviewed the work of the three working groups; and shared experiences and best practices on Sustainable Development Goal implementation and reporting at the national, regional, global and thematic levels. In addition, multiple WebEx meetings were held over the course of the year to advance the work on tier reclassification and the 2020 Comprehensive Review.

5. Based on the terms of reference of the IAEG-SDGs agreed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 48/101, a rotation of membership and chairmanship of the group took place. New members of the Expert Group were nominated through existing regional mechanisms in May 2019. Annex I contains the updated membership of the Group. At the ninth meeting, Dr. Viveka Palm from Sweden was elected as the new co-chair of Group, replacing Mr. Enrique Ordaz from Mexico. Dr. Viveka Palm joins Dr. Albina Chuwa from the United Republic of Tanzania in leading the work of the group.

#### A. Tier classification updates and the methodological development of tier III indicators

6. In accordance with the mechanism and criteria for updating the classification of the indicators, the Expert Group reviewed the tier classification of the indicators at its ninth and tenth meetings and at several virtual meetings throughout the year. The Group focused on reclassifying tier III indicators for which sufficient advancements in methodological development had been achieved, and reviewing all tier I and II indicators based on data availability at the global and regional levels.

7. In accordance with its work programme (see E/CN.3/2017/2, para. 35 (a)), the Expert Group continued the review of workplans for tier III indicators and requested all custodian agencies to submit revised workplans with detailed timelines for the completion of methodological work and the commencement of data collection activities during the first half of 2019. Updated workplans were received for almost all tier III indicators and are available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/tierIII-indicators/. Throughout the first half of the year, the Group conducted a thorough review of these workplans, flagging any issues in the current methodological work. All indicators that remained without a workplan as a result of not having a custodian agency were included in the 2020 Comprehensive Review, and replacements have been proposed as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review.

8. Significant progress has been made in the methodological development of many tier III indicators. As a result, the Group considered many requests for tier reclassification of tier III indicators throughout 2019. In advance of the meetings of the Group, agencies were invited to provide supporting documents for the reclassification of tier III indicators at least one month before the meeting. At the ninth meeting of the Group, seven tier III indicators were reviewed and reclassified as tier II and two sub-indicators of a multi-tier indicator that were tier III were also reclassification and six of these seven were reclassified as tier II. The Group also reviewed and reclassifications at three virtual meetings throughout 2019. The Group carefully reviewed all tier III reclassification request documents and also provided feedback to custodian agencies on those indicators that could not be reclassified, indicating the specific methodological work that would need to be conducted before reclassification could be reconsidered.

9. Given the urgency of ensuring that by March 2020 there are few remaining tier III indicators, the Expert Group will review additional tier reclassification requests for indicators whose methodological work is not yet finalized but is expected to be completed by January 2020 at virtual meetings in January and February 2020. The group anticipates that with these additional tier reclassification reviews and the proposed replacements, revisions and deletions included in the 2020 Comprehensive Review, there will be no remaining tier III indicators in the revised global indicator framework. An update on the reclassification of tier III indicators will be provided orally at the introduction of the present report to the Commission.

10. In accordance with its approved work programme, the Group conducted a review of the availability of data for tier I and II indicators. The data availability of all tier I and II indicators in the global indicator database as of 3 October 2019 was reviewed to assess country and population coverage for each region where those indicators were relevant. The assessment concluded that three tier I indicators did not have sufficient data coverage, and should therefore be moved to tier II, and that 15 tier II indicators met the criteria to be moved to tier I.

11. According to the updates to the tier classification following the reviews, as of 6 December 2019, out of the 232 indicators, 116 are tier I indicators, 92 are tier II, 20 are tier III and 4 are multiple tiers (i.e., different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers). The methodological progress for three of the remaining tier III indicators is quite advanced and it is expected that, by March 2020, these indicators will be reclassified as Tier II. The remaining 17 tier III indicators have seen their methodological progress stall or remain without a custodian agency and the Group has proposed replacements, revisions and in a few cases deletions of these indicators. The Secretariat will continue to update the tier classification information soon after the reclassification review takes place, and the latest information can be found at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/.

#### III. 2020 Comprehensive Review

#### A. Background, guiding principles and criteria for review

12. At its ninth meeting, the Group reviewed the criteria and guiding principles established at the eight meeting group and developed a detailed timeline for the 2020 Comprehensive Review.<sup>1</sup> It was agreed that the 2020 Comprehensive Review would be an opportunity to improve the indicator framework to help the global monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and to provide the necessary guidance to countries, many of which are already well advanced in implementing their national frameworks and reporting platforms. The Group agreed on several guiding principles for the review in order to set the parameters within which the review would take place. The principles include the following: the review needs to take into account investments already made at the national and international levels and should not undermine ongoing efforts; the revised framework should not significantly impose an additional burden on national statistical work; there should be space for improvements, while at the same time ensuring that the changes are limited in scope and the size of the framework remains the same; the focus of the Group's common work should remain on the implementation of the framework in countries for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals .

13. In addition to those more general guiding principles, the group agreed that the 2020 Comprehensive Review would examine the entire global indicator framework and would include the replacement, deletion, refinement or adjustment of some indicators and, in a few select cases, additional indicators only when: (a) the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Detailed information on the 2020 Comprehensive Review can be found at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/2020-comp-rev/

current indicator(s) did not map well to the target or track the target well; (b) an additional indicator was needed to cover a critical aspect of the target or goal; and/or (c) the methodological development of a tier III indicator had stalled or not produced the expected results.

14. The specific criteria for the implementation of the review were as follows:

(a) An *additional indicator* may be considered only in exceptional cases when a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator(s) or to address a critical or emerging issue that is not monitored by the existing indicators, or when an entire Goal has very few tier I or tier II indicators for the follow-up;

(b) A *deletion* will be considered when the methodological work of a tier III indicator has stalled or has not produced the expected results, and a replacement will be proposed if the deleted indicator is the only indicator monitoring the corresponding target;

(c) *Adjustments, revisions and replacements* will be considered when the indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well;

(d) The proposed indicator must have an agreed methodology and available data (tier III indicator proposals will not be considered) and be suitable for global monitoring;

(e) The aim of the review will be to maintain the same number of indicators currently in the framework in order not to alter significantly the original framework, which is already being implemented in most countries and not to increase the reporting burden on national statistical systems.

#### B. Working process of the 2020 Comprehensive Review

15. Following the discussions during the ninth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, the group held several virtual meetings to discuss how to proceed. The Group decided to hold an open call for proposals for inclusion in the 2020 Comprehensive Review and requested the Secretariat to initiate such a call. In late May 2019, an open call for proposals was posted on the IAEG-SDGs website with detailed guidelines on the necessary supporting documentation to accompany the submission of proposals. As specified in the criteria listed above, all proposals were required to be for existing, well-established indicators that have data currently available and are suitable for global monitoring. This open call for proposals lasted for three weeks.

16. At the conclusion of this period, the Secretariat had received 251 proposals<sup>2</sup> from countries, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The IAEG-SDGs requested the Secretariat to conduct an initial review of these proposals, with the goal of identifying those proposals that met the initial criteria established by the IAEG-SDGs for inclusion and those that did not. After an initial review, approximately 100 proposals met the criteria agreed by the IAEG-SDGs, while 35 other proposals were classified as refinements and would be handled through a separate, parallel process. All 251 proposals and the initial review.

17. Between late June and July, the IAEG-SDGs held a series of virtual meetings where they reviewed the proposals received with the goal of identifying a refined set of indicators to include in an open consultation on the 2020 Comprehensive Review. Throughout this process, member countries and custodian agencies and stakeholders reviewed and discussed some specific proposals where there were questions or need for additional information. At the conclusion of this review, the IAEG-SDGs identified a total of 53 proposals<sup>3</sup> to include in the open consultation; including replacements, revisions, additions, deletions and, in a few selected cases, requests for proposals for a group of tier III indicators whose methodological progress has stalled.

18. The IAEG-SDGs launched the Open Consultation on the 2020 Comprehensive Review in early August and solicited inputs through this open consultation for a period of five weeks. During the open consultation, over 600 individuals/countries/organizations inputs were received.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/2020%20Comprehensive%20Review%20Proposals\_web.pdf for a compilation of all proposals received

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/ope-consultation-comp-

rev/Targets%20and%20Indicators%20in%20Open%20Consultation%20of%202020%20Review\_v2.pdf for the list of 53 proposals included in the Open Consultation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A compilation of all inputs received during the Open Consultation can be found at:

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/2020%20Comprehensive%20Review%20Proposals\_web.pdf

19. Throughout September and October 2019, the group reviewed these inputs on the 53 proposals. In addition, the IAEG-SDGs decided to consider an additional seven proposals that were submitted slightly later based on internal discussions. After rounds of virtual meetings, email discussions, and an in-person meeting at the 10<sup>th</sup> IAEG-SDG meeting in October 2019, the group decided on a tentative initial list of proposals to be considered by the UN Statistical Commission in the 2020 Comprehensive Review. After the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the IAEG-SDGs held virtual meetings to finalize its proposals for the 2020 Comprehensive Review.

20. During the process, the IAEG-SDGs carefully reviewed and discussed all proposals and inputs received. The group noted that most proposals included in the Open Consultation for the 2020 Comprehensive Review and the additional seven proposals they considered later have merit and are important indicators that can be used to track progress on the SDGs. However, based on the guiding principles the IAEG-SDGs agreed and presented at its 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> meetings, the group intended to only make limited changes to the framework, so as not to disrupt existing monitoring efforts. The Global Indicator Framework is designed to provide a global overview/summary of progress on implementing the SDGs and cannot contain all indicators relevant to the SDGs.

21. The IAEG-SDGs emphasized that the exclusion of a proposal should not be understood to indicate an indicator or issue is somehow less important than others included in the global indicator framework. Rather, the IAEG-SDGs attempted to ensure balance across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, indicators not included in the proposal for the 2020 Comprehensive Review still have a valuable role to play in the follow-up and review process of the SDGs, through national, regional and thematic monitoring and can provide important additional information and complement the global indicator framework.

#### C. Proposals for the 2020 Comprehensive Review

22. The IAEG-SDG agreed on a set of proposals to put forward to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its consideration at its 51st session in March 2020. The proposals include 36 major changes to the current framework, which are replacements, revisions, additions, and deletions (included in Annex II), and 20 minor refinements (included in Annex III). The summary of the 36 major changes to the Global Indicator Framework is listed below and the specific indicator proposals can be found in Annex II:

- 14 proposals for replacements of existing indicators
- 8 proposals for revisions of existing indicators
- 8 proposals for additional indicators
- 6 proposals for deleting existing indicators<sup>5</sup>

23. The IAEG-SDG attempted to identify a suitable global indicator to replace all tier III indicators whose methodologically progress had stalled, and it paid particular attention to those that were the only indicator monitoring a target. However, despite the group's best efforts and after repeated consultations with UN Agencies, regional organizations and other interested stakeholders, the group was unable to come up with suitable replacement proposals for target 11.c. As a result, this target has no suitable global indicator to monitor progress. However, the IAEG-SDGs encouraged the global statistical community to work to develop an indicator that could be used and looks forward to hopefully being able to include an indicator in the 2025 Comprehensive Review that can be used to monitor this target. In the meantime, the group encourages countries, international and regional organizations and stakeholders to attempt to monitor this target in whatever way they can identify that is relevant to their national, regional or thematic context.

24. If the proposed changes included in the 2020 Comprehensive Review are agreed upon by the UN Statistical Commission and progress and reclassification of the other tier III indicators proceeds as planned, at the conclusion of the Commission, there will be no remaining tier III indicators and the total number of unique indicators in the global indicator framework will be 231.<sup>6</sup>

#### D. Annual refinements proposed as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review

25. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/313 and the plan and criteria agreed by the Expert Group with respect to possible annual minor refinements,<sup>7</sup> the Group reviewed the list of indicator refinements

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The proposed deletion for indicator 4.2.1 is only for deleting the portion of the indicator that is currently Tier III.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Several of the proposals for replacement indicators in the global indicator framework are repeat indicators, which explains why if the changes are summed up a slightly different number is reached.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See E/CN.3/2017/2, para.21.

proposed by its members, through the request for proposals for the 2020 Comprehensive Review and by custodian agencies. The group agreed on 20 refinements (see Annex III) for the Commission's consideration.

#### E. Process to further develop the new measurement of development support

26. During the deliberations of the IAEG-SDGs, one proposed additional indicator -- Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) -- was reviewed both during the Open Consultation and at the 10<sup>th</sup> IAEG-SDG meeting. The IAEG-SDGs agreed that it would be beneficial to include an additional indicator to measure development support in the broadest sense that goes beyond official development assistance (ODA). However, the group was not fully in agreement with the methodology of the proposed measure and decided that work should continue to further develop and revise the current proposal. Given the urgency to develop such a measure, the IAEG-SDGs further agreed that work, including analysis of data sources, on this indicator should be completed in time for the indicator to be submitted to this commission in 2022, rather than waiting until the next comprehensive review in 2025.

27. In order to complete the work, the IAEG-SDGs agreed to the establishment of a working group to further develop this measure of development support in line with the 2030 Agenda that would include additional components beyond ODA, such as other official flows, private finance, international public goods for sustainable development, and south-south and triangular cooperation. They further decided that the process of developing this indicator should be co-led by an agency with full membership of the United Nations, OECD, and one representative of member States. The IAEG-SDG requested that UNCTAD and UNDESA/Statistics Division collaborate with the OECD to coordinate the process of developing this new measurement. The working group will include member States representing all geographical regions, including both donor and recipient countries, and additional experts from UN organizations that would serve as observers and support the work of the working group. The working group would regularly report on its progress to the IAEG-SDGs. The proposed timeline and main steps for the completion of the work are presented in Annex IV.

#### IV. Work stream on data disaggregation

28. The Statistical Commission, in its decision 50/101 (i), "welcomed the background document entitled 'Data disaggregation and Sustainable Development Goal indicators: policy priorities and current and future disaggregation plans'<sup>8</sup> and requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to continue its work on data disaggregation to fulfil the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>9</sup> of leaving no one behind." The IAEG-SDGs continued its work on data disaggregation, including through finding ways to measure vital aspects of vulnerable populations and groups throughout 2019 and held sessions to investigate how to further such work at both its 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings. The Group recognizes that this work will continue throughout the coming years and has identified it as one of its main areas of work for 2020.

29. The IAEG-SDGs has also developed an updated work plan for data disaggregation for the coming years that includes the following:

- Revise and update the technical document on data disaggregation to measure vulnerable groups in the Agenda;

- Develop guidelines on tools and methodologies for data disaggregation and complementary measures to build national capacities;

- Encourage collaboration with regional and international organizations on the development of Best Practices for data disaggregation;

- Continue to recognize that the specific dimensions for disaggregation and the issues facing vulnerable groups must be defined by country needs, priorities and circumstances;

- Continue to liaise with other working groups and existing mechanisms for the work on data disaggregation and measuring vulnerable groups in the Agenda 2030 follow-up.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> <u>https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/BG-Item3a-Data-Disaggregation-E.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> General Assembly Resolution 70/1: https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1

#### V. Working groups of the IAEG-SDGs

30. Three working groups were established in March 2016, focusing on the following topics: statistical data and metadata exchange, geospatial information and interlinkages. Each working group is composed of members of the Group and other invited representatives, as determined by their respective terms of reference.<sup>10</sup> A brief summary of the work of each group in 2019 and descriptions of future meetings and work is provided below.

#### A. Working group on statistical data and metadata exchange

31. The working group on statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) consists of representatives of 12 countries and 10 international agencies and is currently chaired by France. The working group holds monthly teleconferences and annual meetings, most recently in Budapest in September 2019, in the margins of the Seventh SDMX Global Conference.

32. The working group amended the pilot Data Structure Definition (DSD) for SDG indicators based on the IAEG-SDG's work on data disaggregation and released the first official version of the DSD for SDG indicators in June 2019, which is now being used for reporting by some countries. Finalizing the Metadata Structure Definition (MSD) and establishing production metadata exchange is a priority for 2030. The working group expects to finalize the pilot MSD for SDG Indicators during the first quarter of 2020. Subsequently, a pilot metadata exchange is planned with both custodian agencies and countries. To facilitate adoption of SDMX exchanges among reporters, including both countries and international agencies, the SDMX working group will develop an information website with guidelines for using the global DSD for SDGs Indicators and customizing it for national dissemination, with tutorials, best practices and other useful materials. In addition, the UN Statistics Division and members of the working group, such as UNICEF, AfDB, OECD, and others, continue to undertake capacity building in countries in the area of SDMX-based data and metadata exchange of SDG indicators.

#### B. Working group on geospatial information

33. The working group on geospatial information, in reporting to the ninth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, advised the Expert Group that it needed to 'recalibrate and realign' with the emerging needs of the IAEG-SDGs. In this regard, the working group sought to renew its working modalities, requested that its membership be refreshed to also include IAEG-SDGs members to improve coordination with the IAEG-SDGs, and further practical means to increase its interaction with the statistical community. The working group's report<sup>11</sup> to the IAEG-SDGs also included a review of the first three years of its work. In July 2019, the IAEG-SDGs updated the terms of reference of the working group, taking into consideration the new working modalities, seeking to strengthen the coordination, interactions and working methods between the IAEG-SDGs, custodian agencies and the working group.

34. The working group, co-chaired by Ireland and Mexico, presented its work plan to the IAEG-SDGs at its tenth meeting. The proposed activities sought to: identify and share common standards, national and regional experiences and practices on the use of geospatial information in the production of statistics and the integration of statistical and geospatial information; showcase how geospatial information contributes to the production of indicators; work in close cooperation with custodian agencies in undertaking methodological development and improvement works; and continue the review of the indicators and metadata through a 'geographic location' lens. The working group also noted keen interest in the application of geospatial information for visualization and dissemination of statistics, monitoring of the SDGs, data disaggregation, and the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

35. The co-Chairs will work with the refreshed membership of the working group, initially, to focus on a few indicators, to develop story telling documents and guidance on the use of existing frameworks and standards on the application of geospatial information for the production of indicators, including for the visualization and dissemination of statistics and data disaggregation.

#### C. Working group on interlinkages

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The terms of reference, membership and other important information of each working group can be found at http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> This report, along with the terms of reference of the group and other information on the group's work can be found on the website of the working group at: http://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg6/

36. The working group on interlinkages comprised 10 country members and 10 representatives from academia, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations. The group was co-chaired by Canada and China and conducted most of its meetings via WebEx and through e-mail.

37. The working group has prepared a background document that will be submitted in early February 2020 to the fifty-first session of the Statistical Commission. The background document includes an examination of the interlinkages between the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the SDGs, while also looking at interlinkages between other indicator frameworks and the SDGs, and examining the interlinkages between policy and legislation and a deeper examination of the integrated analysis in support of effective policymaking. This document also has a section dedicated to case studies that provide good examples of these interlinkages and their benefits.

38. The group proposed to the IAEG-SDGs that after finalizing this background document, its work would be concluded. The IAEG-SDGs agreed to dissolve the group at the conclusion of the 51<sup>st</sup> session of UNSC.

#### VI. Work programme of the Expert Group

39. It is suggested that the Expert Group carry out the following activities between March 2020 and March 2021:

(a) Focus on the implementation of the indicator framework, including data disaggregation, reporting on vulnerable groups, and integration of geospatial information and statistics; share experiences and best practices on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, including on national platforms and dashboards; and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity building;

(b) Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;

(c) Continue the work stream on data disaggregation in order to provide further guidelines and liaise with the other working groups and existing mechanisms for the data disaggregation work;

(d) Continue the work of the two working groups, on statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) and geospatial information and review the workplans of the working groups to ensure that they are in line with the work of the IAEG-SDGs;

(e) Hold one meeting in the fourth quarter of 2020, on a date and location to be determined, and continue to interact electronically and through teleconferences, as needed.

#### VII. Points for discussion

#### 40. The Statistical Commission is invited to:

(a) Take note of the work conducted by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in response to the decisions of the Commission;

(b) Take note of the background documents on interlinkages;

(c) Express its views and adopt the proposed changes (as contained in Annex II) and the annual refinements (as contained in Annex III) to put forward in the 2020 Comprehensive Review;

(d) Express its views on the proposed establishment and work program of a working group to further develop and refine a measurement of support to developing countries that goes beyond ODA;

(e) Express its views and adopt the proposed work programme of the Expert Group for 2020.

#### Annex I

## Updated list of members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

#### **Chair of the Statistical Commission\***

• Kenya

#### **Eastern Africa**

- Ethiopia
- United Republic of Tanzania

#### Middle and Southern Africa

- Cameroon
- Malawi

#### Western Africa

- Ghana
- Niger

#### Northern Africa

- Egypt
- Libya

#### Western Asia

• Oman

#### Central, Eastern, Southern and South-Eastern Asia

- Afghanistan
- Japan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Malaysia

#### Oceania

- Fiji
- Samoa

#### The Caribbean

- Grenada
- Trinidad and Tobago

#### **Central and South America**

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic

#### **Eastern Europe**

- Belarus
- Russian Federation

## North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Sweden

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### Annex II

### Proposed Changes to the Global Indicator Framework as Part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review<sup>12</sup>

#### A. Replacement Indicator Proposals

Existing Indicator in the Global Indicator Framework	Proposed Replacement Indicator
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	
1.a.3 Sum of total grants and non-debt creating inflows directly allocated to poverty reduction programmes as a proportion of GDP	1.a.1 Total official development assistance (ODA) grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income <sup>13</sup>
1.b.1 Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups	1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustaina	ble and modern energy for all
7.b.1 Investments in energy efficiency as a proportion of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to	7.b.1 Installed renewable energy generating capacity in developing countries (in Watts per capita)

#### Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city

sustainable development services

#### Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.a.1 Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies

12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools

11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics, (b) ensure balanced territorial development, (c) increase local fiscal space

12.a.1 Installed renewable energy generating capacity in developing countries (in Watts per capita) *(repeat of proposed replacement for 7.b.1)* 

12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Supporting documentation for each proposal included in this annex that includes a narrative explaining the reason for the inclusion of the proposed indicator and the proposed metadata can be found at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/2020-comp-rev//UNSC-proposal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The replacement for indicator 1.a.3 becomes indicator 1.a.1 as the existing indicator 1.a.1 is proposed for deletion

Existing Indicator in the Global Indicator Framework

Proposed Replacement Indicator

#### Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

13.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year between 2020 and 2025 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment

13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

13.2.1 Number of countries with NDCs, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications

13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment *(repeat of 4.7.1/12.8.1)* 

13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025

13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with NDCs, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications (*repeat of 13.2.1 replacement proposal with slight amendment*)

## Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.a.1/15.b.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

15.a.1/15.b.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.3.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to (a) public-private partnerships and (b) civil society partnerships

17.3.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income (GNI)

17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure

Existing Indicator in the Global Indicator Framework	Proposed Replacement Indicator
17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for SDG monitoring

### **B.** Revisions to existing indicators

Existing Indicator in the Global Indicator Framework	Proposed Revision
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improv	ed nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Revision of metadata: Change in "use of biodiversity supporting practices" sub-indicator
2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction	2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all won	nen and girls
5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal right to land ownership and/or control	Revision of metadata: Proxies D and F may be considered conditional measures and therefore would not need to be reported if and when <i>de facto</i> gender equality in land ownership was already achieved
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable manageme	ent of water and sanitation for all
6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated	6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable or and decent work for all	economic growth, full and productive employment
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non- agriculture employment, by sex	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive	, safe, resilient and sustainable
11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use combat desertification, and halt and reverse land deg	
15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) and the progress reported towards these targets; (b) Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of

## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including LDCs

Environmental-Economic Accounting

## C. Additional Indicator Proposals

Goals and Targets (from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) A

### Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

## Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

## Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete 4.1.2 free, equitable and quality primary and secondary second education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

## Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection polices, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

## Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national 13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year policies, strategies and planning

# Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

10.4.2 Redistributive Impact of Fiscal Policy<sup>14</sup>

secondary education, upper secondary education)

10.7.3 Number of migrants killed while attempting to cross maritime, land and air borders

Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15-49

Reduce the percentage of bloodstream

Completion rate (primary education, lower

infections due to selected antimicrobial resistant

years, by pregnancy status (percentage)

10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

pment) Additional Indicator Proposal

2.2.3

3.d.2

organisms

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Gini Coefficient will be reported as a second series in database as it is a component of this indicator

### **D.** Proposed Deletions

Goals and Targets (from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) Indica

Indicator Proposed for Deletion

#### Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions 1.a.1 Proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes

#### Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex – *the portion of the indicator that measures progress for children 0-23 months that is currently tier III is proposed to be deleted* 

## Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs

#### Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient building utilizing local materials

11.c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials

#### Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.3 Improve education awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning 13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

Goals and Targets (from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

Indicator Proposed for Deletion

## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Existing indicator 17.6.2 would become indicator 17.6.1 if this deletion is approved

#### Annex III

#### Annual refinements to be made to the global indicator framework

1.1.1

Goals and current indicator text (from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) Refinement of indicator

#### Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

Proportion of population living below the

#### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential health services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population 3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

3.8.1 Proportion of target population covered by essential health services

## Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment

4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)

4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical trainings) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country

4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment *(repeat of 12.8.1 and replacement proposal for 13.3.1)* 

4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

4.c.1 Proportion of teachers qualified in basic education by education level

#### Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management

Goals and current indicator text (from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

## Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work all

Refinement of indicator

8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status

#### Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers

#### Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed, World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector, sponsorship) 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities

8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status

10.4.1 Labour share of GDP

11.4.1 Total expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

#### Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies

12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans

12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment

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

12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production

12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita and(b) Proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

12.7.1 Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation

12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment *(repeat of 4.7.1 and replacement proposal for 13.3.1)* 

12.c.1 (a) Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies as a per cent of GDP and (b) Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil-fuels

plastic debris density

 Goals and current indicator text (from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
 Refinement of indicator

 Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 14.1.1

 14.1.1
 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating
 14.1.1

14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches

14.2.1 Number of countries using eco-system based approaches to manage marine areas

Floating plastic debris density

## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

17.12.1 Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

### Annex IV

# Proposed timeline and work plan for a working group on a measurement of development support

Note: The working group is expected to consider different measures of development support in the broadest sense and as decided by the working group. The group will consider work already conducted on the development of such measures, but will not be limited by this previous work. The work is expected to be conducted using an electronic collaboration platform and regular virtual meetings.

The following tentative timeline is very ambitious and roughly follows the timeline of similar processes.

Dec 2019 -Feb 2020	Preparatory work for the set-up of the working group by the Secretariat, IAEG-SDG co-chairs and key agencies, focusing on the technical review of the work already done in this area, including review of literature and other materials that can help guide the work of the group once it is established
March 2020	Statistical Commission discussion and decision on the way forward for the development of a measure of support to developing countries
Mar – Apr 2020	Invitation and nominations of the members
April 2020	Setup of working group and scoping of tasks and agreement on detailed work plan
May – Sep 2020	First phase of substantive work, focusing on review of each section/component to be considered for the measurement
Oct – Dec 2020	First discussion of first set of issues and preparation of brief update to the UNSC of the work done
Jan – Mar 2021	First discussion of second set of issues
Mar 2021	First in-person meeting of the working group (at UNSC) to review status and agree on final steps
Apr- Jun 2021	Work on preliminary conclusions
Jun 2021	Second in-person Meeting of the working group in NY
Jul 2021	Completion of draft proposal to be reviewed and agreed by IAEG-SDGs for open consultation
Aug – Sept 2021	Worldwide consultation
Oct 2021	Completion of work
Oct/Nov 2021	Discussion and decision at the IAEG-SDGs
Dec 2021	Submission of UNSC report containing final proposal

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