

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Document E/CN.3/2021/4 – Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Statement provided by:

Guatemala on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries (LMG-MICs)

Statement:

On behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, composed of Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Peru, the Philippines and my own country, Guatemala, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to engage with the Commission and we hope this session will be a fruitful one. We join others in congratulating you on your election to the Bureau, as well as the distinguished Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur.

Our Group stands ready to support the work of the UN Statistical Commission to effectively strengthen coordination of statistical programmes among Member States at the national, regional and global level. The robust agenda of this year's Session includes important issues for Middle-Income Countries (MICs) such as the data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Economic statistics; Migration statistics; Regional statistical development. The Session will also present, for information, data on Demographic statistics; Climate change statistics; Disaster-related statistics and Climate change statistics; Disaster-related statistics, all relevant and important to us.

We would like to underscore that the category of "middle-income country" includes a large number of countries and account for 70% of the world's population, representing one third of global GDP and is home to 73% of the world's poor people. Despite sharing the same categorization, the homogenous classification "Middle Income country" oversimplifies the complexities of the countries it encompasses, and does not adequately reflect the myriad of challenges faced by these countries, that require tailored engagement from the international community and, in particular, from the United Nations System.

As we enter the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs, there is an urgent need to build a transformational, inclusive and forward-looking model of cooperation for global sustainable development. This can only be achieved when development cooperation partners recognize the complex realities of developing countries, especially for middle-income countries, in analyzing their strengths and weaknesses backed by evidenced-based and quality and reliable data and statistics. As such, the UN Statistical Commission's role is crucial in this regard.

Our Group thus advocates for multidimensional criteria that go beyond income per income on the classification of groups of countries, or further still, multidimensional criteria that can be usefully employed without the need for categorizations at all.

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We call for an open and innovative dialogue to explore the Commission’s role in advancing the multidimensional concept of development that considers the broad the vision of the international community to create more appropriate, focused, efficient and effective solutions to achieve sustainable development. We further call on the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications, as appropriate and within its mandate, to explore means to further advance the multidimensional poverty index and other multidimensional metrics on the categorization of countries.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved into a multidimensional development crisis and exacerbated structural vulnerabilities facing middle-income countries, we call on the UN Statistical Commission to integrate data on middle income countries in their scope of work, statistical programmes, activities and capacity building measures in order to accurately map the current realities and the rapid social, environmental and economic changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In that regard, we recognize that data is critical in the assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the work of national statistical offices to tailor technical support to the new needs and better coordinate different efforts towards defining useful holistic global statistics.

Allow me to reiterate the support of our Group to the work of the Commission.

Submitted on:	2/28/2021
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