

**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.3/2021/2 - Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

*Statement provided by:*

ESCWA Statistical Committee

*Statement:*

Availability of data at the country level exceeds that in the in the Global UN SDG Database. It is, therefore, necessary to establish an effective dataflow processes from countries to Custodian Agencies to address data gaps and discrepancies, and that would allow a better representation of country data in the Global UN SDG Database. ESCWA countries strongly believe that the Regional Commission has an important role to play and recommends to centralize the process and mainstream data flow through the ESCWA National Data Reporting Platforms of the Arab SDG Monitor .

There remain a number of SDG indicators that are ambiguous to many producers, especially those from administrative records that constitute 80% of SDGs. NSOs are not able to collect, verify nor explain those indicators to relevant ministries, hence affecting not only availability of data but also effective coordination within NSSs. There is a general lack of technical resources in many of the SDG indicators. NSOs need user-friendly access to learning materials such as YouTubes and organized recorded Webinars in addition to workshops to quickly understand better the concepts and policy relevance of those indicators, the potential sources of data and methods of computation. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) request that UN Agencies and UN Statistics Division (UNSD) to play an active role to support the regional commission's role in building and developing the capacities of member States.

NSOs still suffer from lack of coordination within the National Statistical Systems (NSS) exacerbated by the UN Agencies' direct communication with ministries in the countries. As a result, many of the country data in the UNSD database are not available with the NSOs' own national databases. Many of those indicators are also calculated by the UN Agency without NSO full understanding of methodology applied. NSOs request UNSD to play an active role to ensure NSOs agreement before disseminating data in the Global SDG database as per SG recommendations. Having the approval of NSOs before collecting and disseminating, would enhance coordination at all levels and would allow national, regional and global statistical systems deliver official data in one voice.

Disaggregated data and producing meaningful analysis remain a major issue in the region. While most countries have no legislation against production of detailed data, many have limited datasets published. NSOs request further collaboration among UN offices to enhance the region's capacity to produce disaggregated data from surveys and provide guidelines to modernize administrative records including use of GIS to enable meaningful analysis at the community level.

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