

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

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Jamaica, (on behalf of Grenada and other CARICOM countries)	
<i>Statement:</i> Jamaica, (on behalf of Grenada and other CARICOM countries): Acknowledges the work of the IAEG-SDG in response to the decision of the Commission and generally supports its proposed work for 2021. Supports the minor refinements presented in the Annex of Paper 2 for the nine indicators and looks forward to future work by the Committee on the refinement of indicator 8.9.2 under target 8.9, given the importance of the Tourism sector to the CARICOM region. Also supports the work of the various working groups under the IAEG-SDG and is keenly interested in the Working Group's work on Measurement of Development Support in defining indicator 17.3.1, given the region's strong recommendation at the 51st UNSC and through its representative in the Working Group, that no efforts should be made to use a measure that does not differentiate between concessional flows and other non-concessional flows. CARICOM countries are of the view, (and, as has been the experience of countries in the CARICOM region), that since other non-concessional flows often result in financial obligations for developing countries that hinder sustainable development, the non-concessional flows should therefore be reported as a separate indicator. Takes note of the background document on COVID-19 and is very pleased that the expert group, in its timely response to the pandemic, has identified a limited list of indicators that potentially reflects the SDGs highly impacted by the pandemic. The significant negative impact on the NSOs and NSSs in CARICOM as a result of halts in operations due to lock-downs or limited funding (as funds are reallocated to COVID-19 response) has left NSOs with little choice but to prioritise statistical activities. Hence, this reduced priority list of indicators can serve as a starting point to focus monitoring efforts on the impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs (with room for national adaptations based on national circumstances) while at the same time being responsive to the needs of policy makers during this crisis. Makes a clarion call for greater funding of SDG data production in SIDS, in light of monitoring impacts of COVID-19 on SDGs.	
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