

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

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.3/2022/2 - Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Statement provided by:

Norway

Statement:

Norway welcomes the report from the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and commend the group and its working groups on delivering on important milestones during a second year of the pandemic, including the annual refinements and the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap.

At its 51st session, the Statistical Commission supported the establishment of a working group to further develop and refine the measurement of development support in line with the 2030 Agenda. Norway, together with Colombia has held the chairmanship of the Working Group on Measuring Development Support. We commend member countries, international organizations, as well as the UN secretariat, for their collaboration and important contributions in achieving agreement about the new proposed indicator. Norway consider the Working Group to have completed its mandate and hence it should be dissolved.

It is recognized that the proposal for a new indicator 17.3.1 "Additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources" is a compromise between different views. However, the indicator with its sub-indicators, is transparent and in full compliance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development) by distinguishing flows of different natures and concessionality as these have different impacts on development. This also builds on the comments issued by member states during the 52nd session of the Statistical Commission.

It is also recognized that an important step forward has been the development of an initial conceptual framework on South-South cooperation. This milestone was reached by a sub-group chaired by India and consisting of members countries participating in South-South cooperation. Further development of this conceptual framework, including capacity building, should be enabled by UNCTAD's co-custodianship ensuring a process that is led by countries reporting on South-South cooperation.

The indicator proposal reflects compromises that are thoroughly evaluated. It should be recognized that any further developments of the proposal should build on the deliberations held and progress achieved at the working group. From a statistical viewpoint, it should be underlined that stability of an indicator is essential, and sufficient time needs be allocated for the testing of this new indicator.

Norway hereby strongly support that the Statistical Commission, in its current session, adopt the proposed new indicator 17.3.1 "Additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources".

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Norway also support requesting UNCTAD and the OECD to take co-custodianship for the indicator and that South-South cooperation are to be reported by UNCTAD to inform the global SDG-reporting.

The Working Group has also noted the great importance of global or regional efforts supporting the Goals in general and the need for their measurement. However, as there, presently, is no universally accepted concept of international public goods or framework for their measurement, Norway welcomes the recommendation to conduct a further review of the issue. Norway will be willing to contribute to such a review, in close collaboration with other members countries also including involvement of developing countries.

Submitted on:

2/24/2022