

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Speech of the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission

4 May 2017, New York

Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to be able to address the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and provide an update on the developments of the global indicator framework, the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and on the outcomes of the first UN World Data Forum.

At the request of Member States, over the past year, the IAEG-SDGs has further developed and refined the indicator framework. The revised indicator framework was recently adopted by the Statistical Commission at its latest session in March this year. The Commission also agreed upon a draft resolution pertaining to data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda. The draft resolution adopted the global indicator framework, specified areas of work for the IAEG-SDGs and outlined other criteria for work on indicators and capacity building. The draft resolution will be taken up by ECOSOC in early June and if adopted, would proceed to the General Assembly to be addressed at its 72nd session.

Over the coming years the IAEG-SDGs will further work to refine and improve the global indicator framework through minor annual refinements and through two comprehensive reviews slated for 2020 and 2025. The IAEG-SDGs will also continue to focus on accelerating work for indicators currently classified as Tier III, those without an established methodology, as well as providing guidance for data flows among countries and the international statistical system.

Distinguished delegates,

Leaving no one behind is one of the main underlying concepts of the 2030 Agenda. If no one and no group are to be left behind, everyone must be visible in our data. The IAEG-SDG members are committed to adequately address issues of data disaggregation, which is fundamental for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The IAEG-SDG established a work stream on data disaggregation in 2016. The group has agreed upon a definition of disaggregation and is working to harmonize the categories of disaggregation across the indicator framework, including data disaggregation according to ethnicity/indigenous identity. All indicators will be reviewed on the basis of the harmonized data disaggregation categories.

Within the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, there are six specific references to sustainable development and indigenous peoples. Two targets on reducing hunger and increasing access to education explicitly mention indigenous people. By including, for example, small-scale food producers by indigenous status and the

tracking of indigenous peoples' access to education compared to other groups, the global indicator framework addresses some issues of concern to indigenous peoples.

The IAEG-SDGs is committed to an open and inclusive process and has held and will continue to hold open consultations with all stakeholders. Open consultations are a unique opportunity to provide specific content related to indigenous issues for the indicator framework. Past open consultations helped refine the indicator framework; and future open consultations will offer additional opportunities to provide inputs on specific indicators.

Improving data disaggregation and ensuring that all individuals are counted is also a priority area of work for the UN Statistical Commission, including as concerns the development of necessary tools and standards and strengthening countries' capacity to produce the necessary data. In particular, the UN Statistical Commission's High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination, and Capacity Building considered these important issues in the development of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which was launched at the first UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in January this year and later endorsed by the commission. The Plan calls for a commitment by governments, policy leaders and the international community to undertake key actions for the SDG implementation process. Strengthening and expanding data on all groups of populations to ensure that no one is left behind is the focus on one of the strategic objectives of the Plan.

The global indicator framework and the Cape Town Global Action Plan offer the framework for focusing data work necessary to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, including for those who need increased visibility in distinct and specific areas. The UN World Data Forum also offered the opportunity to review and launch a number of initiatives and solutions aiming at improving data availability to reach the most vulnerable populations.

But more work is needed as we put in place an implementation plan to ensure that all countries have the capacity to produce the necessary data at the required granularity for their national monitoring while at the same time informing the global indicators. All parts of national statistical systems will have to work together to integrate the existing data source and new data sources will need to be considered. This will in turn require increased investments in data production and utilization to ensure progress towards the SDGs for everyone.