

Global trends and the SDG framework: Data needs and issues

Bangkok
5 May 2022



Messages

- Trends in globalization, technology, inequalities and climate change have far reaching consequences for societies ... **need to revisit conventional thinking**
- Strong economic performance has not been people and planet friendly ... **need to think beyond GDP**
- Adoption of SDG framework is a step in the right direction ... **need change in mindset for its effective implementation**
- Available data shows that all SDGs will be missed in 2030 at current progress ... **need more and better data AND data must be used by policy makers**

1. Global megatrends

*Globalization, climate change, technology,
demographic trends, inequality,
urbanization*

Global megatrends

Shifting Economic Power



In 2021 Emerging and Developing Asia grew at 7.3% compared to 5.2% for Advanced Economies

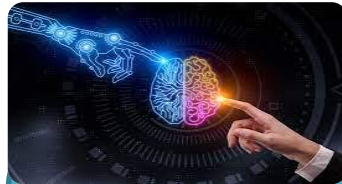
Source: IMF World Economic Outlook

Resource scarcity & climate change



Asia Pacific is off track on Goal 13 Climate Action and has regressed

Rapid technological advances



Rapid technological advances have boosted economic growth and productivity but also bring new risks like AI

Demographic change & inequalities



Over 80's growing fast
1990 - 22.9 m. (13.4%)
2021 - 79.7 m. (17.9%)
2050 - 255.3 m. (26.7%)
Inequality increasing
Source: ESCAP Population Sheet

Rapid Urbanisation



Rapid, inefficient and unplanned urbanization together with unsustainable consumption patterns lead to environmental degradation

2. Going beyond GDP

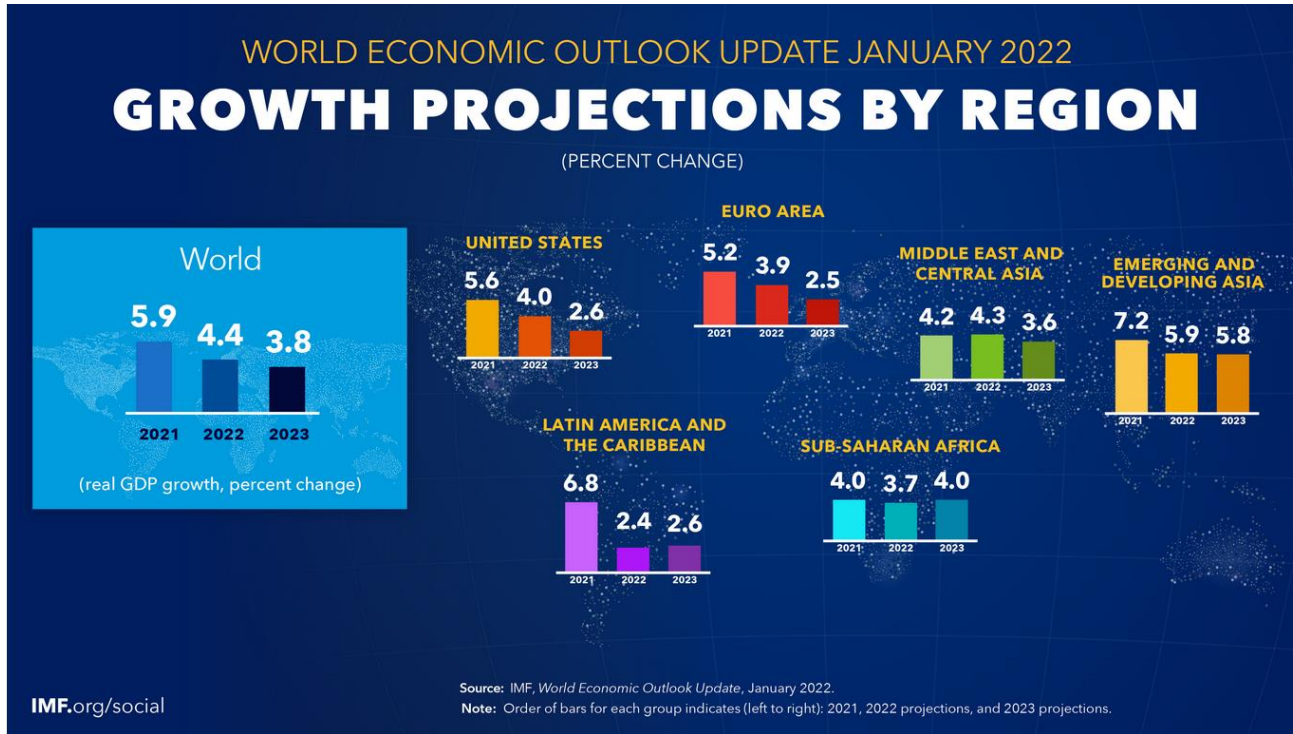
Thinking about alternatives

“GNP measures everything, except that which makes life worthwhile”

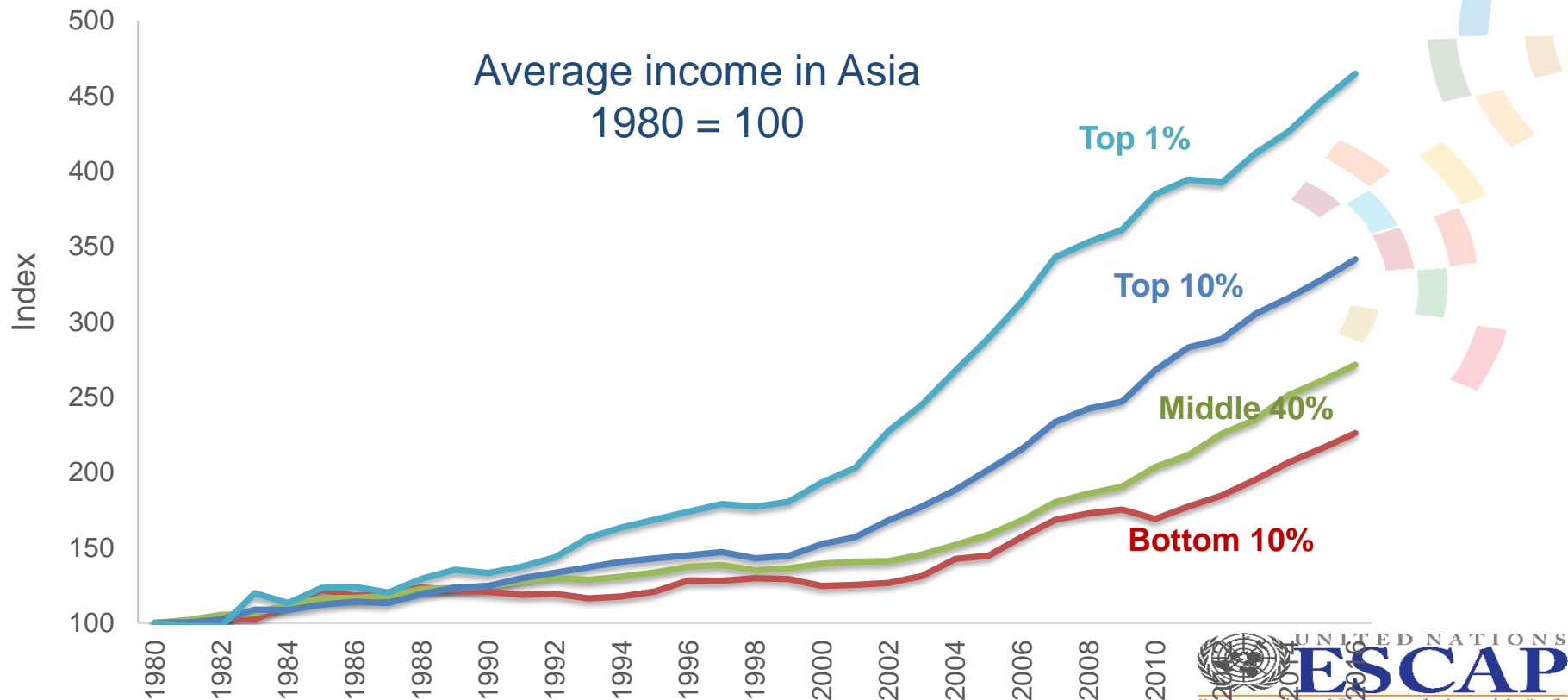
Robert F. Kennedy

Disrupted recovery and higher inflation

...although
emerging
and
developing
Asia shows
highest
growth



Focusing on economic growth alone has come at a cost to social inclusiveness...



Source: World Inequality database.

Growth has come at a

Air Pollution

- Asia-Pacific witnessed sharpest increase in premature deaths as a result of ambient air pollution between 1990 and 2015.

Climate Risk

- In 2017, carbon emissions from Asia-Pacific consumption of oil, gas and coal alone rose to nearly 49 per cent of the world total.

Climate Disasters

- Asia Pacific lost assets worth \$1.3 trillion as a result of floods, storms, droughts, earthquakes and tsunamis in 1970-2016.

Thinking beyond GDP: understanding theoretical reasons for its popularity

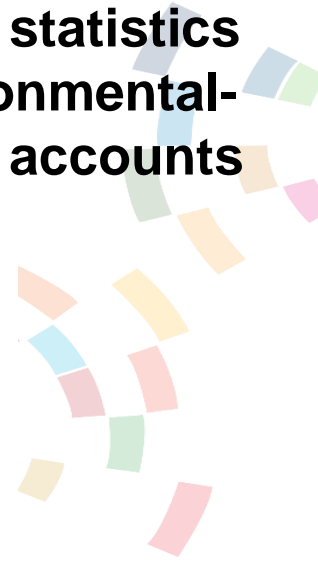
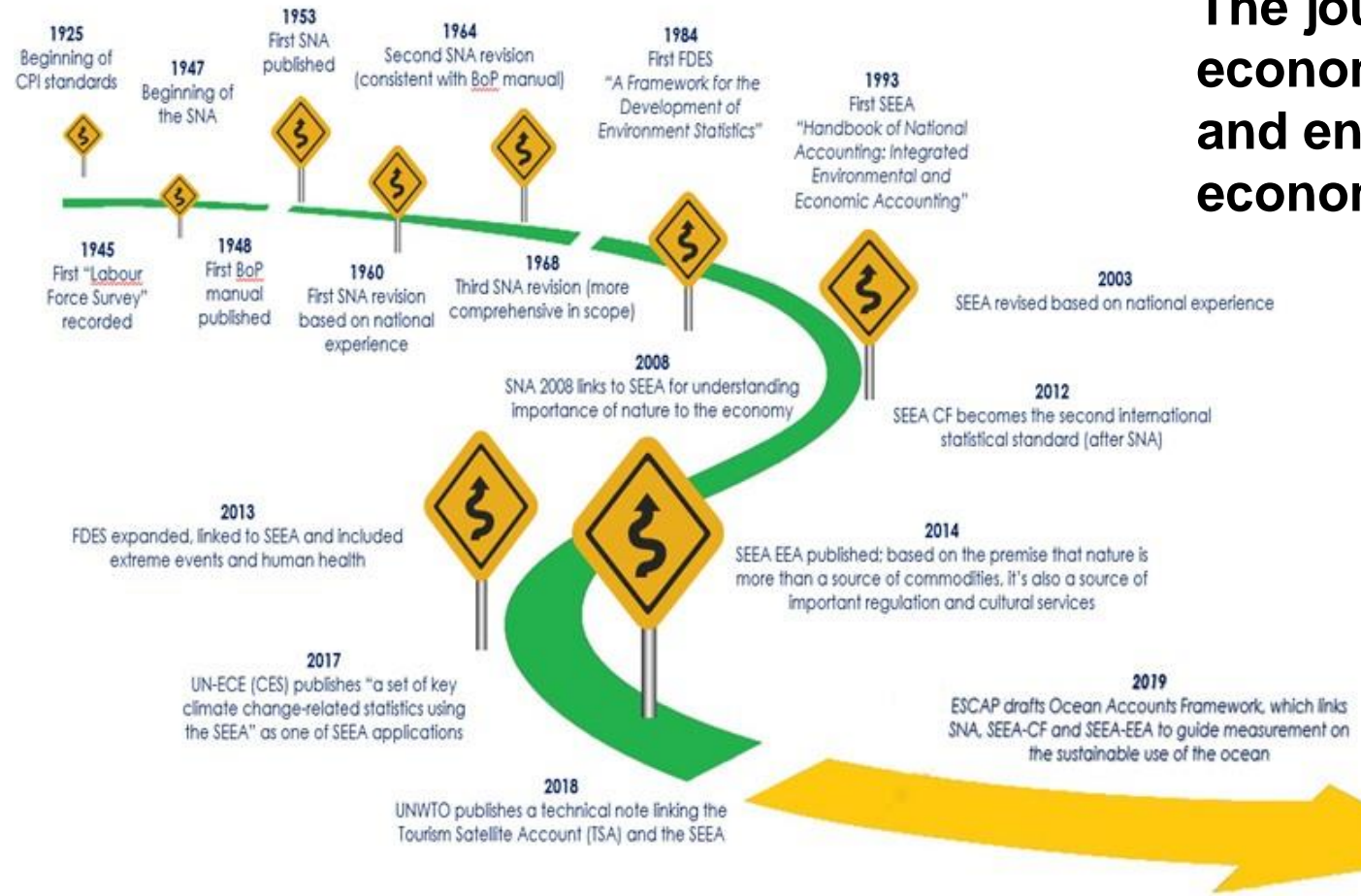
- Preoccupation with GDP is rooted in the belief that:
 - maximization of consumption or income is a principle goal of individual human activity and source of utility or satisfaction;
 - society's welfare can be evaluated by considering the sum total of utilities of all individuals; and
 - there is agreement in a society on such a welfare criterion.

SDGs new people centred development agenda

- SDGs emphasize synergies across economic, social and environmental dimensions
- Should cover everyone so no one is left behind
- But huge data demand for NSOs



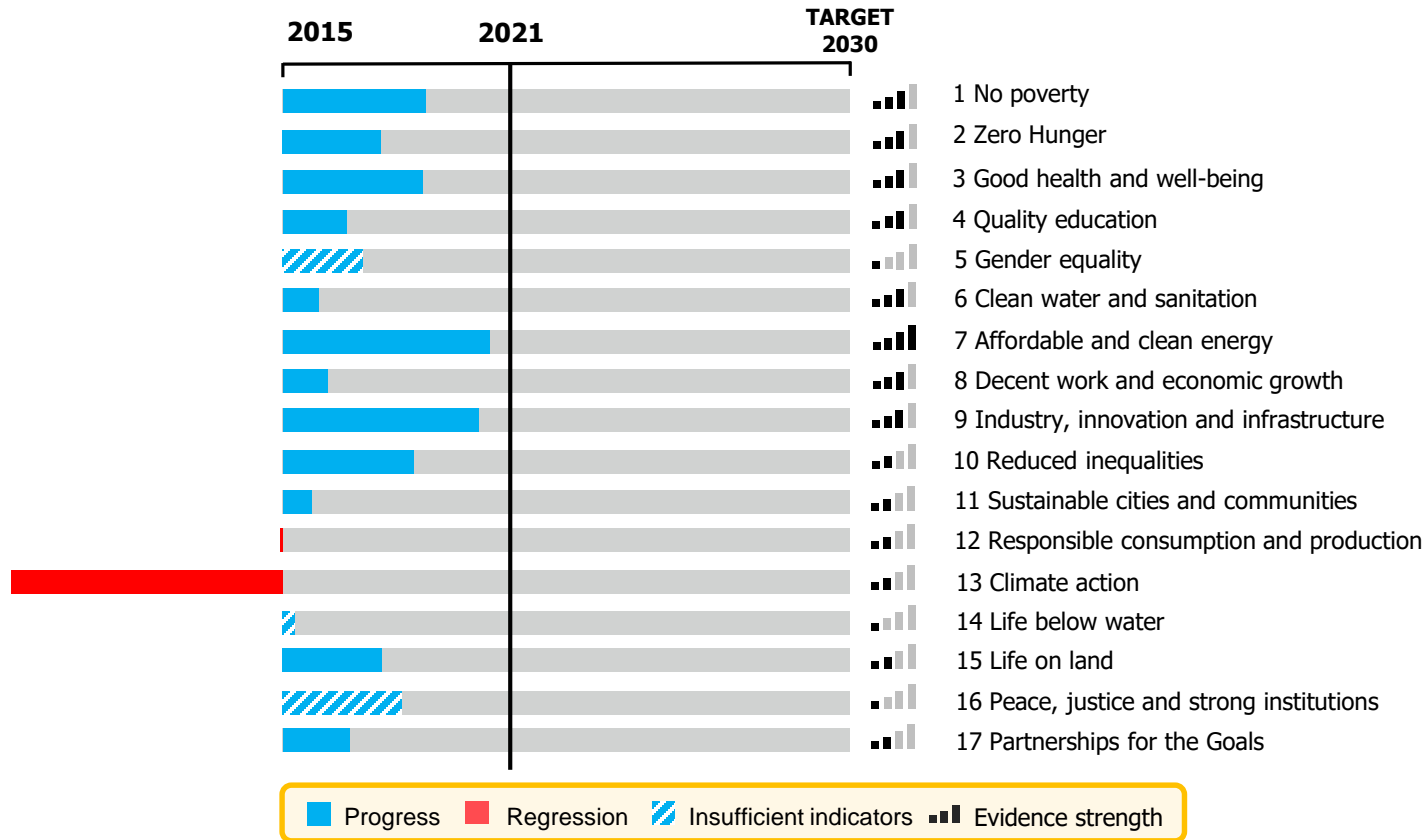
The journey on economic statistics and environmental-economic accounts



3. SDGs in Asia-Pacific

Implementation & data challenges

How much progress has been made in Asia-Pacific on 17 SDGs?



... will we meet the targets by 2030, then?

GOAL 1

- 1.1 International poverty
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.a Resources for poverty programs
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies

GOAL 2

- 2.2 Malnutrition
- 2.3 Small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Sustainable agriculture
- 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture
- 2.a Investment in agriculture
- 2.1 Undernourishment & food security
- 2.b Agricultural export subsidies
- 2.c Food price anomalies

GOAL 3

- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.d Management of health risks
- 3.5 Substance abuse

GOAL 4

- 4.1 Effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 Early childhood development
- 4.3 TVET & tertiary education
- 4.4 Skills for employment
- 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy
- 4.a Education facilities
- 4.b Scholarships
- 4.c Qualified teachers
- 4.5 Equal access to education
- 4.7 Sustainable development education

GOAL 5

- 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls
- 5.5 Women in leadership
- 5.2 Violence against women & girls
- 5.3 Early marriage
- 5.4 Unpaid care & domestic work
- 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights
- 5.a Equal economic rights
- 5.b Technology for women empowerment
- 5.c Gender equality policies

GOAL 6

- 6.1 Safe drinking water
- 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene
- 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation
- 6.4 Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
- 6.a Water-use efficiency
- 6.6 Water-related ecosystems
- 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.
- 6.3 Water quality

GOAL 7

- 7.a Int. cooperation on energy
- 7.1 Access to energy services
- 7.3 Energy efficiency
- 7.b Disaster risk management policies
- 7.2 Share of renewable energy

GOAL 8

- 8.1 Per capital economic growth
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.3 Formalisation of SMEs
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.a Aid for trade
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.5 Fully employment & decent work
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.b Strategy for youth employment
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism

GOAL 9

- 9.a Resilient infrastructure
- 9.c Access to ICT & internet
- 9.1 Infrastructure development
- 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialisation
- 9.3 Small-scaled industry access to finance
- 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries
- 9.5 Research and development
- 9.b Domestic technology development

GOAL 10

- 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)
- 10.2 Inclusion (socio-economic, political)
- 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies
- 10.7 Safe migration & mobility
- 10.b Resource flows for development
- 10.c Remittance costs
- 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)
- 10.3 Eliminate discrimination
- 10.5 Regulation of financial markets
- 10.6 Inclusive global governance

GOAL 11

- 11.1 Housing & basic services
- 11.2 Public transport systems
- 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
- 11.b Disaster risk management policies
- 11.5 Resilience to disasters
- 11.3 Sustainable urbanisation
- 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage
- 11.7 Urban green & public spaces
- 11.a Urban planning
- 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings

GOAL 12

- 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes
- 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD
- 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
- 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring
- 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies
- 12.1 Programmes on SCP
- 12.3 Food waste and losses
- 12.5 Reduction in waste generation
- 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices
- 12.7 Public procurement practices
- 12.8 Sustainable development awareness

- 13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity
- 13.2 Climate change policies
- 13.3 Climate change awareness
- 13.a UNFCCC commitments
- 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.

GOAL 14

- 14.1 Marine pollution
- 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
- 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
- 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Ocean acidification
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.6 Fisheries subsidies
- 14.a Research capacity & marine tech.
- 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
- 14.c Implementing UNCLOS

GOAL 15


- 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosys.
- 15.b Resources for forest management
- 15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosys.
- 15.2 Sustainable forest management
- 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosys.
- 15.8 Invasive alien species
- 15.5 Loss of biodiversity
- 15.3 Desertification and land degradation
- 15.6 Utilisation of genetic resource
- 15.7 Protected species trafficking
- 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
- 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)

GOAL 16


- 16.6 Effective institutions
- 16.1 Reduction violence & related deaths
- 16.3 Justice for all
- 16.5 Corruption and bribery
- 16.2 Human trafficking
- 16.b Non-discriminatory laws
- 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows
- 16.7 Inclusive decision-making
- 16.8 Inclusive global governance
- 16.9 Legal identity
- 16.10 Public access to information
- 16.a Capacity to prevent violence

GOAL 17

- 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection
- 17.3 Additional financial resources
- 17.4 Debt sustainability
- 17.6 Science & tech int. cooperation
- 17.8 Capacity building for ICT
- 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs
- 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)
- 17.11 Exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs
- 17.17 Partnerships (public private CSO)
- 17.18 National statistics availability
- 17.19 Statistical capacity
- 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries
- 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs
- 17.7 Transfer of technologies
- 17.13 Global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Policy coherence for SD
- 17.15 Respect country's policy space
- 17.16 Global partnership for SD

 **MAINTAIN** progress to achieve target

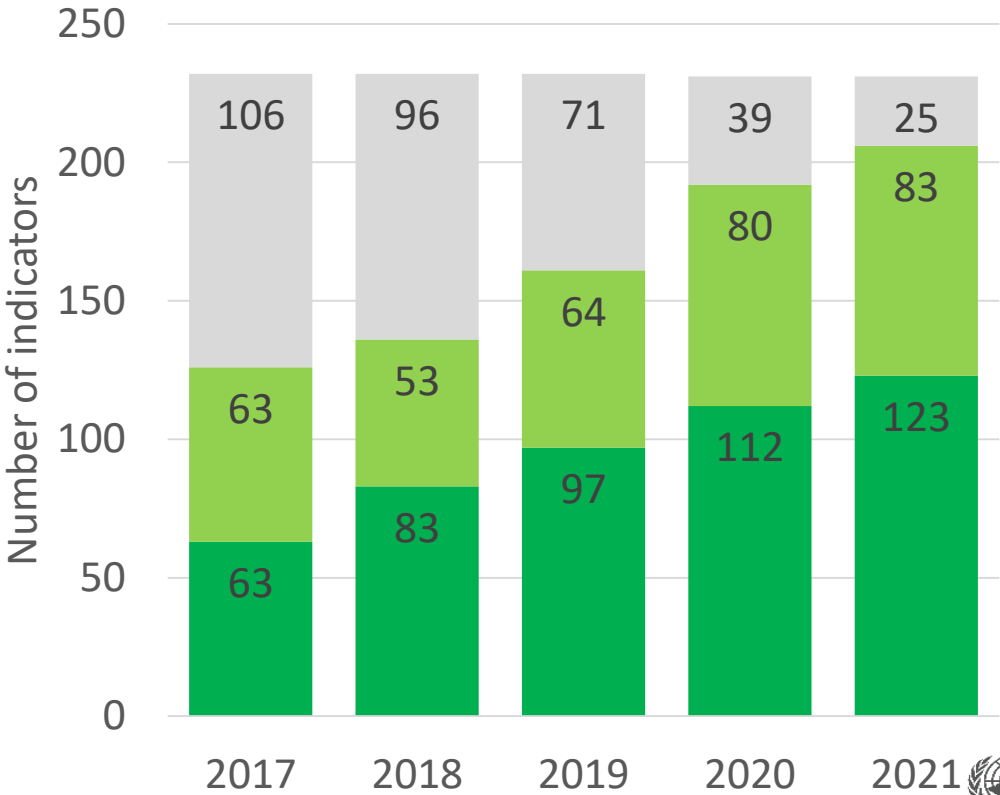
 **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target

 **REVERSE** trend to achieve target

 **CANNOT** be measured

SDG data availability in Asia-Pacific

Since 2017, data availability has doubled



- No data
- Insufficient data
- Sufficient data

Data issues for tracking SDG progress

SDGs have 232 unique indicators .

- In Asia-Pacific SDG data availability has doubled but gaps still remain especially in social and environmental domains.
- Need more granular data by age, sex and location for many SDG indicators.
- Need to strengthen core data systems including civil registration and vital statistics.
- Need more timely data to meet policy maker needs.
- Need to increase data literacy.

Common issues for NSOs

Quality vs timeliness

- Policy makers want near real time data e.g. faster economic indicators

Prioritization

- How can different data demands be prioritised
- New areas are added but none are taken away

Technical capacity

- New tools and new data sources provide opportunities but skills need to be built

Data governance

- With new data sources, data privacy concerns need to have flexible data governance

4. A final thought on Beyond GDP

What's in a name?

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Economic Product

Gross Economic Value-Added