



Intergovernmental Negotiations Post-2015 Third Session / Goals, Targets, Indicators

Session on Indicators

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

New York, Monday, March 23, 2015

- Thank you Co-Facilitators,
- We welcome the update given by the UN Statistics Division on the state of their ongoing work.
- Switzerland is convinced that indicators must be elaborated by statisticians and experts in a **transparent** manner, and today's meeting is a good example of how transparency can be reached;
- **Indicators** are the backbone of monitoring and review of the SDGs and crucial for successful implementation of the agenda. Therefore, they must reflect the **ambitious political will** expressed in the respective targets.
- We need global indicators as we collectively have the ambition to implement a universal agenda.
- Switzerland **supports the roadmap** as adopted by the 46th UN Statistics Commission in March 2015.
- According to this roadmap, Switzerland also supports that the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG indicators elaborate a proposal for a conceptual framework, which must include principles and criteria for the selection of indicators, as well as a set of indicators.
- **We would like to stress that elaborating good indicators takes time** and rushing this exercise would only be detrimental to the implementation of the SDGs that we have all worked so hard to define.



- **However, in September this year** our Heads of State will be gathering to adopt an ambitious set of Sustainable Development Goals. It will be important that this Declaration also sets the stage for the work to come and expresses a clear mandate for the elaboration of an indicator framework and a set of indicators.
- Concretely, we would therefore expect that The Post-2015 Outcome Document will contain the following elements:
 - It must recall the importance of a robust set of indicators, based on an indicator framework, as crucial to ensure effective monitoring and ultimately effective implementation of the agenda.
 - Based also on paragraph 38 of the Rio+20 document, it must give the UN Statistics Commission a clear mandate to elaborate an indicator framework and a set of indicators based in the ambitious SDGs, based on the roadmap as approved by the UN Stats Commission at its 46th session.
 - The Post-2015 Outcome Document should call for the **UN Stats Commission to adopt an indicator framework and list of indicators** at its 47th session in March 2016, including the possibility to update them at a later time if needed.
 - Finally, it should also underline the importance of strengthening the statistical capacity in countries, an issue which in our view is an important element of the MoI discussion. In this regard, some remarks of the distinguished representatives of the Statistical commission addressing us today, are of particular relevance, such a step necessity for transformation also in the statistical world, respectively the need for new approaches, including integrated monitoring for sustainable development. We also agree with the statement that strengthening capacities should be understood as strengthening existing systems, respectively be part of ongoing monitoring efforts at the different levels.