Towards an indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda

United Nations Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
28 May 2015
Luis Gonzalez Morales
Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda

• New York, 25 and 26 February 2015

• Main points of consensus:
  • Define an architecture for an **integrated** monitoring framework
  • Select a **small number of global indicators** based on an agreed set of criteria
  • Ensure **national ownership** of indicators
  • Ensure appropriate **disaggregation** of indicators and include a **human-rights dimension** (no-one-left-behind principle)
  • Strengthen **national statistical capacity**
  • Draw from **existing integrated statistical frameworks**
  • Build on the **MDG experience**
An integrated architecture with different levels of monitoring and reporting

• Purpose:
  Review progress towards, and follow up on, the commitments and objectives of the post-2015 development agenda

• There are many levels of decision making and monitoring:
  • Global
  • Regional
  • National / Sub-national
  • Thematic

• Each level needs a different set of information and different elements of disaggregation

• Interdependencies and interlinkages transcend individual sectors and national borders
  • Need to monitor synergies and trade-offs (where gains in one area may have a positive or negative impact on others)
  • Need to involve all relevant stakeholders
Global indicators

• Inform the political discussion and decision making at the global level

• Should be:
  • Limited in number
  • Universally relevant
  • Effective in detecting changes resulting from policy interventions in different contexts
  • Methodologically sound
  • Internationally comparable
  • Timely and regularly produced over time

• Challenge:

  How to select only a few global indicators per goal, while addressing with the same level of attention all aspects of every target?
Thematic, regional, national and sub-national indicators

• Allowing for more levels of disaggregation
• Covering a broader set of policy issues
• Addressing different policy priorities and contexts
Need for flexibility

• A certain level of flexibility should be allowed in the indicator framework

• Need to refine or adjust the indicator framework over the next 15 years, in order to:
  • Reflect new and emerging issues
  • Adapt to changing policy priorities
  • Incorporate new developments in statistical methodology and data availability.
Build on existing statistical frameworks

• The SDG indicator framework should draw from existing integrated statistical frameworks such as:
  • Recommendations for measuring sustainable development by the Conference of European Statisticians,
  • Standards of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians,
  • System of National Accounts, and
  • System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
Continuity from MDG to SDG monitoring framework

• There is value in integrating work on MDG indicators into the new SDG monitoring framework
  • Particularly in cases where MDG indicators provide appropriate measures for specific SDG targets
• Building on work already done (both at the national and international levels):
  • Statistical methodologies
  • Data sources
  • Statistical compilation programmes
  • Data exchange and dissemination mechanisms
Multi-tier set of indicators

Tier 1: Satisfy all criteria
Tier 2: Satisfy most criteria but data coverage is insufficient
Tier 3: Methodology still being developed
Need for national capacity building

• Effective monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda will be a significant challenge for the national statistical systems

• There will be need for
  • Increased efforts to strengthen national statistical capacities, especially in developing and least developed countries
  • Increased coordination among all members of NSS
  • Development of new data sources and data compilation methods in the field

• Implementation of national and regional indicators needs to be aligned with the overall architecture for an integrated monitoring framework at all levels
Political process:
Inter-Governmental Negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda

Technical process:
- UNSC
  - FOC
  - IAEG-SDGs
  - HLG
- NSOs
  - Monitoring and Inter-agency groups
  - Civil Society and other stakeholders
Timeline: Past milestones

- **25-25 Feb 2015**  Expert Group Meeting on SDG indicators
- **27 Feb 2015**  UNSC Friday Seminar on Indicator Framework
- **3-6 Mar 2015**  UNSC 46th session
  - Roadmap for Indicator Framework
  - Creation of IAEG-SDGs and HLG
- **23 Mar 2015**  Technical report by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission (presented at the March Session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations)
  - Initial assessment by NSOs of 304 provisional indicators submitted by experts from Technical Support Team
- **21 May 2015**  Update by Chair of UNSC to Inter-Governmental Negotiations
Timeline: Upcoming milestones

• 1-2 Jun 2015  First meeting of the IAEG-SDGs
  • Process for development of indicator framework
  • Work plan and way forward
  • Methods of work
  • Technical issues

• Jun-Jul 2015  Inter-Governmental Negotiations

• Sep 2015  Adoption of post-2015 development agenda by General Assembly

• Mar 2016  Adoption of Indicator Framework by UNSC

→ Implementation and further refinement of the indicator framework
Concluding remarks

• The development of a robust and high-quality indicator framework is a technical process to be conducted in stages.

• As the available knowledge evolves, the global SDG indicator framework may need to be further refined.

• The IAEG-SDGs will conduct its work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.

• Effective monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda will be a significant challenge for the national statistical systems.

• In addition to the development of an integrated global indicator framework, there will be a need to develop appropriate mechanisms and platforms to exchange and disseminate data on global progress on all goals and targets.
Thank you

For further information, visit: unstats.un.org/sdgs/