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Question 11: The UN Stats Commission should support the HLPF and the Member States with its statistical technical expertise and knowledge to ensure that monitoring and review processes are reliable, and based on a robust and credible evidence base.

Question 12: New and emerging issues are often difficult to assess and monitor, largely because of the unknowns and uncertainties. For example, understanding the potential threat to development of a new health epidemic, or a new emerging conflict; might be particularly difficult to assess and monitor, because of access contraints. The HLPF might wish to have pre-existing arrangements (for example stand-by technical capacities) that could be quickly activated to rapidly assess or monitor these types of new and emerging issues, i.e. risks, threats, or setbacks to Agenda 2030 implementation.

Question 22: The HLPF should exploit crowd sourcing and other social media applications to solicit the inputs of key stakeholders.

Question 23: The HLPF should design and distribute a common reporting format to key stakeholders along with guidance on expected reporting requirements, frequency of reporting, sources of evidence, etc. The HLPF could then establish a reporting process with submission of standard reports on a regular bases (yearly or biennially). Based on the individual reports received from the key stakeholders, the HLPF could then produce a synthesis report for public consumption.

Question 24: The HLPF (or UNDG?) should conduct a UN system mapping exercise wherein individual UN agencies, funds and programmes are required to map their foreseen contributions across the 169 SDG targets. The mapping exercise should require that each agency, fund or programme indicate its foreseen percentage of effort (adding up to maximum of 100?% per agency) across the various SDG targets. This exercise will expose areas of inter-agency intersection, potential overlaps and gaps. It will also reveal where agencies might be spreading themselves too thin across multiple targets, rather than strategically focusing on a realistic, limited number of the targets. Once the mapping is complete it should be clear which agencies are expected to contribute to which SDG targets. A standard reporting format should then be designed and issued on a regular basis (e.g. biennially) to each of the UN entities contributing to the various targets. The reporting format would call for narrative information on individual agency contributions to each of the targets, track related investments by agency and also allow include a section on indicator reporting (NB: for relevant agency-specific indicators, not the SDG indicators as these would be tracked by national governments through a separate process – see next question below).

Question 25: Primary responsibility for follow-up and review of SDG implementation rests with national governments. Central to this is the requirement to establish target and baseline values for each of the relevant SDG indicators, and put in place effective monitoring systems at national level. While primary responsibility rests with Member States, the UN has an important role to play in supporting national governments to effectively perform follow-up and review. First, detailed technical guidance notes need to be developed for each of the SDG indicators. Second, as national statistical commissions and other entities responsible for monitoring at national level tend to lack capacity, the UN should establish a programme to support the strengthening of national capacity in selected countries. Third, dedicated support should be provided to countries by UN entities at regional level. Such support should include provision of guidance on the conduct of national baseline and follow-up surveys for relevant SDG indicators at national level, capacity development activities, validation and quality assurance of data inputs, supporting reporting, etc.