



The President of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, hosted a briefing at 10:00am on Thursday, 28 January, 2016 on the global SDG indicator framework. Mr. John Pullinger, Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Enrique Ordaz, Co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs, and Mr. Stefan Schweinfest and Ms. Francesca Perucci, Director and Assistant Director of the UN Statistical Division, participated in the briefing.

UN Webcast: <http://webtv.un.org/watch/general-assembly-the-global-indicator-framework-70th-session-informal-meeting/4726355689001>

Briefing to the General Assembly on the global SDG indicator framework:

- **President of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft:**
 - Steps for the adoption of the SDGs indicator framework:
 - UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) will review and agree on the [“Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators”](#) at the 47th Session of the UNSC.
 - **Once adopted by the UNSC, they will submit the report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for adoption.**
- **Briefing by the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger, on the process for the development of a proposal on global indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:**
 - The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring was tasked by the Statistical Commission, at its 46th session, with promoting national ownership of the post-2015 monitoring system and fostering statistical capacity building, partnership and coordination.
 - This group will provide strategic guidance and identify data gaps and priorities to enhance statistical capacity building in countries. It will also serve as an advisory group to the Statistical Commission on how to operationalize the recommendations in the report on the data revolution prepared at the request of the Secretary-General by a group of independent experts: “A World that counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development”.

- Like the IAEG-SDGs, the High-level group is composed of representatives of national statistical offices, in most cases, the head of the office, with each member representing their respective region or subregion, so that the view of all countries may be taken into account in the deliberations.
 - The High-level group held its first in-person meeting two weeks ago here in New York. At that meeting, the group agreed to establish a global action plan for data for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Members also discussed their work programme for the coming year, including the organization of the UN World Forum for Sustainable Development Data.
 - In the 2030 Agenda, Member States refer to “the global indicator framework, to be developed by the Inter-agency and expert group on sustainable development goal indicators” to “be agreed by the Statistical Commission by March 2016 and adopted thereafter by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in line with existing mandates”.
 - Should there be any questions on a specific indicator, would encourage you to approach me or the Secretariat before the meeting of the Commission to allow time to clarify and address any existing concerns.
 - Recognize that refinements and improvements will be needed over the years, as knowledge improves and new tools and data sources become available.
 - This global indicator framework will be the basis for the annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals that will be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system and made available to Member States to inform their deliberations at the High-level Political Forum.
 - Strategic planning and increased resources will be required to ensure that all countries have adequate data to follow up and review the SDGs and that no one individual, country, or region is left behind.
- **Briefing by Co-Chairs of the Inter-agency and expert group on Sustainable development goal indicators (IAEG-SDGs)**
 - [Presentation: Update on the work of the IAEG-SDGs](#)
 - **The IAEG-SDGs held two physical meetings in June and October 2015. The next meeting is planned for the end of March in Mexico.**
 - The IAEG held two consultations:
 - July – August 2015: one part among the IAEG-SDG members, and then among observers regional and international agencies and countries that were not members of the IAEG-SDGs
 - August – September 2015: an open consultation on the indicators proposals with all countries, regional and international agencies, civil society, academic and the private sector.
 - Since November, the group carried out two more open consultations:
 - 4-7 November 2015: a brief open consultation with experts from international agencies, non-IAEG Member States and other stakeholders on indicators coded “green”. Inputs and proposals were received from over 600 observers and other stakeholders.

- 9-15 December 2015: an open consultation on indicators coded “grey”. Inputs and proposals were received from over 400 observers and other stakeholders.
- A detailed description of the work of the IAEG-SDGs and the proposal of global SDG indicators are presented in the report of the IAEG to the UN Statistical Commission. The set of global indicators consists of 229 indicators, including 149 “green” indicators and 80 “grey” indicators. The “green” indicators are those for which the consultation process was completed.
- The “grey” indicators, marked with an asterisk in the report to the Statistical Commission are currently being reviewed by the IAEG Members. They will be presented in an updated version of the list of indicators expected to be issued as an Addendum paper to the Statistical Commission in mid-February. The Statistical Commission will review the proposal and submit it to ECOSOC and GA for adoption.
- The global indicators will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels to be developed by Member States.
- Member States will develop their national indicators in line with the principle of the 2030 agenda that targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Indicators for thematic monitoring are also being developed in a number of areas.
- In order to ensure that no one is left behind, the IAEG-SDG Members have agreed that indicators should cover the specific groups of population and other disaggregation elements specified in the targets. They have also agreed to include an overarching principle of data disaggregation to accompany the indicators.
- These coming months the Group will further discussion how to operationalize data disaggregation in the implementation of the global indicator set.
- The Secretary-General has been mandated to produce an annual SDG progress report to support follow-up and review at the High-level Political Forum. Data will be produced by national statistical systems and information will be aggregated at the sub-regional, regional and global level.
- The mechanism for data flows from countries to the international statistical system need to be further defined. It is essential to further strengthen the coordination function of the national statistical offices.
- Statistical capacity building is essential for many national statistical systems to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda. This is where the IAEG-SDGs and the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building are working closely. The HLG will work on the strategic plan for statistical capacity building and enable countries to be able to fully implement the SDG indicators.
- **Once the list is agreed upon by the Statistical Commission, the IAEG-SDGs will concentrate on the implementation phase. The first important step will be the assessment of the status of the indicators proposed. The indicators will be classified into three tiers:**

- a first tier for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available;
 - a second tier for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available; and,
 - a third tier for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed.
- Indicators under tier II and especially under tier III, are those where refinements and improvements will be needed over the coming years as better tools and more data become available.
 - **Overall, during the year ahead, the IAEG-SDGs will carry out the following 8 main activities:**

1. Define global reporting mechanisms
2. Establish the tier system for the indicators
3. Review of data availability for Tier I and Tier II indicators and develop a plan for increasing the data coverage of Tier II indicators
4. Establish a work plan for further development of Tier III indicators
5. Develop procedures for methodological review of indicators
6. Develop further guidance on data disaggregation
7. Continue the discussion of interlinkages across targets and goals, and use of multipurpose indicators
8. Hold 2 meetings: one in March 2016 and one in Fall of 2016

Questions & Answers:

United States:

- **Raised concern about Goal 16 indicators – insufficient and needs more work.**
- Called for further improvements in the global indicator framework.
- Called for open and inclusive consultations driven by technical expertise.
- Highlighted, the benefits and constructive role of Member States, civil society and academic institutions in the development of the global indicator framework.

Response: Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger

- Acknowledge the difficult tasks of identifying indicators for Goal 16.

Nigeria:

- Asked about the progress of the “green” and “grey” indicators.

Response: Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Enrique Ordaz, Co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs

- Stated some “green” indicators might need further work.
- Stated “grey” indicators needs agreement from the IAEG-SDGs then they will be changed to “green” indicators”.

Zambia on behalf of LLDCs:

- Stated it is important to track key indicators for the most vulnerable, especially for LLDCs.
 - Proportion of the population living below the poverty line
 - Prevalence of undernourishment
 - Maternal deaths
 - Access to water and sanitation
 - Percentage of population with access to electricity
 - Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita
 - Infrastructure indicators

Response: Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger

- Noted the IAEG-SDGs recognize the special needs and challenges of LLDCs when developing the global indicator framework.

India:

- Noted the global indicator framework is still a work in progress that's still need more work by technical experts.
- Noted several problems with:
 - issue measurability,
 - lack of data,
 - lack of capacity,
 - use of methodology to measure certain indicators,
 - indicators focus on national actions instead of international cooperation,
 - Goal 17 indicators weak
 - case of "low and high" political ambition with certain indicators
- Asked whether it would more appropriate to extend the work of the IAEG-SDGs beyond March to develop the global indicator framework.
- Asked whether there is concerns among members of the IAEG-SDGs about the global indicator framework when it is adopted there will not be space for improvements.

Response: Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger

- Acknowledged there is still a lot more work to do with the development of the global indicator framework.
- Acknowledged the indicators will still need improvement after it is adopted but stressed the need to adopt indicators in March.

Response: Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Enrique Ordaz, Co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs

- Stated we need a base to start with the adoption of the global indicator framework but acknowledge further work will be needed after adoption.

Venezuela:

- Suggested the establishment of a technical workshop with Member States and the IAEG-SDGs to clarify questions from Member States.

Response: Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger

- Stated willing to have a technical workshop if asked by Member States.

Response: Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Enrique Ordaz, Co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs

- Stated willing to have a technical workshop if asked by Member States.

Morocco:

- Noted capacity building is a priority for developing countries to monitor and follow-up/review the SDGs.
- Emphasized the IAEG-SDGs take into consideration the notion of “ownership” and “flexibility” for the global indicator framework.

Response: Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger

- Stated the architecture of the global indicator framework has “ownership” and “flexibility” built into it.

Response: Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Mr. Enrique Ordaz, Co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs

- Stated “flexibility” has been built into the global indicator framework.

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the UN Statistical Division:

- Called Member States to engage their Chief Statistician in Capital to address any concerns/gaps.
- Stated willing to explore setting up a technical workshop with Member States in New York.
- Stated the IAEG-SDGs will function for 15 years.
- Acknowledge there is space for additional work on the global indicator framework after adoption in March.

Ecuador & Columbia:

- Asked to know more about the future work of the UNSC on the global indicator framework.

Response: Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Mr. John Pullinger

- Noted partnership will be key (ex. private sector and civil society).
- Will be organizing a World Forum on Sustainable Development Data in 2016.