The Process of SDG Global Indicator Development

Jennifer Park, UNECE
UNCTAD
June 21, 2018
How is Progress Measured?

*Inter-agency and Expert Group (IAEG-SDG)*

- Proposes **initial indicator framework**
- **Manages indicator development** process
- Spring and autumn in person meetings
- Reports to the UN Statistical Commission
Who are the IAEG-SDG?

• **Country-led**, 28 countries are members (represented by National Statistical Offices), all other countries and international organizations are observers

• **Observers** provide input to technical deliberations
  • Custodian agencies
  • Other international organizations
  • Academia
  • Private sector
  • Public
How Were Initial Indicators Determined?

• Initial framework adopted by UNGA in July 2017 as starting point
• Tier classification guides statistical capacity efforts
  • Tier 1 – internationally, IAEG agreed, methodology exists, data widely available
  • Tier 2 – IAEG agreed methodology exists, data available for some countries
  • Tier 3 – no internationally agreed methodology
How are Indicators Developed?

*Custodian Agencies (w/ Stakeholders)*

- Propose global metadata, including conceptualization, piloting
- Harmonize national statistics and prepare global aggregate
- Assist countries in production of statistics relevant to indicator capacity building
- Prepare input to global progress report (statistical annexes and brief text); thematic reports
How are Indicators Changed?

**Refinements**

- **Small changes** to correct obvious errors in spelling and metrics referenced in initial indicator list and proposed global metadata.
- Considered **annually**; do not require formal adoption by UNSC
- **No substantive changes** in what is measured; no additional indicators or replacements (or deletions)
How are Indicators Changed?

**Revisions**

• **Substantive** changes to the indicator. Includes additions, replacements and deletions.

• **Considered twice**: March 2020 and March 2025 for formal adoption by UNSC after global consultation

• Changes must be consistent with the initial direction to the UNSC in developing indicators: each target should have at least one indicator, and indicators **should not re-interpret** either the associated target or the goal.
1. NSOs in UNSC create IAEG-SDG to create initial indicator framework

2. NSO staff in IAEG-SDG, with stakeholders and agencies, develop initial indicator list, tier system, and designate custodian agencies and their roles

3. Tiering designation guides initial work (e.g., conceptualization, piloting, global metadata, etc.)

4. Custodian agencies, working with stakeholders, propose revisions or refinements to IAEG-SDG

5. IAEG-SDG proposes REVISIONS (substantive changes) to indicators UNSC for approval.

UNSC

IAEG-SDG

Stakeholders

Custodian agency
Considerations

• Tier 3 indicators that have not shown progress in methodological development may be replaced in 2020 and 2025

• Refinements to metadata may be useful

• Early and frequent briefing of plans and pilots with the IAEG is extremely valuable—before and after pilots are completed

• Proposals to IAEG should reflect the support of the designated custodian agencies and stakeholders