

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



Big Picture: Indicator Development Process



UNSC

1. NSOs in UNSC create IAEG-SDG to create initial indicator framework

IAEG-SDG

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

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

Stakeholders

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

Custodian agency

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



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