

Annex I

Revised terms of reference for the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

1. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators will:

(a) Develop and refine an indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, taking into account existing efforts by different groups of countries and organizations, including regional and international agencies, regional commissions, academia, civil society and other relevant international organizations, to be adopted by the Statistical Commission;

(b) Provide technical support for the implementation of the approved indicator and monitoring framework over the 15-year period towards 2030; ensure the use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions; share experiences on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals; and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity-building;

(c) Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;

(d) Regularly review capacity-building activities in statistical areas relevant to Sustainable Development Goals monitoring and make recommendations to be considered by the Statistical Commission, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;

(e) Review and support work by the Secretariat for the development of a Sustainable Development Goal data-user forum, tools for data analysis and an open dashboard on the state of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. The Expert Group consists of 27 representatives of national statistical offices and one ex officio member¹ and also includes, as observers, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies, to provide important technical advice and support as needed. Members of the Group will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms² for an initial period of two years, after which some are expected to be rotated as agreed by the respective regional mechanisms, with a view to ensuring equitable regional representation and technical expertise and including members of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The respective regional mechanisms will ensure that a certain number of members will be rotated for continuity of the work of the Group.³ Countries that are not members of the Group may send their representatives to participate in the activities of the Group as observers.

¹ The Chair of the Statistical Commission is an ex officio member of the Expert Group.

² Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

³ A total of nine members will be rotated: two members from Eastern, Middle and Southern and Western Africa; one member from Northern Africa and Western Asia; two members from Central, Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern Asia and Oceania; two members from the Caribbean and Central and South America; and two members from Eastern Europe, North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe.

3. Regular attendance at meetings and contribution to discussion and decision-making is expected of all members. Participation by a member in less than 50 per cent of meetings (through in-person participation or written communication) in a calendar year will indicate that the member is no longer active and the member will be replaced at the end of the calendar year or the next membership rotation (whichever occurs first) through the regional mechanism. Furthermore, members are expected to actively participate and contribute during meetings and through written communication between meetings.

4. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat will be the secretariat of the Expert Group. Member States that are part of the Group will elect two Co-Chairs. At the time of membership rotation, one Co-Chair is expected to step down and is invited to serve for an additional term of two years as a member. Preferably, members of the Expert Group should not serve concurrently as members of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The existing global monitoring groups, generally composed of representatives of national statistical systems and experts from international agencies working on specific indicators, will contribute to the work of the Expert Group as deemed appropriate by the Group. In addition, as deemed appropriate, global monitoring groups will be formed bringing together national and international experts that will support the work of the Group on the selection and definition of indicators and data compilation and reporting to monitor progress in new and emerging areas covered by the new Goals and targets.

5. The Expert Group will conduct its work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and will invite experts, as appropriate, from civil society, academia and the private sector to contribute their expertise and experiences on indicators and innovative data compilation methods.

6. The Expert Group will meet physically once a year, and otherwise conduct its work electronically. Participation in the physical meetings is self-funded. A limited number of developing countries that are members of the Group may receive funding to support their participation in the meetings, if available.

7. The Expert Group will report annually to the Statistical Commission and seek guidance from it.