

Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).
United Nations, New York
1 – 2 June 2015

Statement by Major Groups and other Stakeholders

Theme 5: Critical issues for selecting indicators (disaggregation, inequality, etc.)

World Vision	International Disability Alliance
ChildFund Alliance	Asian Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
Plan International	International Federation on Ageing
SOS Children's Villages	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Water Aid	NGO Committee on Migration/Curia Generalizia Agostiniana
Beyond 2015	World Youth Alliance
AARP	

Thank you for the invitation to participate in this first session. It is a recognition of our contribution, and that civil society should be involved at all levels to be able to contribute to ensure that indicators appropriate and true to the nature of the targets are developed.

Indicators must reflect the ambitious and transformative Goals and Targets approved by the OWG on SDGs which are the main basis at current intergovernmental negotiations. They must be based on principles of human rights. Further, they must be measurable to track progress and hold all stakeholders accountable to our promises. In addition to existing quantitative and qualitative measurement, perceptions-based indicators, non-mainstream data and innovative approaches must be developed to count everyone. We need to aim high when it comes to methodologies and data sources. We can do better.

The indicators development process should be transparent and inclusive, with clear channels to include the experience and knowledge of civil society. Participatory approaches, such as social accountability can deliver positive change for the world's most vulnerable, particularly children & young people, migrants, persons with disabilities, older persons and others.

The indicators framework must ensure that targets are achieved for the benefit of all social and economic groups. They should not mask apparent Goals success as a lesson learned from the MDGs referring here to their aggregate targets. They should be based on principles of human rights, which recognize special vulnerabilities and gender equality. To do this, requires that data be disaggregated on the basis of sex, age (at minimum of 5-years intervals), gender, wealth, location, living arrangements, migratory status, disability status, race, caste, ethnicity and other variables. This will make everyone visible in local,

national and global statistical data and country, donor budgets, finance plans and expenditure reports. Inequality is a root cause of poverty that is masked by non-disaggregated data.

We understand the complexity of measuring a sustainable development agenda with 17 goals and 169 targets. We are convinced, however, that indicators require a set of guiding principles and investment in their implementation both in resources and capacity-building. National statistical institutions will need to be strengthened and support their collection capabilities. Engaging citizens, including children, through participatory approaches can highly contribute to timely and reliable data generation.

We call upon the IAEG on SDG Indicators to aspire and deliver on a bold, aspirational, and transformative differentiated framework in which the universal indicators and targets are complemented by a set of indicators and targets developed and owned by all.