

Civil Society Statement on Core Issues relating to Goals 6-8 and 11-15
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Civil society has contributed hundreds of valuable inputs on indicators for all the goals and targets, which have been compiled by UN-DESA and NGLS in a document posted on the blog on the SDG indicators website. We urge national statistical offices to take full advantage of the expertise of civil society and consider our proposals in the development of the global indicator framework. Civil society would also like to request further clarity on the mechanisms for civil society participation on an ongoing basis, recognizing that this is an evolving process.

In earlier statements, civil society has emphasized the importance of data disaggregation when it comes to indicators of social equality and economic progress. When assessing environmental sustainability, it's actually important to look at the entire picture at the national level using aggregated data. For example, with respect to sustainable water use, which falls within the scope of goals 6, 8, 12 and 15, we should not exclude strong existing indicators for which data is widely available. For example, for the MDGs, we measured the proportion of total renewable freshwater resources used which is an important metric for determining whether a country is operating within sustainable thresholds.

If we would like to see a paradigm shift in human development, we need to look at data from a fresh perspective and question long-held assumptions. In the current proposals, there is a heavy emphasis on efficiency and resource intensity as an indicator of sustainable use of water, energy and other natural resources. Of course, it is important to know how efficiently a society uses energy, for example. But let's be mindful of the fact that a society can be highly efficient and nevertheless unsustainable when you contemplate its total energy consumption and production and total carbon emissions. These aggregated figures should be included in the SDG indicators.

To ensure that the next generation inherits a healthy planet, we must carefully manage our demands for natural resources. It's therefore important not just to look at data on consumption but to look at such data in the context of sustainable benchmarks. The Ecological Footprint is a valuable metric for tracking demands as well as availability of productive land and aquatic regions that applies to numerous targets. We would also like to reiterate the key point raised yesterday by the ECE that it is not always possible to reduce indicators to a single number and that, in some cases, indicators are best presented in a tabular format.

Sustainable consumption and production is a cross-cutting issue throughout the SDGs. Goal 12 requires indicators that identify where over-consumption of resources and unsustainable production patterns are depleting the water supply, changing the climate and destroying forests and other ecosystems we all depend on. SCP indicators should also help to identify disparities in consumption which leaves more than a billion people with too little for dignity, decency, comfort and safety. Selecting the right indicators for SCP will require greater inputs and contributions from civil society and other stakeholders, and we respectfully ask the members of the IAEG to call on us as we are ready to help.