

First Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

New York, 1-2 June 2015

Venue: UNHQ, Conference Room 3

Methods of work of the IAEG-SDGs

(as of 28 May 2015)

1. Terms of reference of the IAEG-SDGs

The Terms of reference for the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators specify the following:

- *Members and observers.* The group will consist of 28 representatives of national statistical offices and include, as observers, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies, including those responsible for global reporting on the MDGs, to provide important technical advice and support as needed. Non-member countries may send their representatives to participate in the activities of the group as observers.
- *Monitoring groups.* The existing global monitoring groups, generally composed of representatives of national statistical systems and experts from international agencies, working on specific indicators,¹ will contribute to the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators as deemed appropriate by the IAEG-SDGs. In addition, as deemed appropriate, global monitoring groups will be formed bringing together national and international experts that will support the IAEG-SDGs 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.
- *Experts from civil society, academia and the private sector.* The 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.

¹ Such as the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), and the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Division joint estimation on maternal mortality ratio.

- *Secretariat and Co-Chairs.* Member States that are part of the IAEG-SDGs will elect two Co-Chairs. The United Nations Statistics Division will be the secretariat of the group.
- *Meetings.* The group will meet physically twice 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, if available and according to practices followed in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators.
- *Reporting to the Statistical Commission.* The group will report annually to the Statistical Commission and seek guidance from it. In its report the group will provide an annex listing the activities of various groups relevant for post-2015 monitoring.

2. Further specification of the Terms of reference of the IAEG-SDGs

Within the parameters defined by its Terms of reference, the IAEG-SDGs will establish its working methods. The IAEG-SDGs may wish to decide on the following:

- Further define, in consultation with the observer members of the IAEG-SDGs and the secretariat, the role of global monitoring groups and how these can provide substantive inputs to the discussion, as required.
- Further define how to consider contributions from representatives from civil society, academia and the private sector, including in particular by defining criteria for them to participate in the meetings of the IAEG-SDGs and provide oral and written inputs.
- Request the secretariat to establish an electronic discussion platform in order to be able to conduct its work electronically.
- Further define, in consultation with the secretariat, its working methods in all other areas, as necessary.