

Civil Society statement on Goals 11 and 17 at the 3rd meeting of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators in Mexico city from 30 March to 1st April, 2016.

Delivered by Lauren Barredo, SDSN
Mexico, 31st March, 2016.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have been selected to deliver this statement on behalf of several representatives of civil society, all of whom are grateful for the opportunity to speak.

A fair number of the indicators under goal 11 are ranked as Tier III. However, municipal governments have shown leadership on data collection and international collaboration through groups like ICLEI, C40, SloCat, and others. Goal 11 should leverage municipal governments as sources of robust data.

With regards to specific indicators,

We are concerned that there is no custodian agency identified for indicator 11.3.2, nor are there details on data availability. However, many local governments, often in partnership with UN organizations, collecting this data. For example, the City of Portland has a Bureau Advisory Committee, formed by citizens that worked with UN Habitat to collect data and review program performance. In Mexico, the Citizen Urban Development Committees advise the government on urban mobility and environmental strategies. These are two concrete examples where local and municipal government data can be integrated into this agenda. W.H.O.'s Age-Friendly Cities Criteria will provide a useful source of information for this indicator as it concerns older persons.

On indicator 11.4.1, on the share of the budget dedicated to the preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage, we imagine situations in which spending is high, although the resources are not sufficient to protect sites. Conversely, spending may be low but funds sufficient. We would prefer a metric that identifies the amount of funding needed, and identifies the gap between that amount and what is currently being spent.

On indicator 11.7.2, UNSD has developed guidelines on data collection, and there is a well-established protocol from WHO for disaggregation by gender. Greater ease of disaggregation by disability is accomplished by adding in the Washington Group questions on disability statistics, and age disaggregation is also needed.

Indicator 11.a.1. discusses "urban and regional development plans," although in most countries municipal governments have little or no say in regional- or national-level politics and planning. We recommend refining this element to read "local urban development plans." In addition, we agree with and support the comments from UN Habitat on this indicator. In addition, population projections should take into account changing demographics.

Wrapping up with Goal 17, indicator 17.18.1 measures the proportion of indicators produced with full disaggregation, and we caution against a limited interpretation of this to only include groups mentioned in targets.

We welcome and support the inclusion of subjective wellbeing under Goal 17.

More broadly on partnerships, we want to again thank you for granting civil society a space to share our views in this meeting. We are also grateful for the many partnerships our organizations have with the UN agencies and national governments, and look forward to future collaboration to refine indicators. Further, many of our organizations collect data that could close gaps across all 17 goals, and we would be honored to integrate this data into official reporting mechanisms and to support follow up and review of the SDGs.

Thank you.