

**Tenth Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group
on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

22-24 October 2019

Venue: United Nations Conference Centre

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Report

I. Introduction

1. The tenth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) took place from 21-24 October 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). An IAEG-SDG member meeting took place on 21 October 2019, followed by a plenary session, attended by all participants, on 22-24 October 2019.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were to: i) review the tier classification of indicators; ii) review the progress made on the remaining tier III indicators; iii) finalize proposals to be included in 2020 Comprehensive Review; iv) discuss the progress made by the work stream on data disaggregation; v) review the workplans of the three working groups of the IAEG-SDGs: interlinkages, geospatial information and SDMX; and vi) share experiences on implementing monitoring and reporting on SDGs, including national/regional/global SDG reporting, preparing VNRs and the use of national data platforms; and discuss other related issues..

3. At the plenary session, Mr. Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo, Chief, Statistical Development, Data Innovation and Outreach Section of the African Centre of Statistics, opened the meeting on behalf of the Director of the African Centre of Statistics, Mr. Oliver Chinganya, who was unable to attend, and welcomed participants to Addis Ababa. Mr. Ilboudo highlighted the importance of data in driving policy decisions and that data availability remains a challenge, particularly in the UNECA region. He also stressed that it is imperative that no one is left behind in the 2030 Agenda and highlighted how UNECA is integrating SDG monitoring into the African regional development Agenda, Agenda 2063, and working to ensure sufficient data are available to monitor progress on both agendas. Ms. Albina Chuwa, co-chair of the IAEG-SDGs and Ms. Francesca Perucci, Chief of the Development Data and Outreach Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division, also offered opening remarks expressing gratitude to UNECA for hosting the meeting. The meeting was attended by over 130

participants, including representatives from 25 member countries of the IAEG-SDGs, 19 observer countries, 30 regional and international organisations, and over 20 civil society organisations, academia and the private sector.

4. All documents of the meeting, including presentations for each agenda item and statements, are available on the website of the 10th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-10/>).

II. Update on latest events and on the work of the IAEG-SDG working groups

Agenda item 2 was introduced by the co-chair of the IAEG-SDG, who informed those attending of the rotation in membership of the group and introduced the nine new members. The updated membership can be found at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/members/>. The Secretariat then introduced Agenda item 3 and provided a brief update on some recent events, including the High Level Political Forum and General Assembly SDG Summit. A presentation given by the Secretariat on this agenda item is included on the meeting website.

5. Agenda item 4 was an update on the work of the High-Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB), and a presentation was given by Ms. Ariunzaaya Ayush of Mongolia, co-chair of the HLG-PCCB. The presentation for this agenda item is included on the meeting website.

6. Agenda item 5 included updates on the progress made by the three working groups of the IAEG-SDGs: SDMX, Geospatial information and Interlinkages. The meeting discussed updating the workplan of the geospatial information working group and refreshing its membership to increase the integration of statistical and geospatial information by including representatives from both communities in the group. All presentations for this agenda item (5) are included on the meeting website.

III. Updates on Progress on Tier III Indicators and Data Availability Review of Tier I and II indicators

7. Agenda item 6 was introduced by the Secretariat and the Secretariat provided a summary of the updates received on the remaining tier III indicators not proposed for reclassification nor inclusion in the 2020 Review. The Secretariat reviewed the eight indicators that met these criteria and custodian agencies for each of these indicators provided a brief update on the methodological progress (4.7.1/12.8.1, 11.4.1, 12.4.2, 12.5.1, 17.17.1). These updates indicated that almost all of these indicators' methodologies are expected to be finalized by the end of 2019 and should be submitted for reclassification in the coming months.

8. Agenda item 7 was introduced by the Secretariat and the Secretariat provided an update of changes in tier classification of Tier I and II indicators based on data availability. Three indicators were recommended to be changed from Tier I to Tier II due to insufficient

data coverage (1.5.3, 2.5.2, 16.6.1), while 15 indicators were recommended to be changed from Tier II to Tier I due to increased data availability (1.4.1, 2.1.2, 4.1.1, 5.5.1, 6.4.1, 7.a.1, 9.3.2, 10.c.1, 12.c.1, 14.6.1, 14.b.1, 15.3.1, 16.5.2, 16.10.2, 17.18.2). A summary of the individual indicators recommended to change tiers can be found in the presentation under this agenda item (7) on the meeting website.

IV. SDG Implementation and Monitoring- National, regional and global SDG reporting

9. Agenda item 8 included three presentations by countries and agencies highlighting case studies and best practices in SDG implementation and monitoring and Agenda item 16 included an additional country presentation, with a focus on the development of national and regional indicator frameworks and reporting platforms. Ethiopia discussed the development of their national indicator framework and work already carried out on implementing the framework, such as conducting a gap assessment. Italy presented their national indicator framework and platform for SDG reporting and highlighted some of the work they have done on identifying interlinkages across the framework in an attempt to identify synergies. GCC-Stat then presented the SDG dashboard they developed to present data on SDGs for the Gulf Countries. This dashboard not only included basic indicator time series, but also interactive maps that users can explore to obtain information on the progress countries in the region are making on sustainable development. Under agenda item 16, the Dominican Republic made a presentation on its work to monitor the SDGs. The presentation highlighted the creation of a web portal to disseminate information on the SDGs. They also shared how they have created an SDG Data Innovation Laboratory that brought together experts from the government, the UN System, academia, civil society and the private sector to identify new sources of data to measure progress on the SDGs. All presentations for these agenda items (8 and 16) are included on the meeting website.

V. Tier reclassification requests of Tier III indicators

10. The reclassification requests of 7 Tier III indicators were discussed during agenda item 9.

- i. *3.5.1* – Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders
- ii. *11.7.2* – Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
- iii. *14.1.1* – (a) Index of coastal eutrophication, and (b) Plastic debris density
- iv. *14.2.1* – Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to manage marine areas
- v. *14.c.1* – Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations

Convention of the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

- vi. *15.9.1* – (a) Number of countries that established national targets in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) and the progress reported towards these targets and (b) Number of countries that have integrated biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
- vii. *16.4.1* – Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

11. The custodian agencies for each indicator made brief presentations on the progress made on the methodology and why the indicator was ready to be reclassified as Tier II. After each presentation and a brief discussion on the indicators, the IAEG-SDGs members decided to reclassify all indicators except for 14.c.1. The group mentioned that some additional work was needed to clarify certain aspects of the methodology of 14.c.1 and hoped to receive a revised tier reclassification request for this indicator in the coming weeks.

12. All presentations for this agenda item (9) are included on the meeting website. In addition, all indicator changes are reflected in the tier classification document found on the following website: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>.

V. 2020 Comprehensive Review

13. The discussion on Agenda item 10, the 2020 Comprehensive Review, was introduced by the Secretariat, who provided a summary of the criteria for the Review and some of the key considerations the group made when determining the set of proposals it will put forward to the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020. The introductory presentation also reviewed the work undertaken by the IAEG-SDGs on the 2020 Comprehensive Review throughout 2019 and included some important elements that those at the meeting should keep in mind when reviewing the proposals being put forward by the group.

14. After this introductory presentation, the Secretariat then presented the IAEG-SDG preliminary proposals agreed at the members' meeting. Following the presentation of the IAEG-SDGs preliminary set of proposals, an intensive discussion took place on some proposals that were included in the preliminary set, and also on some proposals that were not included in the set. A few proposals were suggested for the reconsideration of the IAEG-SDGs after some participants presented strong and compelling arguments. The IAEG-SDG held a brief members' meeting to consider and discuss some of the comments received in plenary.

15. After holding the brief members' meeting, the IAEG-SDG made a few changes to its proposal for the 2020 Comprehensive Review and decided to include a few additional proposals. There was then some additional discussion on the revised set of proposals.

16. There was one indicator, in particular, that garnered intense discussion and debate during the meeting, and this was the proposal to include *Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)* as an additional indicator. There was both strong support and strong opposition to this proposal, and after a lengthy discussion and a second members' meeting to discuss only this proposal, the group acknowledged the importance of measuring the official development flows, but also mentioned that the indicator is still a Tier III indicator as the methodology is still being refined. The group proposed to form a working group with more country and UN-system involvement to work to finalize the methodology with the task force. IAEG-SDG proposed that the working group be tasked with refining the methodology to measure all forms of support for sustainable development (including south-south cooperation, triangular cooperation, and other forms of support beyond official development assistance). This working group will have a duration of two years and would be expected to regularly report back to the IAEG-SDG on its progress and the group would be expected to submit a final methodology for consideration of the IAEG-SDGs in advance of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2022.

VI. Integrating statistical and geospatial information for SDG monitoring

17. Agenda item 11 was chaired by the co-chair of the Geospatial information working group of the IAEG-SDGs, Ms. Paloma Merodio Gomez of Mexico, and included five presentations that highlighted ongoing work to integrate geospatial and statistical information to monitor the SDGs. Ms. Merodio Gomez discussed the key activities the working group she co-chairs undertook and also highlighted some of Mexico's efforts to incorporate geospatial information into their SDG monitoring activities. Mr. Kevin McCormack of Ireland, the other co-chair of this working group, presented Ireland's experience integrating geospatial and statistical information and focused on the use of storymaps to convey this information. Colombia presented their Geoportal for the SDGs and highlighted some of the ongoing work on a few indicators to integrate these two sources of information while WHO discussed how they are using maps to identify areas most affected by certain diseases and other health concerns. Finally, Dr. Stuart Minchin of Geoscience Australia made a presentation on data cubes. This tool allows one to see changes in satellite imagery over a period of time (for instance to measure wetlands, erosion, urbanization) and highlighted how more and more countries are incorporating the use of this tool into their monitoring of the SDGs. All presentations for this agenda item (11) are included on the meeting website.

VII. Ongoing work on data disaggregation

18. Agenda item 12, on data disaggregation, included presentations by the Secretariat, Canada, the Leave No One Behind Partnership, the Stakeholders Group on Persons with

Disabilities, UN-Women and WHO. The Secretariat presented its work under the work stream on data disaggregation and the work plan for the coming years. Canada presented its work on small-area estimations, while WHO presented the Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT), which is one of the largest databases for disaggregated health data. Meanwhile, the Leaving No One Behind Partnership shared their work on a pilot study to see how countries are incorporating this concept into their SDG monitoring and shared some of the main conclusions of this study. The Stakeholders Group on Persons with Disabilities presented some of their work to expand the compilation of data on persons with disabilities and shared a data portal that was developed that contains data for 40 countries. Finally, UN-Women presented some of its work in the Asia-Pacific Region on measuring the gender-environment nexus and developed an indicator framework to measure this.

19. The IAEG-SDG indicated that data disaggregation will become a major focus of the group's work in 2020 and that it looks forward to working with these groups, and others, to expand the existence of disaggregated data in order to ensure no one is left behind. All presentations for this agenda item (12) are included on the meeting website.

VIII. SDG implementation and monitoring – Capacity building initiatives

20. Agenda item 14 included four presentations on different capacity building initiatives to increase country capacity to monitor the SDGs. The first presentation was from DFID and focused on the UNSD-DFID project on SDG monitoring – a project that works with 20 countries to increase their SDG monitoring capacity by both increasing SDG data and metadata availability and also developing data platforms and IT solutions for the project countries. After the presentation from DFID, Kyrgyzstan gave a brief presentation on their involvement in this project and highlighted some of the work already completed, including working to put SDG indicators in SDMX format and to increase the openness of data. Some of the next steps in the project for Kyrgyzstan are to increase user-engagement, develop a national coordination mechanism for the national statistical system and implement a tool for their SDG data and metadata platforms.

21. Norway then gave a brief presentation on their capacity building initiatives and provided some examples of their work, including working on gender equality, developing quality registers and measuring the impact of the access to the sustainable energy survey, among other activities. Finally, UNICEF presented the outcomes of a study that aimed to understand the extent to which countries have adopted child-related SDG targets, if these national SDG targets measure up to the global vision, and the extent to which countries have adopted national SDG indicators. All presentations for this agenda item (14) are included on the meeting website.

IX. Indicators and targets with a 2020 deadline

22. UNEP and UNEP-WCMC made a brief presentation on how they are planning to address targets and indicators with a 2020 deadline, especially since most targets with a 2020

deadline fall within the environment dimension of the SDGs. The presentation highlighted that there is ongoing work on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and that within this framework, new targets and indicators are likely to be agreed. However, it was mentioned that these new targets are not likely to be formally incorporated into the SDG framework. The plan would be to continue to work on the existing targets and indicators in the SDG framework, especially since the majority of these targets are not expected to be met by 2020. The presentation for this agenda item (15) can be found on the meeting website.

X. Work plan and next steps

23. The IAEG-SDGs work plan for November 2019 – March 2020 and its workplan for the following year were presented as the final agenda item by the Co-Chair of the group. A summary of the key items in the work plan are included below and the presentation for agenda item 16 is also available on the meeting website. Web meetings of the IAEG-SDGs will be posted on the following website: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>.

24. The work plan of the IAEG-SDG for the remainder of 2020 includes several key items, including preparing the group's report to the 51st session of UNSC and the background document on interlinkages. In addition, the group will continue to review tier reclassification requests during this period in order to have few if any tier III indicators remaining by the time the Statistical Commission convenes in March 2020.

25. The work plan for March 2020 – February 2021 includes 5 key areas of work as described below:

1. Focus on the implementation of the indicator framework, including data disaggregation and integration of geospatial and statistics; share experiences and best practices on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, including on national SDG platforms and dashboards; and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity building;
2. Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;
3. Continue the work stream on data disaggregation in order to provide further guidelines and liaise with the other working groups and existing mechanisms for the data disaggregation work;
4. Continue the work of the IAEG-SDG working groups and review the workplans of the working groups to ensure that they are in line with the work of the IAEG-SDGs;
5. Hold one meeting in the fourth quarter of 2020, on a date and location to be determined (probably to be held in early November 2020), and continue to interact electronically and through teleconferences, as needed.

Annex 1 – Agenda

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Statistics Division

STA/441/2/166A

9 October 2019

Tenth Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

22 – 24 October 2019

Venue: United Nations Conference Centre

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Plenary Session Provisional Agenda

Tuesday, 22 October 2019

*Registration and collection of badges for IAEG-SDG observers and other stakeholders
(8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.)*

Morning session (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

For information:

1. Opening session (9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)
2. Update on rotation of membership of the IAEG-SDGs and introduction of new members (9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.)
3. Updates from the High-Level Political Forum and General Assembly Summit on the SDGs (9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
4. Update on the work of the High-Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 (10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.)

Coffee Break (10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)

For discussion:

4. Review of the workplans of the three working groups of the IAEG-SDGs: SDMX, Geo-spatial information and interlinkages (10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

5. Updates on progress on tier III workplans of tier III indicators not proposed for reclassification nor included in the 2020 Comprehensive Review (11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
6. Data availability review of Tier I and II indicators and corresponding updates to the tier classification (12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.)
7. Experiences on implementing monitoring and reporting on SDGs, including national/regional/global SDG reporting (12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Lunch (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Stakeholder Briefing (1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

8. Review of requests for tier reclassification of Tier III indicators (2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, 23 October 2019

Morning session (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

9. 2020 Comprehensive Review (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
 - Review of proposals for revision, replacement, addition and deletion to the global indicator framework

Coffee Break (10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

10. 2020 Comprehensive Review (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) *continued*
 - Review of proposals for revision, replacement, addition and deletion to the global indicator framework

Lunch (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

10. 2020 Comprehensive Review (2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) *continued*
 - Review of proposals for revision, replacement, addition and deletion to the global indicator framework
11. Integrating statistical and geospatial information for SDG monitoring (4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, 24 October 2019

Data Disaggregation Side Event (8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.)

– by invitation and other meeting participants may attend as observers

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

12. Ongoing work on data disaggregation (10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)
Coffee Break (10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)

13. 2020 Comprehensive Review (11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)

- Review of proposals for refinement

14. SDG implementation and monitoring – Capacity building activities (12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Lunch (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

15. Indicators and targets with a 2020 deadline (2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

16. SDG implementation and monitoring – other SDG data initiatives (2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.)

17. Work plan and next steps (3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)

18. Other business / Closing (4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

* * * * *