



In partnership with the:

Civil Society Indicators Task Force

*Together 2030 Webinar – Implementation Series – 2nd Webinar
Measuring up to the ambition: setting up the SDG Indicators*

This webinar was co-hosted by Together 2030 and the Civil Society Indicators Task Force

February 25 2016 9:00 – 10:30am (NY time)

Number of Participants: 46

Link to recording: <https://sapd.webex.com/sapd/lsr.php?RCID=aec80194a3d0db1ed0fec2ec71304733>

The Implementation Series Webinars

The “Implementation Series” webinars are organized to provide members of **Together 2030** and partners with an opportunity to discuss technical and political aspects related to the implementation of Agenda 2030 at global, regional and national level. The Webinars aim at bringing voices from different levels and sectors to share their experiences/concerns/recommendations around the implementation of Agenda 2030.

2ND WEBINAR - NOTES

1) Welcome and review of the Agenda – Orsolya Bartha, International Disability Alliance (IDA) and member of the CSO Indicators Task Force and facilitator of the meeting welcomed participants.

2) Global Indicators and the UN Stats Commission Session: expectations and potential next steps – Ms. Yongyi Min, Statistician, Chief, Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring Unit, UN Statistical Division, UN DESA made a presentation based on a background note available here: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/BG-3-Update-finalize-proposals-for-SDG-global-indicators.pdf>

3) Challenges and concerns related to setting up of global indicators - Savio Carvalho, Amnesty International and member of the CSO Indicators Task Force registered the concern that some indicators do not meet international standards and do not rise up to the ambition of the Global Agenda. The proposal of deepening the discussion on indicators based on “tiers” can be considered but it will not solve the concerns expressed above. He recalled that civil society has provided abundant inputs but that those were fully reflected in the report of the IAEG-SDG.

Savio also registered the concerns of civil society regarding the process of developing the indicators and on how the inputs provided by civil society were actually considered. He mentioned a letter sent to the UN Statistical Commission two weeks earlier but that no response had been received yet.

He recalled that civil society has been collecting information about several indicators proposed and questioned how this work would be considered in the analysis of the data. He recognized some



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improvements in the updated report of the IAEG-SDG but reinforced some concerns regarding the lack of alignment between the ambition reflected in Agenda 2030 and the proposed indicators.

Ms. Min recalled the very intensive process of work of the IAEG and informed that many letters and inputs were received by the UN Statistics Division, by the President of the UN Statistical Commission and the Co-Chairs of the IAEG and that there was not enough capacity to officially reply to all of them. She reminded participants that the global SDG indicators process is “Member State-led” and that the UN Statistics Division plays a facilitator and supporting role. Ultimately, the decisions on how to engage with stakeholders and on what inputs to consider relied on Member States.

Ms. Min informed that the IAEG will be developing a workplan to work on the improvement of the indicators and recalled that the IAEG is not involved in processes related to the development of regional and national indicators. Finally, she mentioned that the “data disaggregation” section in the IAEG report benefited very much from inputs from civil society.

4) Q&A

Comments from participants:

- Concerns were expressed about indicator 3.8.2 (Health) which does not appropriately measure inequalities in access to health services. Several NGOs were concerned about this new indicator and were drafting a letter to the UN Statistical Commission, UN Statistics Division and IAEG Co-Chairs. Ms. Min explained that this indicator went through a full round of consultations and that the considerations from the World Bank and the WHO were referred to member states prior to their decision.
- Questions about the objectives of the IEAG-SDG meeting to be held in Mexico and about access to information on what is happening at the regional and national level regarding indicators.
- Concerns about the status of the “chapeau” in the IAEG report and on how disaggregation there is different from what is reflected in the proposed indicators.
- Concerns expressed on indicators 4.1 and 4.7 as they drastically reduce the ambition of the original target.

Comments from panelists:

Savio Carvalho thanked the UN Statistical Division for the presentation and explanations and asked them to convey the message to Member States that they must hold the ambition of Agenda 2030. He proposed for the UN Statistical Commission to hold regular conversations with civil society on the next phase of the global indicators and questioned if the UN Statistical Division had plans to support civil society engagement in regional and national processes.

Linda Hooper, from the UN Statistics Division explained that the chapeau is directly related to indicator 17.19 and that the disaggregation listed there are not the only ones that should happen. She recognized that, despite the extensive work of the IAEG over the past months to come up with indicators that



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reflected all the targets, not every single aspects of the targets could be covered. She was unaware of any website collecting information about the regional and national indicators processes.

She informed that the UN Statistical Division can suggest the ideas proposed to Member States but that the decision and leadership relies on them. She would bring the proposal of periodical meetings with civil society to the Division.

Orsolya Bartha thanked the speakers and recalled that Agenda 2030 brought a new era to the UN and that the UN System and other UN entities will need to adapt the ambitions expressed by Member States, including on working closely with civil society.

5) Opportunities for stakeholder engagement on the indicators process – How will the global process affect the national level? Arelys Bellorini, World Vision, Member of the Together 2030 Core Group and facilitator of the CSO Indicators Task Force

Arelys shared a timeline for the global indicators process (attached) and reviewed the key dates for the work. The UN Statistical Commission is Meeting from March 8-11. The IAEG-SDG will be meeting from March 30 to April 1st in Mexico to discuss the “tiered” system. An indication of the agenda can be found on page 10 of the [revised report](#) issued by the IAEG-SDG. A 4th meeting of the IEAG-SDG is expected later in 2016, most likely in October (agenda and venue yet to be defined).

After the decisions of the UN Statistical Commission regarding the report of the IAEG-SDG and the proposed indicators – and considering that the report is adopted - there will be a space for discussions both in ECOSOC and in the General Assembly – still not clear exactly when.

Other “tracks” of discussion include the

- Praia Group on Governance Statistics, established at the 46th Session of the Statistical Commission in 2014 (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/2015-17-CaboVerde.pdf>)
- High-Level Group for Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity-Building on sustainable development data, also established on the 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-3-HLG-for-post-2015-monitoring-E.pdf>)

Global and national indicators are being developed in tandem and the expectation is that each country will develop their own national indicators once they go through the process of policy coherence and contextualizing the SDGs in their countries. If the global indicators close soon, this framework will influence and impact on the national indicators.

Arelys explained that the expectations from the G77 is for a more paced process regarding global indicators whereas the EU seems to be more inclined in finishing the process soon.

6) Discussion:



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Comments raised by participants:

- Importance not only on following up on the definition of the indicators but also on how they are going to be implemented at the national level.
- Questions about how countries are engaging and developing the national set of indicators and how civil society and stakeholders are engaging.
- Engagement on thematic indicators and how civil society groups are engaging on this.
- Importance of civil society to continue engaging on the process at all levels.

Replies from Arelys:

- Discussion on thematic indicators may potentially start during the Mexico meeting.
- Agenda 2030 only mentions indicators in 3 paragraphs and puts a lot of emphasis on global indicators.
- The “interlinkages” discussion will be critical at the meeting in Mexico.

7) Wrap up and next steps

- The UN Statistical Division organized a briefing for civil society on the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission on February 29 – also webcast.
- Minutes and recording of the call to be posted at Together 2030 website.