TCG4:
Progress Report of TCG Working Group 3: Data reporting, validation and dissemination

TCG4/29

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Dusit Thani Dubai
133, Sheikh Zayed Road, Trade Centre,
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

1. Introduction

The mandate of Working Group 3 is to create greater transparency of the flow of information from data collection from national statistical offices (NSOs) and other national data producers to the international agencies responsible for the publication of SDG 4 thematic and global indicators. To this end, it seeks to contribute to the improvement of documentation on the process of data provision, and to create documents that allow member countries to validate their data in a meaningful way. Another aim of the group is to ensure effective coordination within the international statistical system and between the international and national statistical systems by providing common and shared guidelines for defining concepts and definitions, data collection, processing and reporting practices; and define principles for effective and efficient data reporting system from the national to international level.

The working group is chaired by three members from Canada: Annik Foreman (Alberta Advanced Education), Jolie Lemmon (Council of Ministers of Education, Canada) and Klarka Zeman (Statistics Canada). An overview of the work of the taskforce is provided below.

2. Task Force Meetings

The Taskforce has met twice via teleconference: on 25 October and 5 December 2017. The issues covered in these meetings included a terminology document, items that should be included in a data validation package for NSOs, documenting the data validation and production process and recommendations to bring forth to the TCG. A list of participants at these meetings and working group members can be found in Annex A.

3. Work of the Taskforce

The main pieces of work undertaken so far by the Taskforce are the:

- Terminology document
- Two items that make up the data validation package: a data sources document and a country review file.
- Calendar of publications of SDG 4 data

These were the products identified as feasible and incorporated in the work plan for 2017 during the TCG meeting of 31May-02June 2017 in Montreal.

3.1   Terminology document

At the first face to face meeting of this working group it became apparent that there was a lot of confusion about basic terms such as 'data reporting', 'global reporting', and 'global comparability'. This group has drafted a document to bring clarity to these terms. The draft will be sent in advance of the next TCG meeting to be reviewed by the TCG. If it is assessed positively, the final version should be produced and the recommendation will be to add it as part of the public documentation available on SDG 4 on the SDG 4 public site.

3.2   Data validation package for countries

Last year, a validation file was sent to countries, along with the metadata document with a request to validate the data. Most countries found that this information was inadequate for the purposes of a meaningful validation of the data. In order to address this issue, Working Group 3 has proposed that two documents should be made available to countries at validation time:

- A data sources document – in which the source of data, specifications and flow from country to UIS is documented
- Country review file – a file produced for each country that shows for each global and thematic indicator: the raw data used to calculate them and how any calculations were done in order to create the indicator (indicator formula with raw data)

This Working Group has produced a template for the first document and have reviewed the country review file produced by UIS in order to provide feedback. The first document will be presented to the TCG for comments and approval together with an initial proposal on how to build from there to design documentation to properly record the complete data flows.

3.3   Calendar of SDG 4 Indicator publications

As part of the documentation of the process of reporting, validation and dissemination, this group has created a list of SDG4 Indicator publications. It will also be circulated to the TCG.

4. Other relevant developments

4.1   Documenting the validation process

- ➢ This working group will start the work on documenting the entire validation process from start to finish, complete with timelines. We anticipate to further this work significantly during the face-to-face meeting.

5.   Other issues

5.1   Relationship with other working groups

There is a need to coordinate the work of the different working groups, particularly working group 2 capacity building. We will reach out to working group 2 to have their input about the data validation process for developing countries.

Annex A: Working Group Members or Teleconference Attendees

1.   Juan Cruz Perusia, UIS
2.   Annik Foreman, Canada
3.   Jolie Lemmon, Canada
4.   Klarka Zeman, Canada
5.   Robert Rakocevic, France
6.   Corinne Heckmann, OECD
7.   Camila de Moraes, OECD
8.   Khaled Nasr El Din, Egypt
9.   Phillipa Livingston, Jamaica
10. Carthbert Mulyalya,Uganda
11. Rasheda Choudhury, Collective Consultation on NGOs Coordination Group
12. K.M. Enamul Hoque, CAMPE, Bangledesh