

REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

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

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. In the report, the Expert Group describes the activities undertaken in 2019 pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 50/101, including: (a) tier classification updates and methodological development of tier III indicators; (b) the 2020 comprehensive review of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework; (c) update on the ongoing activities relating to the work stream for data disaggregation; (d) activities of the three working groups on interlinkages, the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and geospatial information, respectively. The Commission will also have before it as a background document the second report of the Working Group on Interlinkages of Sustainable Development Goal statistics.

The Commission is invited to comment on progress made by the Expert Group and the direction of its future work. The action to be taken by the Commission are set out in paragraph 40 of the present report.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 12 February 2020.

** E/CN.3/2020/1.



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

I. Introduction

1. As mandated in General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators was tasked with the development and implementation of the global indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹ The Expert Group developed a global indicator framework, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, on 6 July 2017, in resolution [71/313](#) on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The present report describes the work carried out by the Expert Group from March to December 2019 for the implementation of the global indicator framework, on the basis of the work programme agreed by the Commission and in accordance with Commission decision 50/101. In part II of the report, the Expert Group summarizes its work on the current indicator framework, its biannual and virtual meetings and the rotation of its membership. Part III is focused on the process of final indicator proposals based on the 2020 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework. In parts IV and V, the Expert Group presents the activities of the work stream on data disaggregation and the three working groups, respectively. In Part VI, the Expert Group describes its work programme for 2020. In the last part of the report, the Expert Group lists the key points for consideration and discussion by the Commission.

II. Implementation of the global indicator framework

3. In 2019, the Expert Group held two physical meetings, each attended by 125–150 representatives from member countries, observer countries, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. Between meetings, the Expert Group continued to interact electronically and held 15 virtual meetings and teleconferences over the course of the year.

4. The ninth meeting was hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Beirut from 25 to 28 March. The tenth meeting was hosted by the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa from 21 to 24 October. At those two meetings, the Expert Group reviewed progress made on the methodological development of tier III indicators and reviewed and updated the tier classification; discussed the process of the 2020 comprehensive review and the specific proposals for replacement, revision, addition, deletion and refinement that were under consideration; discussed ongoing work on data disaggregation and its future workplan; discussed how new data sources can be used to facilitate monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, including integrating geospatial information with statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals; reviewed the work of the three working groups; and shared experiences and best practices relating to Sustainable Development Goal implementation and reporting at the national, regional, global and thematic levels. In addition, multiple virtual meetings were held over the course of the year to advance the work on tier reclassification and the 2020 comprehensive review.

5. Based on the terms of reference of the Expert Group agreed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 48/101, the membership and chairmanship of the Expert

¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

Group were rotated. In May, new members were nominated through existing regional mechanisms. Annex I contains an updated membership list. At the ninth meeting, Viveka Palm (Sweden) was elected as the new co-chair of Group, replacing Enrique Ordaz (Mexico). Ms. Palm joins Albina Chuwa (United Republic of Tanzania) in leading the work of the Expert Group.

A. Tier classification updates and the methodological development of tier III indicators

6. In accordance with the mechanism and criteria for updating the classification of the indicators, the Expert Group reviewed the tier classification of the indicators at its ninth and tenth meetings and at several virtual meetings held throughout the year. The Expert Group focused on reclassifying tier III indicators for which sufficient advances in methodological development had been achieved, and reviewing all tier I and II indicators based on data availability at the global and regional levels.

7. In accordance with its work programme (see [E/CN.3/2017/2](#), para. 35 (a)), the Expert Group continued the review of workplans for tier III indicators and requested all custodian agencies to submit revised workplans with detailed timelines for the completion of methodological work and the commencement of data collection activities during the first half of 2019. Updated workplans were received for almost all tier III indicators and are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/tierIII-indicators/>. Throughout the first half of 2019, the Expert Group conducted a thorough review of these workplans, flagging any issues in the current methodological work. All indicators that remained without a workplan as a result of not having a custodian agency were included in the 2020 comprehensive review and replacements have been proposed as part of the 2020 comprehensive review.

8. Significant progress has been made in the methodological development of many tier III indicators. As a result, the Expert Group considered many requests for tier reclassification of tier III indicators throughout 2019. Agencies were invited to provide supporting documents for the reclassification of tier III indicators at least one month before each meeting of the Expert Group. At the ninth meeting of the Expert Group, seven tier III indicators were reviewed and reclassified as tier II and two sub-indicators of a multi-tier indicator that were tier III were also reclassified to tier II. At the tenth meeting of the Expert Group, an additional seven tier III indicators were reviewed for reclassification and six of these seven were reclassified as tier II. The Expert Group also reviewed and reclassified nine tier III indicators at three virtual meetings held on various occasions in 2019. The Expert Group carefully reviewed all documents with tier III reclassification requests and provided feedback to custodian agencies on those indicators that could not be reclassified, indicating the specific methodological work that would need to be conducted before reclassification could be reconsidered.

9. Given the urgent need to ensure that the number of tier III indicators that remains by March 2020 is low, the Expert Group will review additional tier reclassification requests for indicators whose methodological work is not yet finalized but is expected to be completed by January 2020 at virtual meetings to be held in January and February 2020. The Expert Group anticipates that with these additional tier reclassification reviews and the proposed replacements, revisions and deletions included in the 2020 comprehensive review, no tier III indicators will remain in the revised global indicator framework. An update on the reclassification of tier III indicators will be provided orally when the present report is presented to the Commission.

10. In accordance with its approved work programme, the Expert Group conducted a review of the availability of data for tier I and II indicators. The data availability for all tier I and II indicators in the global indicator database as at 3 October was reviewed to assess country and population coverage for each region for which those indicators were relevant. The conclusion drawn from the assessment was that three tier I indicators did not have sufficient data coverage and should therefore be moved to tier II, and that 15 tier II indicators met the criteria for being moved to tier I.

11. As at 6 December, according to the updates to the tier classification following the reviews, of the 232 indicators, 116 are tier I indicators, 92 are tier II indicators, 20 are tier III indicators and 4 relate to multiple tiers (i.e., different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers). The methodological progress for three of the remaining tier III indicators is quite advanced and it is expected that, by March 2020, these indicators will be reclassified into tier II. For the 17 remaining tier III indicators the methodological progress has stalled or they remained without a custodian agency, and the Expert Group has proposed replacements, revisions and in a few cases, the deletion of these indicators. The Secretariat will continue to update the tier classification information soon after the reclassification review has taken place. The latest information are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>.

III. 2020 comprehensive review

A. Background, guiding principles and criteria for review

12. At its ninth meeting, the Expert Group reviewed the criteria and guiding principles established at its eighth meeting and developed a detailed timeline for the 2020 comprehensive review.² It was agreed that the 2020 comprehensive review would be an opportunity to improve the indicator framework to help the global monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and to provide the necessary guidance to countries, many of which were already well advanced in implementing their national frameworks and reporting platforms. The Expert Group agreed on several guiding principles for the review in order to set the parameters within which the review would be held. Those principles included the following: the review needs to take into account investments already made at the national and international levels and should not undermine ongoing efforts; the revised framework should not impose a significant additional burden in terms of national statistical work; there should be space for improvement while ensuring that the changes are limited in scope and the size of the framework remains the same; the focus of the common work of the Expert Group should remain on the national implementation of the framework for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. In addition to those more general guiding principles, the Expert Group agreed that, as part of the 2020 comprehensive review, the entire global indicator framework would be examined and some indicators would be replaced, deleted, refined or adjusted and, in a few select cases, additional indicators introduced, only if: (a) the current indicator(s) did not map well to the target or track the target well; (b) an additional indicator was needed to cover a critical aspect of the target or Goal; and/or (c) the methodological development of a tier III indicator had stalled or had not produced the expected results.

² Detailed information on the 2020 comprehensive review are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/2020-comp-rev/>.

14. The specific criteria for the implementation of the review were as follows:

(a) An additional indicator may be considered only in exceptional cases where a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator(s), or to address a critical or emerging issue that is not monitored by the existing indicators, or when an entire Goal has very few tier I or tier II indicators for the follow-up;

(b) A deletion will be considered when the methodological work of a tier III indicator has stalled or has not produced the expected results; a replacement will be proposed if the indicator being deleted is the only indicator used to monitor the corresponding target;

(c) Adjustments, revisions and replacements will be considered where the indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well;

(d) The proposed indicator must have an agreed methodology and available data (tier III indicator proposals will not be considered) and be suitable for global monitoring;

(e) The aim of the review will be to maintain the same number of indicators as are currently in the framework in order not to alter significantly the original framework, which is already being implemented in most countries and not to increase the reporting burden on national statistical systems.

B. Working process of the 2020 comprehensive review

15. Following the discussions at its ninth meeting, the Expert Group held several virtual meetings to discuss how to proceed. The Expert Group decided to issue an open call for proposals for inclusion in the 2020 comprehensive review and requested the Secretariat to initiate such a call. In late May, an open call for proposals was posted on the website of the Expert Group. It contained detailed guidelines on the supporting documentation that needed to be submitted with the proposals. As specified in the criteria listed above, all proposals were required to relate to existing, well-established indicators for which data were currently available and that were suitable for global monitoring. The open call for proposals lasted three weeks.

16. At the conclusion of those three weeks, the Secretariat had received 251 proposals³ from countries and from international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Expert Group requested that the Secretariat conduct an initial review of the proposals received to identify those that met the initial inclusion criteria established by the Expert Group and those that did not. Thus, approximately 100 proposals were found to meet the criteria, while 35 other proposals were classified as refinements that would be handled in a separate, parallel process. All 251 proposals, as well as the initial review conducted by the Secretariat, were then submitted to the Expert Group for its review.

17. In late June and throughout July, the Expert Group held a series of virtual meetings in which it reviewed the proposals received with the goal of identifying a refined set of indicators to be included in an open consultation on the 2020 comprehensive review. Throughout this process, member countries, custodian agencies and stakeholders reviewed and discussed a number of specific proposals for which questions remained or additional information was needed. At the conclusion of

³ A compilation of all proposals received is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/2020%20Comprehensive%20Review%20Proposals_web.pdf.

that review, the Expert Group identified 53 proposals⁴ that were to be included in the open consultation. The proposals included replacements, revisions, additions, deletions and, in a few select cases, requests for proposals for a group of tier III indicators whose methodological progress had stalled.

18. The Expert Group launched the open consultation on the 2020 comprehensive review in early August and solicited inputs for a period of five weeks. During the open consultation, inputs were received from over 600 individuals, countries and organizations.⁵

19. Throughout September and October, the Expert Group reviewed the inputs on the 53 proposals. Moreover, it decided to consider seven additional proposals that were based on internal discussions and had been submitted slightly later. After several rounds of virtual meetings and email discussions, as well as an in-person meeting at its tenth meeting, held in October, the Expert Group decided on a tentative initial list of proposals to be considered by the Commission in the 2020 comprehensive review. After the tenth meeting, the Expert Group held virtual meetings to finalize its proposals for the 2020 comprehensive review.

20. During the process, the Expert Group carefully reviewed and discussed all proposals and inputs received. The Expert Group noted that most proposals included in the open consultation for the 2020 comprehensive review, as well as the additional seven proposals considered later, had merit and concerned important indicators that could be used to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. However, based on the guiding principles the Expert Group had agreed on and presented at its eighth and ninth meetings, the Expert Group intended to make only limited changes to the framework so as not to disrupt existing monitoring efforts. The global indicator framework is designed to provide a global overview or summary of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and cannot contain all indicators relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. The Expert Group emphasized that the exclusion of a proposal should not be understood to imply that the indicator or issue in question is somehow less important than those that are included in the global indicator framework. Instead, the Expert Group attempted to ensure that there was a balance across the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, indicators not included in the proposal for the 2020 comprehensive review still have a valuable role to play in the follow-up and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals through national, regional and thematic monitoring. They can provide important additional information and complement the global indicator framework.

C. Proposals for the 2020 comprehensive review

22. The Expert Group agreed on a set of proposals for the consideration of the Commission at its fifty-first session, in March 2020. The proposals include 36 major changes to the current framework in the form of replacements, revisions, additions and deletions (see annex II), and 20 minor refinements (see annex III). The 36 major changes to the global indicator framework can be summarized as follows:

⁴ The list of the 53 proposals included in the open consultation is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/ope-consultation-comp-rev/Targets%20and%20Indicators%20in%20Open%20Consultation%20of%202020%20Review_v2.pdf.

⁵ A compilation of all input received during the open consultation is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/2020%20Comprehensive%20Review%20Proposals_web.pdf.

- 14 proposals for the replacement of existing indicators
- 8 proposals for the revision of existing indicators
- 8 proposals for additional indicators
- 6 proposals for the deletion of existing indicators⁶

The specific indicator proposals can be found in annex II.

23. The Expert Group attempted to identify a suitable global indicator to replace each tier III indicator for which the methodological progress had stalled. In doing so, it paid particular attention to cases where no other indicator was being used to monitor the target in question. However, despite its best efforts and repeated consultations with United Nations system agencies, regional organizations and other stakeholders, the Expert Group was unable to propose suitable replacements relating to target 11.c. As a result, this target has no suitable global indicator for monitoring progress. However, the Expert Group encouraged the global statistical community to work to develop an indicator that could be used and looks forward to, hopefully, being able to include one in the 2025 comprehensive review that can be used to monitor this target. In the meantime, the Expert Group encourages countries, international and regional organizations, and stakeholders to attempt to monitor this target in whatever way they deem relevant to their national, regional or thematic context.

24. If the Commission agrees with the proposed changes included in the 2020 comprehensive review and progress regarding and reclassification of the other tier III indicators proceeds as planned, there will be no remaining tier III indicators at the conclusion of the fifty-first session of the Commission and the total number of unique indicators in the global indicator framework will be 231.⁷

D. Annual refinements proposed as part of the 2020 comprehensive review

25. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/313](#) and the plan and criteria agreed by the Expert Group with respect to possible annual minor refinements,⁸ the Expert Group reviewed the list of indicator refinements proposed by its members in response to the request for proposals for the 2020 comprehensive review and by custodian agencies. The Expert Group agreed on 20 refinements (see annex III) to be presented to the Commission for its consideration.

E. Process to further develop the new measurement of development support

26. During the deliberations of the Expert Group, one proposed additional indicator – total official support for sustainable development – was reviewed both during the open consultation and at the tenth meeting of the Expert Group. The Expert Group agreed that it would be beneficial to include an additional indicator to measure development support in the broadest sense that goes beyond official development assistance (ODA). However, the Expert Group was not fully in agreement with the methodology for the proposed measure and decided that work should continue to further develop and revise the current proposal. Given the urgent need to develop such

⁶ The proposed deletion for indicator 4.2.1 is only for deleting the portion of the indicator that is currently tier III.

⁷ Several proposed replacement indicators in the global indicator framework are repeated, which explains why a slightly different number is reached if the changes are added up.

⁸ See [E/CN.3/2017/2](#), para. 21.

a measure, the Expert Group further agreed that work on this indicator, including the analysis of data sources, should be completed in time for the indicator to be submitted to the Commission in 2022, rather than waiting for the next comprehensive review to be held in 2025.

27. In order to complete the work, the Expert Group agreed to the establishment of a working group to further develop this measure of development support in line with the 2030 Agenda. The measure would include components other than ODA, such as other official flows, private finance, international public goods for sustainable development, and South-South and triangular cooperation. The Expert Group further decided that the process of developing this indicator should be co-led by an agency with full membership of the United Nations, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and by one representative of the member States. The Expert Group requested that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat collaborate with OECD to coordinate the process of developing the new measurement. The working group will consist of member States representing all geographical regions, both donor and recipient countries, and additional experts from United Nations system organizations as observers that support the work of the working group. The working group would regularly report to the Expert Group on its progress. The proposed timeline and the main stages in the completion of the work are presented in annex IV.

IV. Work stream for data disaggregation

28. In its decision 50/101, the Commission welcomed the background document entitled “Data disaggregation and Sustainable Development Goal indicators: policy priorities and current and future disaggregation plans”⁹ and requested the Group to continue its work on data disaggregation to fulfil the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of leaving no one behind. Throughout 2019, the Expert Group continued its work on data disaggregation, including by finding ways to measure vital aspects of vulnerable populations and groups, and, at its ninth and tenth meetings, investigated how to further such work. The Expert Group recognizes that this work will continue throughout the coming years and has identified the matter as one of its main areas of work for 2020.

29. The Expert Group has also developed an updated workplan for data disaggregation for the coming years that includes the following:

- Revise and update the technical document on data disaggregation to measure vulnerable groups for the purposes of the 2030 Agenda
- Develop guidelines on tools and methodologies for data disaggregation and on complementary actions to build national capacities
- Encourage collaboration with regional and international organizations on the development of best practices for data disaggregation;
- Continue to recognize that the specific dimensions for disaggregation and the issues facing vulnerable groups must be defined based on country needs, priorities and circumstances;

⁹ The background document is available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/BG-Item3a-Data-Disaggregation-E.pdf>.

- Continue to liaise with other working groups and existing mechanisms for the work on data disaggregation and measuring vulnerable groups as part of the 2030 Agenda follow-up.

V. Working groups of the Expert Group

30. Three working groups were established by the Expert Group in March 2016, focusing on the following topics: SDMX, geospatial information and interlinkages. Each working group is composed of members of the Expert Group and other invited representatives, as determined in their respective terms of reference.¹⁰ A brief summary of the work of each group in 2019 and descriptions of future meetings and work is provided below.

A. Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

31. The Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators consists of representatives of 12 countries and 10 international agencies and is currently chaired by France. The Working Group holds monthly teleconferences and annual meetings, the most recent one having been held in Budapest in September 2019, on the margins of the seventh SDMX Global Conference.

32. The Working Group amended the pilot data structure definition for Sustainable Development Goal indicators based on the Expert Group's work on data disaggregation. In June 2019, the Working Group released the first official version of the data structure definition for Sustainable Development Goal indicators, which is now being used for reporting by some countries. Finalizing the metadata structure definition and establishing a production metadata exchange is a priority for 2020. The Working Group expects to finalize the pilot metadata structure definition for Sustainable Development Goal indicators during the first quarter of 2020. Subsequently, a pilot metadata exchange is planned with both custodian agencies and countries. To facilitate the adoption of SDMX-based data and metadata exchanges among reporters, including countries and international agencies, the Working Group will develop a website with guidelines for using the global data structure definition for Sustainable Development Goal indicators and customizing it for national dissemination with tutorials, best practices and other useful materials. In addition, the Division and members of the Working Group, such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the African Development Bank, OECD and others, continue to be active in building national capacity for the exchange of SDMX-based data and metadata relating to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

B. Working Group on Geospatial Information

33. At the ninth meeting of the Expert Group, the Working Group on Geospatial Information reported that it needed to recalibrate and realign with the emerging needs of the Expert Group. The Working Group was seeking to renew its working modalities and requested that its membership be revised and expanded to include members of the Expert Group so as to improve its coordination with the Expert Group and sought further practical means to increase its interaction with the statistical community. The

¹⁰ The terms of reference, membership and other important information regarding each working group is available at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>.

report of the Working Group to the Expert Group also included a review of the first three years of its work.¹¹ In July 2019, the Expert Group updated the terms of reference of the Working Group, taking into consideration the new working modalities, in an effort to strengthen the coordination, interactions and working methods between the Working Group, the Expert Group and custodian agencies.

34. At the tenth meeting of the Expert Group, the Working Group, which is co-chaired by Ireland and Mexico, presented its workplan. The proposed activities were aimed at identifying and sharing common standards, national and regional experiences with and practices in the use of geospatial information in the production of statistics and the integration of statistical and geospatial information; showcasing how geospatial information contributes to the production of indicators; working in close cooperation with custodian agencies in undertaking methodological development and improvement work; and continuing the review of the indicators and metadata through the lens of geographic location. The Working Group also noted that there was a keen interest in the application of geospatial information for visualizing and disseminating statistics, monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, disaggregating data and integrating statistical and geospatial information.

35. Initially, the Co-Chairs will work with the revised and expanded membership of the Working Group on a few indicators and focus on developing, for those indicators, storytelling documents and guidance on the use of existing frameworks and standards for the application of geospatial information for the production of indicators, on the visualization and dissemination of statistics, and on data disaggregation.

C. Working Group on Interlinkages

36. The Working Group on Interlinkages comprised 10 countries and 10 representatives of academia, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations. The Working Group was co-chaired by Canada and China and conducted most of its meetings online and by email.

37. The Working Group has prepared a background document that will be submitted to the Commission in early February 2020 for consideration at its fifty-first session. In it, the Working Group examines the interlinkages between the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the Sustainable Development Goals, the interlinkages between other indicator frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the interlinkages between policy and legislation. The document also contains a more in-depth examination of the integrated analysis in support of effective policymaking. It also contains a section dedicated to case studies that provide good examples of those interlinkages and their benefits.

38. Having finalized the background document, the Working Group has proposed to the Expert Group that its work be concluded. The Expert Group has agreed to dissolve the Working Group at the end of the fifty-first session of the Commission.

VI. Work programme of the Expert Group

39. It is suggested that the Expert Group carry out the following activities between March 2020 and March 2021:

¹¹ The report, along with the terms of reference of the working group on geospatial information and other information about the working group's work is available at <http://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg6/>.

(a) Focus on the implementation of the indicator framework, including the disaggregation of data, reporting on vulnerable groups and the integration of geospatial information and statistics; share experiences and best practices relating to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, including with the use of national platforms and dashboards; and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity-building;

(b) Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;

(c) Continue the work stream relating to data disaggregation in order to provide further guidelines and liaise with other working groups and with existing mechanisms for the data disaggregation work;

(d) Continue the work of the Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the Working Group on Geospatial Information and review the workplans of those working groups to ensure that they are in line with the work of the Expert Group;

(e) Hold one meeting in the fourth quarter of 2020 at a date and location to be determined, and continue to interact electronically and through teleconferences as needed.

VII. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

40. The Commission is invited:

(a) **To take note of the work conducted by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators in response to the decisions of the Commission;**

(b) **To take note of the background documents on interlinkages;**

(c) **To express its views, and adopt the proposed changes (as contained in annex II) and the annual refinements (as contained in annex III) to be put forward in the 2020 comprehensive review;**

(d) **To express its views on the proposed establishment of and work programme for a working group to further develop and refine a measurement of support to developing countries that goes beyond ODA;**

(e) **To express its views and adopt the proposed work programme of the Expert Group for 2020.**

Annex I

Updated list of members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Chair of the Statistical Commission*

- Kenya

Eastern Africa

- Ethiopia
- United Republic of Tanzania

Middle and Southern Africa

- Cameroon
- Malawi

Western Africa

- Ghana
- Niger

Northern Africa

- Egypt
- Libya

Western Asia

- Oman

Central, Eastern, Southern and South-Eastern Asia

- Afghanistan
- Japan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Malaysia

Oceania

- Fiji
- Samoa

Caribbean

- Grenada
- Trinidad and Tobago

Central and South America

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic

Eastern Europe

- Belarus
- Russian Federation

North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe

- Canada

* The Chair of the Statistical Commission is an ex officio member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Sweden

Annex II

Proposed changes to be made to the global indicator framework as part of the 2020 comprehensive review¹

A. Proposed replacement indicators

Existing indicator in the global indicator framework

Proposed replacement indicator

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.a.3 Sum of total grants and non-debt-creating inflows directly allocated to poverty reduction programmes as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP)

1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income²

1.b.1 Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups

1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.b.1 Investments in energy efficiency as a proportion of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services

7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita) *(repeated in the proposed replacement for indicator 12.a.1 below)*

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city

11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.a.1 Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies

12.a.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita) *(repeat of the proposed replacement for indicator 7.b.1 above)*

12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools

12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and

13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national

¹ Supporting documentation that includes a narrative explaining the reason for including each proposed indicator and its related metadata is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/2020-comp-rev//UNSC-proposal>.

² The replacement for indicator 1.a.3 becomes indicator 1.a.1, as the existing indicator 1.a.1 is being proposed for deletion.

Existing indicator in the global indicator framework

Proposed replacement indicator

foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

13.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year between 2020 and 2025 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment

13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.a.1 and 15.b.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.3.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships and civil society partnerships

17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

communications (*repeated with a slight amendment in the proposed replacement for indicator 13.b.1 below*)

13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment (*repeated in the refinement to be made to indicators 4.7.1 and 12.8.1, contained in annex III*)

13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025

13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications (*repeat of the proposed replacement for indicator 13.2.1 above, with a slight amendment*)

15.a.1 and 15.b.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income

17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure

17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring

B. Revisions to existing indicators

Existing indicator in the global indicator framework

Proposed revision

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

Revision of metadata: Change in “use of biodiversity-supporting practices” subindicator

2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction

2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women’s equal right to land ownership and/or control

Revision of metadata: Proxies D and F may be considered conditional measures and therefore would not need to be reported if and when de facto gender equality in land ownership has already been achieved

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated

6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities

11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020

15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries

C. Proposals for additional indicators

Goals and targets (contained in the 2030 Agenda)

Proposed additional indicator

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

3.d.2 Reduce the percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy³

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

10.7.3 Number of migrants killed while attempting to cross maritime, land and air borders

10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

³ The Gini Coefficient will be reported as a second series in the database, as it is a component of this indicator.

D. Proposed deletions

Goals and targets (contained in the 2030 Agenda)

Indicator proposed for deletion

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1.a.1 Proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

It is proposed that the portion of the indicator that measures progress for children between 0 and 23 months of age, which is currently in tier III, be deleted.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

11.c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.3 Improve education awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation⁴

⁴ If the deletion of the current indicator 17.6.1 is approved, the current indicator 17.6.2 will become indicator 17.6.1.

Annex III

Annual refinements to be made to the global indicator framework

Goal and current indicator text (contained in the 2030 Agenda)

Refinement of indicator

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential health services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)

3.8.1 Proportion of the target population covered by essential health services

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment (*repeated in the refinement to be made to indicator 12.8.1 below; repeat of the proposed replacement for indicator 13.3.1, contained in annex II, section A*)

4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)

4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country

4.c.1 Proportion of teachers qualified in basic education by education level

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities

8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status

8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers

10.4.1 Labour share of GDP

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed, World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)

11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies

12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production

12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans

12.7.1 Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation

12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment (*repeat of the refinement to be made to indicator 4.7.1 above and of the proposed replacement for indicator 13.3.1, contained in annex II, section A*)

12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

12.c.1 (a) Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies as a percentage of GDP; and (b) amount of fossil-fuel subsidies as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

Goal and current indicator text (contained in the 2030 Agenda)

Refinement of indicator

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density

14.1.1 (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) floating plastic debris density

14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches

14.2.1 Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

17.12.1 Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

Annex IV

Proposed timeline and workplan for the working group on a measurement of development support

The working group on a measurement of development support is expected to consider different measurements of development support in the broadest sense of the term and as decided by the working group. The working group will consider work already conducted to develop such measures but will not be limited by that previous work. The working group is expected to conduct its work using an electronic collaboration platform and by holding regular virtual meetings.

The following tentative timeline is very ambitious and roughly follows the timeline used for similar processes.

December 2019–February 2020	Preparatory work for the set-up of the working group by the Secretariat, the Co-Chairs of the Expert Group and key agencies, focusing on the technical review of the work already done in this area, including review of literature and other materials that can help guide the work of the working group once it has been established
March 2020	Discussion by the Statistical Commission and decision by the Commission on the way forward for the development of a measure of support to developing countries
March–April 2020	Invitation and nominations of the members
April 2020	Setup of working group and scoping of tasks and agreement on detailed workplan
May–September 2020	First phase of the substantive work, focusing on a review of each section and each component to be considered for the measurement
October–December 2020	First discussion of the first set of issues and preparation of a brief update to the Commission on the work done
January–March 2021	First discussion of the second set of issues
March 2021	First in-person meeting of the working group (on the margins of the session of the Commission) to review status and agree on final steps
April–June 2021	Work on preliminary conclusions
June 2021	Second in-person meeting of the working group, to be held in New York
July 2021	Completion of a draft proposal, to be reviewed and agreed by the Expert Group for open consultation
August–September 2021	Worldwide consultation
October 2021	Completion of work

October and November 2021 Discussion and decision at the Expert Group
December 2021 Submission of a Commission report containing
final proposal
