



International policy demand for integrated information

Post-2015 development agenda and role of statistics

United Nations Statistics Division

*Regional Seminar on the System of Environmental-Economic
Accounting in the Caribbean*

6-7 February, Castries Saint Lucia



Today's global challenges

- Persistent inequalities
- Food and nutrition insecurity
- Knowledge challenge
- Growing environmental footprints
- Environmental sustainability
- Conflict, violence and insecurity
- Governance deficits
- Fiscal challenges
- Shifting demographics
(migration, urbanization, ageing)



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➔ **Urgent need to find new pathways in pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable global development**



Policy settings

- Post-2015 UN development agenda/SDGs
- Barbados plan of action, Mauritius strategy of implementation
- UNDESA UNEP UNDP OECD initiatives on Green Growth/Green Economy
- Broader measures of progress/Beyond GDP
- World Bank Natural Capital Accounting
- Aichi targets of CBD strategic plan 2011-2020 (e.g. Target 2)
- UNDP Poverty and Environment
- UNEP TEEB





Policy settings -- measurement

- Stiglitz Commission on the Measurement of Economic and Social Progress
 - "choices between promoting GDP and protecting the environment may be false choices once environmental degradation is appropriately included in our measurement of economic performance."
- European Union Beyond GDP initiative
 - "The Beyond GDP initiative is about developing indicators that are as clear and appealing as GDP, but more inclusive of environmental and social aspects of progress"
- OECD Better Life Initiative
 - "understanding what drives the well-being of people and nations and what needs to be done to achieve better progress for all"



Sustainable development goals



We are determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of commitment by the international community to move the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of the internationally **agreed development goals** including the Millennium Development Goals (para 18)



Para.38 of the Rio+20 report



“We recognize the need for broader measures of progress to complement GDP in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard, we request the UN Statistical Commission in consultation with relevant UN System entities and other relevant organizations to launch a programme of work in this area building on existing initiatives.”



Some Lessons learned from MDG Monitoring

- The link between environmental sustainability and the economy is weak
- Lack of unified theory or supporting integrated-statistical framework or international standard
- Developing countries do not have the statistical capacity to produce timely and relevant MDG indicators.
 - Often estimation by international organizations is required to impute missing data.



Post – 2015 Development Agenda

Vision and responsibility

1. End **extreme poverty** in all its form in the **context of sustainable development**
2. A **global, people-centred** and **planet-sensitive** agenda to address the universal challenges of the 21st century
 - Promoting sustainable development
 - Supporting job-creating growth
 - Protecting the environment
 - Providing peace, security, justice, freedom and equity at all level



Vision: The Future We Want

- Recognize the need for transformative change for **inclusive, people-centered, sustainable development**
- Build on the core values and principles outlined in the Millennium Declaration and UN Charter....
- ...centred on **three fundamental principles**:
 - ✓ respect for human rights
 - ✓ peace and security
 - ✓ environmental sustainability



Vision: A life of dignity for all



Mainstream sustainable development at all levels **integrating economic, social and environmental aspects** and recognizing their **interlinkages**, so as to achieve sustainable development across all dimensions





Progress

Several work streams:

1. **UN Task Team** (continue analytical work and support to the Open Working Group)
2. **UNDG consultations**: 70+ national consultations and 11 thematic consultations (peace and security, conflict and fragility, food security, environmental sustainability, water, energy, inequalities, population dynamics, health, education, ...)
3. **High-level Panel of Eminent Persons**: 3 co-chairs (Liberia, Indonesia, UK); 26 panelists; Special Advisor as ex-officio member)
4. **Special Advisor** to the SG on Post 2015
5. **Inter-government Open Working Group** on SDGs



Progress

- **SG Report adopted by the General Assembly**
 - *Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (September 2012)*
- **High-Level Panel**
 - *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development (May 2013)*
- **UN Development Group**
 - *The global conversation begins (March 2013)*
- **Sustainable Development Solution Network**
 - *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development (June 2013)*
- **SG Report on MDGs and post 2015 agenda , General Assembly**
 - *A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (September 2013)*



Implications for statistical community

- A need to bring statistical decisions into the political process of defining development goals, targets and indicators
- An early and adequate engagement of the statistical community is vital
- A leadership role for the national statistical offices in the national statistical system and engage with the national stakeholders
- A need to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to compile and report development indicators through balanced and resourced national statistical systems based on national priorities



- Fundamental rethink and transformational change in mainstreaming sustainable development
 - How we **set the statistical agenda**, how we **keep the agenda under review** and how we **promote the statistical agenda and the authority of official statistics**
 - How we engage within and between the national, regional and international statistical system with a **bottom-up approach based on national priorities**
 - How we **integrate policy and statistics** in our operations





Statisticians, politicians and policymakers, business sector, scientific/academic community, civil society, media and general public must join hands in data revolution





An initial reflection on the Statistical
Agenda in relation to the Post-2015
Development Agenda with focus on
environmental sustainability



Initial reflection

- Sustainable statistical capacity is essential for the development of an effective monitoring system of any development agenda
- Further dialogue with policy makers, users and producers of statistics is encouraged to identify new measurement areas, and possibly elevate existing measurement approaches to meet the challenges of the measurement of the post-2105 development agenda.



Statistical capacity building

Key requirements:

- Mobilization of political support and adequate resources at the highest level of national government
- Adoption of a cost effective strategic programming and management approach with timelines and deliverables as part of regular annual statistical programmes of the national statistical system
- Systemic assessment of data gaps and identification of interrelated work streams based on policy demand and priorities
- A sub-regional mutually supportive approach to capacity building, in particular when it comes to the implementation of global standards, that envisages a strong coordination and management role by sub-regional and regional participating partners



Statistical capacity building

- The need for the minimum required data sets, such as for economic and environment statistics, for national and international reporting commensurate with the national statistical capacity
- Advocated a staged and progressive implementation of essential statistics that allows countries to flexibly meet their policy priorities



Statistical capacity building

- Existing methodological normative documents adopted by the UN Statistical Commission (e.g. SNA 2008 and SEEA-2012) can form the basis for sustainable development and the broader measurement of progress
- The scaling up and close coordination of the global programme of statistical implementation of these internationally-agreed normative document by UN are integral to strengthen the statistical capacity building for the post-2015 development agenda



Environmental dimension of sustainable development

- Regular production of good quality of integrated environment statistics is required
- These statistics are necessary for monitoring the integrated policy agendas
- Environment statistics requires strong effort in capacity building in particular for developing countries
- Compendia and assessment being carried out by countries in the region constitute the basis to develop an integrated information system for the environment and its relationship with the economy and other human activities



Environmental sustainability

- The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 (SEEA) provides the statistical framework to measure the environment and its relationship with the economy and other human activities
- Implementing SEEA involves integration of data from different sources into an accounting framework, thus ensuring the derivation of coherent set of statistics and indicators to support evidence-based policy for the dimensions of sustainable development.
- Focus on the development of basic environment and economic statistics consistent with the definitions and classifications of the SEEA framework.



Thank you