Using SEEA for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals

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Expert Group for the Sustainable Development Goals
• 49th UNSC asked to make use of SEEA for SDGs in its last meeting.

• (i) Noted the strong support for using SEEA in compiling Sustainable Development Goal indicators when relevant, and requested that the Committee of Experts take an active role in the Sustainable Development Goal indicators process in view of the review of the indicators in 2020;
The 17 SDG goals

1. Poverty
2. Agriculture, food security
3. Health
4. Education
5. Gender
6. Water
7. Energy
8. Growth and employment
9. Infrastructure and innovation
10. Inequality
11. Cities
12. Sustainable production and consumption
13. Climate change
14. Marine areas
15. Land degradation and biodiversity loss
16. Peace, justice
17. Governance – including statistical capacity

Basic human needs

Economy

Environment

Society
Process IAEG-SDG

- 1st meeting was in 2015. 2 per year.
- 28 representatives from NSI:s over the world.
- Co-chaired by Sweden and Tanzania.
- UNSD (UN statistical division) secretariat
- Main work by email and web.
- Work endorsed in UNSC (UN statistical committee) meeting 2017. Around 230 indicators.
- 4 working groups, for geospatial data, interlinkages between goals, sdmx (a technical way to send data) and disaggregation.
The stats community role

a) Produce the basic stats for the reporting and coordinate the reporting

b) Assist in the interpretation of the statistics

c) Support in capacity building with technical help for countries that lack basic reporting

d) Support by developing the broader measures that will be needed for a sustainable analysis in the long term
Environmental policy; goal 12 and ten others

- Monitoring the Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns and Production in the context of the SDGs
Report on goal 12, Sustainable production and consumption

- To show how environmental economics accounts (SEEA) can be used to link environment and economy
- To inform where data can be found
- To suggest capacity building strategy
- [https://www.scb.se/contentassets/7f0f314db3b94831b768b8b48bd0a5ad/mi1301_2015a01_br_mi71br1605.pdf](https://www.scb.se/contentassets/7f0f314db3b94831b768b8b48bd0a5ad/mi1301_2015a01_br_mi71br1605.pdf)
Using SEEA for the SDGs

- Promoting the use of SEEA in the Working Group for interlinkages between the goals.
- Working Group report is underway - deadline in November to be presented at next UNSC meeting in 2020.
- SEEA is planned as one chapter, co-written by Canada, Germany and Sweden.
- The London Group will have a chance to provide input in addition to the Working group itself.
Points to cover

1. SEEA data for specific indicators already in the system: e.g. water, land, fossil fuel subsidies, sustainable consumption and production.

2. Synthesising reports that are already written about the possibilities to use SEEA data (UNCCEDEA-reports as well as others).

3. Making the case for harmonised data systems for sustainability analysis - a core outcome of the Agenda 2030 process.

4. Bringing together resource use, environmental pressure, economic facts on production and consumption into one system.
What can be difficult?

- Not enough global data, no global monitoring.
- Still, national and regional analysis can be made.
- The goals and targets were established from the start – thus the framework for the indicators is set. The possibilities lies to a large extent in analysis of important questions in the SDG framework.
Timelines for WG report

- First draft early September
- To be discussed at London Group meeting October
- To be discussed at IAEG-SDG meeting October
- Final draft November
Comprehensive review 2020 of the indicator system principles

- 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 significantly impose an additional burden on national statistical work;
- There should be space for improvements, while at the same time ensuring that the changes are limited in scope and the size of the framework remains the same;
- The focus of the Group’s common work should remain on the implementation of the framework in countries for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specific Criteria for Implementation

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

- A **deletion** will be considered when the methodological work of a tier III indicator has stalled or has not produced the expected results, and a replacement will be proposed if the deleted indicator is the only indicator monitoring the corresponding target;

- **Adjustments or replacements** will be considered when the indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well;

- 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;

- The aim of the review will be to maintain the same number of indicators 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.
Time line comprehensive review

• **June – July 2019** – The IAEG-SDGs will review the proposals received and prepare an initial proposal of possible deletions, adjustments, replacements and additions based on the submissions received as well as work already carried out by the IAEG-SDG (inter alia [E/CN.3/2017/2, Annex V](#)).

• **29 July – 31 August 2019** – Open consultation on a preliminary list of possible deletions, adjustments, replacements and additions during which all interested parties are invited to provide inputs.

• **September 2019** – Review of the results of the open consultation and develop a second proposed list of deletions, adjustments, replacements and additions.

• **October 2019** – 10th IAEG-SDG meeting. This revised list of proposals will be discussed.

• **30 November 2019** – Finale proposal for the 2020 Comprehensive Review submitted to the Commission for its consideration at the 51st session in March 2020.
Conclusions

- SDGs are a chance to invest in a good integrated fact base for development
- Environmental and energy accounts are developing areas in many countries
- Cooperation is key to success (regionally, ministries, data users and NSIs)
- SEEA is a good system to use for these purposes
- How can UNCEEA support this process?