

The response of official statistics to Sustainable Development Goals as seen from the process in the IAEG-SDG

Viveka Palm

Deputy Director Regions and Environment,
Statistics Sweden (SCB)

Adjunct professor KTH, Stockholm

Member of IAEG-SDG (The Inter-Agency Expert Group
for the Sustainable Development Goals)





Process IAEG-SDG

- First meeting in June.
- Web based comment process on framework and inter linkages in the indicator set.
- Second meeting in October.
- A suggested first indicator list to be ready by the end of 2015 so that it can be discussed and decided in March 2016.
- Developmental work will have to continue after that.





Millennium goals have now reached their target year

- They new SDG goals are meant to be "universal" i.e. be relevant to all countries.
- Also economy, society and environment are included as a complement to the basic human needs indicators.
- More integrated indicators are asked for.
- The Millennium goals were followed up by different UN organisations – now there is a push for ownership or more active participation from the countries own data providers.





Goals and targets were set and negotiated by the countries

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was responsible in Sweden.
- There was a process driven by the MFA to get input from all the ministries and also by the NGOs.
- The statistical office has been to some meetings with the NGOs to understand and communicate about the needs and possibilities.





The 17 goals to be measured

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





Important things for us

- To identify the capacity that needs to be developed in countries that lack their own data sets. Statistics Sweden does this on a long term basis with the financial support of SIDA.
- To talk with users and experts outside of the statistical offices. The statistics needs to be complemented by analyses and modelling to answer the needs that have been voiced.
- Give advice on how to build data sets that can be used for integrated analysis and modelling.





Sweden and Chile are writing about goal 12, sustainable production and consumption

- To show how accounts can be used
- To say where data can be found
- To suggest capacity building

- A draft executive summary was prepared for the IEAG-SDG meeting in Bangkok last week





Reflections on the communication on indicators at the moment

- Many actors want to add more indicators – will hamper communication. Better think in terms of separate analyses to complement indicators.
- There is a difference between the wording of the targets (policy wording that strives to be all inclusive) and measurement possibilities (were the indicators need to be defined so that the data can be interpreted).
- Harmonizing and interpreting statistics is a huge task: important to use experience in the international organisations.





The stats community can produce a substantial part of the indicators

- a) produce the basic stats for the reporting
- b) support in the interpretation of the trends
- 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
- e) support with advice for the indicators that will be better produced outside of national statistical offices.

