



Data revolution – the work and the role of the UN Statistical Commission

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Outline of the presentation

- **I have to say a few words about indicators.....**
- **Elements of the data revolution**
- **Work streams of the Statistical Commission**
- **Looking forward**



Indicators:

MDGs have been good for statistics

- **Evidence based policy making -- Increased focus on data**
- **Bringing the UN Statistical System together – Interagency and Expert Group on MDGs (IAEG-MDGs)**
 - data collection
 - methodological development
 - capacity development
- **Concerted efforts to strengthen national statistical systems -- More data available (see 2015 MDG report)**



Importance of standards and classifications

Standards and classifications are the “language of international statistics”.

- **Allow comparison and aggregation**
- **Allow transfer of knowledge and experience; joint capacity development**



2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

- **17 goals - 169 targets; broad thematic coverage;**
- **UN Statistical Commission tasked to develop global indicators by March 2016**



Main challenges

- **Limited number** of indicators, due to capacity constraints
- Cover **every aspect** of all targets
- Covering **all relevant groups of the population (disaggregation)**
- Addressing policy priorities with **easy-to-communicate** indicators



What is an indicator architecture?

Global indicators

- On all goals and targets

Thematic/sectoral indicators

- Additional indicators for each of the elements covered by the global indicators

Concepts, definitions,
standards, classifications

National indicators

- On goals/targets relevant to the country
- Most (all?) of the global indicators
- Add some of the thematic indicators

Sub-national indicators

- Some of the global indicators
- Some of the national indicators
- Additional data sources (most innovative?)



Elements of the Data revolution

- No unique definition.
- Report of the Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data revolution for Sustainable Development (November 2014): “A World That Counts”.
(<http://www.undatarevolution.org/report/>)
- Elements identified:
 - ✓ Principles and Standards (Big Data, Open Data)
 - ✓ Technology, Innovation and Analysis
 - ✓ Capacity and Resources
 - ✓ Leadership and governance



Statistical Commission 2015

- Takes note of the “World that Counts”
- Creates the Interagency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators
- Creates the High Level Group to provide strategic leadership for the implementation process



Work streams Statistical Commission (1)

- Indicators and methodological development
 - ✓ Development of indicator framework for 2030 development agenda
 - ✓ Application of the Fundamental Principles
 - ✓ Cooperation with the geo-spatial community
 - ✓ New methodological developments e.g. crime statistics, Praia City Group on governance indicators etc.



Work streams Statistical Commission (2)

- Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics
 - ✓ Document current practices (social media, mobile phone data, satellite imagery etc.)
 - ✓ Analyze best practices
 - ✓ Develop quality assurance framework
 - ✓ Principles for partnership and access



Work streams Statistical Commission (3)

- Modernization and Transformative Agenda
 - ✓ Modern statistical production processes (common statistical business architecture)
 - ✓ Innovation in data collection/dissemination/analytics
 - ✓ Integrated statistical systems



Work streams Statistical Commission (4)

- Partnerships and outreach
 - ✓ Organization of an United Nations World Data Forum: cooperation with data users, other data producers, private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations...
 - ✓ Advocacy and resource mobilization
 - ✓ Coordination of capacity building efforts



Looking forward

- Community of Official Statisticians needs to play a leading role to develop solid and rigorous measurement systems for the 2030 development agenda
- Twin professional principles of quality and over-time/ across space consistency
- Statistical Commission at global level; Regional Conferences/Committees at regional level; National Statistical Offices at national level.
- Strong National Statistical/Information Systems under the leadership of National Statistical Offices
- In addition to data products provision of 'data advisory services'
- Different decision nodes require different information systems (global, regional, national, sub-national)



Looking forward (2)

“We need to build National Statistical Systems, in fact National Information Systems, consisting of official statistics, geospatial information and other non-traditional data, that are relevant for a multitude of purposes, and yet organised in a solid, coherent and integrated manner.”

Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UN Statistics Division
Keynote address World Statistics Day 2015.



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