

## Notes from the Fifth Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs – 30-31 March 2017 Ottawa, Canada

Please note that these notes have been put together for the TAP Network, and are meant to inform its members on key takeaways from the Network's perspective from the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IAEG-SDGs. As such, these notes may not be reflective of all discussions and agenda items from the IAEG-SDGs.

[Full agenda for Fifth Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs](#)

[All related documents and presentations for Fifth Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs](#)

### Notes:

#### Reviewing Indicators in 2020 and 2025 and Process for Adding Additional Indicators:

##### Proposed Process for REVIEW of Indicators in 2020 and 2025:

- Adjustment of indicators for reviews in 2020 and 2025 will be based on:
  - Indicator does not map well to the target
  - Additional indicators that may be needed to cover all aspects of the target
  - New data sources are available
  - Methodological development of Tier III indicators have stalled or has not produced expected results
  - Indicator is not measuring progress towards meeting the target
- The IAEG-SDGs will consider possible changes and deletions by Fall meeting in 2018.
- One or more open consultations on the proposed possible additional indicators will subsequently be launched by the end of 2018.
- One or more consultations on the proposed changes and deletions will happen by mid-2019.
- IAEG-SDGs members will review the results of the consultations, and among proposals that equally address the same issue, IAEG members may give preference to those proposals with an established methodology and with data available – by September 2019.

##### Process for ADDITIONAL Indicators between now and 2020:

**This is all separate from the aforementioned 2020 review process. This is about *adding* indicators between now and 2020, whereas the 2020 review is about *changes* to the indicators set (which is up for interpretation in the future by the IAEG-SDGs).**

16.3, 16.6, 16.10 on the list for [potential additional indicators](#). This initial list was put together by IAEG last year from Statistical Commission mandate, which includes indicators that were raised at the Statistical Commission in 2016, but also with indicators that the IAEG-SDGs determined did not cover the full scope of the targets. At a next stage, possibly in 2018, the group will also potentially explore

revisions to other targets in addition to the 37 indicators currently under the scope of review in this current round.

For targets that have tier III indicators whose work plans are stalled or may not meet the timeline of 2020 review – and thus don't have methodology or data and are therefore at high risk of deletion in the 2020 review phase – the IAEG-SDGs has considered using proxy indicators to allow for *some* tracking of progress towards these targets in the interim. IAEG will have to develop a more detailed plan for those indicators.

### Draft resolution on global indicators framework

#### **Timeline:**

- Draft Resolution will be taken up by ECOSOC at its Coordination and Management meeting in early June
- If the resolution is adopted by ECOSOC, will go to UN General Assembly for adoption at its 72<sup>nd</sup> Session, sometime between September and December 2017.

### Data flows and Reporting and Update HLF on Official Statistics:

There was much discussion about “data flows and reporting,” and the roles of NSOs and “custodian agencies” (UN agencies that are meant to aggregate and compile data from NSOs for reporting through the Secretary-General’s annual SDG progress report and other channels) in data reporting at various levels. There was already significant tension on these points at the UN Statistical Commission, where NSOs wanted to be sure that UN agencies did not erroneously mis-represent data in different countries, or provide incomplete data sets or data that did not come directly from NSOs themselves.

### Draft Structure of Guidelines for Data Reporting:

The outcome of the UN Statistical Commission this year set out a mandate for the IAEG-SDGs to work on “guidelines” for data flows for global SDG data reporting, with the IAEG-SDGs having initial discussion on these guidelines at its meeting in Ottawa. The IAEG-SDGs has put together a “drafting group” in this initial stage, who will put together these draft guidelines for the broader group to consider going forward.

It was also highlighted that it is likely that only Tier I and II indicators will be reported on in the Secretary-General’s annual SDG progress report. But many agencies, NSOs and civil society proposed that the group considers using data that can be used as a proxy for certain global indicators in the interim – and it was later noted by the IAEG-SDGs co-chair that the group has considered this approach.

There were questions about operationalizing these guidelines, as it was mentioned that data flows and reporting will vary by country and region, and also by indicator, process or custodian agency. There may be existing processes already in place for data flows and data reporting, which should also be taken into account.

There were also comments, including by UN agencies and civil society, on the need to also potentially include guidance on how NSOs, Regional and International organizations could consider non-official data and share this data. There was also no indication of a timeline for when this process would conclude.

## Tier Classifications:

Decisions from closed IAEG-SDGs discussions:

16.4.2 – Still classified as Tier III, as proposed by custodian agencies UNODC and UNODA

Aside from this, SDG16 indicators, including those classified as Tier III, will be discussed in the context of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. Elaboration of methodology and metadata for Tier III indicators 16.6.2, 16.7.1 and 16.7.2 will be discussed at an Experts Meeting of the Praia Group on 9-10 May in Oslo.

## Data Disaggregation:

There was much discussion about data disaggregation, which has been established as a separate work stream for the IAEG-SDGs, instead of a working group. It was made clear that the data disaggregation work stream would discuss Tier I indicators first, and a more detailed work plan and timeline on the work stream is now being reviewed by the IAEG-SDGs.

Definition of disaggregation by the group thus far:

*Disaggregation is the breakdown of observations within a common branch of a hierarchy to a more detailed level to that at which detailed observations are taken. With standard hierarchical classifications [...] categories can be split (disaggregated) when finer details are required and made possible by the codes given to the primary observations."*

Initial starting point for disaggregation will take place in three workflows

- a) Data availability for initial starting point for disaggregation
- b) Harmonization
- c) Tools and methods

**For detailed information on these workflows, see presentation here:**

[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-05/12\\_14.%20Data%20disaggregation\\_plenary.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-05/12_14.%20Data%20disaggregation_plenary.pdf)

- Workflow A will work at the same time as Workflow B
- Workflow A and Workflow B will report to the joint IAEG-SDGs and HLG working group on capacity building, to discuss implications and impact of the work of these two workflows before discussions on Workflow C
- Some level of prioritization will likely need to occur when talking about disaggregated groups in these workstreams, as there may be some “low-hanging fruit” when it comes to disaggregation for various targets or data sets.
- No indication on timeline for when this work would be undertaken.

### **Step 2: Extended Disaggregation:**

- After the dimensions for the initial starting point on disaggregation have been identified/implemented, disaggregation should be extended to cover more dimensions

mentioned in UN Resolution 70/1 para 74 (g). These additional dimensions would need to be analyzed and other relevant dimensions for each indicator identified.

- For indicators that focus on people, a starting point should be the dimensions stated in Agenda 2030
- This work can follow the same workflows proposed in step 1.

### Work plan and next steps:

- Further work through work stream on data disaggregation
- Continue work from three working groups
- IAEG-SDGs to continue work around guidelines for data flows and reporting, with a report to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission next year.
- Initiate work for 2020 indicators review.
- IAEG-SDGs Members will be rotated by May 2017, with final composition after May yet to be determined by some regional groups.
- Philippines hosting international conference on SDGs from 4-6 October 2017.
- IAEG-SDGs meeting in Fall 2017 yet to be decided, with lack of funding and host country at this point.

#### **Other:**

Working Group on Household Surveys: Will have a module on Goal 16 indicators and household surveys for governance statistics, facilitated by UNODC. This group will also map out SDG indicators that will require measurement by household surveys.

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