Telling Canada's story in numbers

Cara Williams
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Agenda 2030
The Sustainable Development Goals – National Data Flows to Custodian Agencies

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Presentation Outline

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• Data & Information Flows
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Background

- Agenda 2030 is to be country-led, and countries will be held accountable to respond to statistics and indicators reported.
- Data requirements for Agenda 2030 are enormous, resulting in a complexity of data flow possibilities.
- The management of data flows is required.
- This is not MDGs 2.0 thus processes must change.
- There is enough space for a successful relationship between NSOs and custodian agencies.

The major information flows needed to inform reporting processes
Statistics and Information Flows

- There are many international organizations involved in the SDGs - known in the SDG vernacular as Custodian Agencies.
- Role of custodian agencies is the compilation of national information to create the global indicator.
- These include: UNICEF, World Bank, IMF, FAO, etc.
- Recall that Agenda 2030 is to be country-led and reporting should use “official statistics” as the base.
- Currently, in governments around the world various departments or ministries (including the NSO), report to various international organizations.
- What do these information flows look like?

Current information flows to International organizations

- International Organizations
- National Statistics offices
- Other "near government" organizations
- Other Government Departments
- International Organizations
Responsibilities of the NSO – The Canadian perspective

- The role an NSO takes in the SDG environment includes reporting underlying statistics and information to the custodian agencies but can vary depending on government priorities and the NSO’s capacities.
- The SDGs are a game changer, given the expansive nature of the data required.
- In the Canadian context, it is the responsibility of Statistics Canada to coordinate the flow of data, statistics and information from Canada to custodian agencies.
- Further it is our responsibility to validate the information on Canada once it has been made internationally comparable.
- We also want to ensure we validate methodologies used in any estimation done for Canada.
Responsibilities of the NSO – The Canadian perspective continued

- Statistics Canada will prepare the information for the global reporting of SDGs in a timely manner.
- We will interact/communicate with custodian agencies to respond to inquiries and when we have questions or concerns.
- Where information is available, we will work with other Government Departments to provide information to custodian agencies on non-statistical indicators.
- We will continue to examine other data sources (including non-traditional data) to assess its feasibility for use in SDG reporting (determine fit for use).

Expectations for Custodian Agencies

In the short term we require the following from custodian agencies:

- Custodian Agencies will interact with NSOs accordingly to build strong relationships.
- The calendar for data, statistics, and information requests so that we can prepare and plan accordingly.
- Information requests (statistics / indicators) need to come with reasonable time frames.
- Whenever information requested is to be used for SDG measurement, custodian agencies will note this.
- Custodian agencies will send back to Statistics Canada statistics / information which have been processed to be internationally comparable (again with appropriate time frames).
Expectations for Custodian Agencies

In the medium term, Canada is building a reporting platform. This platform will have a two-fold purpose: a) Domestic reporting on SDGs, b) Providing the platform where we will put the information and statistics for custodian agencies.

Expectations of Custodian agencies with respect to this include:

• Custodian agencies will use this platform to retrieve statistics and information that feed the Global Indicator Framework.
• If some statistics or information are not found on this platform, the Custodian Agencies will contact Statistics Canada to determine if we can provide the information.

Rationale for this approach

• Canada will be held accountable for information reported.
• We want to ensure a good partner relationship with the International Organizations but we need to ensure we are comfortable with the methods, the source of the information and the robustness of what is being reported.
• We have noted that in some cases we have been unable to determine the provenance of the information and it does not remotely resemble estimates from the NSS.
Rationale for this approach continued

- Reporting is consolidated and coordinated
- Reporting burden will be reduced.
- Provides a coherent national approach to SDGs.
- We can ensure the robustness of estimates and information being used to report on SDGs for our country.
- We embrace the premise on which Agenda 2030 is based as being country-led.

The Road Forward

- We are currently examining data availability across government (including levels of disaggregation)
- We are currently building the reporting platform
- We need to build stronger relationships with custodian agencies
- StatCan is working to develop a dissemination strategy for domestic reporting on SDGs – (i.e. on-line publication)
Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.