Guidelines for the United Nations Country Teams to support SDG country reporting

UN Statistics Division

Workshop on statistics for SDGs, 12-13 April 2017, ECE, Geneva
SDG country reporting guidelines

• 4 chapters
  – The 2030 Agenda and country-led national SDG reporting
  – Elements for inclusive, country-led national SDG reviews and reporting
  – SDG indicators, data and progress reviews
  – Who and how to engage

• 4 annexes (encouraging analytical reporting, communications, dissemination advocacy, production process, and resources)

Chapter 1: 2030 Agenda and country-led national SDG reporting
Chapter 2: Elements for inclusive, country-led national reviews and reporting

Building blocks of a national SDG review

Chapter 3: SDG indicators, data and progress reviews

The national indicator framework is expected to incorporate many or most of the agreed indicators for global monitoring.

The national statistics office should initiate and lead a process of consultation with all stakeholders.

A mapping exercise is the crucial starting point to help ensure a more systematic, inclusive and integrated approach to the implementation of national SDG indicators.
Chapter 3 cont’d

Setting baselines for monitoring and evaluation

• Since the SDGs are built on the MDGs, the most recent available data on MDG indicators should be used as baseline data. In the absence of historical data, current position/status can be used as a starting point.

Criteria for Progress assessment

• The following criteria may be applied by countries to illustrate their progress towards the SDGs:
  ✓ Its declared intentions;
  ✓ The benchmark of earlier performance;
  ✓ Recorded achievements of other countries in comparable situations; and
  ✓ Global targets under the SDGs

• A SDG country report should identify bottlenecks, and analyse policies and strategies to ensure no one is left behind.

• The use of scorecards used to assess progress on the MDGs could be extended to SDG reporting.

Chapter 4: Who and how to engage

• Engagement calls for equal treatment of all individuals and active measures to engage marginalized groups, including people living in poverty, women, indigenous communities and other minorities, persons with disabilities, forcibly displaced and stateless persons, children and young people, migrants, and LGBT people.

• Logical starting points for engagement arise where national multi-stakeholder bodies exist, or where planning commissions operate in collaboration with multi-stakeholder forums.

• Tripartite social dialogue structures between governments, businesses and workers can serve as platforms for more comprehensive implementation and accountability mechanisms.

• National human rights institutions could play a crucial role in promoting transparent and inclusive processes for participation and consultation with rights-holders and civil society.

• Where formal bodies or fora do not already exist, governments could convene a consultative forum for the purpose of SDG reviews and implementation.
Chapter 4: cont’d

Encouraging inclusive approaches

• Inclusive national SDG reporting begins at the conceptualization stage, extending through the analysis of issues, the validation of findings and recommendations, and their dissemination

• Practical steps to make reporting inclusive include:
  ✓ Setting up a stakeholder steering committee/taskforce as the first step in preparing an inclusive country-led SDG report
  ✓ Outsourcing background research to local researchers who understand local needs and challenges, and can design local solutions
  ✓ Establishing a multi-stakeholder review group to synthesize research findings in a balanced way and produce a coherent first draft of the national SDG review report
  ✓ Organizing multi-stakeholder consultations and workshops to obtain feedback on the draft report and validate its findings, as well as to design the best dissemination strategy

Chapter 4: cont’d

Developing an advocacy plan

• An advocacy plan is a core component of an inclusive national SDG review process and should support three stages:
  ✓ Promoting the consultations leading to the development of the report;
  ✓ Disseminating the report’s results;
  ✓ Backing implementation of key recommendations

Leveraging different forms of media

• Diverse forms of media, from radio stations to online forums, can broaden engagement in the SDG review and follow-up process

• Core considerations, within a broader advocacy plan, are to:
  ✓ Identify media engagement goals;
  ✓ Define major audiences and media channels most likely to reach them;
  ✓ Engage with leading media personalities willing to expand coverage on SDG issues they feel strongly about;
  ✓ Include media associations in multi-stakeholder steering committees and consultations
Annexes

- **Annex 1** outlines analytical approaches that could support the preparation of SDG country reports, including trend analysis, MDG acceleration framework and similar approaches, environment impact assessments, and budget analysis.

- **Annex 2** discusses the value of communication, dissemination and advocacy, developing an advocacy plan, defining and reaching target audiences, selecting the right channels to reach audiences, and implementing the advocacy plan.

- **Annex 3** provides a checklist for preparing an SDG Report.

- **Annex 4** provides a sample of sources, guidance and tools available to support SDG reporting.

**Annex III – Checklist for preparing a SDG Report**

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<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Setting out</strong></td>
<td>Government’s decision to prepare a SDG report is transmitted through the UNDCO; identification of reporting, planning and budgeting through the EMD; and coordination of funding and resource mobilization.</td>
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<td><strong>2. Consultation with key stakeholders</strong></td>
<td>Consultation with government representatives on the project; selection of communicators and other teams; background, experience, credibility and reputation.</td>
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<td><strong>3. Drafting process</strong></td>
<td>Development of an editorial strategy; solicitation of views and feedback; and development of a publication strategy.</td>
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<td><strong>4. Finalization process</strong></td>
<td>Finalization and dissemination of the final report through means of distribution and communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. Communicating</strong></td>
<td>Draft a plan to communicate; identify key stakeholders and mobilize them; and develop an effective communication strategy.</td>
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Thank you

SDGs website:
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/