Enterprise Reporting and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

29 November 2017

Cristina Martinez de Silva

UNCTAD
Mainstreaming of Enterprise Sustainability Reporting

Trend towards comparability across companies, consistency between financial and non-financial information, and usefulness of indicators for report users.
From the SDGs to enterprise information

**Goal 7**

Relevant indicators:
- 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
- 7.3.1: Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

**Goal 6**

Relevant indicators:
- 6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated
- 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time
- 6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

**Goal 17**

Relevant indicators:
- 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes
- 17.17.1: Amount committed to public-private and civil society partnerships
Since its creation in 1982, UNCTAD-ISAR, is the focal point for matters of accounting and reporting at the United Nations, has a leadership role in harnessing the synergies of the SDGs and enterprise reporting.
The SDG monitoring framework and reporting

Target 12.6
Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

Indicator 12.6.1
Number of companies publishing sustainability reports

What counts as a sustainability report?
The work of ISAR in action

• Agenda item: Enhancing comparability of sustainability reporting
  Selection of core indicators for company reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals
Metadata guidance on indicator 12.6.1 – Government Level

- **Definition** of sustainability reporting
- Method of computation of the indicator (including key criteria)
- Rationale and interpretation
- Sources and data collection
- Disaggregation requirements
- Global monitoring

- The **Draft Guidance** offers suggestions on these points, and constitutes a starting point for discussion with our stakeholders.
Challenges to harmonization – in the context of SDGs

Number of reporting frameworks for sustainability information

Persisting silos between "financial" and "non-financial" reporting
The expansion of materiality with the 2030 Agenda

Boundary and scope issues, large corporations with consolidated reports vs. entity reporting

Lack of resources and capacity - especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition
The way forward

Enterprises: Harmonised reporting on sustainability

Government: Data collection, aggregation, reporting and monitoring on SDGs

Global: Quantified progress under the SDGs monitoring mechanism
Relevant related initiatives at UNCTAD

United Nations Forum on Sustainable Standards (UNFSS)