

Observations of global data flows for SDG indicators: initial results of pilot and practical suggestions for transparency

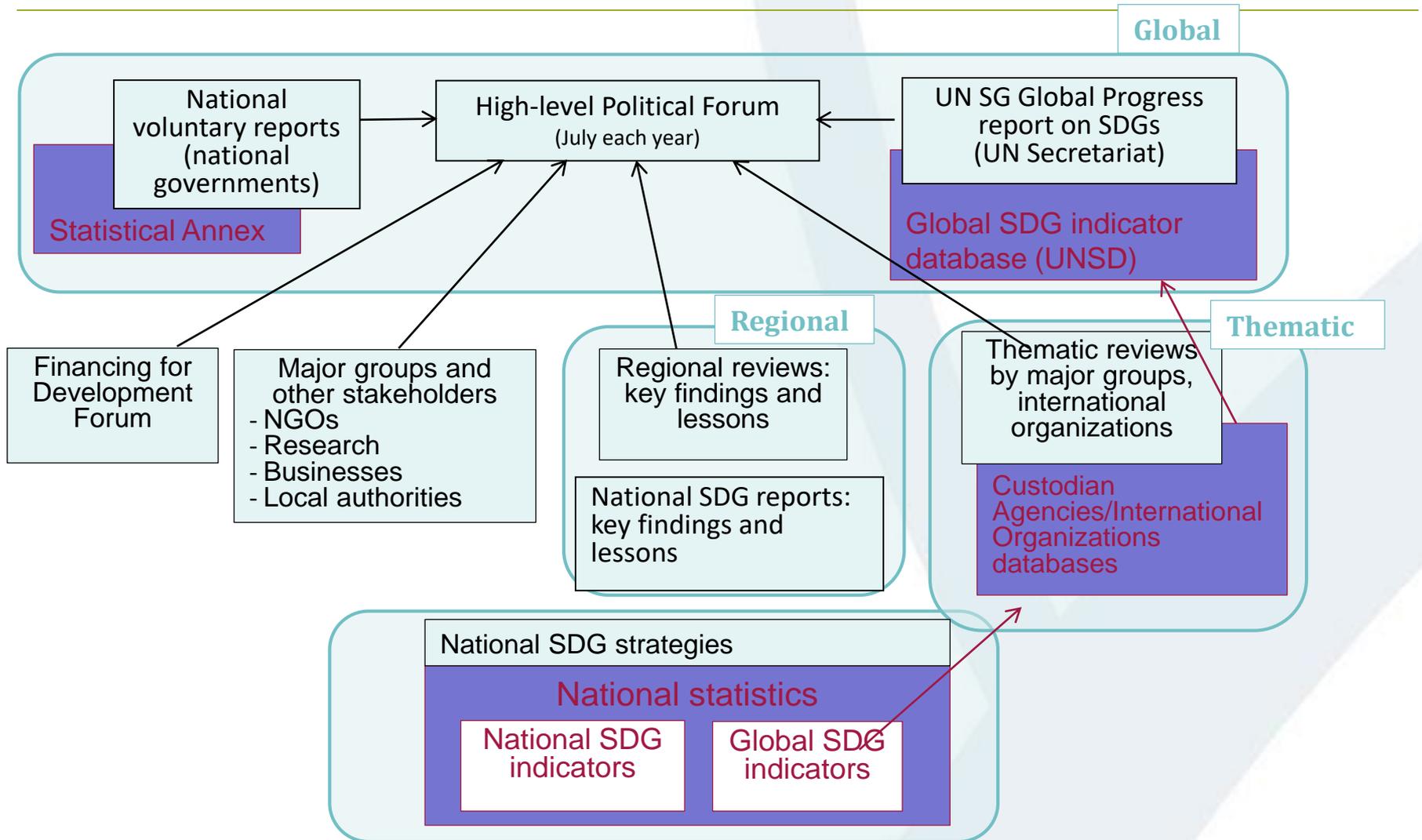
Session 4B

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Global Reporting System



Global collaboration

UN Statistical Commission

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (28 Member States)

High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (23 Member States)

Joint sub-group of the IAEG-SDGs and the HLG-PCCB

Working Groups:

1. Geo-spatial information
2. Inter-linkages of SDG statistics to allow for integrated analysis in monitoring
3. SDMX
4. Disaggregations

Custodian Agencies (e.g. WHO, OECD, UN Women, UNEP, World Bank...)

UN Regional Commissions

ECA

ECLAC

ESCAP

ESCWA

UNECE

Expert Group on statistics for SDGs

Steering Group on statistics for SDGs

Sub Groups – NRP, Comms

Conference of European Statisticians

GSS SDG Group

Planning and performance group for SDGs

UK
DFID, ONS, CO
Devolved Administrations
NGOs

Other Groups

- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- UN Big Data Global Working Group – Committee on Global Platform for Data, Services and Applications
- Eurostat

Policy and Statistical Groups from 193 United Nations Member States

Data Flows Pilot: Purpose

- To describe the experiences, needs and resources of the main actors involved in producing SDG statistics



Data Flows Pilot: Approach

- An observational study of participating countries and custodian agencies actual experiences using their planned monitoring process
- Guidelines/template questionnaire provided
- Participants asked to record their experiences at each stage (initial reporting, harmonisation, verification, etc)

Data Flows Pilot: Limitations

- Limited participation (5 countries, 6 agencies)
- Limited number of indicators
- 5 UNECE countries with similar data production processes
- Only Tier 1 indicators, so testing 'best case scenario'
- Limited time frame



What did we find?

- Delayed and/or impaired communication due to not knowing who the correct contacts are
- Custodian agency and country monitoring schedules are unclear, resulting in delays and discrepancies
- Data transmission processes need to be more efficient
- A collaboration process should be established early on to reduce possible conflicts
- The validation process of methods and data is unclear



Example – 8.1.1 Growth of GDP per capita

- Well established mechanisms for data collection
- Some discrepancies between global and national data, possibly because of delays in updating
- Metadata could be clearer – countries should provide real GDP in 2005 \$ and Population figures, and not the calculated indicator
- Countries would still like to be able to validate the data in the global database – GDP is a key element of many SDG indicators

Key Suggestions [1]

- Establish, in the early stages, a collaborative approach to allow appropriate technical consultation with countries
- Identify focal points – who should be talking to whom?
 - Post a secure dashboard of contacts for each indicator on the UNSD SDG website

Key Suggestions [2]

- Provide an advance schedule of anticipated agencies' data requests and updates, and of countries' data releases
- Global and national metadata should be provided according to the format agreed by the IAEG-SDGs
 - Interactive metadata pages on the UNSD SDG website



Key Suggestions [3]

- Discuss existing and emerging transmission needs and potential solutions
- Transparent validation process for data and methods that is also flexible enough to allow for maturation
 - Include a secure access dashboard to enable countries to indicate the status of validation, that illustrates the progression of validation talks but does not unduly impede publication of statistics

Outstanding: interactive contact list

- List of custodian agency focal points with time tables
 - This page is not interactive; that would require additional work. Proof of concept required?
 - Should access be restricted to authorised users?



Outstanding: Metadata issues

- Metadata
 - More information is required about ongoing work on Tier 3 indicators.
 - How do we know what has been updated, and when? Should track changes be used?
 - Could the pages be interactive, to allow agencies to update them easily?

Outstanding: Validation tools

- When a country and an agency disagree, agency data for that country can be used to calculate the global aggregate but the data are not published in the global database.
 - Not transparent. Validation should be fully transparent.
 - Validation status should show what progress is being made in discussions
 - If there is non-response, data should be marked as not validated

Conclusion

- Highly complex – variety of actors, indicator types, transmission methods
- Unprecedented coordination of data flows is required to avoid double reporting and inconsistencies
- National and global figures may often differ, so transparency of data and methods is essential to understand these differences
- Data validation is an iterative process

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GEOGRAPHY EQUALITY ETHNICITY LOCATION INCAPACITY ASYLAN SEEKER SDGs
INVESTMENT INCLUSIVE DATA MORALITY IMPARTIALITY FAIRNESS
PROGRESS FOR ALL DISTRIBUTION NEW DATA RIGHTS SUCCESS EQUITY DISABILITY

#LEAVENOONEBEHIND

Saving the World one statistic at a time

MIGRATORY STATUS PRINCIPLE
RESIDENT UNITED NATIONS INEQUALITIES
FREEDOM COUNTED GLOBAL HEALTH
GENDER RACE SETTLER IMMIGRATION OPPORTUNITIES
EQUALITIES ACT SEX

INCOME EQUAL RIGHTS JUSTICE NON-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION NEW METHODS
AGENDA 2030

HUNGER WEALTH OPPORTUNITY INCLUSIVE FOR ALL
NATIONAL SYSTEMS WEALTH PROSPERITY
DISAGGREGATION EDUCATION NON-DISCRIMINATION SECURITY

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- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 1 NO POVERTY
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 15 LIFE ON LAND
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION