NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS AND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

A WEBINAR BY CARA WILLIAMS AND MIRIAM BLUMERS
WEBINAR OUTLINE

01. TED TALK
02. NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS
03. SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES
04. VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS
05. KEY FINDINGS
06. THE ROLE OF DATA
07. COUNTRY OVERVIEW
08. CONCLUSIONS AND QUESTIONS
NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS.

NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS ARE A SET OF NATIONALLY DEFINED INDICATORS RESPONDING TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND NEEDS DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
NIF CHALLENGES

1. Whole-of-society approach? All in favour, raise your hand.

2. Data to inform evidence-based policy politics.

3. If everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority.
BEST PRACTICES

UNDERSTAND WHO IS AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND
- INFORMED BY EXISTING, ROBUST, DISAGGREGATED DATA

IDENTIFY PRIORITIES, POLICIES AND EXISTING INDICATORS
- REFINE TO ALIGN MEASUREMENT WITH NATIONAL EFFORTS
- ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITH POLICY DEVELOPERS
- DEFINE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND ADHERE
- MAINTAIN STATISTICAL INDEPENDENCE AND NONPARTISANSHIP

SYSTEMATIC SELECTION CRITERIA
- CLARIFYING WHICH INDICATORS TO BE SELECTED AND WHY,
  STREAMLINE SELECTION AND SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
## General Similarities

### Vulnerable Groups
- Identify levels of disaggregation

### Mainly GIF Indicators
- X

### Defined Selection Criteria
- X

### Public Progress Reports
- X

### Refined Framework
- ✔️

### Country Codes
- CA
- TM
- IL
- FR
- DE
- AL
- CH
- AT
- MD
- IT

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SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES

- **NIF Size Range**
  - Albania – 36
  - Canada - 60
  - Germany – 65
  - Azerbaijan - 119

- **Alignment with the Global Indicator Framework**

- **Emphasis on different dimensions of sustainable development**

- **Status of NIF development and reporting**
2020: Austria’s First Indicator Report and VNR

200 national indicators show development towards the 17 global goals and the indicator report provides input for the progress chapter of the VNR.

Challenges in statistical language

For the VNR, it was necessary to reword the statistically neutral terminology into a more easily understandable political language.

Best practices

Statistical independence is key and must be strictly respected and supported by all partners.

Pre-selection of main indicators by Statistics Austria

The importance of the statistical analysis on progress done by Statistics Austria in order to maintain statistical independence.

Lessons learned

Co-operation between policy-makers and statisticians can enhance the VNR with essential data but also increase the importance of the monitoring process for the national statistical office.

Responsibilities must be clearly defined.
OVERVIEW

THE EUROPEAN UNION PERSPECTIVE
Its commitment to becoming a member of the EU family made it important that it bring EU perspectives into Agenda 2030, the SDGs and the review.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SDG ROLLOUT WORKING GROUP
To lead the process of creating the VNR, drafting the SDG framework, and work on SDG indicators and statistics.

BEST PRACTICES

DATA ANALYSIS FROM VISION 2030
Identified development pathways to inform key strategic planning processes in the country.

COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS FROM SDG DASHBOARD DATA
The dashboards supported the adaptation of SDG indicators and targets and their mutual influence in the country context.

LESSONS LEARNED

THE SUCCESS OF IMAGINE 2030
Workshops provided an opportunity for citizens to co-create the future and form an understanding of the country’s baseline position.

THE USE OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK
Through the Sendai framework, BIH’s Ministry of Security is responsible for data entry and analytical capabilities on behalf of the country.
ITALY

OVERVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE **NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE**
ISTAT IS TASKED WITH COMPILING STATISTICAL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR MONITORING THE 2030 AGENDA

THE **NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK**
123 UN-IAEG-SDG INDICATORS INCLUDING 319 STATISTICAL MEASURES AVAILABLE

BEST PRACTICES

THE "**UNIVERSALITY**" APPROACH
IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE 3 DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND LOOK AT IT FROM A TOP-DOWN PERSPECTIVE

ANALYSIS OF **INTERLINKAGES**
FACILITATES THE PRODUCTION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION, MAKES COMPLEX DATA MORE AVAILABLE AND INFORMS POLICY

LESSONS LEARNED

ATTENTION GIVEN TO **LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**
RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO EXPAND BREAKDOWNS BY GENDER, CITIZENSHIP, PRESENCE OF LIMITATIONS (DISABILITY), AGE GENERATIONS AND TERRITORIAL LEVEL

DEFINING THE **NATIONAL CONTEXT**
SOME OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED WERE INSERTED TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAIL USEFUL TO UNDERSTANDING A TARGET FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
OVERVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
NBS coordinated data collection, compiled SDG database and provided to VNR authors. NBS is Co-chair of the National Inter-Ministerial Steering Group on VNR development.

THE NATIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK
338 indicators incl. 121 global, 53 global adjusted, 77 global divided, 87 national proxies. Out of which 13 are repetitive, 201 available, 194 fully disaggregated.

BEST PRACTICES

THE “EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS” WORKING APPROACH
Innovative tools used for VNR drafting, institutional coordination framework organized by 5 Ps, covering all 17 goals.

DATA-BASED PRIORITIZATION
National SDG monitoring framework (data & metadata) guided the selection of priority targets to be subject of evaluation.

LESSONS LEARNED

PROMOTING NSO & NATIONAL STATISTICS
VNR as opportunity for NBS to strengthen its coordination role, for mapping needs and defining a roadmap on further improvements.

INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY OF ONAs
Other national authorities producing SDG indicators have acknowledged the weakness of their data quality, importance of metadata and actions required.
OVERVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
The State Statistics Service of Ukraine is the designated data collection coordinator for SDG monitoring.

UKRAINE’S NATIONAL INDICATORS
183 total indicators of which 182 have metadata, 164 have available data, and 106 have target values.

BEST PRACTICES

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES FOR THE SDGS
A normative act created conditions for optimal data collection for the SDGs including the provision of data to the state statistics service.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SDG MONITORING SYSTEM
The system successfully identified the least represented goals which allowed Ukraine to better formulate targeted strategies.

LESSONS LEARNED

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM FOR INDICATOR PROGRESS
The monitoring system split the SDG indicators into 4 groups with the last group identifying indicators requiring attention to achieve its targets.
THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
INSEE PROVIDES INDICATORS AND DATA TO CUSTODIAN AGENCIES FOR GLOBAL SDG MONITORING IN ADDITION TO ITS OWN NATIONAL MONITORING

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS
17 WORKING GROUPS (ONE FOR EACH GOAL) COMPRISED OF MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

ASSESSMENT OF DATA SOURCES
DATA SOURCES AND PROVIDERS IDENTIFIED TO SHAPE THE CURRENT AND FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF INDICATORS

SHAPING THE SDGS TO THE NATIONAL CONTEXT
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NATIONAL INDICATORS HAVE STRONG LINKS WITH NATIONAL POLICIES AS WELL AS BEING ALIGNED WITH THE GLOBAL INDICATORS

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES
EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING AND ENSURING THAT ANY DATA GATHERED IS IN A MEASURABLE CONTEXT

REPORT ON UN INDICATORS AS BEST AS POSSIBLE
THIS MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO COMPARE FRANCE’S POSITION AND PROGRESS WITH THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES
OVERVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics coordinates data collection from various government offices and other organizations on SDG indicators.

INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FORMED FOR THE VNR
It held consultations over an 18-month period to prepare a report with all relevant data.

BEST PRACTICES

EMPHASIS ON INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
A mapping process was conducted on SDG indicator data within the NSO and other governmental agencies to maximize reporting capacity.

THE USE OF STATISTICAL ANNEXES
The annex is a platform where data for SDG indicators for a country are available.

LESSONS LEARNED

PROMOTING DATA-BASED DECISION MAKING
Good quality data was more obtainable when it was policy-based.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NSO IN STATISTICS
Data in the VNR report were not subject to the same quality checks and validations as the statistical annex which was prepared by the NSO.
OVERVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE **NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE**

The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan is responsible for methodology, collection, coordination of data and the SDG database.

THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF **SDG INDICATORS**

175 indicators including 117 global, 44 adapted, and 14 new indicators.

BEST PRACTICES

USING SURVEYS TO **COLLECT DATA**

Comprehensive, disaggregated and reliable data through thematic sample surveys.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF **STATISTICAL CAPACITY FROM WITHIN**

Provided methodological support, baseline data collection and assessment and a data management information system.

LESSONS LEARNED

FURTHER WORK ON STRENGTHENING **ECONOMIC DIMENSION**

Positive results in the social dimension stemmed from strong social policies and identified the need to work on the economic dimension.

COORDINATION WITH **NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Working closely with international organizations and UN agencies helps to further integrate the SDGs into national plans.

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THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ENCOURAGES MEMBER STATES TO CONDUCT REGULAR AND INCLUSIVE REVIEW OF PROGRESS AT THE NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS, WHICH ARE COUNTRY-LED AND COUNTRY-DRIVEN
OVERVIEW

- VNRS ARE INTENDED TO TRACK PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA
- TO DATE, 142 COUNTRIES HAVE PRESENTED VNRS

HOW IT WORKS

- VNR HELP SHARE EXPERIENCES INCLUDING SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED
- THEY ARE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM IN JULY

GUIDELINES

- VNRS AIM TO INVOLVE AN INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY, TRANSPARENT AND THOROUGH REVIEW PROCESS AT NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS
- THEY SHOULD HAVE A FOCUS ON THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS
KEY FINDINGS
**KEY FINDINGS**

- **75%** of countries followed VNR Guidelines. Guidelines provide a framework for common elements.
  - 87% included information on at least one vulnerable group.
  - Improvements on availability of disaggregated data.

- **55%** included the SDGs in national budgets. But most countries have not assessed the full costs of the SDGs.
  - 59% have identified financial resources to aid implementation.

- **83%** had identified national priorities. The economy, social outcomes and governance were most common.
  - 27% have selected national targets & indicators.
**KEY FINDINGS**

- **70%** worked with non-state actors. The whole-of-society approach is becoming standard.
  - 63% recognized civil society contributions to the 2030 Agenda. Civil society represents citizens and those left behind.

- **60%** reported integrating the SDGs into policies. Policies are informed by data availability and baseline assessments.
  - But over 54% did not assess the full set of SDGs. Reports were more likely to place more emphasis on the social dimension over environment or economic.

- **75%** provided information on review processes, including follow-up at the national level.
  - Most of the time, accountability mechanisms remain unknown.
THE ROLE OF DATA

AN ANALYSIS OF COUNTRY APPROACHES TOWARDS VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS FROM A DATA PERSPECTIVE
Most countries have performed data assessments to inform policies. The types of baseline or gap assessments listed in VNR reports, 2017 to 2019, include:

1. Assessment of data availability and/or baselines
2. Policy and data assessment
3. Mapping of policies against the SDGs

50% of countries reported information on data availability. Disaggregated data remains a challenge for most countries.
THE ROLE OF DATA | DATA INCLUSION

THE USE OF STATISTICAL ANNEXES IN VNRS HAS INCREASED OVER TIME

Statistical annexes provide a better picture of a country’s overall capacity to monitor SDG implementation.

2017 2018 2019
49% 61% 72%

COMMON DATA REPORTING METHODS

Reporting at the national level encourages accountability.

36% Engaged in regular national reports.

21% Used dashboards or web portals to report on data.
THE INTEGRATION OF ALL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REMAINS A CHALLENGE AND MAY INDICATE THAT COUNTRIES ARE NOT ENSURING FULL INTEGRATION IN THEIR APPROACHES TO THE 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION.
Mapping policies against the SDGs

NATIONAL DATA TRENDS

REGIONAL SDG INDICATORS
- INHERENT SIMILARITIES DUE TO REGIONAL SIMILARITIES AND PRIORITIES

EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS
- INHERENT SIMILARITIES DUE TO REGIONAL SIMILARITIES AND PRIORITIES

2019 VNR - DATA ASSESSMENTS TO INFORM POLICY
- PERCENTAGE OF 2019 VNR INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:
  - 36%: Mapping policies against the SDGs
  - 72%: Statistical Annexes
  - 36%: Information on data availability
COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT.
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2020: AUSTRIA’S FIRST **INDICATOR REPORT AND VNR**
200 NATIONAL INDICATORS SHOW DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THE 17 GLOBAL GOALS AND THE INDICATOR REPORT PROVIDES INPUT FOR THE PROGRESS CHAPTER OF THE VNR

**CHALLENGES IN STATISTICAL LANGUAGE**
FOR THE VNR, IT WAS NECESSARY TO REWORD THE STATISTICALLY NEUTRAL TERMINOLOGY INTO A MORE EASILY UNDERSTANDABLE POLITICAL LANGUAGE

**BEST PRACTICES**

**STATISTICAL INDEPENDENCE IS KEY**
AND MUST BE STRICTLY RESPECTED AND SUPPORTED BY ALL PARTNERS

**PRE-SELECTION OF MAIN INDICATORS BY STATISTICS AUSTRIA**
The importance of the statistical analysis on progress done by Statistics Austria in order to maintain statistical independence

**LESSONS LEARNED**

**CO-OPERATION BETWEEN POLICY-MAKERS AND STATISTICIANS**
CAN ENHANCE THE VNR WITH ESSENTIAL DATA BUT ALSO INCREASE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MONITORING PROCESS FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

**RESPONSIBILITIES MUST BE CLEARLY DEFINED**
QUESTIONS
SEMINAR CONCLUSIONS.