



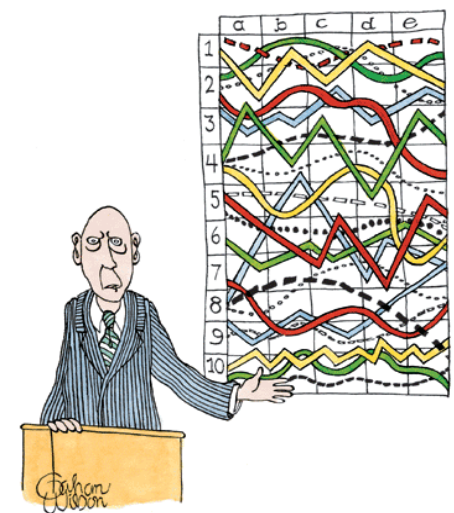
The Post-2015 Development Agenda: The Role of Statistical Community

Keiko Osaki Tomita, Ph.D.
Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division

12th Coordination Meeting on International Migration
20-21 February 2014, New York

Outline

- Why statistics matter?
- Contributions to the discussions towards the new development agenda
- Implications of the new development agenda on the statistical community
- 45th Session of the Statistical Commission



"I'll pause for a moment so you can let this information sink in."

Why Statistics Matter ?

“ Being a statistician is the sexiest job of the 21st Century ”

- Hal Varian, Chief Economist, Google (2012)
- Harvard Business Review (2013)

- Statistical data have become essential for objective, evidence-based decision making in any sector of a society.
- We need data scientists who are data savvy and able to churn the large amounts of information being generated daily into digestible pieces of information.

Why Statistics Matter ?

Success of MDGs

- MDGs has been effective in mobilizing worldwide awareness on development challenges, leveraging resources, guiding development efforts and increasing accountability.
- Quantitative targets are powerful as a communication tool and can provide benchmarks for monitoring progress.
- High expectation for the statistical community to play a central role in identifying targets/indicators, and monitor the progress of the new development agenda.

1. SG-led process on the post 2015 development agenda

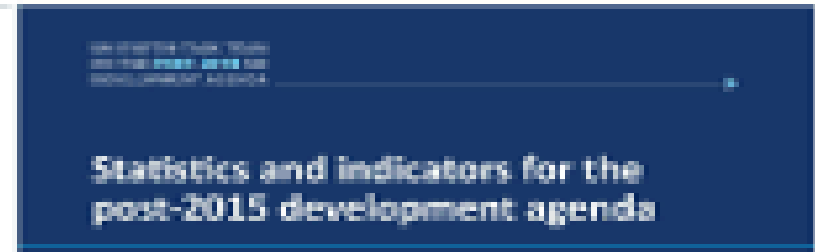
- HLP meeting on MDG in 2000 requested the SG to make recommendations to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015 (Res 65/1).
- UN System Task Team has published in 2013 a report “*Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda*”

2. Process emanated from Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable development

- Rio+20 outcome document 1) recognized the need for broader measures of progress to complement GDP, and 2) requested to initiate a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) (RES 63/288).
- UN Statistical Commission created a [Friends of Chair group \(FoC\)](#) in 2013 to work on the broader measure of progress.
- [Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals \(OWG\)](#) was established in 2013 to prepare a proposal of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration by the GA in 2014.
- *The two processes are expected to converge into one development agenda*

UNTT Report: Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda

- Drawing lessons from MDG, it 1) clarifies the relationships between goals, targets and indicators, and 2) addresses the challenges of designing an appropriate monitoring framework.
- Recognizes [international migration](#) as a rapidly developing theme area, but acknowledges the difficulties to create “trans-boundary indicators”.
- Immigrants, refugees, and IDPs are among the population groups of interest, given inequalities in a society.



FoC Group on Broader Measures of Progress

- Review the work done to develop broader measures of progress and to measure sustainable development.
- Key messages
 - The Post-2015 development agenda should address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way, capturing interlinkages and cross-cutting issues.
 - The new agenda should reflect the three-dimensional nature of well-being: the well-being of 1) the present generation in a country, 2) the future generation, and 3) **the people living in other countries** (elsewhere)
 - For the development of goals/targets, early and close involvement of the statistical community is critical.

Open Working Group on SDGs

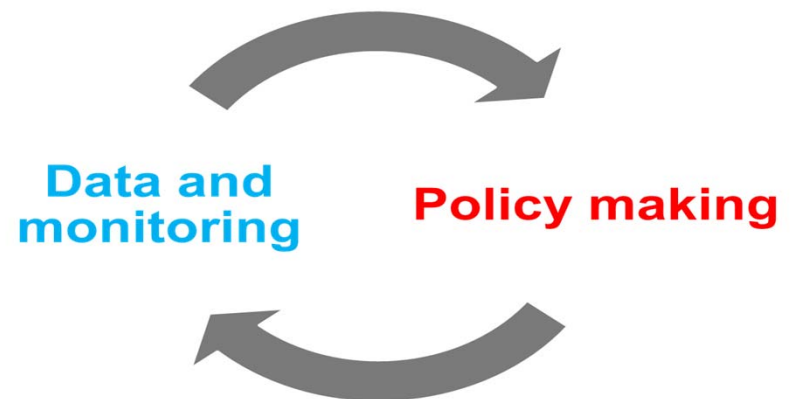
- OWG held eight thematic sessions from March 2013 to February 2014.
- Special event on “Monitoring and Measuring”, a dialogue between chief statisticians and policy makers on 17 December 2013.
- Preparation of [statistical notes](#) for the 29 thematic issue briefs, to supplement the debates from statistical viewpoints. (data availability, measurability, data sources, etc.)
- International migration does not appear as a stand-alone development issue, yet integrated in the areas of “Population dynamics”, “Social protection”, “Promoting equality” and “Human rights”.

From OWG Statistical Notes

- Existing data on migration suffer from availability and international comparability. Administrative data should be further explored.
- Need data which can address inequalities and plight of disadvantaged populations (ex. migrants)
- In order to identify disparities/inequalities, data need to be disaggregated by sex, age, location and by particular social groups.
- Some suggested indicators relevant to migration/migrants:
 - Existence of provisions for the protection of migrants' rights
 - Number of prosecutions relating to human trafficking
 - Cost of remittances, recruitment fees, etc.

What are possible consequences of the post-2015 development agenda on Statistical Community ?

- 1) Significant extension of data requirements (scope and disaggregation) and possible redirection of focus
- 2) Demand for better coordination mechanisms for monitoring and reporting
- 3) Increased role of statistics in guiding policy making



45th Session of the UN Statistical Commission

4-7 March, New York

- FoC Group on Broader Measures of Progress will report back to the Commission.
- SG's Paper on International Migration Statistics
 - ✓ Reviews recent activities of UN DESA to improve international migration statistics
 - ✓ Suggests to develop a global initiative to improve migration data for evidence-based policymaking
 - ✓ Urges to consider establishing a dedicated programme to enhance the capacity of countries to improve the collection, processing and analysis of migration data.

A hand is shown holding a small, translucent globe of the Earth. The globe is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds and a bright sun in the upper left. Below the horizon line, there is a lush green field. The overall scene is bright and positive, symbolizing environmental care and gratitude.

Thank you !