

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2015

Panel: "Inclusion matters: Access and empowerment for People of all Abilities"

3 December 2015

Statement by Linda Hooper, Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Unit  
UNSD, Secretariat of the IAEG-SDGs

Thank you for inviting UNSD's Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Unit to participate in this panel. It is my honour to update you on the work of the Inter-agency and expert group on SDG indicators toward the development of a global indicator set for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

*Progress*

Important progress has been made over the last few months in the work toward the indicator proposal which will be reviewed by the Statistical Commission at its next session in March 2016. The IAEG-SDG was established in March 2015 by the Statistical Commission. The membership of the IAEG-SDGs is made up of 28 representatives from Member States' Statistical offices. Member States are at the heart of the work of the Inter-agency and expert group. The group has conducted its work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and invited experts from civil society, academia and the private sector to participate in the consultations and contribute their expertise and specialized views on indicators.

At the September 2015 Summit, the important mandate to Statistical Commission for the development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda was reconfirmed. As was stated in the 2030 Agenda in paragraph 75, "The global indicator Framework to be developed by the (IAEG-SDGs), will be agreed by the Statistical Commission by March 2016 and adopted thereafter by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in line with existing mandates".

The IAEG-SDGs is working intensively to ensure that the Global indicator framework addresses all Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including for means of implementation, while preserving the political balance, integrity and ambition contained in the Agenda.

*Bangkok*

Over 220 participants attended the 2nd meeting of the IAEG-SDG Indicators held in late October, including close to 200 observers, including Member States that are not members of the IAEG, international and regional organizations and civil society, academia and private sector. The meeting reached agreement on a set of over 220 indicators of which around 160 are considered “green”, meaning that there were no serious concerns expressed by the members and there is sufficient clarity on the way they will be implemented. The remaining are considered “grey”, meaning that, although members have agreed to include them, several methodological and conceptual issues remain to be clarified and the exact formulation will be finalized after more research has been conducted. Plans for the methodological work will be agreed by the IAEG members, who will also seek the inputs from observers.

The meeting also agreed to conduct a further consultation with all stakeholders before finalizing the proposal to be presented at the UN Statistical Commission. An open consultation on the green indicators was held in early November which yielded almost 700 inputs. These inputs were considered by the IAEG-SDGs Members in their final phase of preparation of the set of indicators.

#### *Leave no one behind*

As we all know, the key principle in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to ensure that no one is left behind, and that sustainable development reaches the most vulnerable. Data disaggregation is important, but we need to note that data disaggregation is not always enough. Often times, the data collection tools or the survey questions, among other parts in the process, might need to be reexamined to determine if there are hidden (or not so hidden) biases in the design or implementation. As was seen in the MDGs, aggregates can mask the reality of experiences of the individuals, especially of ‘invisible’ populations.

*To be in line with the new Agenda and paragraph 74(g), the IAEG-SDGs agreed upon a statement regarding disaggregation that will serve as a chapeau for the global indicator set. The statement reflects the wording in Paragraph 74(g) and target 17.18, and includes in the statement that disaggregation should be “in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”.*

The Note on data disaggregation reads as:

SDG indicators should be disaggregated where relevant by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

As you all know, there are six targets with reference to persons with disabilities. The IAEG-SDG Members have taken note of this and are committed to ensuring the indicators for these targets are able to measure the situation of persons with disabilities. The indicators for the six targets (targets 4.5, 4.a, 10.2, 8.5, 11.2, 11.7) were coded as “green” after the meeting. There has been strong support from the Open Consultation and by the IAEG-SDG Members to ensure that elements of disability either by including disaggregation by persons with disabilities or as in Target 11.2 reference to accessibility by person with disabilities. Thus, concerns raised by advocates for persons with disabilities are being explicitly addressed in the indicator formulation.

### *Grey*

Work is now underway on the “Grey” indicators. Our team is reviewing all inputs received from the July-September consultations and questionnaires sent to Members before the IAEG-SDG meeting in October.

The work of the IAEG-SDGs is being conducted in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and experts from civil society, academia and the private sector have participated in the consultations and contributed their expertise and specialized views on indicators. Today we are announcing that a consultation on the “grey” indicators will be open from Wednesday, 9 December to Tuesday, 15 December to observers (non-IAEG Member States and representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies) and other stakeholders (civil society, academia and private sector) for technical comments.

The report to the Statistical Commission will include indicators for all SDG targets, background of process to develop indicators, outline a process for updating the indicators and future work plans. Ultimately, the final decision on the number, type and formulation of the indicators in the global indicator framework proposal will be taken by the IAEG-SDGs Members.