

Report on three online regional consultations/workshops on the methodology for measuring SDG indicator 10.7.2

I. Background

The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are co-custodians of SDG indicator 10.7.2, “Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies”. In that capacity, they are charged with the development, validation and testing of the indicator methodology.¹

As part of that work, UN DESA and IOM organized two regional workshops on SDG indicator 10.7.2 with Member States; one co-organized with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile on 29 August 2017 and another co-organized with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 November 2017.²

In addition, UN DESA and IOM organized three regional online consultations.³ The regional online consultation/workshop for Africa was co-organized with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) during the week of February 28, 2018. The online consultation/workshop for Western Asia was co-organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during the week of February 28, 2018, while the one for Europe and Northern America took place during the week of March 19, 2018. The present report provides an overview of the three regional online consultations and highlights some of the key recommendations put forward with respect to the proposed methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2.

II. Consultation structure and participation

The three online consultations/workshops were carried out via “Unite Connections”, an existing virtual platform hosted by the UN Office of Information and Communication Technology (UN OICT). The platform provided a secure channel to receive inputs from UN Member States and other relevant stakeholders. Participants from different regions were provided a unique user name and password to access the platform of their specific regional consultation/workshop.

For the ECA and ESCWA regions, government representatives that had participated in the respective regional preparatory meetings for the Global Compact on Migration were invited. For Europe and Northern America, a list of relevant focal points of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was used. In total, UN DESA and IOM invited some 290 representatives from 114 Member States and Observer States to participate in the three online consultations/workshops.

A joint presentation by UN DESA and IOM on the proposed methodology, including the six domains and proxy measures for SDG indicator 10.7.2 (see table 1), as well as links to other relevant materials, such as the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the “Inquiry”), the

¹ SDG indicator 10.7.2 is currently classified as “Tier III”, meaning that for this indicator there is no internationally established methodology and no data are systematically available. To apply for tier reclassification, custodian agencies are required to document the involvement of governments and national statistical systems in the development of the indicator methodology and ensure that the pilots are regionally representative.

² Some 48 representatives participated in the two regional workshops.

³ This activity was part of a technical cooperation project funded by DESA’s Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC), implemented by the Population Division of DESA in 2017-2018.

Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), and the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) were provided as background materials.

Table 1. The six proposed domains and proxy measures for SDG indicator 10.7.2

	Domain	Proxy measure
1.	Migrant rights	Degree to which migrants have equity in access to services, including health care, education, decent work, social security and welfare benefits
2.	Whole-of-government/ Evidence-based policies	Dedicated institutions, legal frameworks and policies or strategies to govern migration
3.	Cooperation and partnerships	Government measures to foster cooperation and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation in migration policy
4.	Socioeconomic well-being	Government measures to maximize the positive development impact of migration and the socioeconomic well-being of migrants
5.	Mobility dimensions of crises	Government measures to deliver comprehensive responses to refugees and other forcibly displaced persons
6.	Safe, orderly and regular migration	Government measures to address regular or irregular migration

The platform also contained an online forum and a survey. The online forum allowed participants to ask questions and engage with the co-custodians of SDG indicator 10.7.2, as well as with each other. The survey provided a means for participants to give feedback on the strengths and limitations of the six proposed domains, questions and sub-categories. Nearly 40 representatives from over 20 countries participated in the online consultations/workshops through online forum postings or survey responses.

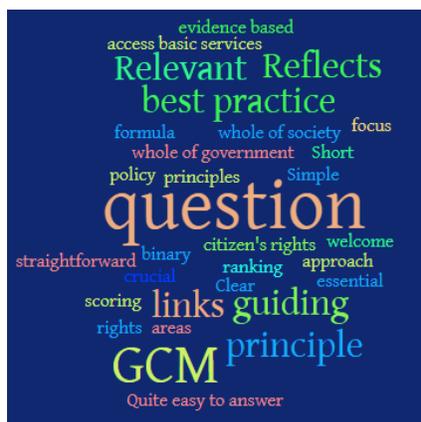
Table 2. Countries that contributed to the online consultations/workshops

Country		
Cameroon	Lithuania	Sierra Leone
Canada	Mali	Somalia
Cote d'Ivoire	Morocco	Sweden
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Niger	Turkey
Finland	Nigeria	Uganda
France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Lebanon	Senegal	Yemen

III. Feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed methodology

During the online consultations/workshops, comments and questions from participants “clustered” around several keywords and themes (see figure 1). Feedback from the three online consultations/workshops is summarized below focusing on three broad areas, namely: (a) the scope of the proposal, (b) the interpretation of results, and (c) the domains, questions and sub-categories.

Figure 1. Word cloud for the three online consultations/workshops



a. The scope of the proposal

As in the earlier workshops, some participants underscored the importance of ensuring that the proposed methodology was relevant for countries of origin, transit and destination alike. There were also suggestions to include additional sub-categories on policy coherence at the sub-national level as well as on policy implementation. The co-custodians reiterated that the proposed methodology was designed to capture policy frameworks at the global level while reflecting, as much as possible, the distinct policy realities of countries. Additional country-specific information, gathered through the pilot phase of the survey, will be necessary to adjust the questions and to monitor the implementation of policies at the national and sub-national levels in the longer run.

Several participants asked about the complementarities between the proposed methodology for SDG 10.7.2 and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). In response, the co-custodians stressed the need to ensure that the GCM was fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as outlined in the preamble of the Zero Draft of the GCM. However, the GCM, as well as the mechanisms for its follow-up and review, were not yet agreed. Moreover, while alignment was important, the GCM would not redefine the SDGs. Rather, it should contribute to their implementation.

b. Interpretation of results

Various participants sought clarification as to how the proposed methodology would be used to assess progress in achieving SDG target 10.7. Some asked about how the proposal would differentiate between policy approaches, given the binary nature of the sub-categories, while others sought clarification on how the different domains would be weighed. As stated in the online presentation and other background materials, the purpose of SDG indicator 10.7.2 is not to rank countries. Rather, the indicator is meant to serve as to monitor progress across the different domains and to identify gaps where countries might require support in capacity building. Indicator 10.7.2 will also be useful for the thematic reviews of SDG target 10.7 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). In response to requests for clarification on specific concepts, the co-custodians responded that they would develop a glossary of terms as well as explanatory notes to accompany the Inquiry module.

c. Domains, questions and sub-categories

In relation to the domain “human rights”, the inclusion of a question on access to basic services and rights was deemed crucial. One country suggested that additional categories of migrants, such as students,

might also be considered. One participant suggested rephrasing the wording of the question to refer to “foreign residents”, while others proposed modifying the sub-category “equal pay for equal work” to include “same rights and protections”. Additional topics proposed for inclusion in the domain related to land tenure, double taxation agreements, financial services and banking, asset ownership, housing, and skills and vocational training.

A number of participants recognized the importance of the domain “whole-of-government and evidence-based policies”. At the same time, one country suggested splitting the domain into two. To better align the proposal with the New York Declaration, one country proposed reformulating a title of the sub-category to include the word “pathways”, while others recommended including a reference to relevant international instruments. Another proposal was to add sub-categories on timely data collection, financial support for research programmes, and legislation for robust data collection and analysis.

Several countries assessed the domain “cooperation and partnerships” as highly relevant. Additionally, one country welcomed the domain’s alignment with the “whole-of-society approach”, while another proposed adding sub-categories on cooperative mechanisms for border management and combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling. One participant suggested expanding the sub-category on regional agreements beyond labour mobility.

Several questions under the domain “socio-economic well-being of migrants” were commended for their simplicity. One country noted that all the proposed sub-categories referred to countries of destination and called for the inclusion of additional questions that included on the role of diasporas in facilitating investments, philanthropy, and skills transfers. Lastly, remittances were mentioned by various participants as a relevant topic that might be reflected.

Several countries that participated in the online consultation welcomed the domain on the “mobility dimensions of crises” in the proposal. One country suggested that, given the complexity of the topic, refugees might warrant a separate, dedicated indicator. Owing to their distinct legal frameworks, one participant indicated that the proposed methodology should differentiate between assistance granted to refugees and other categories of migrants in vulnerable situations.

In relation to the domain “safe, orderly, and regular migration”, one country suggested reformulating the wording, since the proposed questions, overlapped with the other domains. Another participant proposed additional sub-categories related to border management and visa processing, including time and financial resources spent. Another recommendation was to reflect on how countries dealt with irregular arrivals, including status determination, respect for human rights, provision of food and shelter, and the use of detention. In addition, one country suggested assessing the existence of multi-lingual information campaigns, awareness-raising events and pre-departure orientation training in countries of origin.

IV. Conclusions and follow-up

The three online regional consultations/workshops provided an opportunity for countries to already strengthen their capacity to collect data on their migration policies, including their involvement in the development and validation of the methodology of SDG indicator 10.7.2. Participants expressed appreciation about the initiative and the information received through the online consultations/workshops. The online forum created a space for to answer countries’ questions about the proposal and to clarify its linkages to other processes, including the GCM. The surveys offered an opportunity for participating countries to provide detailed feedback on the proposed methodology’s strengths and limitations. The substantive feedback was used by the co-custodians to further refine the proposed methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2.