

While we welcome the report of the Statistical Commission, the Women's Major Group believes this is the start of a long-term process to define an indicator framework that is ambitious, feasible and that measures what we need to count in order to have the impact we all want. Therefore, we are presenting the following recommendations for the current and future discussions on the development of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

Principles

- The process of developing indicators must be inclusive, open, transparent and be strengthened over time.
- Indicators should not be politically negotiated; they should be agreed, by technical experts, with input from diverse groups of civil society
- Efforts all levels must be made to avoid creating development silos and develop a comprehensive mechanism for measuring progress
- The indicator framework should not be perceived as a discrete agreement to be adopted at a single point in time; there must be scope for further elaboration of it in the coming years.
- Indicators should not be limited to quantitative measures; it must include qualitative indicators including policy, legal indicators and structural changes indicators.

Role of Civil Society

- Ensure civil society and women's human rights organizations have space within discussions to make proposals, respond to drafts, and engage governments
- Representatives from civil society who have statistical expertise should be invited to participate as experts in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals.
- The IAEG on SDGs must have balanced regional representation, and funding should be made available to ensure meaningful representation from organizations from the Global South.
- Civil society should be included in the Global Monitoring Groups, and funding should be made available to ensure adequate representation from the Global South.

- Clarity is needed on the composition, mechanisms and areas of work of both the IAEG on SDGs and the Global Monitoring Groups.
- The important role that civil society plays in collecting data and analyzing data through participatory approaches must be recognized by ensuring their meaningful inclusion in the process to set indicators.

Timing and types of indicators

- Research and development of the indicator framework should remain open after the 27th Session of the Statistical Commission
- At a minimum, data should be disaggregated on the basis of: age, sex, gender, geography, income, disability, race and ethnicity and other factors as relevant including to monitor inequalities
- The number of indicators should not be arbitrarily limited. All targets require indicators and some may require multiple.
- Indicators may be developed that contribute to multiple targets and measure the impact of multiple inputs.
- The post-2015 indicator framework must capitalize on existing measurement systems, and make effective use of existing data. The Friends of the Chair Report notes that, in the majority of countries, data that could be used to measure progress toward all targets under goals 3, 5, and 7, and most targets under goals 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 is already being collected.
- New indicators will be needed. While we have a strong basis for collecting data in many areas, we know that what is measured, counts and we should not limit ourselves by what is available but focus on what is needed to achieve the required transformation.
- There should be room for the development of new indicators to better capture information on areas where data is already being collected such as health including sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, education.
- We need to develop indicators to address all SDGs and targets, not just the pieces that are easier to address. The Friends of the Chair Report notes that for goals 10 through 17, significant work will need to be done to build an indicator framework and the capacity of countries to report against it. These data needs are new because the world has changed, and these are areas requiring urgent attention. Monitoring the “Means of Implementation targets” will be essential.
- Indicators must measure not only where there is progress, but also where there are challenges and where financing should be directed. We need to prioritize missing data and filling data gaps.
- The long-term costs of not having indicators will be greater than investing in their development now; failure to develop new indicators where needed will hamper the development of effective policies and programs at the country level.

Capacity building and Financing

- There is an urgent need to concretize financing and capacity-building mechanisms for strengthening national statistical capacities, including gender expertise, in developing countries.
- The means of implementation should include a focus on developing the capacity and technology required for monitoring indicators.
- Innovative financing to fund the “data revolution” should not be used to limit investment in national statistical collection and should not come at the expense of the building the capacity of the state to collect data.

Role of National Statistical Offices and other stakeholders

- National statistics offices should have the primary role of coordinating data collection at national level.
- The private sector has a responsibility to collect accurate data about their environmental and social impact, but private data collection should not be in competition with national systems.
- The collection of disaggregated data across all indicators should be a priority - A shortfall of the MDGs was the lack of well developed and comprehensive indicators on social and economic issues which failed to assess who were benefitting from progress, which led to the concern that many countries were able to meet targets by focusing on easier to reach groups, while the poor and most marginalized saw little progress.
- Make data freely accessible, transparent and user-friendly will be essential for implementers at national and local levels.

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