Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary of ECLAC

Session 1: Implementing the SDGs: The relevance of geography and reliable, timely, accessible and disaggregated data
Tectonic shifts define current globalization

- Migration and demographic transition
- Fourth technological revolution
- The future of work
- The crisis of mega-trade agreements
- Geopolitical changes
- Climate change
### Challenges from the near Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tangible good exchange</th>
<th>Intangible data and knowledge exchange</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global value chains</td>
<td>Global digital platforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on the economic country-level</td>
<td>Increasing economic importance of cities and megacities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical dimension of markets</td>
<td>Borderless global digital markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National or multinational regulations</td>
<td>Multilateral and global governance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A new development paradigm with equality and sustainability as drivers of growth

**ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM**

- Environmental crisis and climate changes
- Rising inequalities and exclusion
- Extractivism, commoditization of developing countries, jobless growth with low productivity
- Fragile economic stability

**NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM**

- Big environmental push with carbon-free production and consumption
- New social compact: universal access to basic goods and social protection
- Schumpeterian efficiency: Innovation- and learning-intensive sectors with jobs
- Keynesian efficiency: expansion of aggregate demand and active fiscal policy sustainable economic growth

Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters

*Alicia Bárcena*
Geography is essential to map out our natural resources and calculate our reserves

- LAC is the second region with more proven oil reserves (after Middle East), 88% are in Venezuela
- 31% of biofuel production
- A third of fresh water reserves
- 15% of the world’s agricultural land
- 52% of soybean production and 16% of maize
- 31% of meat and 23% of milk
- 6 of the world’s 17 megadiverse countries are in the region
- 20% of the world’s surface areas of natural and high-diversity forests
- 47% of copper production, 28% of molybdenum and 23% of zinc
Agenda 2030 define the Future we want

- Global governance to create global public goods (climate security)
- Investments in energy transition to low carbon and to green production model
- Reduce financial risks, including climate risks in investments
- Fiscal policies to combat tax avoidance and illicit funds (Tax Havens)
- Innovation and technological change for a big environmental push

Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters

Alicia Bárcena
Why is territory and geography so relevant?

1. Geographical averages hide inequality

2. Understanding our territory allows the design of indicators of welfare with an integrated approach

3. SDGs require a geographical interpretation at regional, national and subnational levels

4. Geographical information fosters productive synergies and natural resources governance

5. Geospatial information should help public policies to revert concentration of wealth and the lack of basic needs
Geography answers a fundamental question: the “where” of the things

The territory is the meeting point and integrating element of decision making and policies in diverse ambits

The vision from the territory makes a difference by:

• Allowing the disaggregation of knowledge of reality, beyond the "averages"
• Allowing to identify patterns of distribution
• Establishing correlations with other variables, also represented on the territory
• Allowing to differentiate and adjust the solutions to the same problem in different geographical contexts

Data relating to the territory are essential for an efficient planning
Georeferencing can contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030

• Contributing to the production of an SDG indicator, directly. I.E. *Use of geospatial information to calculate the indicator 9.1.1 "Percentage of rural population living less than 2 km. from a road passable all the year"*

• Increasing the availability of statistical data on those phenomena associated with the foci of the Agenda. I.E., *geospatial information referred to territory grids, generating population data.*

• Visualizing and communicating the dimensions and geographical context of the indicators. I.E., *Geographic context of indicator 11.7.1: “Shared participation of urbanized areas of cities in open spaces owned and used by the public.”*

• Granting granularity and disaggregation to the data. I.E. *Geospatial information for Indicator 8.3.1 "Proportion of informal employment in the non-agricultural sector, disaggregated by gender".*

• Producing and monitoring sustainable development indicators with Earth observation data. I.E. *Use of satellite images for the calculation of statistics on coverage and land use, to investigate the correlation between land consumption and population increase (SDG 11.3.1)*
How to enhance the use of geography, the "where" of things, in the production and monitoring of sustainable development indicators

• Establishing **national frameworks** for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. *Implementation at the national level of the five principles of the Global Framework*

• **Implementing national plans** for the generation of geospatial information, considering the requirements of the 2030 Agenda. *Based on the evaluation of the gaps and considering the national emphasis of sustainable development, establish strategies and plans to produce the necessary geospatial information.*

• Seeking support in structures of **transversal organization** that propitiate the coordination of geospatial information at the national level.

• Promoting **initiatives of collaborative work** between government, academia and civil society.

• Strengthening **capacities in the use of technology** and standardized methods of geospatial information.

• Installing in the countries the practice of **documentation of experiences and use cases** on geospatial information for the implementation of the SDGs, in any of its modalities.
Towards the integration of statistical and geospatial information in Latin America and the Caribbean
DIAGNOSIS QUESTIONNAIRE APPLIED IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017

To know if the process of integration of statistical and geospatial information has already begun in the countries, through an institution or under a structure or mechanism installed at the national level.

National Statistical Organizations

✓ Estimate the presence / importance of the geographical component in the production and dissemination of statistics, in its broad spectrum of thematic contents.

National Geographic Institutes

✓ Document existence, institutional aspects and basic specifications of geospatial data relevant to the process of integration between these and statistical data.

Countries participated in the consultation

- 29 National Statistical Organizations
- 26 National Geographic Institutes or SDI coordinating agencies
- 17 Countries with Statistical / Geospatial representation

Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters

Alicia Bárcena
Situation of the integration of statistical and geospatial information in LAC

Response of the National Geographic Institutes or SDI Coordinating Agencies
- Not yet started: 5
- The first arrangements are being held: 1
- It is running through one or more pilot projects: 3
- It is being implemented under a formally established medium- or long-term work program: 6
- Not responded: 1

Response of the National Statistical Offices
- Not yet started: 8
- The first arrangements are being held: 2
- It is running through one or more pilot projects: 2
- It is being implemented under a formally established medium- or long-term work program: 5
- Not responded: 2

Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters
Alicia Bárcena
Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters

Alicia Bárcena

Situation of the process of integration of statistical and geospatial information according to the existence of SDIs in the countries

- SDI formally established
- Without SDI established

- Not yet started
- The first arrangements are being held
- It is running through one or more pilot projects
- It is being implemented under a formally established medium- or long-term work program
Use of geospatial inputs for the production of statistics

Number of cases-country

Social statistics
Demographic Statistics
Environmental statistics
Economic statistics

- Other geospatial layers
- Grids
- Thematic vector maps
- Georeferenced postal addresses maps
- Satellite images

Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters
Alicia Bárcena
Use of geospatial technologies for the dissemination of statistics

- They are published in a geoportal from another agency
- They are published in a geoportal from the NSO
- They are not published in geoportals

Implementing the SDGs: Territory matters
Alicia Bárcena
Final remarks

• Statistics and geography must join forces to design strong indicators for the 17 SDGs,

• Provide statistic coherence among international organizations

• Be open to use big data with its limitations and potential

• Help broaden the vision and synergies among SDGs

• Design data on wellbeing, welfare, economic progress and inequality
Next steps in the road map towards the integration of statistical and geospatial information in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Complete the diagnosis of the base situation of the region in the face of the process of integration of statistical and geospatial information, deepening the knowledge of the aspects raised through the questionnaire, achieving as an official document with its results and analysis.

- Prepare a regional strategic plan for the integration of statistical and geospatial information in consistency with the results of the diagnosis and with the principles established in the Global Geospatial Statistics Framework, aimed at compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Census Round 2020.

- Promote the development of national plans for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, taking advantage of the experience of national geostatistical frameworks in operation.

- Complete the implementation process of the Mega Project based on the guidelines and specifications disseminated by UN-GGIM Americas.

- Establish a regional mechanism for documenting and disseminating best practices and national experiences in the integration of statistical and geospatial information, with web support.

- Analyze geospatial support opportunities for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

- Establish collaborative relationships with the global and regional community of Earth Observation.

- Articulate collaboration with regional organizations and initiatives related to the management of geospatial information.
Thank you!