Progress Report of the IEAG- SDG

Working group on Geospatial Information

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December, 2016

Content

1. Working groups
2. Tier classification
3. Work plan for tier III indicators
4. Refinement of indicators
5. Revision of indicators
6. Additional indicators
7. Disaggregation

1. Working groups.

- At its third meeting, the IAEG-SDGs created three working groups to address the following topics:

  - Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)
  - Geospatial information and
  - Interlinkages.

2. Tier classification

- To facilitate the implementation of the indicator framework, all indicators are classified into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and overall data availability. These tiers are:

  (a) Tier I: Indicator conceptually clear, established methodology and standards available and data regularly produced by countries;

  (b) Tier II: Indicator conceptually clear, established methodology and standards available but data are not regularly produced by countries;

  (c) Tier III: Indicator for which there is no established methodology and standards or methodology/standards are being developed/tested.

2. Tier classification

- Revised:
  - 83 Tier I indicators
  - 58 Tier II indicators
  - 84 Tier III indicators
  - 5 indicators that have multiple tiers (different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers).

3. Mechanism for updating the tier system

- The IAEG-SDG has developed a mechanism for updating the tier system, in response to inquiries regarding the material needed and criteria for indicator re-classification.
  - The IAEG-SDG will conduct a review of a set of indicators for re-classification at the Fall physical meeting, once per year
  - Agencies would be invited to provide updated information (i.e. results of initiatives in work plans, etc., metadata and data) at least 1 month before the physical meeting for review by members
  - The IAEG-SDGs will review the possible re-classifications and further discuss and agree during the physical meeting
  - A revised tier classification will only be published once a year following the IAEG-SDG Meeting

3. Tier III Work Plans & Next Steps Proposal for next steps for IAEG-SDGs' review of Tier III work plans

- For the short term, the IAEG-SDGs will review the Tier III work plans and identify those indicators whose development is quite advanced and can be 'fast tracked' to be Tier II
- The IAEG-SDGs would review these 'fast track' indicators at the March meeting in 2017
- For the longer term, the IAEG-SDG will conduct a review of the Tier III work plans in advance of the Fall physical meeting
- At the Fall meeting a decision will be reached on those that will be reclassified

4. Refinement of indicators

- Per the 47th Statistical Commission decision 47/101 (e) which "Requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to take into account the specific proposals for refinements of the indicators made by Member States during the discussion."
- The IAEG identified 10 possible refinements to the indicator framework
- Open consultation on these 10 possible refinements was conducted 19-28 September 2016
- Received responses from over 200 observers of the IAEGSDGs on the possible refinements
- Results of the consultation available online: http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/open-consultation-4/

4. Review of proposed refinements

• Indicators for possible refinement

• 1.a.1 • 2.b.1 • 3.8.2 • 3.b.1 • 5.6.2 • 7.a.1 • 8.8.2 • 8.9.2 • 8.b.1 • 16.4.2

• A public consultation on these possible refinements was held, producing responses from over 200 observers, including countries, international and regional agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sector

4. Refinement of indicators

• The main criteria the group used when considering an indicator for possible refinement were:

  • whether an indicator is directly measuring progress towards the target;
  • whether an indicator was clear and measurable; and

5. Revision of indicators

- Two comprehensive reviews of the indicator framework are planned to be submitted for consideration and decision by the Statistical Commission at its 2020 and 2025 sessions. These comprehensive reviews could include the addition, deletion, refinement or adjustment of indicators based on the following:

    a. Indicator does not map well to the target;
    b. Additional indicator(s) is needed to cover all aspects of the target;
    c. New data sources are available;
    d. Methodological development of Tier III indicator has stalled or has not produced expected results; or
    e. Indicator is not measuring progress towards meeting the target

6. Additional indicators

- Over the summer, IAEG Members held several rounds of internal consultations seeking to identify not only indicators that needed refinements, but also targets where additional indicators may be necessary.

- The members identified 33 targets where possible additional indicators could be considered to address different aspects. A total of possible 36 indicators were considered.

- IAEG Members decided to postpone future work on these additional indicators temporarily in order to focus their work on presenting a proposal for refinements to the Statistical Commission.

6. List of targets where additional indicators may possibly be desirable

- 1.a
- 2.2 • 2.a
- 3.4 • 3.5 • 3.6 • 3.9 (3) • 3.b • 3.c
- 4.1 (2) • 4.b
- 6.4
- 7.1
- 8.5 • 8.7 • 8.9 • 8.10

- 9.2
- 10.2 • 10.3 • 10.4 • 10.7
- 12.4 • 12.6
- 14.4 • 14.7
- 15.a
- 16.3 • 16.6 • 16.10
- 17.6 • 17.8 • 17.19

7. Data disaggregation

- The IAEG agreed that they would address data disaggregation in the following manner:
  - The IAEG would review each type of disaggregation (sex, age, location, income, etc.) separately in order to achieve a consistent terminology across the framework.
  - The IAEG will work on Tier I indicators first, as they are those indicators that already have the widest data coverage and on which work on data disaggregation can begin.
  - The IAEG plans to draw a more detailed work plan for the work stream on data disaggregation and will present it for comment in the near future in advance of the 5th IAEG meeting.