

# Welcome and Opening of the Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs



**UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs**

Co-Chairs of the UNECE Steering Group and Director of the UNECE  
Statistical Division, 10 April 2017, Geneva

## Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs



- The Steering Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was set up by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau in October 2015:
  - 1) prepare a road map--a strategy for CES members to follow in implementing the 2015 CES *Declaration on the Role of National Statistical Offices in Measuring and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals*; and
  - 2) follow up on the implementation of the road map.

## Road Map



- The first edition of the road map will be submitted to the CES in June 2017 for endorsement;
  - Provides initial guidance to NSOs regarding engaging with policy makers and civil society, selecting national indicators, conducting data gap assessments, evaluating capacity, reporting statistics for global indicators, and communication with the public;
  - Envisioned as a «living document»;
- Sent out for electronic consultation to countries and organizations participating in the CES work (about 70 countries + international organizations active in statistics, including UNSD and UN regional commissions).

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## Implementation Guidance (Regional Discussion)



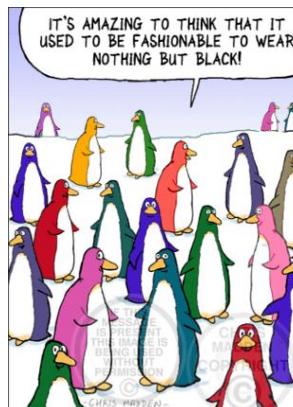
- How are NSOs implementing the Road Map?  
What can we observe, and learn from our observations?;
  - NSO data gap assessment;
  - NSO plans for statistical reporting;
  - Anticipated data flow structure from NSOs to custodian agencies to UNSD;
- We can describe and evaluate our observations to provide guidance to CES members as they begin reporting on the SDGs.

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## Implementation Guidance (global and regional discussions)

- We can also share our observations with
  - UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the UNECE Session at end April 2017 (policy level)
  - Conference of European Statisticians (CES) (NSO top management);
  - IAEG-SDGs for consideration in their deliberations regarding global SDG data flow guidance;
  - HLG-PCCB for consideration in their deliberations regarding capacity building priorities.



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## Session 1: Setting the Scene: Meeting Purpose and Objectives

Co-Chairs of the UNECE Steering Group and UNECE Secretariat

09:40 – 10:45

## Content of Session 1



- **09:40-09:50** Latest developments at the global level: IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB;
- **09:50-10:10** Guidance from the CES road map on statistics for SDGs;
- **10:10-10:25** Findings from the survey on NSOs' plans related to statistics for SDGs;
- **10:25-10:45** Structure and outcomes of the meeting.

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## Latest developments on the global level: IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB



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## Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)



- Members: NSOs of 27 countries (+ Chair of UNSC) representing different regions
- IAEG-SDG developed a list of 232 global SDG indicators (as requested by GA)
  - to be used for global follow-up and review of SDGs
  - agreed by the 48<sup>th</sup> UN Statistical Commission
  - there will be annual refinements and two comprehensive reviews (in 2020 and 2025)
- Adopting the list of indicators is part of the UN ECOSOC (and GA) Resolution “**Work of the UN Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**” currently under discussion;
- Indicators have been divided into 3 Tiers according to availability of agreed methodology, standards and data;
- Tier III indicators (no agreed methodology and standards) have been assigned to international organizations responsible for developing the methodologies;
- 5<sup>th</sup> IAEG-SDG meeting in Ottawa 28-31 March 2017.

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## Main outcomes of 5<sup>th</sup> IAEG-SDG meeting

Ottawa, 28-31 March 2017



- Tier system updated; revised classification will be available soon
- Reviewed Tier III work plans for indicators with a 2020 target deadline
- Guidelines on data flows and global reporting – a drafting team created
- Data disaggregation:
  - established a definition of disaggregation
  - work plan to review each type of disaggregation separately, focusing on Tier I
- Timeline to work on additional indicators and other changes for 2020 comprehensive review

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# High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB)



- Members: NSOs of 23 countries representing different regions
- Developed the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP); this includes six strategic areas:
  - Strategic Area 1: **Coordination and strategic leadership** on data for sustainable development;
  - Strategic Area 2: **Innovation and modernization** of national statistical systems;
  - Strategic Area 3: **Strengthening of basic statistical activities and programmes**, with particular focus on addressing the monitoring needs of the 2030 Agenda;
  - Strategic Area 4: **Dissemination and use** of sustainable development data;
  - Strategic Area 5: Multi-stakeholder **partnerships** for sustainable development data;
  - Strategic Area 6: **Mobilize resources** and **coordinate** efforts for statistical **capacity building**;
- CTGAP was adopted at the 48th UN Statistical Commission in March 2017;
- Reference in the UN Resolution “**Work of the UN Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”;
- HLG-PCCB will work on the implementation of the CTGAP.

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## Guidance from the CES Road Map on SDGs Statistics



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## Overview of the Road Map and the outputs of the Steering Group



- Describe content of the road map;
- Focus on specific recommendations made;
- Outputs of the Steering Group's work - Tools provided to NSOs.

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## Establishing National Mechanisms for Collaboration



- Role of National Statistics Offices (NSOs);
- Essential dialogue with policymakers;
- Institutional arrangements for reporting on indicators;
- **Recommendations for NSOs (4 of 6);**
  - Consider ways to coordinate national communication and planning regarding measuring SDGs;
  - Prepare detailed national road maps or plans of action;
  - Organise meetings with main data users to improve understanding;
  - Establishing technical thematic working groups.

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## Assessing Readiness to Report on Global SDG Indicators



- Identifying data providers and data sources;
- Addressing data disaggregation requirements;
- **Recommendations for NSOs (3 of 5);**
  - Coordinating role in conducting readiness assessments and reporting on global SDG indicators;
  - Mapping of data providers to statistical (and non-statistical) indicators;
  - Mapping of existing data flows from national data providers to international organizations should also be conducted, to the extent feasible.

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## Developing regional, national and sub-national indicators



- Deciding upon national indicators;
- Considerations on regional indicators in the UNECE region;
- Dissemination and publication;
- **Recommendations for NSOs (2 of 2);**
  - Identify indicators to measure the achievement of SDGs and targets in their countries, especially in priority policy areas;
  - National and sub-national indicators for the monitoring of the SDGs (as well as global and regional indicators) should be published.

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## Reporting of Global SDG Indicators



- National reporting mechanisms;
- Data flow models => More information in the next presentation;
- Collaboration with international organizations;
- Special reporting situations;
- **Recommendations for NSOs (3 of 6);**
  - Determine reporting approach and data flow models;
  - Direct users to their websites to find national statistics and national metadata prepared for global SDG indicators;
  - Maintain networks to promote the SDG indicators produced by the country.

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## Building Statistical Capacity for Indicator Reporting



- Experience from the Millennium Development Goals;
- Strategy for capacity building at the national level;
- Existing structures and mechanisms;
- Identifying partnerships;
- **Recommendations for NSOs (3 of 3);**
  - Country view: Create, implement and maintain a NSDS, with four steps;
  - Bilateral view: Donor countries as donors must know the NSDS for recipient countries to be able to ensure a coordinated support;
  - Multilateral view: Based on the first and the second sets of activities, countries share their experiences and new approaches at the regional level.

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## Communication of Statistics for SDGs



- Developing a communication strategy;
- Identifying available and required resources;
- Communication with policy makers;
- **Recommendations for NSOs (3 of 5);**
  - Develop communication strategies for statistics on SDGs;
  - Define what will be communicated;
  - Define how information will be communicated.

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## Outputs of the Steering Group's work



- First version of the Road Map;
- Organisation of Expert Meeting on statistics for SDGs;
- Self-assessment template for countries on availability of global SDG indicators;
- Survey on NSOs' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs;
- Public Wiki on Statistics for SDGs;
- Set up a Task Force on reporting SDG indicators using NRPs.

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## Conclusion

- Current status of the road map (version from February);
- Different tools prepared by the UNECE Steering Group are available;
- Updating the road map based on the expert meeting and the regional forum.

=> **Presenting the first edition of the regional road map on the CES in June 2017**



## Survey on NSOs' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs

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## The Survey

- Sent out in December 2016 (replies received until February 2017)
- Objectives
  - Get information on the status of statistics for SDGs in CES countries;
  - Identify concrete actions that would be helpful for countries;
  - Inputs to the Road Map and for planning work under CES
- Prepared and analysed by the **Steering Group on statistics for SDGs**
- Survey was sent to NSOs of 70 countries (participants in the CES work)
- **61 countries replied!** Response rate for all countries: 87% (61/70)
  - UNECE+OECD: 92% (57/62)
  - Other countries: 50% (4/8)
- Response rate shows high interest in the topic



## General outcomes – some points

- Most countries **have started** work on statistics for SDGs, some countries waiting for government decision to kick off the process
- 40 (68%) countries are developing or plan to develop **national SDG indicators** (21 already in process + 11 in 2017)
- 18 (31%) countries setting up a **National Reporting Platform**, 32 (55%) countries have not yet decided
- **Cooperation with international organizations:** 34 (57%) countries have cooperation mechanisms in place, 26 (43%) countries have no mechanism or are not aware of it
- Main difficulties in **communication:** data/indicators (50 countries, 83%), communication with policy makers (31 countries, 52%)
- Among 3 main **challenges:** insufficient resources (44 countries, 76%), amount of data needed and data gaps (37 countries; 64%), national coordination (25 countries, 43%), international coordination (24 countries, 41%)
- 32 countries plan to have a **national road map** (55%), 21 countries (36%) have not yet decided



# Planned Structure and Outcomes of the Meeting



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## Data flows are beginning



- The road map described what we initially anticipated for UNECE CES membership
- We can now make a number of observations
  - How are NSOs organizing?
  - Where are roles developing?
  - What needs are emerging?
  - What principles could guide these flows?
- This expert meeting is framed to guide our discussion of data flow observations

## Meeting Structure

- Session 1: The big picture: Road maps to charting data flows
- Session 2: Generating national statistics on SDGs
  - Needs assessment and national work plans
  - Selecting national indicators
- Session 3: Reporting national statistics on SDGs
  - National Reporting Platforms
- Session 4: Generating global statistics on SDGs
  - Regional coordination of work on statistics for SDGs
  - Custodian agency harmonization of national statistics
  - Data flows from custodian agencies to UNSD
- Session 5: Way forward: key observations and action items



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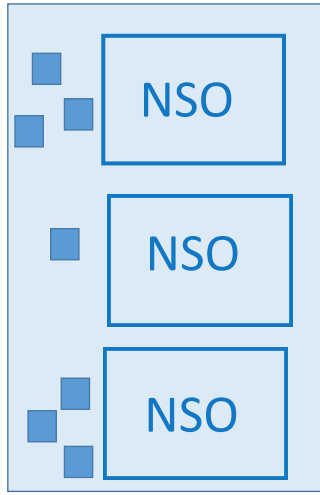
## A charting of SDG reporting: key actors



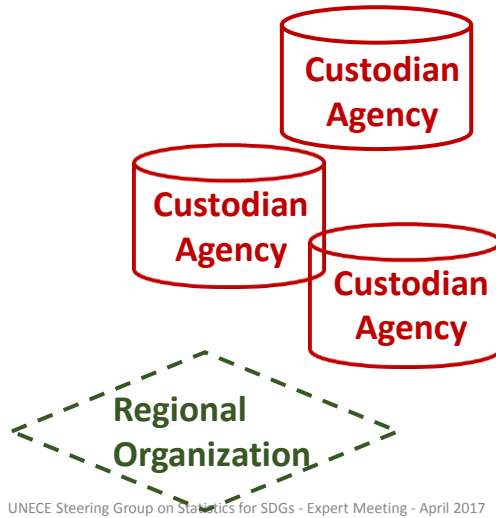
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# A charting of SDG reporting: actor detail



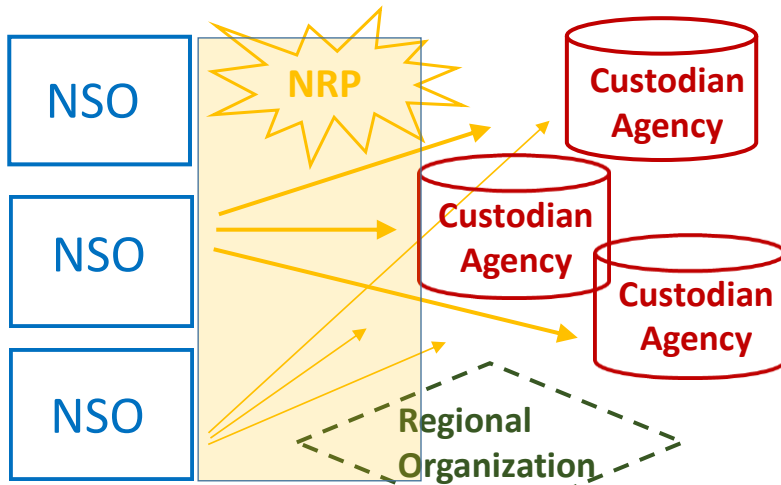
SESSION 2



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# A charting of SDG reporting: national data flows

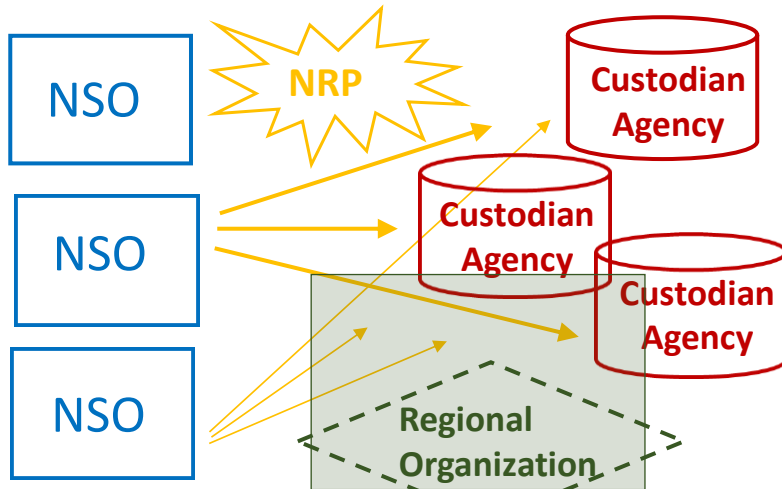


SESSION 3

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# A charting of SDG reporting: national data flows

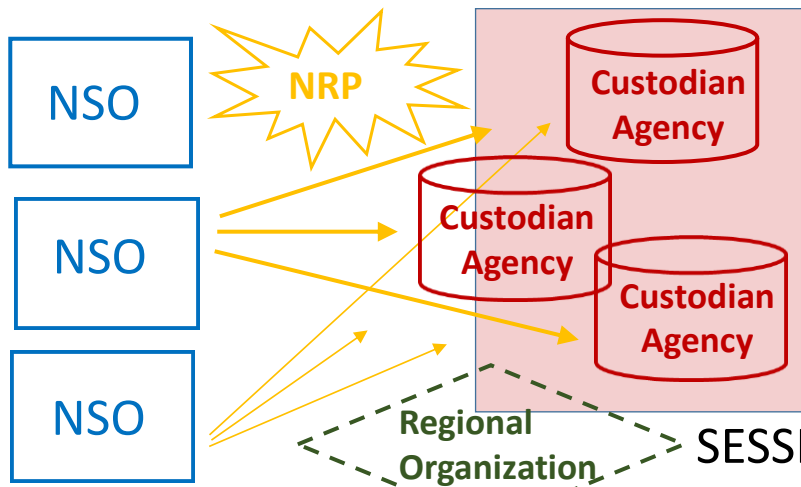


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SESSION 4A

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# A charting of SDG reporting: national data flows



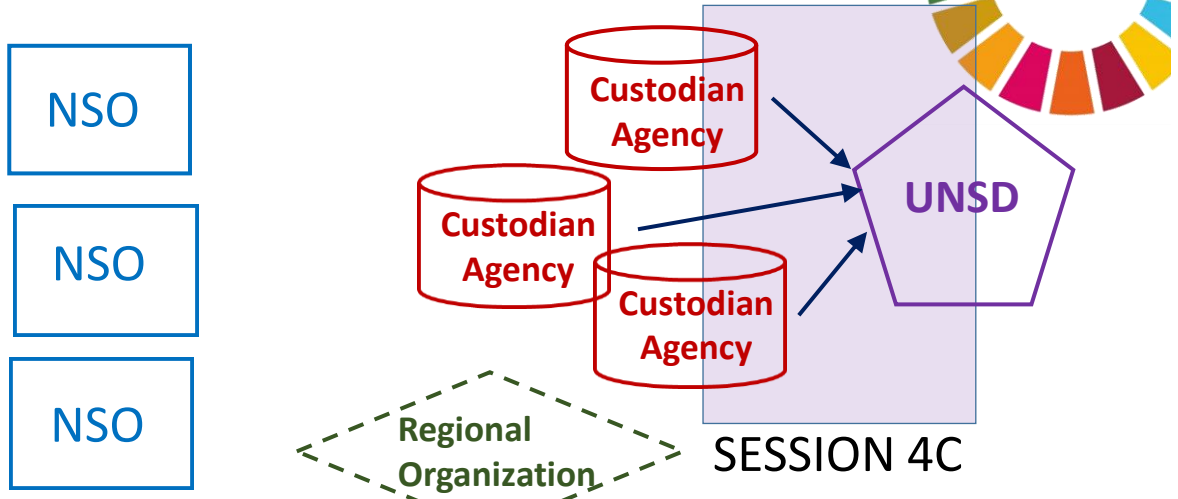
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SESSION 4B

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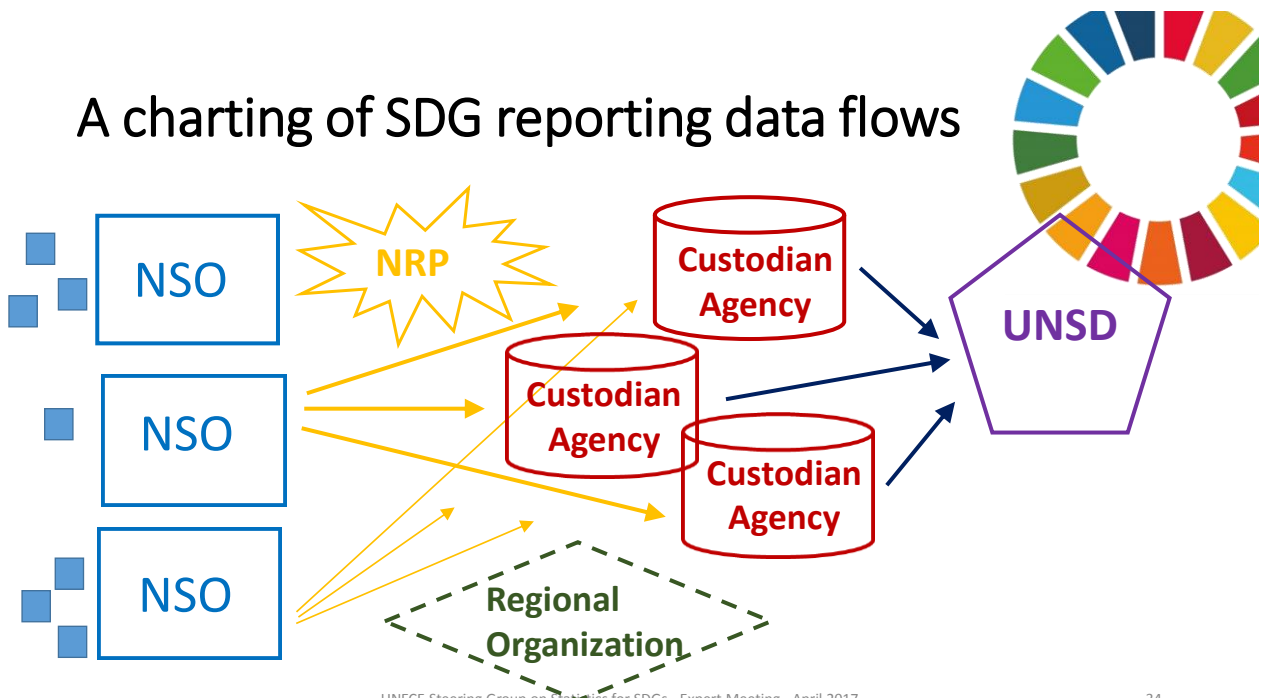
# A charting of SDG reporting: harmonized data flows



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# A charting of SDG reporting data flows



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## Aim of the expert meeting

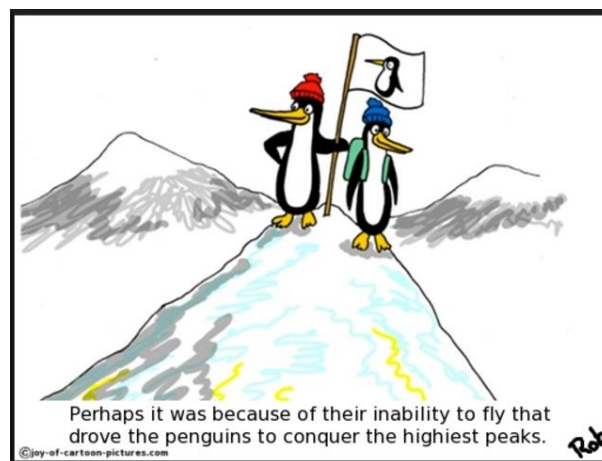
- exchange experience and learn from each other;
- address strategic issues;
- identify challenges and actions by the Steering Group that can help to meet these challenges;
  - including getting more clarity on the data flows;
- consider what messages to pass on to the policy audience.



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It may seem impossible, but that is our path...and it is upward!



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