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Task Team on Data Flows
of the
UNECE CES Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs

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Session 1-B

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2017 Data Flow Pilot Study:

An observational study of actual experiences using participants' planned monitoring process of Global SDGs Indicators

Objective

Describing the experiences, assessments, needs and resources of the main actors involved in producing SDG statistics

Setting

- 5 Country (France (co-chair), Russia, Turkey (co-chair), UK, USA)
- 6 Custodian Agency (5 participated: FAO, IMF, OECD, UNEP, UNODC)
- 12 Indicators (11 with country data)
- Separately for countries and custodian agencies:
 - Data flow template
 - Self analysis template

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>Methods


- > Concept note and template questionnaires were provided to assist participants' responses
- > Recording experiences at each data flow stage:
(initial reporting, adjustment of country data, verification and delivery estimates)
- > Self-analysis of what has worked well or not and to make suggestions from both sides

>Limitation of the study

- > Limitation in scope with few actors) and the selection of the indicators
- > Five UNECE countries with rather similar data production process
- > Tier 1 indicators tested which describe the "best case scenario" (1 exception)
- > Time limitation!
- > First step to identify challenges and to make practical suggestions

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Indicator	Country	France	Russian Fed.	Turkey	USA	UK	Agency feedback
2.1.1	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	X		X	X		FAO for each country and self analysis
4.b.1	Volume of official development assistance flow for scholarships by sector and type of study	not concerned	not concerned	X	not concerned	not concerned	OECD (self analysis)
12.4.1	Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement	X	X	X	X		UNEP (only self assessment)
15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	X	X	X			FAO for each country and self analysis
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	X	X		X		UNODC for each country and self analysis
17.1.2	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	X	X	X	X		IMF data observation with one country
8.1.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	X	X	X	X	X	
8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	X	X	X	X		
9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	X	X	X	X		
3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio	X	X	X	X		
3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries	X	X	X	X		
15.5.1	Red list	X					IUCN with one country with the UNSD Pilot
General comments on NSO organisation		X	X	X	X		
Self analysis		X	X	X	X		CCSA


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Resulting Report (Draft Version)

1. Purpose, Approach, and Limitations of the Study
2. Summary of observations
3. Participant Self-Analyses, findings and suggestions
4. Recommendations of the IAEG-SDGs and CCSA (upcoming)
5. Applying recommendation in the UNECE CES Context (upcoming)

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Detailed findings

(From observations and self assessments)

- 1) Communication issues
- 2) Monitoring schedules are unclear and mismatching
- 3) Metadata issues
- 4) Efficient data transmission needed
- 5) Collaboration mechanism for conflict resolution
- 6) Unclear methods for validation process

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1- Delayed and/or impaired communication due to unclear points of contacts

- **Suggestions: Identify points of contact at country and custodian agencies for each indicator**
 - A central point of contact, preferably at the NSO, to assist with coordination
 - Request agencies points of contact for each indicator
- **Tool: Provide a secure location on the UNSD SDGs website, a dashboard providing points of contact for each indicator for countries and for agencies**
 - To be updated by agencies and by countries, using secure access/password
 - The national coordinator for SDGs and the agencies should regularly update this dashboard
 - A link towards the national reporting platform should also be provided on the SDGs website if any


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2- Custodian agency and country monitoring schedules are unclear, resulting in delays and discrepancies

- **Suggestion: Provide a schedule for custodian agency SDG data requests and updates allowing sufficient time to countries**
 - Allow sufficient time for countries to examine specific data to be published on the UN SDG website
 - Allow sufficient time for custodian agencies to meet their publication deadlines for the SDG Annual Report
- **Tool: Provide a master schedule for updates of data and metadata for each indicator on the SDGs website**
 - To be updated by custodian agencies using secure access/password
 - The schedule should provide a realistic timeframe giving countries sufficient notice to submit and verify data

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3- Metadata for requested statistics are unclear, resulting in delays

- **Suggestion: Improve communication of global and national metadata, according to the format agreed by the IAEG-SDGs.**
 - Global metadata should always provide information on data sources, the data collection process, methods of calculation and methods of aggregation at the regional and global level
 - Reference to international standards of classification and methods should be mentioned
 - National metadata should always be communicated with National data (on NRP or other method of reporting)
 - Information on global metadata development should be available, including points of contact for relevant working groups
- **Tool: Interactive metadata pages should facilitate the work of countries and custodian agencies (easily updated structure)**
 - The UNSD metadata pages could be displayed in a way that allows for easy updating by custodian agencies via secure login
 - For Tier 3, information on the development of methodology should be provided on the website, with links to ongoing work and contacts for relevant groups

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4- Data transmission processes should be made more efficient

- **Suggestion: Discuss extant and emerging transmission needs and potential solutions (at the IAEG-SDG meetings or at the January 2018 UNSD meeting on reporting platforms)**
 - Consider the inputs provided by the SDMX for Global reporting provided by the working group established by the IAEG-SDGs
 - Consider custodian agencies system to gather information from different national sources to reduce the compilation process, such as an agency reporting platform that read from national reporting platforms or other electronic sites
 - Consider including functionality that allows comparison of statistics reported for other purposes (such as for convention) and those reported for the SDGs
- **Tools: Workshops**

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5- A collaboration process should be established early to reduce possible conflicts

- **Suggestion: Countries and custodian agencies should establish early the collaboration style that works best for them allowing variation by indicator and custodian agencies (an appropriate technical consultation with countries)**
 - Establishing this process and relationship prior to point out the precise content of the data transmitted by the country and the adjustments proposed by the agencies
 - Agencies clarifying the specific methodological requirements of the indicators may reduce the need for adjustments to official national statistics or estimations by non-country-source
 - Agencies should document fully their estimation methods and data sources in order to guarantee transparency
 - NSOs establishing a dialogue with Custodian agencies regarding their statistical capacity development efforts
 - Prior to their release in the UNSD database, countries should always have the possibility to review their national data within a reasonable time frame

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6- The validation process of methods and data is unclear


- **Suggestion: A transparent (and flexible) validation process of methods and data that allows maturation**
 - Country-level statistics published in the SDG global data base should always be published with the status of validation by country
 - Countries should have the discretion to approve the use of non-official national statistics for SDG reporting purposes, consistent with UNSC 48/101/1
 - The validation negotiation process between countries and custodian agencies may be sensitive, and such deliberative discussions should be protected
 - A method is needed that allows flexibility in country approval

and other suggestions calling for the involvement of IAEG
- **Tool: Include on the UNSD SDG dashboard, when countries are invited to validate, a mechanism to facilitate the validation negotiation process with countries through secure access.**

3 status variables proposed:
Country Review Status: (reviewed / not reviewed):
Validation Progress: (Data source, Method of calculation, Method of comparability (adjustments), Data values)
Approval Status: (approve / doesn't approve)

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Subsequent to the 2017 Pilot Study

- IAEG Guidelines for SDGs reporting were prepared (with contributions from all sides – many from this pilot)
- Actual data flows started (many actual cases appeared in Turkey experience)
- A need to address the efficient cooperation between countries and custodian agencies will lead to 2018 Pilot Study

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- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.

Thank you for your kind attention

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