



Quality of the SDG Indicator Data and Statistics

Content

- Importance of ***data quality*** for the SDGs
- ***Five core*** recommendations
- ***Quality assurance*** of SDG indicator data and statistics
- The ***Challenges*** of Assuring the quality of SDG Data and Statistics

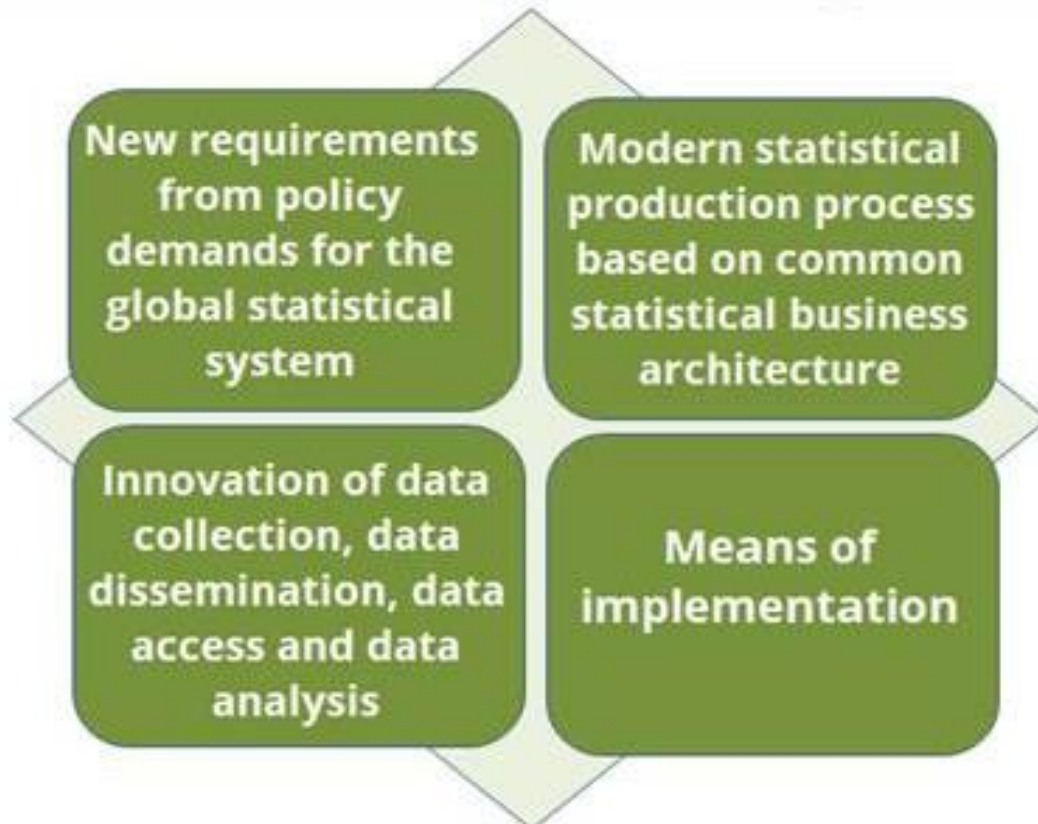
Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics

An adequate response to the increased demand for more detailed and more timely data to monitor progress on the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda



A modernized NSS which produces official statistics more **efficiently**, more **cost-effectively** and in a **sustainable, integrated and internationally coordinated** way, based on an inclusive partnership

Themes of Transformative Agenda



Importance of data quality for the SDGs

- The General Assembly in its Resolution 70/1, “***Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***” adopted at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda on 25 September 2015
- Only two UN resolutions on statistics
 - General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/261 ***on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*** (adopted on 29 January 2014)
 - General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/313 ***on the Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*** (adopted on 6 July 2017)
- 48. UNSC- agreed ***to update the UN NQAF template and guidelines of 2012***
- 50. UNSC- adopted ***UN NQAF Manual) and the recommendations***

Five core recommendations

- Official statistics **have to be guaranteed** by legal and institutional frameworks
- Countries **should include the requirements of quality assurance** in production of statistics for official use
- Countries **should establish a NQAF** for official statistics
- The NQAF for official statistics is being developed in alignment the UN NQAF
- The NQAF is implemented at the NSO and throughout the entire NSS

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

- The quality of the SDG indicators also depends on carrying out proper statistical processes, on an adequate institutional environment and on an efficient management of the statistical system. ***Therefore, all UN NQAF principles and requirements are necessary for quality assurance of the SDG indicators.***

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

- **SDG indicators are statistical outputs** obtained at the end of a statistical production process to which all UN NQAF principles regarding statistical outputs apply.
- However, **some quality requirements may need higher attention than others**. For example, **assessing the relevance (Principle 14)** of existing and additional national SDG indicators is a critical step for assuring their usefulness.
- Assuring **the accuracy and reliability (Principle 15)** of SDG indicators can be challenging in the case of complex statistical production processes and the use of administrative, other or multiple data sources.
- **Principle 18 on assuring coherence and comparability** is essential for the comparability of global SDG indicators.

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

- **Assuring relevance**
 - ❑ Discuss and agree on the national SDG indicator framework in an inclusive consultation process with all national and international stakeholders
 - ❑ Clearly identify in the national SDG indicator framework the global indicators, national indicators and indirect measures (proxies) of the global indicators as well as the required level of disaggregation.
- **Assuring accuracy and reliability**
 - ❑ Employ internationally recognized statistical methods and techniques in the production of the SDG indicators

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

- **Assuring timeliness and punctuality**
 - Automate the SDG indicators production process and related data flows so that the SDG indicators become available as soon as possible after all source data becomes available
- **Assuring accesibility and clarity**
 - Establish a national SDG indicator reporting and dissemination platform allowing user friendly access to all data and metadata
 - The national SDG indicators reporting and dissemination platform should provide data access that facilitates data integration and re-dissemination

Quality assurance of SDG indicator data and statistics

- **Assuring coherence and comparability**
 - ❑ Review and monitor the use of international and national standard concepts, definitions and classifications in the development and production of the global SDG indicators and identify any divergences
 - ❑ Inform about compliance with international standards in the SDG indicator metadata and quality reports
- **Managing metadata**
 - ❑ Produce SDG indicator metadata, periodically update them and make them available to users. The metadata should include information about concepts, definitions, classifications, data sources, production methods including statistical methodology used.

The Challenges of Assuring the Quality of SDG Data and Statistics

- Issues on involving all members of the NSS
- Large and diverse ranging from availability of indicators to complex statistical calculations
- Require collecting additional data including from administrative, non-traditional and other data sources
- Localized frameworks are expected to be based on the global SDG indicators
- Lack of internationally agreed methodology
- Lack of methodological guidance on how to disaggregate certain indicators

Summary

- **High quality data are required** in order to measure and monitor progress towards the SDGs.
- NSOs play **a pivotal role** in the areas of data collection, coordination, reporting and validation of statistics for the SDGs
- The implementation of **the key coordinating role of NSOs** in practice depends on the set up of the statistical system, national statistical legislation and existing frameworks for cooperation between statisticians and policy makers
- A good basis for identifying data providers in a country is **an assessment of readiness** to provide data on SDG indicators and identification of data gaps.
- **Custodian agencies** have a specific role in compiling data for SDG indicators and making adjustments, in close communication with the NSOs
- SDG indicators **should be disaggregated**, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location or other characteristics.