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## Statistical Commission

### Fifty-sixth session

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Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for  
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

## Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

### Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2024/312 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which is submitted to the Commission for discussion and decision.

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\* E/CN.3/2025/1.



# Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

## I. Introduction

1. As mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators was tasked with the development and implementation of the global indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The global indicator framework developed by the Expert Group was adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 71/313 on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda.

2. In the present report, the Expert Group describes its work in 2024, on the basis of the work programme agreed upon by the Commission and in accordance with Commission decision 55/103 (see E/2024/24). In section II of the report, the Group summarizes the work done on the implementation of the global indicator framework. In section III, it provides background information on the 2025 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework, discusses its working process and presents a list of proposals for consideration and adoption by the Commission. In section IV, it presents the activities and workplans of the working groups on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and on geospatial information and the activities of the task team on sustainable tourism. Section V contains the work programme of the Group for 2025. Action to be taken by the Commission is set out in section VI.

## II. Implementation of the global indicator framework

3. In 2024, the Expert Group held 13 virtual member meetings. It also held one virtual open meeting in February, focused on the 2025 comprehensive review of the indicator framework and insights stemming from the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The Expert Group held its fifteenth in-person meeting from 21 to 23 October 2024, in Oslo, hosted jointly by the Global Policy Centre for Governance of the United Nations Development Programme and Statistics Norway. The meeting was attended by roughly 120 in-person participants, including representatives of Member States, international and regional agencies and entities and other stakeholders. In addition, some participants joined the meeting online. During the meeting, participants:

- (a) Reviewed the implementation of the global indicator framework;
- (b) Discussed the work of the working groups on SDMX and geospatial information and of the task team on sustainable tourism;
- (c) Updated the tier classification on the basis of the annual review of data availability;
- (d) Reviewed proposed metadata updates and examined indicators with low data coverage;
- (e) Discussed the 14 proposals included in the global consultation for the 2025 comprehensive review;
- (f) Shared good practices on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals at the global, regional and national levels and on capacity-building activities;
- (g) Shared work on data disaggregation, inclusive data, data innovation and partnerships;
- (h) Agreed on the 2025 workplan.

5. In January 2024, Denise Kronemberger (Brazil) was elected as the second Co-Chair of the Expert Group, joining Cara Williams (Canada), who had been elected in February 2021.

### **A. Methodology review of the indicator framework and tier classification updates**

6. In accordance with its approved work programme, the Expert Group conducted a review of the availability of data for all indicators in the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database<sup>1</sup> (as at October 2024) to assess country and population coverage for each region for which those indicators were relevant. The review was presented at the fifteenth meeting. Four indicators met the criteria for being reclassified from tier II to tier I: 6.3.2, 10.1.1, 17.5.1, and 17.18.1.

7. As from November 2024, pursuant to the updates to the tier classification following the reviews, of the 231 unique indicators, 161 are now tier I indicators, 62 are tier II indicators and 8 are multi-tier indicators (i.e. different components of the indicator are classified in different tiers). This marks a significant improvement compared with December 2019 (prior to the 2020 comprehensive review), when, of the 232 indicators, 116 were tier I indicators, 92 were tier II indicators, 20 were tier III indicators and 4 were classified under multiple tiers. The Secretariat will update the tier classification on an annual basis following the review of the availability of data for tier I and II indicators and post the latest information on the relevant web page.<sup>2</sup>

8. As at 1 November 2024, the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database included data for 229 of the 231 unique indicators and more than 2.9 million data records. There remain two unique indicators without any data (down from five in 2023). Data for indicator 5.2.2 are projected to be submitted by September 2025 for 123 countries, and responses to a survey developed for indicator 11.3.2 have been analysed to produce the first estimates for 101 cities, with the custodian agency planning to submit the data in December 2024.

### **B. Proposed annual refinements**

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/313](#) and the plan and criteria agreed by the Expert Group with respect to possible annual minor refinements ([E/CN.3/2017/2](#), para. 21), the Expert Group reviewed the list of indicator refinements proposed by its members and by custodian agencies and agreed on eight refinements, with regard to indicators 1.a.1, 4.b.1, 10.4.2, 10.b.1, 15.9.1, 17.4.1, 17.7.1 and 17.9.1 (see annex I), to be presented to the Commission for its consideration.

### **C. Metadata review**

10. One of the tasks of the Expert Group is to regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and their metadata. In 2024, the Group reviewed the revised metadata and invited custodian agencies to the regular virtual member meetings to present and clarify the updates.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>.

## **D. Sharing of experiences and good practices on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals**

11. As part of its approved workplan, the Expert Group is tasked with focusing on the implementation of the indicator framework and the sharing of experiences and good practices on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, including improving the availability of data for the Goal indicators; the use of non-traditional and innovative data sources for the indicators; capacity-building needs for monitoring of the Goals; data disaggregation and inclusive data; communication and data storytelling; and platforms, dashboards, portals and other progress assessment tools related to the Goals. In line with the workplan, the Expert Group invited countries, agencies and stakeholders to elaborate on different initiatives for addressing those areas during their open meetings. In addition, the Expert Group conducted a fourth round of a survey to gather short descriptions from countries and regional commissions that showcase good practices in those areas. As at 2 December 2024, 80 countries had responded to the questionnaire, providing short summaries in which they showcased good practices and provided links to websites and other information, or materials and comments related to particular challenges or suggestions for the Expert Group.

12. With the four rounds of questionnaires sent in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, a total of 114 countries have provided inputs. In the latest round of responses, 9 respondents reported for the first time, whereas 71 respondents provided updates. The SDG Good Practices site<sup>3</sup> will be updated regularly and will serve as a living document for countries and regional commissions to use as a point of reference and resource repository.

## **III. The 2025 comprehensive review**

### **A. Guiding principles, specific criteria and submission requirements**

13. The global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda is designed to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure the accountability of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Goals. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/313, the global indicator framework was comprehensively reviewed in 2020 and is to be comprehensively reviewed for the second and final time by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in 2025.

14. Accordingly, at its thirteenth meeting, held in November 2022, the Expert Group discussed and agreed on the guiding principles and timeline for the 2025 comprehensive review. The Commission subsequently took note of the guiding principles and timeline at its fifty-fourth session (E/2023/24, decision 54/101, para. (l)). The guiding principles are as follows:

(a) The review needs to take into account investments already made at the national and international levels and should not undermine ongoing efforts;

(b) The revised framework should not impose a significant additional burden in terms of national statistical work;

(c) There should be space for improvement, while at the same time ensuring that the changes are limited in scope and the size of the framework remains the same;

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/sdgGoodPractices/>.

(d) The focus of the common work of the Expert Group should remain on the national implementation of the framework for the monitoring of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. The Expert Group continued preparations at its fourteenth meeting, held in October 2023, agreeing on a set of specific criteria and detailed submission requirements for the comprehensive review. These specific criteria, aimed at providing practical guidance for the development of indicator proposals, and the detailed submission requirements were endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session (E/2024/24, decision 55/103, para. (e)). The specific criteria for the 2025 comprehensive review are as follows:

(a) The aim of the review is to maintain the same number of indicators currently in the framework so as to not significantly alter the original framework, which is already being implemented in most countries, or increase the reporting burden on national statistical systems;

(b) The proposed indicator must have an agreed methodology (tier III indicator proposals will not be considered), and data must be available for at least 40 per cent of countries and of the population across the different regions where the indicator is relevant and suitable for global monitoring;

(c) Taking into account the first two criteria:

(i) An additional indicator may be considered only in exceptional cases when a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator or indicators or to address a critical or emerging new issue that is not monitored by the existing indicator or indicators;

(ii) A deletion may be considered in cases of a tier II indicator for which no data have been submitted to the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database or for which implementation has proved to be challenging for countries. A replacement will be proposed if the deleted indicator is the only indicator used for monitoring the corresponding target;

(iii) Adjustments or replacements will be considered when the indicator does not map well to the target or does not track the target well.

16. Additional criteria and considerations include the following:

(a) The addition of a subindicator within an existing indicator is discouraged, as it adds to the reporting burden;

(b) Any proposal for the replacement or addition of an indicator should minimize the use of subindicators to ensure that the indicator framework does not expand;

(c) The Expert Group will examine all proposals closely with a view to ensuring that the reporting burden does not increase as a result of the inclusion of additional subindicators.

17. The Expert Group also decided that, in order to be considered, a proposal submitted for the 2025 comprehensive review must include all the information set out in the detailed submission requirements below:

(a) An indicator proposal summary (no more than two pages using a template provided), comprising:

(i) Background and rationale for the indicator proposal;

(ii) Information on how and when the methodology has become an international standard and on the governing body that approves it;

- (iii) Data sources and availability of data;
- (b) Detailed metadata following the metadata template;
- (c) Available data or a link to where data can be located; data must be available for at least 40 per cent of countries and of the population across the different regions where the indicator is relevant, and a plan for how data coverage will be expanded must be included if current data coverage is below 50 per cent;
- (d) Any available methodological documents or links to those documents.

## **B. Working process of the 2025 comprehensive review**

18. The Expert Group widely disseminated the guiding principles, timeline, specific criteria and detailed submission requirements for the 2025 comprehensive review. These were shared on the review website,<sup>4</sup> through a mailing list and at two virtual side events held during the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission, in February 2023 and February 2024, respectively.

19. In April 2024, the Expert Group, with the support of the Secretariat, launched an open call for proposals for the 2025 comprehensive review. A total of 68 proposals were submitted, of which 23 were for additions, 3 for replacements and 42 for revisions of or adjustments to Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

20. Between May and July 2024, the Expert Group held four virtual member meetings to review all proposals received and decide which would be included in a global open consultation. Group members agreed that proposals must meet the specific criteria proposed by the Group and approved by the Commission in order to proceed to the global consultation. The involvement of relevant custodian agencies in the process of developing the proposals was desirable. Following the review process, the Group shortlisted 15 proposals for inclusion in the global consultation and provided rationales for those that were not included.

21. A global open consultation was carried out on the 15 proposals, from 15 July to 15 August 2024, with members of the public invited to provide comments on the proposals. A diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives of national statistical offices, international agencies, civil society, the private sector and academia, submitted more than 700 responses.

22. The Secretariat collected and analysed those public comments and shared them with the Expert Group for discussion at a series of virtual meetings in September and October 2024. The submitter of one proposal requested that it be dropped following the open consultation, leaving 14 proposals to be considered. Throughout their deliberations, Group members submitted “feeler votes” to provide their initial, non-binding opinions on each proposal.

23. At its fifteenth meeting, and at two virtual follow-up meetings held in November, the Expert Group thoroughly reviewed all inputs received during the 2025 comprehensive review process. Relevant custodian agencies were invited to respond to questions regarding their proposals. On the basis of its comprehensive review, the Group finalized the list of proposals to recommend to the Commission for its consideration. In making its decision, the Group was informed by the guiding principles and specific criteria set out above and sought to ensure a balance across the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators in the global indicator framework.

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<sup>4</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/2025-comprehensive-review>.

### **C. Proposals for the 2025 comprehensive review for the adoption by the Commission**

24. The Expert Group agreed on a final set of proposals for the consideration of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in March 2025. The proposals comprise 11 changes to the current global indicator framework, in the form of replacements, revisions and additions (see annex II). The changes can be categorized as follows:

- (a) Two proposals for the replacement of existing indicators;
- (b) Six proposals for the revision of existing indicators;
- (c) Three proposals for additional indicators.

25. The Expert Group noted that the proposals were not expected to have a significant impact on the reporting burden, as data had been collected for those indicators. If the Commission approves the proposed changes outlined in the 2025 comprehensive review, the total number of unique indicators in the global indicator framework will be 234.

### **D. Review of indicators with no data or for which data availability is low**

26. During the 2025 comprehensive review, the Expert Group also conducted a review of indicators for which no data have been reported or for which data availability is low (defined as less than 30 per cent data coverage) in the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database, so as to generate lessons learned with a view to improving the availability of data in the future.

27. During the review process, the Expert Group asked custodian agencies to provide information on: (a) rationales for low data coverage and why there has been little improvement over the years; (b) plans and timelines for filling in data gaps in the near future; (c) investments by custodian agencies and countries in developing and implementing the indicators; and (d) suggestions on how to address and improve data coverage.

28. The Expert Group commends the efforts of custodian agencies, countries and development partners in producing methodologies and international standards for the indicators. Furthermore, the Group acknowledges the progress being made in the availability of data for some indicators. On the other hand, the Group also recognizes that many indicators with no or low data coverage have proved to be exceptionally challenging for countries to compile. The Group strongly recommends that custodian agencies take into account the practical difficulties that countries face in reporting on complex and resource-intensive indicators. It emphasizes the importance of balancing the data collection burden with the intended value of the indicators, as an excessive reporting burden may hinder their overall utility and effectiveness.

29. Despite those challenges, the Expert Group recommends retaining those indicators in the framework. However, it notes that a lack of meaningful improvements in data reporting by 2030 may indicate that those indicators are either not prioritized by countries or are too complex and costly to compile. With regard to a future post-2030 development agenda, the Group advises adopting a practical approach when selecting or developing indicators. This includes considering alternative indicators that may not capture every nuance of a target, but that still adhere to the spirit of the targets and provide actionable insights into progress.

## **IV. Workstream on data disaggregation, working groups and the task team of the Expert Group**

30. In 2024, the Expert Group continued its workstream on data disaggregation. Work was also carried out by the two working groups focusing on SDMX and geospatial information and by the task team on sustainable tourism. The working groups and the task team are composed of members of the Expert Group and other invited representatives, as set out in their respective terms of reference.<sup>5</sup>

### **A. Workstream on data disaggregation**

31. Under the guidance of the Expert Group and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has continued to update the toolkit on small area estimation for the Sustainable Development Goals. Capacity-building activities on small area estimation have been carried out by the Division and its partners, namely, the regional commissions in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Population Fund. These include self-paced and guided training sessions using the e-learning course on small area estimation and two in-person regional training workshops conducted in 2024, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. An abridged version of the course has been developed to accommodate individuals with limited time availability, and a French version of the course, supported by the Data for Now initiative, is being finalized. The Division calls for more partners to support countries through the e-learning course. More methodological guidance is currently being produced by the Division, in partnership with the World Bank, on the use of geospatial information for small area estimation. In addition, the Expert Group has invited countries, regional commissions and international agencies to share their good practices on data disaggregation, which have been included in the SDG Good Practices site (see section II.D). The Group also asked its working group on geospatial information to provide guidance on data disaggregation by geographic location (see section IV.C).

### **B. Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

32. The Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators consists of representatives of 12 Member States and 10 international agencies and is currently chaired by Mexico. The Working Group conducts regular virtual meetings and holds annual meetings in the margins of global SDMX events.

33. The Working Group developed and continues to maintain global data and metadata structure definitions for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, which are actively used for data exchange and dissemination by national statistical offices, custodian agencies, regional commissions and other organizations. Over 40 per cent of the content of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database is now transmitted as SDMX data sets. The voluntary provision of data sets on the Goals by Member States has continued, with data exchange having been

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<sup>5</sup> The terms of reference and membership and other important information regarding each working group are available at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>.



established with about 40 countries. Some regional commissions have also established SDMX-based data exchanges with their member States.

34. The global data set for the Sustainable Development Goals and the related metadata have been disseminated in SDMX format through application programming interfaces maintained by the Statistics Division. The availability of metadata in a machine-readable format made it possible to link indicators to their metadata in the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database and to display the metadata alongside the data.

35. The Working Group has continued to contribute to the development of the popular Open SDG dissemination platform. The platform is maintained by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and supports data and metadata modelled in accordance with the global data and metadata structure definitions for the indicators. Open SDG is currently used by about 18 Member States to disseminate their national data on the Goal indicators.

36. The Working Group has continued to coordinate capacity-building activities in SDMX for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators conducted by the Statistics Division and its partners. Training and technical assistance were provided to over 20 countries in 2024, which facilitated the establishment of data and metadata exchange and dissemination. An e-learning course on SDMX for the Goal indicators was developed by the Working Group and has been available since 2023. The Working Group maintains an information portal on SDMX for the Goals. The portal contains links to the global Goal-related data and metadata structures, guidelines, manuals and other resources.

37. The Expert Group has approved the revised terms of reference of the Working Group. During the period 2025–2030, the Working Group will focus on supporting georeferencing, the development of advanced validation of Sustainable Development Goal data sets using validation and transformation language, the implementation of SDMX 3.1 and later versions for data and metadata exchange and the preparation of lessons learned and good practices. The Working Group will continue to maintain Goal-related data and metadata structures, incorporating changes arising from the 2025 comprehensive review. It will also continue to coordinate capacity-building and improve information and guidance materials for the implementors of SDMX for the Goals.

38. The use of SDMX has been proven to improve the efficiency of data and metadata exchange, as well as the dissemination of data and metadata related to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, benefiting both data reporters and data collectors. In addition, the experience gained through the exchange of Goal-related data has led the Working Group to make significant contributions to the development of SDMX 3.0 and SDMX 3.1.

### **C. Working group on geospatial information**

39. The working group on geospatial information,<sup>6</sup> chaired by Ireland and Colombia, comprises 13 member States, nine custodian agencies and representatives of three regional commissions and other invited groups and experts. The working group convenes regular virtual meetings and biennial plenary meetings, formally reporting to the Expert Group. Owing to the complementary and cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda, the working group also contributed to a report (E/C.20/2024/11/Add.1),<sup>7</sup> with the Secretariat, to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information

<sup>6</sup> See <https://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg6/>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents>.

Management, under the agenda item entitled “Geospatial information for sustainable development”.

40. As a means of responding to the Secretary-General’s call to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting the Expert Group with the outcomes of the 2025 comprehensive review, the working group prepared a paper entitled “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: how geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators”. The paper is aimed at addressing potential gaps in reporting and identifying potential “quick wins” while strengthening the geospatial perspective, as indicated in the work programme of the Expert Group. This is especially relevant in the context of discussing methodological innovations and improvements across the indicator framework as part of the 2025 comprehensive review. In the paper, the working group provides guidance on how Goal indicators can be disaggregated by geographic location; highlights the need for improvements in indicator metadata; and provides information on the impact of geography on the indicators, considering that, for some indicators, geospatial information is itself the indicator. The working group promotes the inclusion of geospatial information, including Earth observations and in situ data, into the metadata of and reporting on Goal indicators, which leverages novel data sources and methodologies to integrate multiple “location-based” variables to support and inform the production of indicators. Using those methods can fill many data gaps, such as those identified in paper, and improve the temporal and spatial resolutions of data. The paper has been provided to the Statistical Commission as a background document.

41. At its fifty-fifth session, in its decision 55/103, the Commission stressed the need for continued technical and financial support to countries to build capacity for the production and monitoring of and reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators, including the implementation of the SDGs geospatial road map. A key outcome of the working group’s seventh meeting, convened from 17 to 19 September 2024 at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), located at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and jointly organized with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, was to focus on the implementation and promotion of its work. Under its 2025 workplan, endorsed by the Expert Group at its fifteenth meeting, the working group will focus on promoting both the road map and the background paper provided to the Commission, as well as on collecting national experiences on the role of geospatial information in the production, measurement and monitoring of Goal indicators. The working group will also prioritize the list of indicators to which geospatial information can make a significant or supporting contribution, as presented in the second edition of its “Shortlist”.<sup>8</sup>

#### **D. Task team on sustainable tourism**

42. The task team on sustainable tourism, created in August 2022 in pursuant to a decision by the Commission (E/2022/24, decision 53/101), comprises representatives of 13 countries and five international or regional organizations. The Statistics Division acts as the secretariat.

43. Since its establishment, the task team has held three virtual meetings. During the first meeting, members discussed the terms of reference, heard a presentation by the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) on its efforts to date to measure the sustainability of tourism and reviewed a draft workplan and timeline. During the

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<sup>8</sup> See [https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents/Revised\\_Shortlist\\_results\\_of\\_the\\_analysis\\_of\\_the\\_%20SDG\\_GIF.pdf](https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/14th-Session/documents/Revised_Shortlist_results_of_the_analysis_of_the_%20SDG_GIF.pdf)

second meeting, the focus was shifted to understanding the 2025 comprehensive review process, evaluating potential indicators for target 8.9 (on sustainable tourism) and discussing the definition of “sustainable tourism”. During the third meeting, UN Tourism presented details on potential sustainable tourism indicators to be considered during the 2025 comprehensive review.

44. Guided by the task team, UN Tourism submitted a proposal for a new indicator, on employed persons in the tourism industries, under target 8.9. The rationale behind this addition is threefold: (a) the new indicator addresses a critical gap in monitoring employment within tourism industries, which is a significant aspect of sustainable tourism; (b) it emphasizes that employment in tourism supports livelihoods and helps to preserve local culture, especially in developing countries and small island developing States; and (c) it builds on the existence of internationally agreed methodologies and substantial data coverage.

45. The Expert Group agreed to include the proposal in the 2025 comprehensive review for consideration and adoption by the Commission. The Group commends the task team on achieving its objectives and has determined that its work is now complete.

## V. Work programme of the Expert Group

46. The Expert Group recommends that the following activities be carried out between March 2025 and February 2026:

(a) Focus on the implementation of the indicator framework, including the following:

(i) Integrating geospatial information and statistics;

(ii) Sharing experiences and best practices on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, including with regard to national Goal-related platforms, dashboards and portals, the communication of data for the Goals, data disaggregation, inclusive data and data innovations, as well as national efforts towards bridging data gaps for Goal indicators;

(iii) Encouraging data innovations, including using non-traditional data sources and data integration;

(iv) Reviewing and making recommendations on capacity-building for the Goals in coordination with the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular emphasis on indicators for which data coverage is low;

(b) Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;

(c) Refresh the workstream on data disaggregation to provide further guidance to countries and liaise with other working groups and existing mechanisms for data disaggregation work;

(d) Continue the work of the working groups on SDMX and geospatial information and review their workplans to ensure that they are in line with the work programme of the Expert Group;

(e) Establish a task team to capture lessons learned from the development and implementation of indicators for global development agendas;

(f) Continue collaborating with custodian agencies to enhance the data flow process for global reporting on the Goals and improve data coverage for indicators for which data availability is low;

(g) Hold semi-annual open meetings, including the sixteenth meeting of the Expert Group, to be held in the fourth quarter of 2025, and continue to interact through regular virtual meetings.

## **VI. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission**

47. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To take note of the work conducted by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators in response to the decisions of the Commission;**

(b) **To express its views and adopt the annual refinements (as contained in annex I to the present report);**

(c) **To express its views and adopt the proposed indicator changes, including replacements, revisions, additions and deletions, from the 2025 comprehensive review of the indicator framework (as contained in annex II to the present report);**

(d) **To express its views and adopt the proposed work programme of the Expert Group for 2025;**

(e) **To take note of the background document entitled “Rescuing the SDGs with geospatial information: how geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators”.**

## Annex I

### Annual refinements to be made to the global indicator framework

*Goal and current indicator text*

*Refinement of indicator*

#### **Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income

1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income

#### **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study

4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships

#### **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy

10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy on the Gini index

10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

10.b.1 Total resource flows for development (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

#### **Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

#### **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services and primary income<sup>1</sup>

17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing and developed countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies

<sup>1</sup> Indicator 17.4.1 already included primary income in the denominator of the ratio. There have been no revisions in the historical series, which dates back to the 1970s, and this information has been consistently reported over the years in the same way. This refinement is to correct the previous oversight.

*Goal and current indicator text*

*Refinement of indicator*

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17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries

17.9.1 Dollar value of official development assistance committed to developing countries

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## Annex II

### Proposed changes to be made to the global indicator framework as part of the 2025 comprehensive review

#### A. Proposed replacement indicators

*Existing indicator in the global indicator framework*

*Proposed replacement indicator*

#### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.b.3 Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis

3.b.3 Health product access index

#### Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

4.6.1 Youth/adult literacy rate

#### B. Revisions to existing indicators

*Existing indicator in the global indicator framework*

*Proposed revision*

#### Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

Revision of data series to the proportion of spending benefiting the poorest 20 per cent

#### Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction

2.5.2 Proportion of local and transboundary breeds classified as being at risk of extinction

#### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services

Revision of metadata to modify three tracers: family planning, health workforce and management of diabetes

3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

Revision of metadata to measure the proportion of the population with positive out-of-pocket household expenditure on health exceeding 40 per cent of household discretionary budget

#### Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

Revision of metadata to include a “greening” component to reflect sustainability and climate education efforts

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**Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added

9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added, based on (a) international classification and (b) national classifications

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**C. Proposals for additional indicators**


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**Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.2.4 Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, by population group (children aged 6 to 23.9 months and non-pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years)

**Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.9.2 Employed persons in the tourism industries

**Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

11.c.1 Total official development assistance and other official flows in support of urban infrastructure or urban infrastructure projects, by sector

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