**UN Statistical Commission**

**UN Headquarters, New York**

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The main outstanding component of the Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework is the package of indicators that will be used to assess progress on the SDG targets between now and 2030. During the 46th session of the UN Statistical Commission (March 2015), members of the commission appointed an Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG) to develop a set of proposals to be delivered to the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission (March 2016). For the past year the IAEG has worked to agree indicators for the 169 SDG Targets and have generally managed to successfully complete the task requested. The report of the IAEG (which can be found here: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-Rev1-E.pdf>) was presented to the UN Statistical Commission on 8 March 2016 and ultimately endorsed by the close of the meeting on 11 March 2016.

The centerpiece of the IAEG report is the package of 231 global indicators it proposes across the 169 SDG targets. It is important to note however that, that a number of indicators still require further refinement or technical proofing (this continues to be an ongoing and evolving discussion with indicators being refined behind the scenes ahead and over the course of the meeting). In this case it is fair to say that the UN Statistical Commission has agreed to a work in progress which serves as the basis or starting point for continued work on the global indicator framework. Immediately as part of this work the IAEG has suggested a system which would group the indicators into three different tiers:

1. indicators with established methodology exists and data are widely available
2. where a methodology is established but data are not easily available
3. where an international agreed methodology is not developed yet

Where indicators fall on these tiers will have significant implications on how soon (or whether even) targets will be monitored. A general reflection on the indicators related to the world of work, is that they are not highly contentious and would fall into the first two tiers, though some still require certain refinements.

In addition to the global indicator framework, the commission endorsed the IAEGs proposals on revised terms of reference which allow the group to continue its work through to the 48th session of the commission in 2017. This includes a proposed work plan for the implementation of the global indicator framework and the IAEG. Over the next year the IAE would need to propose a global reporting mechanism; allocate indicators into the aforementioned tier system while continuing to work on the outstanding indicators; and establish a sub-committee which would work on and make proposals on the issue data disaggregation. The group is expected to meet in March 2016 and in fall 2016. The 3rd meeting of the IAEG is already foreseen to take place in Mexico City from 30 March to 1 April.

Finally, the UN Statistical Commission which generally remains a fairly apolitical body focused on technical work was not without a handful of political flare ups. For example, countries in special situations (i.e. Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries) were constantly reminding the commission that the global indicators proposed were not necessarily applicable to all national contexts. It was further highlighted that indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring will be developed. There was also tension along the lines of data sources with some governments insisting that only official data directly from National Statistical Offices could be used and that “NGO” data would not qualify. Many governments also made the point of strengthening capacities at national level and insisted more resources from the international community would need to be dedicated to this end.