



# Opportunities and challenges for the international statistical community

World Statistics Day Forum 2015

Tokyo, Japan; 4 December 2015

Stefan Schweinfest, Director

Statistics Division, United Nations Department of  
Economic and Social Affairs

<http://unstats.un.org>



# **WORLD STATISTICS DAY**

**20.10.2015**

**BETTER DATA.  
BETTER LIVES.**



# Outline of the presentation

- **Work on an SDG indicator framework**
- **Elements of the data revolution**
- **Work streams of the Statistical Commission**
- **Looking forward**



## Indicators:

MDGs have been good for statistics

- **Evidence based policy making -- Increased focus on data**
- **Bringing the UN Statistical System together – Interagency and Expert Group on MDGs (IAEG-MDGs)**
  - data collection
  - methodological development
  - capacity development
- **Concerted efforts to strengthen national statistical systems -- More data available (see 2015 MDG report)**



# Importance of standards and classifications

**Standards and classifications are the “language of international statistics”.**

- **Allow comparison and aggregation**
- **Allow transfer of knowledge and experience; joint capacity development**



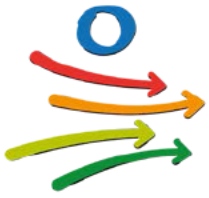
# 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

- **17 goals - 169 targets; broad thematic coverage;**
- **UN Statistical Commission tasked to develop global indicators by March 2016**



# Main challenges

- **Limited number** of indicators, due to capacity constraints
- Cover **every aspect** of all targets
- Covering **all relevant groups of the population (disaggregation)**
- Addressing policy priorities with **easy-to-communicate** indicators



# What is an indicator architecture?

## Global indicators

- On all goals and targets

## Thematic/sectoral indicators

- Additional indicators for each of the elements covered by the global indicators

Concepts, definitions,  
standards, classifications

## National indicators

- On goals/targets relevant to the country
- Most (all?) of the global indicators
- Add some of the thematic indicators

## Sub-national indicators

- Some of the global indicators
- Some of the national indicators
- Additional data sources (most innovative?)





# Elements of the Data revolution

- No unique definition.
- Report of the Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data revolution for Sustainable Development (November 2014): "A World That Counts".  
(<http://www.undatarevolution.org/report/>)
- Elements identified:
  - ✓ Principles and Standards (Big Data, Open Data)
  - ✓ Technology, Innovation and Analysis
  - ✓ Capacity and Resources
  - ✓ Leadership and governance



# Statistical Commission 2015

- Takes note of the “World that Counts”
- Creates the Interagency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators
- Creates the High Level Group to provide strategic leadership for the implementation process



# Work streams Statistical Commission (1)

- Indicators and methodological development
  - ✓ Development of indicator framework for 2030 development agenda
  - ✓ Application of the Fundamental Principles
  - ✓ Cooperation with the geo-spatial community
  - ✓ New methodological developments e.g. crime statistics, Praia City Group on governance indicators etc.



# Work streams Statistical Commission (2)

- Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics
  - ✓ Document current practices (social media, mobile phone data, satellite imagery etc.)
  - ✓ Analyze best practices
  - ✓ Develop quality assurance framework
  - ✓ Principles for partnership and access



# Work streams Statistical Commission (3)

- Modernization and Transformative Agenda
  - ✓ Modern statistical production processes  
(common statistical business architecture)
  - ✓ Innovation in data  
collection/dissemination/analytics
  - ✓ Integrated statistical systems



# Work streams Statistical Commission (4)

- Partnerships and outreach
  - ✓ Organization of an United Nations World Data Forum: cooperation with data users, other data producers, private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations...
  - ✓ Advocacy and resource mobilization
  - ✓ Coordination of capacity building efforts



# Looking forward

- Community of Official Statisticians needs to play a leading role to develop solid and rigorous measurement systems for the 2030 development agenda
- Twin professional principles of quality and over-time/ across space consistency
- Statistical Commission at global level; Regional Conferences/Committees at regional level; National Statistical Offices at national level.
- Strong National Statistical/Information Systems under the leadership of National Statistical Offices
- In addition to data products provision of 'data advisory services'
- Different decision nodes require different information systems (global, regional, national, sub-national)



# Statistics for all, with all

*“We need to build National Statistical Systems, in fact National Information Systems, consisting of official statistics, geospatial information and other non-traditional data, that are relevant for a multitude of purposes, and yet organised in a solid, coherent and integrated manner.”*

Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UN Statistics Division  
Keynote address World Statistics Day 2015.





ありがとう  
THANK YOU

[schweinfest@un.org](mailto:schweinfest@un.org)