Establishing and Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals

Jennifer Park, Ph.D.
Senior Statistician
Statistical and Science Policy Branch
U. S. Office of Management and Budget
Main Points

1. The UN Statistical Commission was tasked with providing indicators for each of the 169 SDG targets by March 2016.

2. The UNSC’s Interagency Expert Group conducted a series of open consultations and prepared this set of indicators.

3. This set establishes a framework and identifies areas for further methodological development to occur.

4. The UNSC’s High Level Group will advise how to best address data gaps through statistical capacity building. Partnerships will be a key component.
1. UNSC Tasked with Selecting Indicators

- UNGA established SDGs through a **policy** process.

- It asked the UN Statistical Commission to:
  1) Identify SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG)
  2) Advise on the monitoring of statistical reporting and capacity building (HLG)

  using a **technical**, policy-neutral process.
Work Flow: Indicator Selection and Monitoring of Statistical Reporting

1. Charged UNSC to identify indicators for each of 169 SDG targets

2. Created IAEG to propose indicators and HLG to recommend monitoring process in March, 2015 (US is a Member)

3. Proposes indicators. 28 National Statistical Office members plus Observers (US is an observer)

4. Recommends monitoring of SDG progress. 25 National Statistical Office members plus Observers (US is a member)

5. OMB responds for the US, with comments from Federal and outside experts and help from State Department
2. IAEG Conducts Technical Consultations

- IAEG members are selected from each UN region. (Canada is our member; US is an observer)

- 3 Open Consultations (Everybody)

- 5 Members only Consultations (IAEG members; observer National Statistical Offices only indirectly through their regional member)
3. Current Status: Distribution of Indicators, by Goal

Figure 1. Current IAEG Status Distribution of Indicators, by Goal
4. Indicator Set as Framework

• 235 indicators are currently drafted for consideration by the UNSC in March
  – About 28 do not yet represent consensus as to the concept to measure

• Consensus does not reflect methodological rigor or data availability

• Tiering of robustness will identify areas requiring methodological work, to be supported by IAEG

• Data gaps to be addressed through the HLG, with partnerships as a key component.