



# The Post 2015 Development Agenda: The Role of Statistical Community

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# Why Statistics Matter ?

***“ Being a statistician is the sexiest job of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ”***

- Hal Varian, Chief Economist, Google (2012)
- Harvard Business Review (2013)

- Statistical data have become essential for objective, evidence-based decision making in any sector of a society.
- We need data scientists who are data savvy and able to churn the large amounts of information being generated daily into digestible pieces of information.

# Why Statistics Matter ?

## Success of MDGs

- MDGs has been effective in mobilizing worldwide awareness on development challenges, leveraging resources, guiding development efforts and increasing accountability.
- Quantitative targets are powerful as a communication tool and can provide benchmarks for monitoring progress.
- High expectation for the statistical community to play a central role in identifying targets/indicators, and monitor the progress of the new development agenda.

## 1. SG-led process on the post 2015 development agenda

- HLP meeting on MDG in 2000 requested the SG to make recommendations to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015 (Res 65/1).
- UN System Task Team has published in 2013 a report “*Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda*”

## 2. Process emanated from Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable development

- Rio+20 outcome document 1) recognized the need for broader measures of progress to complement GDP, and 2) requested to initiate a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) (RES 63/288).
- UN Statistical Commission created a [Friends of Chair group \(FoC\)](#) in 2013 to work on the broader measure of progress.
- [Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals \(OWG\)](#) was established in 2013 to prepare a proposal of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration by the GA in 2014.
- ***The two processes are expected to converge into one development agenda***

# UNTT Report: Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda

- Drawing lessons from MDG, it 1) clarifies the relationships between goals, targets and indicators, and 2) addresses the challenges of designing an appropriate monitoring framework.
- Recognizes [international migration](#) as a rapidly developing theme area, but acknowledges the difficulties to create “trans-boundary indicators”.
- Immigrants, refugees, and IDPs are among the population groups of interest, given inequalities in a society.



# FoC Group on Broader Measures of Progress

- Review the work done to develop broader measures of progress and to measure sustainable development.
- Key messages
  - The Post-2015 development agenda should address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way, capturing interlinkages and cross-cutting issues.
  - The new agenda should reflect the three-dimensional nature of well-being: the well-being of 1) the present generation in a country, 2) the future generation, and 3) **the people living in other countries** (elsewhere)
  - For the development of goals/targets, early and close involvement of the statistical community is critical.

## Open Working Group on SDGs

- OWG held eight thematic sessions from March 2013 to February 2014.
- Special event on “Monitoring and Measuring”, a dialogue between chief statisticians and policy makers on 17 December 2013.
- Preparation of [statistical notes](#) for the 29 thematic issue briefs, to supplement the debates from statistical viewpoints. (data availability, measurability, data sources, etc.)
- International migration does not appear as a stand-alone development issue, yet integrated in the areas of “Population dynamics”, “Social protection”, “Promoting equality” and “Human rights”.

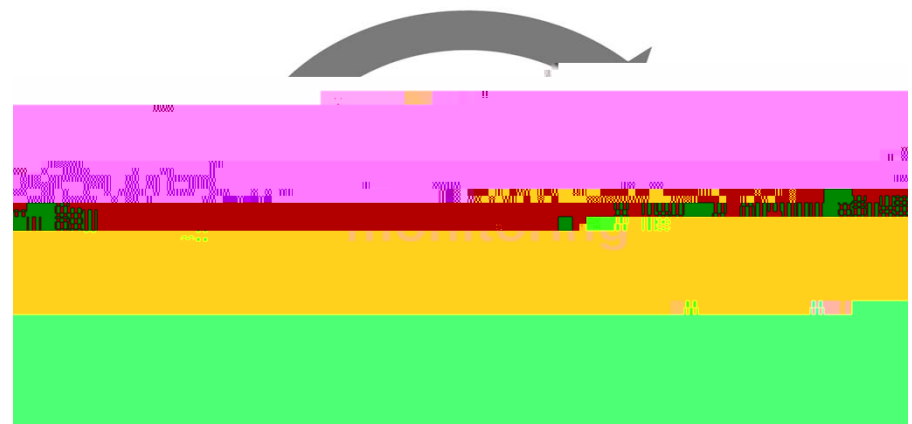


## From OWG Statistical Notes

- Existing data on migration suffer from availability and international comparability. Administrative data should be further explored.
- Need data which can address inequalities and plight of disadvantaged populations (ex. migrants)
- In order to identify disparities/inequalities, data need to be disaggregated by sex, age, location and by particular social groups.
- Some suggested indicators relevant to migration/migrants:
  - Existence of provisions for the protection of migrants' rights
  - Number of prosecutions relating to human trafficking
  - Cost of remittances, recruitment fees, etc.

## What are possible consequences of the post-2015 development agenda on Statistical Community ?

- 1) Significant extension of data requirements (scope and disaggregation) and possible redirection of focus
- 2) Demand for better coordination mechanisms for monitoring and reporting
- 3) Increased role of statistics in guiding policy making



# 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission

4-7 March, New York

- FoC Group on Broader Measures of Progress will report back to the Commission.
- SG's Paper on International Migration Statistics
  - Reviews recent activities of UN DESA to improve international migration statistics
  - Suggests to develop a global initiative to improve migration data for evidence-based policymaking
  - Urges to consider establishing a dedicated programme to enhance the capacity of countries to improve the collection, processing and analysis of migration data.

The image features a collage background. A prominent horizontal band of bright yellow is centered across the page. Within this yellow band, the text "Thank you !" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background behind the yellow band consists of various images: a blue sky with white clouds and palm trees at the top; a close-up of a person's hand holding a yellow flower in the middle; and a green field of grass at the bottom. The overall composition is bright and positive.

**Thank you !**