Follow-up and Review of the SDGs: Advice for the UN Secretariat
April 2017
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Why is this important for the UN Secretariat?

• The main **SDG Declaration** (Sep 2015) stresses:
  • “...the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to implementation of the new Agenda by the UN development system. The relevant governing bodies should take action to review such support to implementation and to report on progress and obstacles”

• More recently, **GA Resolution 71/243** (Dec 2016) calls on UN entities:
  • “…to mainstream the SDGs in their strategic planning documents and their work at all levels”, and;
  • “…to reflect their contribution to the implementation of [the 2030 Agenda] in their strategic plans and similar planning documentation”
The SDG Follow-up and Review Ecosystem

Key
- Reviewing body
- Reporting mechanism
- Lead / convening institution
- Strategic direction/guidance

General Assembly
ECOSOC
High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Voluntary National Reviews
National SDG Reports / Reviews
National Statistical Services
Member States

Regional Reviews
UN Regional Commissions?

Thematic Reviews
UN Entities?

Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG)
High Level Group for partnership, coordination and capacity building for statistics (HLG)

UN Statistical Commission

UN Regional Commissions?
Regional Reviews
Voluntary National Reviews
ECOSOC
High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
Global Sustainable Development Report
Annual SDGs Global Progress Report
UN DESA
Developing an entity-level SDG M&E strategy

• Three main steps that UN entities can take:

  1. Identify the most relevant SDGs
  2. Support the formal SDG review process
  3. Align their own M&E systems to the SDGs

• Full advice note provides a more detailed ‘menu’ of potential actions and opportunities.
1: Identifying the most relevant SDGs

• Vital precursor for the development of an entity’s **monitoring strategy**: know what you want to measure
• Necessary for understanding whether and how an entity can **support the broader, global SDG review effort**
• OIOS-IED undertook a light-touch **mapping exercise**, identifying where each entity was most likely to contribute
• Maps will not represent a perfect reflection of each organization’s work, but should be a **useful starting point**
1: Identifying the most relevant SDGs

### UN Secretariat SDG Contribution Maps

#### Potential Goal-level contributions

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<td>Develop a peaceful and stable society</td>
<td>DPKO</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>DESA</td>
<td>DGADM</td>
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<td>Promote sustained, inclusive, and sound economic growth</td>
<td>DFS</td>
<td>ORCHR</td>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>ITC</td>
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<td>Promote sustained, inclusive, and sound economic growth</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
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<td>Achieve the full and productive employment</td>
<td>UNCODA</td>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>ESCAP</td>
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<td>Develop quality education and lifelong learning</td>
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<td>ESCWA</td>
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<td>Ensure universal primary education for all</td>
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<td>Promote fair and just societies</td>
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<td>UNHABITAT</td>
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<td>Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies</td>
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<td>UNODC</td>
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<td>Revive our oceans</td>
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<td>UN Women</td>
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#### SDGs

- No poverty: 1
- Zero hunger: 2
- Good health and well-being: 3
- Quality education: 4
- Gender equality: 5
- Clean water and sanitation: 6
- Affordable and clean energy: 7
- Decent work and economic growth: 8
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure: 9
- Reduced inequalities: 10
- Sustainable cities and communities: 11
- Responsible consumption and production: 12
- Climate action: 13
- Life below water: 14
- Life on land: 15
- Peace, justice and strong institutions: 16
- Partnerships for the goals: 17
1: Identifying the most relevant SDGs

**UN Secretariat SDG Contribution Maps**

| Potential Target-level contributions | DPKO | DFS | DPA / PBSO | UNODA | OCHA | OHCHR | UNHCR | UNRWA | ECA | ECE | ECLAC | ESCAP | ESCWA | DESA | ITC | ICTR | OOSA | OGSA | UNCTAD | UNFPA | UNHABITAT | UNDO | UN Women | DGACM | DPI | DSS | EOG | OLA | UNDG | UNION |
|-------------------------------------|------|-----|------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-------|-------|------------|------|----------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Likely contribution (self-assessed) |      |     |            |       |      |       |       |       |     |     |       |       |       |      |     |     |     |     |       |       |            |      |           |       |     |     |     |     |       |       |
| Feasible contribution (self-assessed) |     |     |            |     |      |       |       |       |     |     |       |       |       |      |     |     |     |     |       |       |            |      |           |       |     |     |     |     |       |       |
| Likely contribution (OIOS-assessed) |     |     |            |     |      |       |       |       |     |     |       |       |       |      |     |     |     |     |       |       |            |      |           |       |     |     |     |     |       |       |
| Feasible contribution (OIOS-assessed) |     |     |            |     |      |       |       |       |     |     |       |       |       |      |     |     |     |     |       |       |            |      |           |       |     |     |     |     |       |       |

**Goal: No poverty**

1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
2. By 2030, reduce at least half the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all countries.
3. By 2030, implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and promote fundamental social rights, in particular for the vulnerable and people with disabilities.
4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal access to ownership and control over property resources, as well as access to basic services, in particular housing, basic infrastructure and services, and new款 health and education opportunities.
5. By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations to disasters.
6. Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and in accordance with national priorities and capabilties.
7. Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and global levels, based on international cooperation.

**Goal: Zero hunger**

1. By 2030, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and ensure sustainable agriculture production systems.
2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including stunting, undernutrition, overnutrition, and obesity.
3. By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale farmers.
4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement principles of sustainable management of yield-enhancing inputs and agricultural inputs.
5. By 2030, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed animals and promote appropriate agricultural technologies for smallholder farmers.
6. Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation.
7. Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in agricultural and food trade.
8. Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food and agricultural markets.

**Goal: Good health and well-being**

1. By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
2. By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children.
3. By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and ensure universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS and other known diseases.

[Image of graphic chart showing contributions by goal and organization]
2: Supporting the formal review process

- General Assembly
  - ECOSOC
  - High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- Voluntary National Reviews
- National SDG Reports / Reviews
  - National Statistical Services
  - Member States

- Regional Reviews
  - UN Regional Commissions
- Thematic Reviews
  - UN Entities

- Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG)
- High Level Group for partnership, coordination and capacity building for statistics (HLG)

- Global Sustainable Development Report
- Annual SDGs Global Progress Report
  - UN DESA

- UN Statistical Commission
2: Supporting the formal review process

Contributing to national statistical capacity development

- Member States
  - National Statistical Services
    - National SDG Reports / Reviews
    - Voluntary National Reviews
- General Assembly
  - ECOSOC
    - High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- UN Regional Commissions?
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2: Supporting the formal review process

Contributing to formal reporting mechanisms
3: Aligning M&E systems with the SDGs

- Value in monitoring and evaluating *any* engagement with the SDGs:
  - Helps an organization understand where and how it contributes *(accountability)*
  - Helps to inform an organization’s own strategic planning *(learning)*

- While an organization’s own systems should serve as the starting point, there are **tangible actions** that UN entities can take to align their systems with global SDG follow-up and review processes
3: Aligning M&E systems with the SDGs

- **Build on existing systems and processes:**
  - Use governing bodies and flagship publications
  - Minimise duplication: consider joint M&E
  - Coordinate country-level work through UNCTs

- **Ground M&E within the broader SDG context:**
  - Identify how work relates to wider agendas: again, joint M&E should be considered
  - Align evaluation workplans with annual HLPF agendas (these have been set up until 2019)
3: Aligning M&E systems with the SDGs

- **Develop rigorous, high quality data:**
  - Need to apply methodologies that are as rigorous as globally applied methodologies: pool resources, work alongside others
  - Avoid duplication: consult with IAEG, align with existing monitoring initiatives (e.g. SDG 17: Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation)

- **Learning focused evaluation:**
  - Qualitative analysis on what has gone well, what hasn’t gone well, how to improve
  - Potentially less daunting ‘entry point’
3: Aligning M&E systems with the SDGs

- **Leaving no-one behind:**
  - Consider prioritising evaluations that are likely to have the greatest focus on vulnerable groups
  - M&E approaches should adhere to UNEG’s ethical guidelines
Recommended amendments to OIOS-IED policies

• OIOS-IED have reviewed their own M&E policies and documentation, to ensure direction and support OIOS give to UN entities is fully aligned to SDG processes

• Main recommendation:
  SDG assessment should be mainstreamed throughout OIOS- IED’s work
  • Approach SDGs in a way analogous to gender and human rights
  • Oblige all TORs / inception reports / evaluations to identify whether and how programmes support or contribute to specific SDG targets
Recommended amendments to OIOS-IED policies

• Specific recommendations also made against following documentation:
  • Inspection and Evaluation Manual
  • The IED Strategic Framework and PIP
  • Guidance to Programmes for Developing an Evaluation Policy
  • OIOS-IED Templates for Evaluation TORs, Evaluation Inception Reports, Evaluation Reports
  • OIOS-IED Biennial Report
  • The Self-Evaluation Policy of the OIOS
  • Technical Note: How to prepare and use PIPs for scoping and reporting an IED programme evaluation