

Opening Statement by Stakeholders delivered at the 2nd Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.

26th October, 2015 UNESCAP, Bangkok.

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We commend your efforts to seek inputs from a wide range of stakeholders. We urge you to keep this process transparent and inclusive.

Whilst appreciating this space, our inputs would have been far more substantial and targeted, had we known earlier, about the focus mainly on indicators marked with yellow.

The whole world is looking to you, because states have promised to transform our world, from one that is deeply inequitable and increasingly perilous, to a just and equitable planet for all.

The indicators will either realize or undermine the ambitious agenda adopted by Heads of State and Governments.

Our concern is that some indicators, including some green indicators, fail to fully reflect the scope and depth of the corresponding targets.

We call on you to ensure that the indicators are in line with the following core principles:

1. The indicators must uphold existing international commitments, conventions, and human rights obligations, without any compromise, and build on existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
2. Indicators must not be limited by what can be measured now but guided by what we aspire to measure by 2030.
3. Leaving no one behind depends on disaggregation of data as stated in target 17.18 and Para 74 g of the 2030 Agenda- by income, sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics.
4. The indicators should capture multiple and intersecting experiences of inequality and discrimination.
5. The indicators must be clear and enable people to hold governments and other duty-bearers to account. Data needs to be collected in an independent, impartial, and transparent manner, including through participatory approaches using peoples' experiences and perceptions. Data should be easily available and accessible to all peoples, communities, institutions and stakeholders.
6. The creation of indicators must include the expertise and resources of diverse stakeholders, including rights-holders, civil society, social movements, business and academia to realize the SDGs.
7. Inequalities between countries must be measured which requires assessing the impact on sustainable development of actors such as international financial institutions & transnational corporations.
8. The agreed set of global indicators should enable aggregation of progress across countries and regions.

We propose that your final report reflect these principles.

To conclude, this is our chance to make a transformative shift to justice, human rights and sustainable development. Statistics are political acts. They matter for those we count. They matter even more for those we don't count.

Thank you.