

Open Letter to the Co-chairs of the United Nations Inter- Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

21st October 2015

Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales.
National Statistician
Office of the National Statistician
3/F PSA-CVEA Bldg
East Avenue
Quezon City, 1101

Ms. Fabiola Riccardini
Senior researcher
Italian National Institute of Statistics
Via Cesare Balbo, 16
00184 – Rome

cc: Mr. John Pullinger, UK National Statistician, Head of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority

Dear Dr. Bersales and Ms. Riccardini,

We as members of civil society commend the task undertaken under your leadership to develop global indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We appreciate the efforts made by the Inter Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) to seek input from a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society.

We want to share with you a few red lines as civil society on the global SDGs indicators process to make it more transparent and inclusive, facilitating the participation of all stakeholders. These indicators will set out how progress against the SDGs will be measured, enabling stakeholders to track progress and identify targets that are off track. Besides being a critical tool for holding our leaders to account, they will also be a compass to check if the SDGs are delivering for the people, leaving no-one behind, and acknowledge fully the planetary boundaries.

1. We urge the IAEG-SDGs to apply the following principles to your work, to ensure that the development of global indicators matches the spirit and ambition of the SDGs.

Human rights

- The global indicators must be in line with existing human rights standards and all other UN agreements made related to the SDGs concerning social and environmental matters, and must not in any way signal any retrogression.

- We must not limit our vision to what we can measure now, but what we want to measure by 2030, to create a broad and holistic picture of SDG progress and the enjoyment of human rights and protection of the environment. For example measurements of participation, which is a long identified data-gap, is key to realising human rights and achieving the SDGs.
- Measure effort, conduct as well as outcomes. Most indicators will rightly focus on outcomes, however, outcomes alone cannot give a full understanding of a State's compliance with their human rights obligations and commitments in Agenda 2030. State's policy efforts, resource allocation, and their relationship with human rights and sustainable development outcomes, must also be monitored. We therefore suggest a certain number of indicators that quantify inputs and outputs.
- The indicators framework should capture multiple and intersecting experiences of inequality and discrimination.

Maintain the scope of the Agenda

- Our belief is that we should strive to measure every part of the Agenda - even if it requires additional efforts in data collection - and “preserve the political balance, integration and ambition contained therein” (para 75 of the Agenda 2030 outcome document).

Disaggregation

- A key element of Agenda 2030 is the commitment to “leave no-one behind”, in particular the most marginalised. In order to recognise this, the indicators must enable the collection of disaggregated data. All data should be disaggregated on all relevant grounds, as stated in goal 17.18 and para 74.g of Agenda 2030, and work with the principle of progressive realisation.

Accountability

- The indicators must be clear, measurable, and lend themselves to allow people to hold governments and other duty-bearers to account for the timely and effective delivery of Agenda 2030.
- Data needs to be collected in an independent, impartial, timely and transparent manner, following internationally agreed standards and principles. The data should also be easily available and accessible to all peoples, communities, institutions and stakeholders. It will also be important to ensure that the communities and individuals most affected are part of the data gathering and analysis process and their grounded experience and knowledge forms part of the monitoring and review process.

Indivisibility and Interdependence

- It is essential that indicators are not chosen on the basis on what is easy or less costly to measure. The number of indicators chosen should also not be compromised, for the same reason. The focus should be on developing innovative and appropriate measures and methodologies for the goals and targets at hand.

Universality

- The decided set of global indicators should enable the comparison of progress across countries, regions and at a global level.

A focus on people

- The Agenda 2030 outcome document makes it clear that the focus needs to be on meaningful changes in the lives of people. Gathering data on people's experiences and perceptions of effectiveness will play a key role in ensuring that it is delivering in this regard. Furthermore, using inclusive and participatory approaches to measurement, such as social accountability will contribute to people being at the centre of the agenda.

2. In addition to these principles, it is pivotal to ensure that the process of developing the global indicators for the SDGs is one that is open and transparent, and includes consultation with all stakeholders, including civil society. In order to ensure this, we request the following:

- A clear timeline on the process and programme of work of the IAEG-SDGs should be made available in the public domain.
- Clarity, transparency and participation on the engagement of civil society in the process of refinement and revision of the indicators.
- Clarity on how civil society inputs collected through the public consultation process have been used and shared with IAEG members.
- A draft set of indicators is released ahead of the Bangkok and subsequent meetings. This would allow all relevant stakeholders to be prepared ahead of the meetings. These should also be made available, at the minimum, in all UN languages, in order to allow for inputs from different parts of the world, leaving no-one behind.
- Formal interactions between the co-chairs of the IAEG-SDGs, civil society and other stakeholders, during the Bangkok meeting, and future meetings of IAEG-SDGs.

We appreciate your efforts and hope that you will be able to take the aforementioned red lines into consideration as you finalise the modalities for the Bangkok meeting and in the important task of

finalising the global indicators in the months ahead. For any further correspondence or response to this letter, please contact Savio Carvalho at Savio.Carvalho@amnesty.org

Yours sincerely,

Endorsed by the following organisations:

Organisation	Name	Country
Abibiman Foundation	Kenneth Nana Amoateng	Ghana
action/2015 Liberia	Samuel Chanchan	International
ActionAid Denmark	Helle Munk Ravnborg	Denmark
ADD International	Polly Meeks	Global/international
Alliance for Development	Laud Addo	Ghana
All-Win Network	Lisinka Ulatowska	Global/International
Amnesty International	Savio Carvalho	Global
Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment	Elena Manvelyan	Armenia
Association for promotion sustainable development	Mr. Mange Ram Adhana president	India
Association of World Citizens	Lisinka Ulatowska, UN Rep	Global/International
Association pour le developpement et de la promotion des droits humains	Hawa sidibe	Mauritanie
Australian Council for International Development	Marc Purcell, CEO	Australia
AWEC	Zulaikha	Afghanistan
Bioregional	Emily Auckland	United Kingdom
Blind People's Association (India)	Bhushan Punani	India
Bond	Kate Munro	United Kingdom
Campagne post2015	4D - CRID	France
CANU Association Cameroon	Suh Cheo Cyprain	Cameroon
Caribbean Policy Development Centre	Shantal Munro- Knight	regional
CBM	CBM	International
CCDA	R. Rocain Dean	Bahamas
CDP Worldwide	Shirin Reuvers	Global
Centre for Human Rights and Development Studies (CHRDS)	Ivana Savic	Serbia
Centre for Youth and Development	James Gondwe	Malawi
Chance for Childhood	Vanessa Buvens	United Kingdom
ChildFund Alliance	Sarah Stevenson	Global/International
Children's Partner CAP Nepal	Uday Thing	International
Church of Sweden	Gunnel Axelsson Nycander	Sweden

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation	Danny Sriskandarajah	Global/International
Community Foundation Western Province	Albert Kenyani Inima	Kenya
Concord Sweden	Sofia Svarfvar	Sweden
Destykids Foundation	Giedon Debrah	Global
Dhoritri Foundation for Information Education	Adan islam	Bangladesh
Disabled Peoples Organisations Denmark	Thorkild Olesen	Denmark
Dream Hunt	Portia Oppong Baffour	Ghana
Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development	Lieke Scheewe	Netherlands
End Water Poverty	Megan MacGarry	Global
Fair Trade Advocacy Office	Sergi Corbalán	International
Feminist Task Force	Rosa G. Lizarde	Global/International
Forum Syd	Annica Sohlström	Sweden
GCAP Burundi	Akilimali Aboubakar	Burundi
GCAP Italy	Massimo Pallottino	Italy
GCAP-Liberia	James S. Roberts	Liberia
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)	Ingo Ritz/Pradeep Baisakh	Global
Global responsibility - Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	Annelies Vilim	Austria
Global South Initiative	Hansha Sanjyal	Nepal
GOLD ONG	Joël HOUNGUE	Bénin
Handicap International	Battello	International
HelpAge International	Verity McGivern	International
Helping Lives International	Dr.Prince Israel Orekha	Global/International
Health Poverty Action	Martin Drewry	Global/International
IAU-îdF	Iuli Nascimento	France
IBIS	General Secretary Vagn Berthelsen	Denmark
IDAY-Ghana	Kofi Boahoe	Ghana
INSA-INDIA	Edwina Pereirs	International
Institute for Planetary Synthesis	Boainain-Schneider Alice	Global/International
Institute of Global Education	Schneider Rudolf	Global/International
International Disability Alliance	Vladimir Cuk	Global
International Disability and Development Consortium	Elizabeth Lockwood	International
International Society for Poverty Elimination / Economic Alliance Group	Lanre Rotimi	Nigeria
International Society of Doctors for the Environment/ISDE	Cathey Falvo, MD	global/international
International Tibet Network	Alison Reynolds	International
International-Lawyers.Org	Curtis Doebbler	Switzerland

Intl ATD Fourth World Movement	Isabelle Pypaert Perrin	Global
JONGO FARMERS NIGERIA	Azeez Tajudeen	NIGERIA
Kikandwa Environmental Association	Kaganga John	Uganda
Light for the World	Paulien Bruijn	Netherlands
LIGHT FOR THE WORLD	Rupert Roniger	Austria
Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE)	Bob van Dillen	Netherlands
Medical Mission Sisters	Celine Paramunda	International
Namati	Stacey Cram	Global
National Ethical Service	Martha Gallahue	United States
NCD Alliance	Priya Kanayson	Global/international
ngo	itodo jonathan	nigeria
Ohaha Family Foundation	John Ede	Nigeria
ONE (SINGAPORE)	Michael Switow	Singapore
ONG Démocratie Dans le Monde	Latifatou WAÏDI	Bénin
Oxfam	Takumo Yamada	United States
Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport	Cornie Huizenga	Global
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement	Beckie Malay	Philippines
Plan International	Amanda Lundy	Global/International
PRO Global - pensioners without borders	Alfhild Petren	Sweden
Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa and the Community Mayor of Harlem	Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely	United States
Restless Development	Sarah Haynes	Global / International
Royal Dutch Kentalis / Kentalis International Foundation	Dr. Maria Brons	The Netherlands
Saferworld	Thomas Wheeler	Global/International
Sahkar Social Welfare Association	Riaz Hussain Chandio	Pakistan
sd network	Sifiso Dlamini	global international
Sense International	Bailey Grey	International
Sense International India	Akhil Paul	India
Sightsavers	Andrew Griffiths	International
Siglo XXIII AND GCAP	Marta Benavides	El Salvador and Global/International
Sisters of Charity Federaiton	Teresa	United States
Snayee Development Organization - SDO	Raz Mohammad Dalili	Afghanistan
Society for International Development	Stefano Prato	Global/International
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues; & The	Corann Okorodudu	Global/International

Psychology Coalition of NGOs Accredited at the UN		
Somos el Presente	Carlo Angeles	International - Latin America
SOS Children's Villages International	Sofia Garcia Garcia	Global/International
Southwest Native Cultures	Terry A. Sloan	United States
SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	JANUARY MVULA	MALAWI
Swedish Mission Council	Eva Christina Nilsson	Sweden
Temple of Understanding	Lily Schwabe	Global/International
The Leprosy Mission England & Wales	Sian Arulanantham	Global
Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations (T.I.L.L.O.)	Dr. Catherine Tinker	Global/International
Titivator Hub	Aminu Lookman	Global
Todos por la vida (TPV)	Pedro Tobares	Argentina
Union des Jeunes pour l'Entraide et le Developpement (UJED) in acronym	ULIMWENGU Mossi	Burundi
United Nations Youths Association of Nigeria	Onwuegbusi Uderike Junior	Nigeria
Universal Access to Healthcare Campaign	Archibald Adams	Ghana
VAANI, Deaf Childrens Foundation	Brinda Crishna	International
ViceChair UN CRPD Committee	Diane Kingston OBE	global/international
VSO International	Patrick Procter	Global
WaterAid	Jayde Bradley	International
Women Empowerment Group	Felix Kulei	Kenya
Women Thrive Worldwide	Pat Morris	Global
World Team Now	Suzanne Maxx	Global/International
World Vision	Arelys Bellorini	Global/international
Youth Association for Development	Atta Ul Haq	Pakistan
Youths for Development	Salim Juma	Kenya
Zonta International	Megan Radavich	Global