

Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2024

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Statistical Commission
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4. **Impacts** of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body.

Halfway to the deadline for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world is not on track to achieve targets related to poverty (Goal 1), hunger (Goal 2), climate action (Goal 13), peace and justice (Goal 16), and partnerships for the goals (Goal 17). Conflict, climate change, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges are threatening to derail hard-earned progress towards these and other Sustainable Development Goals.

Geopolitical, socioeconomic, and climatic disruptions have impeded progress on ending poverty. Global poverty reduction was already slowing after 2015. The COVID-19 pandemic then caused extreme poverty to increase in 2020 for the first time in decades, reversing global progress by three years. Recovery has been uneven, with low-income countries lagging behind. By 2030, an estimated 575 million people – 7% of the world’s population – will still live in extreme poverty. Sub-Saharan Africa and conflict zones face heightened challenges.

COVID-19, conflict, climate change, and growing inequalities have negatively affected the implementation of SDG 2. The number of people experiencing hunger has surged, reaching 768 million in 2021 from 589 million in 2015. Projections indicate that by 2030, approximately 8% of the global population (670 million people) will still face hunger, mirroring 2015 levels. Far too many children suffer from malnutrition today, and the current annual reduction rate of stunting will need to more than double to meet global targets by 2030.

The cumulative impacts of overlapping crises are detracting the world’s attention on climate change. Current measures to address the climate crisis are inadequate. In the absence of urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly and rapidly across all sectors, the 1.5°C target is in peril, putting the lives and livelihoods of more than 3 billion people at risk globally. Failure to act will lead to exacerbated heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, sea-level rise, and famines.

Ongoing and new violent conflicts have caused major setbacks to progress on global peace and security. A quarter of humanity resides in conflict zones, with a record 100 million forcibly

displaced as of May 2022. Citizens in many countries struggle to access justice and basic legal services due to ineffective institutions and face considerable structural injustices, inequalities, and emerging human rights challenges.

Partnerships and global cooperation on the SDGs are not at levels required to achieve the Goals in full by 2030. While there have been improvements in development aid, remittances, and technology access, funding for development remains a substantial challenge, especially in low-income countries. Geopolitical tensions and the rise of nationalism in some parts of the world are hindering international cooperation. Many developing nations are experiencing record inflation, rising interest rates, and escalating debt burdens, limiting fiscal space and policy options.

5. Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative **solutions** for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

The work of the Statistical Commission as an intergovernmental body responsible for the statistical standards and methodologies used by national statistical offices is fundamental in supporting the availability of comparable, comprehensive data and statistical evidence used to measure progress toward sustainable development. National statistical systems are the backbone for providing data and statistics to measure progress toward sustainable development. The pandemic and the ongoing multiple crises and global disruptions emphasize the need for timely, disaggregated data, and national statistical offices adapted and innovated data production methods and processes to ensure continuity of major official statistical programmes.

On a macro level, the revisions to the Terms of reference adopted by the Commission and ECOSOC in 2022 (E/RES/2022/3) broadened the ability of the Commission to address and respond to the changing data landscape. The updated terms of reference, the result of an open, participatory-based, and transparent process, address the changing data ecosystem and how the Statistical Commission can be responsive and reflect the current and futuristic statistical and data needs faced by Member States. The broadening of the scope from statistics to *statistics and data* highlights how complex the data ecosystem is, and that the Statistical Commission is well positioned to meet these demands.

Areas in which the Commission has been working on solutions for achieving the SDGs focus around improving the availability and granularity of data and statistics to measure achievement towards the Goals.

The Commission has endorsed the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and SEEA Ecosystem

Accounting both of which contribute to achieving the SDGs by building sustainable, resilient systems.

Providing statistical capacity building, via projects such as Data4Now, helps develop countries' capacities to deliver the information needed by local and national policy and decision makers to design effective development strategies and policy programmes.

In 2022, the Commission established the Friends of the Chair on Social and Demographic Statistics to review statistical areas and provide recommendations for strengthened social and demographic statistics that better reflect society and its connections with the environment and the economy.

Food security and nutrition statistics are essential to be able to measure achievement to SDG 2. At its 55th session the Commission approved the agenda item “Food security and nutrition statistics” which aims to improve decision making and policy related to SDG 2.

6. Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently **needed** to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.

Overall support and financing for sustainable national statistical system is urgently needed to allow these essential offices to carry out their work. Strengthen national statistical capacity allows countries to be more sustainable, resilient and innovative to effectively respond to new data challenges with innovative solutions.

The Commission has tasked the Bureau to explore data governance as discussed at its “Friday Seminar on Emerging Issues: Data Governance” with the aim to launch a process toward the development of common terminology and definitions for data governance; (E/CN.3/2024/36, para 102(c)). Defining data governance and addressing data governance across governments will help address shifts in the larger data world and help Member states navigate this emerging area.

7. **Follow-up actions and measures** being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

All components of the work of the Commission in setting standards, developing methodologies, and building national capacity support the implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit. The strong call in the Declaration and the pledge contained in para (r) “to take action to strengthen international, national and local data statistical system...commit to

increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing financing for data and statistics, and enhancing capacity building support to developing countries” (A/RES/78/1, para (r)) are important steps to support the availability of data and statistics.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/313, the Inter-agency and expert group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) is conducting a 2025 Comprehensive Review of the Global Indicator Framework which will bring proposals to the 56th session of the Commission in 2025.

The High-level initiative on the Power of data aims to drive progress towards the SDGs through national data partnerships, bringing together key stakeholders.

The Statistical Commission stands ready to engage the work on measure of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond GDP, aiming for an inclusive approach (A/RES/78/1, para 28(xi)).

8. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.

Data and statistics are evidence needed to measure progress. Catching up on the promises and ambitions of the 2030 Agenda requires significant investment in our data, statistics and information infrastructure. Timely, high-quality and disaggregated data can help trigger more targeted responses, anticipate future needs, and hone the design of urgently needed actions. These data strategic assets are essential to not only build back better, but also accelerate implementation of the SDGs. To emerge stronger from these multiple crises and prepare for unknown challenges ahead, funding statistical development must be a priority for national governments and the international community.