



Note on the activities of Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs: WGGI) – June 2020

INTRODUCTION

In the following, a short introduction to the objectives, tasks and scheduled activities of the renewed UN-GGIM:IAEG-SDGs WGGI, fully based on the Working Group revised work plan, and prepared by Italy and Denmark members of the WG. Additional information and released document can be found at <https://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg6/>

On 6 March 2015, the United Nations Statistical Commission created the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of Member States and including regional and international agencies as observers. The IAEG-SDGs was tasked to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, the IAEG-SDGs noted that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data will be key for the production of a number of the indicators and has been created the Working Group on Geospatial Information, reporting to the IAEG-SDGs (UN-GGIM: IAEG-SDGs WGGI), in which UN-GGIM:Europe was represented by Fabio Volpe (IT) and the Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (DE)

In July 2019, the IAEG-SDGs, renewed its composition and updated the Terms of Reference for its Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI) to achieve a greater working relationship, synergy and coordination between the statistical and geospatial information communities. The Terms of Reference provide the objectives, governance, tasks and membership of the WGGI. They established the next phase of the work of the WGGI, and enables it to build on its existing contributions, including the use of geospatial tools for the analysis, production and dissemination of a number of indicators of the global indicator framework.

Due to the fact that the request by the UN-GGIM Secretariat for "geospatial experts" was addressed to representatives of Members States, the UN-GGIM Regional Committees are not represented anymore in the IAEG SDG WG GI. Therefore roles of the nominated experts for UN-GGIM: Europe (Fabio Volpe (IT) and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (DE)) in this global WG GI thus terminated. Nevertheless, Fabio Volpe (IT) and Olav Eggers (D) confirmed their membership in the WGGI. As both experts from Italy and Denmark are members of the UN-GGIM:Europe Working Group on Data Integration, a good information exchange can be guaranteed for the benefit of both WGs, the global and the European one.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching aim of the WGGI is to ensure from a statistical and geospatial perspective that one of the key principles of the 2030 Agenda, to leave no one behind, is reflected in the global indicator framework. In this framework, specific objectives are to:

- Provide expertise and advice to the IAEG-SDGs, custodian agencies and the larger statistical community as to how geospatial information, Earth observations and other new location-based data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the production and dissemination of the indicators
- Review options and provide guidance to the IAEG-SDGs, as to the role of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in considering the use and application of geospatial data and Earth observations, as a mean to contribute to and validate datasets as part of official statistics for SDG indicators.



TASKS

Identify and share

- Common standards required for the use of geospatial data as a source in the production of official statistics
- National and regional level experiences, guidelines and best practices in geospatial data production and analysis to measure leaving no one behind
- Frameworks and tools for linking statistical and geospatial data for further contributing to the effort of advancing the use of Geospatial Information System (GIS) for the SDGs
- Guidelines and international standards on existing geospatial information platforms to facilitate data exchange and maximize interoperability (Open Geospatial Consortium standards, SDMX information model, etc.).

Showcase how geospatial information can contribute to the indicators and metadata:

- As the basic data for the production of the indicator itself
- To support and augment statistical data
- To improve the production process of statistical data
- To validate national statistical data inputs
- To communicate and visualize the geographic dimensions and context of the indicators where appropriate
- To provide granularity and disaggregation of the indicators where appropriate.

Work in close cooperation

- With the custodian agencies and other actors, including the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building (HLG), to propose strategies for undertaking methodological work on specific areas for improving either the calculation of some indicators or disaggregation by geographic location concepts for national and sub-national reporting
- Build on existing and ongoing working mechanisms among stakeholders, especially the work of custodian agencies and that of the working groups of the IAEG-SDGs
- Consult widely regarding the status of methodologies, geospatial data collection and input tools as a starting point.

Review the agreed indicators and metadata

- Through a *geographic location* lens and identify existing geospatial data gaps, methodological and measurements issues, as well as advise on the use of Geographic Information Systems technologies for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs;
- For the initial shortlist indicator analysis of geospatial inputs and metadata presented to the IAEG-SDGs by the WGGI, assess what progress exists and where further work needs to be focused.

Support data disaggregation

- The IAEG-SDGs has identified data disaggregation as one of its main areas of work for 2020. Through its dedicated work stream on data disaggregation, it will revise and update the technical documentation and guidelines on data disaggregation, and liaise with other working groups and with existing mechanisms for the work on data disaggregation
- The WGGI will initiate a process to support the efforts of the IAEG-SDGs work stream on data disaggregation to develop dimensions and categories of data disaggregation for the global SDG



indicator framework – specifically for those indicators that require disaggregation by geographic location

- Identify indicators that require geographic information for disaggregation.

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Have been identified two types of activities:

- Immediate activities (before end of 2020)
- Longer term activities

IMMEDIATE ACTIVITIES

Review the shortlist of 24 SDG Indicators (developed in early 2017) where geospatial information can contribute to the production of the indicator or its disaggregation, including the revised classification indicators, the updated indicator metadata, and the outcomes of the Work Stream on Disaggregation

Develop and provide guidance to the IAEG-SDGs regarding the outcomes of this review, towards developing a “long list” of SDG indicators

- Elaborate on the revised short list to reflect the revised global indicator framework, prevailing good practices and updated metadata
- Identify key indicators, where geospatial information can inform the production of global and national indicators.

Strengthen communication and coordination within the international statistical and geospatial information communities and the IAEG-SDGs

- Develop a communications and coordination mechanism for the WGGI to showcase its work
- Promote national, regional, and global efforts for the calculation of SDG indicators using geospatial information, and participate where resources and capacity allow
- Engage in efforts to integrate and raise awareness of knowledge related to the WGGI’s specific tasks, work, and outcomes
- Develop story telling documents that detail 2 - 3 indicators, to better visualize, communicate, promote and disseminate progress of the work of the WGGI as widely as possible
- Consider work items or tasks commissioned by the IAEG-SDGs, and means to work with custodian agencies, particularly in the methodological aspect.

Capability inventory

- Consider, review and document types of processes and methodologies that provide real world examples and proven practices in applying geospatial information and Earth observations to produce indicators;
- Propose recommendations to the IAEG-SDGs of highlighting real world examples and proven good practices.

Through reviewing the ‘shortlist’ of SDG indicators it is aimed that the WGGI can comprehensively identify current progress and gaps, support the methodological development of indicators, and inform countries on



methodological good practices for the production of indicators. These packages are sequential and will require the co-Chairs and Secretariat to work closely with the WGGI.

LONGER TERM ACTIVITIES

WGGI SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

- Develop a WGGI 'SDGs Geospatial Roadmap' as a strategic information and communications mechanism that 'builds the bridge' between the statistical and geospatial actors working within the global indicator framework
- A vision is to see geospatial and location-based information being recognized and accepted as official data for the SDGs and includes key strategic messages and facts
- Develop 'story-telling' mechanisms to better visualize, communicate, promote and disseminate progress of the work of the WGGI as widely as possible
- Enhance the awareness of geospatial information and Earth observations, and related data products and tools that can inform the SDGs through its indicators.

Interlinkages among relevant groups

- Identify and foster key interlinkages among relevant groups. Reach out to and initiate virtual meetings with co-chairs/principals of groups to identify interlinkages between relevant aspects of the work items of various entities within the statistical and geospatial community. Groups may include the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics, UN-GGIM: Europe, GEO (EO4SDGs), and other relevant groups - for example the EG-ISGI
- Reach out to the IAEG-SDGs work stream on data disaggregation to support the available and required disaggregation dimensions and categories for the global indicator framework – specifically for those indicators related to disaggregation by geographic location. This will be conducted through proposing a quarterly meeting between the WGGI co-chairs and the IAEG-SDGs' work stream on data disaggregation group.

Toolkits and methodologies

- Showcase proven toolkits and agreed methodologies, including tutorials and real-world examples, that will support Member States to improve their application of geospatial information and Earth observations for the production of indicators
- Consider work items or tasks commissioned by the IAEG-SDGs, and means to work with custodian agencies, particularly in methodological aspects

Guidance and recommendations

- Develop guidance and recommendations for the IAEG-SDGs regarding the use of proven toolkits (including the GEO EO4SDGs Toolkits) and frameworks (including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), among other relevant frameworks) to demonstrate how they relate to the development and use of geospatial information for the production of indicators
- Identify 4-5 cases studies where SDG indicators derived from geospatial information have been used to support policy and decision making