

# **Integrating gender responsive indicators in the SDG process with focus on water**

**UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP) WORKING GROUP ON GENDER SENSITIVE WATER MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

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## Gender-disaggregated data for “Water”

### *Introduction.*

This document is based on extensive work done by the members of the working group of the WWAP programme. It refers to the final Open Working Group document (vs. 19 July 2014) as adopted by the UN General Assembly to be (one of) the negotiation documents for the Post 2015/ SDG agenda, the Synthesis Report of the General Secretary published on 4 December 2014 and the Outcome document Summit dated 12 August 2015 and “TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, vs. 2 August 2015.

Getting ready to monitor the SDGs will require a ‘data revolution,’ as called for by the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and many others. Making sure the data reflect the different roles and responsibilities in society and hence the impact of the proposals of the goals and targets, calls also for gender-disaggregated data. The HLP gave strong recommendations on the subject (at <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>)<sup>1</sup>.

The IAEG-SDGs list of proposals dated 7 July 2015 states: “5. All indicators should be disaggregated by sex, age, residence (U/R) and other characteristics, as relevant and possible”.

For more relevant remarks and references, see Table 1 below, as well as Annex I.

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<sup>1</sup> · “The suggested targets are bold, yet practical. Like the MDGs, they would not be binding, but should be monitored closely. The indicators that track them should be disaggregated to ensure no one is left behind and targets should only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups. We recommend that any new goals should be accompanied by an independent and rigorous monitoring system, with regular opportunities to report on progress and shortcomings at a high political level. We also call for a **data revolution** for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens. We should actively take advantage of new technology, crowd sourcing, and improved connectivity to empower people with information on the progress towards the targets.” (Executive summary).

- “We would suggest that in all cases where a target applies to outcomes for individuals, it should only be deemed to be met if every group – defined by income quintile, gender, location or otherwise – has met the target.” (Page 15)
- “Gender equality is integrated across all of the goals, both in specific targets and by making sure that targets are measured separately for women and men, or girls and boys, where appropriate. But gender equality is also an important issue in its own right, and a stand-alone goal can catalyse progress.” (page 17)
- “Data must also enable us to reach the neediest, and find out whether they are receiving essential services. This means that data gathered will need to be disaggregated by gender, geography, income, disability, and other categories, to make sure that no group is being left behind.” (page 23)
- “The MDG targets have focused on improving the sources of water collection and reducing the amount of time it takes, especially for women, to collect water for basic family needs. We must now act to ensure universal access to safe drinking water at home, and in schools, health centres and refugee camps. This is a global minimum standard that should be applied to everyone—regardless of income quintile, gender, location, age or other grouping. Investing in safe drinking water complements investments in sanitation and hygiene. Water, sanitation and hygiene work together to make people healthier, and to reduce the grief, and time and money spent, when family members fall ill and need to be cared for. There is some evidence that private and adequate sanitation in schools allows menstruating girls to continue to attend school and learn, and reduces the likelihood that any child will get sick and have to leave school.” (page 42)

Table 1. WWAP sex-disaggregated indicators connected to SDG goals

<b>TARGET</b> <b>(as in the “</b> <b>transforming our</b> <b>world...”</b> <b>document dated</b> <b>August, 2 2015</b>	<b>Main WWAP</b> <b>indicators</b> <b>as proposed by</b> <b>WWAP working</b> <b>group</b>	<b>Re-phrased UN</b> <b>Water indicators</b> <b>proposal (based</b> <b>on UN Water</b> <b>document for</b> <b>IAEG-SDGs dated</b> <b>28 July 2015)</b>	<b>Additional indicators WWAP</b> <b>and disaggregated data</b> <b>collection for national or specific</b> <b>program use</b>
<p>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water</p>	<p>Percentage of households with (uninterrupted provision of affordable, safe) water on premises, by sex of main person responsible for collecting drinking water and by type of household (using rural/ urban samples)</p>	<p>Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services</p> <p>Percentage of households (disaggregated by sex of head of household) using safely managed drinking-water services</p>	<p>Unpaid time spent by individual household members in supplying water, making it safe for use, and managing it (M/F informants).</p> <p>M/F perceptions of the adequacy of current water supply/ availability in both quality and quantity in the household</p> <p>The extent to which gender outcomes and gender-sensitive accountability indicators are included in M&amp;E/ impact statements/ benefits analyses of national-level WASH-sector projects (project proposals and/or outcomes assessments). Sample projects.</p>
<p>5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.</p>	<p>Unpaid time spent by individual household members in supplying water, making it safe for use, and managing it (M/F informants).</p>	<p>(proposed indicator current document IAEG) Average daily (24 hours) spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location (for individuals five years and above) and economic impact</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable</p>	<p>Percent households with access to “improved” sanitation facility, by household structure and by nature of the “improved” facility by type of</p>	<p>Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services</p> <p>Percentage of population with handwashing facilities with soap and water at home</p>	<p>The nature and extent of gender-disaggregated data related to water and sanitation collected by responsible public entities at national and local levels (in relation to the totality of social indicators on water and sanitation collected).</p> <p>Percent households with access to “improved” sanitation facility, by</p>

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situations	household (using rural/ urban samples)	Percentage of households (disaggregated by sex of head of household) with handwashing facilities with soap and water	household structure and by nature of the “improved” facility  Intra-household M/F use of /access to improved sanitation facilities  M/F prioritization of gaining access to improved sanitation facilities; willingness to allocate household budgets for such access  M/F perceptions of the safety of sanitation facilities that are located outside the house; identified particular safety concerns  Percentage M/F trained on hygiene and health issues
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally		Percentage of wastewater safely treated  Percentage of receiving water bodies with ambient water quality not presenting risk to the environment or human health	The presence and nature of gender-specific objectives and commitments (or gender strategy) in national, local and sector-level water policies.  Percentage of households connected to sewerage or alternative means of water treatment *  Percentages reported health-incidents/ impacts disaggregated by sex *  Percentages of M/F in charge of waste and waste-water management
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water		Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal in percentage of available freshwater resources  Percentage of change in water use	M/F holder of water-concessions/ withdrawal permits *  M/F perceptions of/ knowledge of current total household use of water, by category of use and by primary use

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scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity		efficiency over time	Decision-makers and participants in household-based decision-making process regarding irrigation (M/F informants/ perceptions)• decisions re allocation of time and financial resources; crops to be irrigated
5.a undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws	M/F holder of water-concessions/ withdrawal permits *	(proposed indicator current document IAEG) Share of women among agricultural land owners by age and location (U/R)  Share of women among agricultural land owners by age and location <b>and access to water resources</b> (U/R)	See above
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	The presence and nature of gender-specific objectives and commitments (or gender strategy) in (transboundary) basin agreements	Degree of integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation (0-100)  Percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation <b>disaggregated by inclusiveness of gender-specific arrangements, objectives and commitments</b>	Designated ministerial responsibility for gender in relation to water policies ; the extent to which gender-specific agencies are included in water sector decision-making.  Number of M/F staff responsible for gender issues (disaggregated by job level) in <b>lead agency for the water sector</b>  Number of M/F staff on transboundary water commissions (sample for pilot countries), disaggregated by job category/level and decision-making capacity (and salary, if available).  The extent to which gender outcomes and gender-sensitive accountability indicators are included in M&E/ impact statements/ benefits analyses of

TARGET (as in the “transforming our world...” document dated August, 2 2015)	Main WWAP indicators as proposed by WWAP working group	Re-phrased UN Water indicators proposal (based on UN Water document for IAEG-SDGs dated 28 July 2015)	Additional indicators WWAP and disaggregated data collection for national or specific program use
			<p>transboundary agreements/ activities.</p> <p>The presence and nature of gender-specific objectives and commitments (or gender strategy) in transboundary agreements</p> <p>Intensity of M/F participation in (sample/representative) meetings of (transboundary) decision-making authorities, including outcomes such as: ratio of contributions in decision-making meetings by women and men; percentage of decisions adopted from women’s contributions in meetings.</p>
5.5 ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life	Number of M/F in <b>paid and unpaid</b> positions in <b>local</b> water governance formally-structured entities (water users associations, board of the utility, water boards (river basin), etc) at town/ village level	<p>(proposed indicator current document IAEG) Proportion of seats held by women in local governments</p> <p>Proportion of seats held by women in local authorities executive boards</p>	<p>Number of M/F in <b>paid and unpaid</b> positions in <b>local</b> water governance formally-structured entities (water users associations, etc) at town/ village level (sample) ; disaggregated by nature of relationship to the entity (e.g., “member”, “board”, “executive”, “leadership,” decision-making group, etc) and types of tasks</p> <p>Intensity of M/F participation in (sample/representative) meetings of decision-making authorities, including outcomes such as: ratio of contributions in decision-making meetings by women and men; percentage of decisions adopted from women’s contributions in meetings.</p>
5.c adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all	The presence and nature of enforceable gender-specific objectives and commitments (or gender strategy) in national, local and	<p>(proposed indicator current document IAEG) Percentage of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and</p>	<p>The presence and nature of enforceable gender-specific objectives and commitments (or gender strategy) in national, local and sector-level water policies.</p> <p>The nature and extent of gender-disaggregated data related to</p>

TARGET (as in the “transforming our world...” document dated August, 2 2015	Main WWAP indicators as proposed by WWAP working group	Re-phrased UN Water indicators proposal (based on UN Water document for IAEG-SDGs dated 28 July 2015)	Additional indicators WWAP and disaggregated data collection for national or specific program use
women and girls at all levels	sector-level water policies.	women’s empowerment	water and sanitation collected by responsible public entities at national and local levels (in relation to the totality of social indicators on water and sanitation collected).
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	The extent to which communities are impacted economically and socially by change in wetlands over time including men / women effected	Percentage of change in wetlands extent over time <b>impacting men/ women economically or socially</b>	The extent to which gender outcomes and gender-sensitive accountability indicators are included in M&E/ impact statements/ benefits analyses of national-level WASH-sector projects (project proposals and/or outcomes assessments). Sample projects.
6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	Percentage of water and sanitation-related ODA that reaches women’s organizations directly	Amount of water and sanitation related Official Development Assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan  Amount of water and sanitation related Official Development Assistance allocated disaggregated by type of institution benefitting	<sup>2</sup> Percentage of countries using gender-budgeting methodology for ODA evaluation  Percentage of ODA allocated for capacity development in this regard disaggregated by sex  Percentage of water and sanitation-related ODA that reaches women’s organizations directly
6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	Number of M/F in <b>paid and unpaid</b> positions in <b>local</b> water governance formally-structured entities	Percentage of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in	Number of M/F in <b>paid and unpaid</b> positions in <b>local</b> water governance formally-structured entities (water users associations, etc) at town/ village level (sample) ; disaggregated by

\*indicators developed / added in 2015

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	(water users associations, etc) at town/ village level	water and sanitation management <i>disaggregated by sex of participants</i>	nature of relationship to the entity (e.g., “member”, “board”, “executive”, “leadership,” decision-making group, etc) and types of tasks  Intensity of M/F participation in (sample/representative) meetings of public entity bodies sampled at national, sub-national, and local levels, including outcomes such as: ratio of contributions in decision-making meetings by women and men; percentage of decisions adopted from women’s contributions in meetings.  M/F perceptions of gender discrimination (or equality) regarding women’s participation in decision-making entities
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	Number of people killed, injured, displaced, evacuated, relocated or otherwise affected by disasters disaggregated by income, gender and age of victims *	Number of deaths, missing people, injured, relocated or evacuated due to disasters per 100,000 people  <i>Number of people killed, injured, displaced, evacuated, relocated or otherwise affected by disasters (disaggregated by disaster type (floods, droughts, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides etc.) and by income, gender and age of victims</i>	Percentage of M/F involved in relevant committees developing and steering disaster response plans *  Percentage M/F received training to enhance resilience and response preparedness *

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		Number of housing units damaged and destroyed disaggregated by sex of head of household	

**LEGEND:**

**YELLOW** = (proposed indicator current document IAEG)

**RED** = indicators added by WWAP in 2015, not yet online

This report aims to contribute to:

- Formulation of indicators related to “water” in such a way that they are gender-responsive
- Making the connection between Goal 5 and 6
- showing the value of gender-disaggregated data in providing strong support for the monitoring of post-2015 / sustainable development goals
- build capacity for national gender-disaggregation data-gathering projects;
- create baseline knowledge related to water, from which gender progress can later be evaluated;
- And already looks and contributes to the “means of implementation” for proposed target 17.18: “17.18 by 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.

**Gendered statistics.**

Gender statistics means more than just sex-disaggregated data, although in some cases this can be a challenge in itself. (Let alone the “language” discussion that goes with it). It is important to note that while sex refers to the biological differences between women and men, gender refers to the social constructs of being ‘male’ or ‘female’, which can vary over time and life-cycle and across cultures.

Gender-differentiated statistics: In order to take into account gender-specific disadvantages and needs, it is important to compile gender disaggregated data in many other areas, e.g. data about the time use and the division of labour, the distribution of property and assets between women and men, as well as sensitive issues like gender-based violence. Simply disaggregating data according to sex (mere “sex-counting”) is not sufficient.

Gender-differentiated indicators: These will specify whether inequality between the sexes has increased or decreased over time, e.g. in the employment sector, indicators measure access to productive resources or wage ratios.

If and how financial resources are mobilised has clear implications for women’s human rights and the achievement of gender equality; gender equality must be considered as a means to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and as a critical policy measure for all countries. Therefore, gender budgeting should be an integral part of FfD and the Post-2015 MoI strategy.

Producing gender statistics also means collecting and analyzing data that address specific issues that may affect women more than men (or vice versa), as well as incorporating a gender dimension into data collection processes so

that the experiences of all women and men are properly captured and gender biases are avoided or (temporary specific) measures for enhancement of groups are supported.

One of the major challenges in producing gender statistics is that they are often seen as addressing a 'women's issue' (only) and become marginalized instead of mainstreamed, with no clear institutional arrangements in place to coordinate their production and limited resources dedicated to data collection and dissemination. A [2013 survey by the UN Statistical Commission](#) reveals that gendered water data (approx. 55%) is among the least available of national-level indicators - although since the Dublin principals were adopted there is general agreement that the role of women is pivotal and they are at the same time the group that is affected most by lack of adequate water-related services (see also <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/genderstatmanual/What-are-gender-stats.ashx>)<sup>3</sup>.

We have all learned from the MDGs: we counted the amount of taps, but forgot to check if there was safe water coming out of them; we build toilets but did not assess if they were actually used by women and their livelihoods and feeling of safety was enhanced. So it is crucial that future indicators not only look at "what you can touch/ grasp" as an easy to measure in quantity, but also design indicators that tell us something about the improvement of the quality (of life).

### The targets and areas to measure.

In his report the SG refers to six areas: dignity, people, planet, prosperity, justice and partnership. The most recent document (2 August) speaks of the 5P's and the interlinkages between them.

SDG 5 explicitly addresses equity and women's empowerment.



<sup>3</sup> Confusion between "sex" and "gender" still persists among producers and users of statistics (United Nations, 2001a, 2002; Corner, 2003; UNECE, and World Bank Institute, 2010). The word "sex" refers to biological differences between women and men. Biological differences are fixed and unchangeable and do not vary across cultures or over time. "Gender", meanwhile, refers to socially-constructed differences in the attributes and opportunities associated with being female or male and to social interactions and relationships between women and men. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or man in a given context. In most societies, there are differences and inequalities between women and men in terms of roles and responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources and decision-making opportunities. These differences and inequalities between the sexes are shaped by the history of social relations and change over time and across cultures.

The term "gender" has often been wrongly used in association with data. "Gender disaggregation" or "data disaggregated by gender" are incorrect terms. Gender statistics are disaggregated by sex, an individual-level characteristic commonly recorded in censuses, surveys and administrative records, not by gender, a social concept relevant at the level of a population group (Corner, 2003). When data on demographic, social or economic characteristics are collected in the field, it is the sex of a person that is recorded, as female (woman) or male (man), not the gender. Sex-disaggregated data, however, when analysed, have the capacity to reveal differences in women's and men's lives that are the result of gender roles and expectations.

**The draft SDGs refer explicitly to water and equity issues;**

below is a selection based on the aim of the WWAP program. Clear related goals and targets:

1.b create sound policy frameworks, at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions

3.3 by 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases

5.5 ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life

5.a undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws

5.c adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Proposed goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

6.3 by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally

6.4 by 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.5 by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

6.6 by 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

6.a by 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.b support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management

11.b by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels

12.4 by 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

15.1 by 2020 ensure conservation , restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

17.18 by 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

**Proposed indicators.**

For background informative on the indicators and methodology: see report WWAP (gender working group) report “ Sex-disaggregated indicators for water assessment monitoring and reporting: concepts, priorities and methodologies” dated April 2015.

Table 1 above covers the main water-related targets, but not yet all. (work in progress).

## Annex I

### Relevant remarks on indicators in the current post 2015 documents

*From the OWG report and Rio+20 conclusions:*

“ 17. In order to monitor the implementation of the SDGs, it will be important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to support the support the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. There is a need to take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind.

18. Sustainable Development Goals are accompanied by targets and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. They are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. They build on the foundation laid by the MDGs, seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.”

*There are also a few relevant remarks for this report/ undertaking in the recent SG synthesis report:*

“ Para 83: .....Indicators will need to be broadly disaggregated across all goals and targets.

Para 139: A set of applicable indicators will also need to be identified to allow us to collect, compare, and analyse reliable data, to do so at the adequate level of disaggregation, as of 2016.

141. As indicated by my Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the world must acquire a new ‘data literacy’ in order to be equipped with the tools, methodologies, capacities, and information necessary to shine a light on the challenges of responding to the new agenda. Enhanced national and international statistical capacities, rigorous indicators, reliable and timely data sets, new and non-traditional data sources, and broader and systematic disaggregation to reveal inequities will all be fundamental to implementing it.

142. In all of this, we must maximize our commitment to public transparency, information sharing, participatory monitoring and open data, while never compromising on the obligation to protect the right to privacy. And we must significantly scale up support to countries and national statistical offices with critical needs for capacities to produce, collect, disaggregate, analyse, and share data crucial to the new agenda.

143. To these ends, **I recommend that, under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission, a comprehensive programme of action on data be established. This includes the building of a global consensus, applicable principles and standards for data, a web of data innovation networks to advance innovation and analysis, a new innovative financing stream to support national data capacities, and a global data partnership to promote leadership and governance.**

144. Specifically, we will carry out in close cooperation with country experts an in-depth **analysis of the existing data and information gaps** and, thus, determine the scale of the investments needed to establish a modern SDG monitoring system. We will catalyze a multi-stakeholder **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data**, to mobilize and coordinate the actions required to make the data revolution serve sustainable development, promoting initiatives such as the holding of inclusive ‘**World Fora on Sustainable Development Data**’.”

It seems that an emerging idea is to create of “ basket of indicators” , globally comparable but for national governments to choose from depending on their priorities.

Beyond 2015 in December has issued the outcome document from its Civil Society Organization (CSO) Copenhagen Conference. ‘Equality at the Core: A call for a strong commitment to tackling inequalities through the post-2015 agenda’ calls for stand-alone goals on equality and gender equality, and provides recommendations on addressing inequality in the post-2015 development agenda.

According to the statement, the post-2015 development agenda must meet four criteria to ensure that "no one is left behind": addressing equality in the headline goals as well as a stand-alone goal on equality; addressing equality in all three dimensions of sustainable development, in all goals and targets; addressing equality in all post-2015 indicators and data collection, including through disaggregation of data to reflect vulnerable and marginalized groups; and including a clear commitment that no goal or target should be considered met unless it has been met by all, including the poorest and most marginalized. From the report:

**‘Address equality in all post-2015 indicators and data collection**, including through sophisticated and multidimensional data disaggregation that captures intersecting inequalities faced by vulnerable and marginalised groups, and reflects the priorities they identify through inclusive and participatory practices.” “The post-2015 agenda must prioritize the **production and use of disaggregated data using sophisticated and multi-dimensional approaches that capture the intersecting inequalities faced by vulnerable and marginalised groups, and the impacts of particular policies and actions on different groups of people**. In many instances, a lack of capacities, proper methodology or technology hinders more comprehensive data collection. Who sets priorities for data collection, who gathers data, and how and when it is collected reflects existing power structures. This can be partly overcome by broadening data approaches to address current gaps, including qualitative data and participatory methodologies, and responding to the priorities identified by vulnerable groups, as well cooperation between national statistical institutions and civil society.

**Indicators need to be sufficiently ambitious, related to existing human rights obligations, and multidimensional to avoid silos.** There must be a baseline of non-retrogression, non-discrimination and equality. Indicators need to track changes in social norms and attitudes and should not be only quantitative. They should be universal and comparable between all countries in order to monitor progress in meeting what are global targets, with additional indicators set at national and community levels. The process of setting indicators should be led by technical experts combined with the expertise of civil society and those with lived expertise of poverty. It must be neither too technocratic nor too political, but an expert-led process open to input from all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and citizens - particularly those most affected by poverty and inequality.”

The European Union Parliament stated in November 2014: “ 85. Stresses that accessible and disaggregated reliable data is crucial for devising appropriate policies on the new framework and for holding governments and the international community to account”.

Recently a Minimum Set of Gender Indicators comprised of 52 quantitative and 11 qualitative indicators was established. (UN Statistical Commission established the Global Gender Statistics Programme, coordinated by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and implemented by UN DESA’s Statistics Division and key partner agencies). Unfortunately, this set does not contain any indicators related to water & sanitation or environment (<http://genderstats.org/>). A discussion with the UN statistical Commission as part of the follow-up seems imperative.

## List of references

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