United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Statistical Division

Post-2015 Agenda

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Outline

- Measuring Sustainable Development
- Data revolution/Modernisation
- Monitoring and accountability

Introducing UNECE Statistics

- Regional Commission of the UN
- 56 Member countries
  - Europe, North America, Central Asia
- Many other countries join our work
  - Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, ...
- Overseen by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
  - Annual meeting of chief statisticians

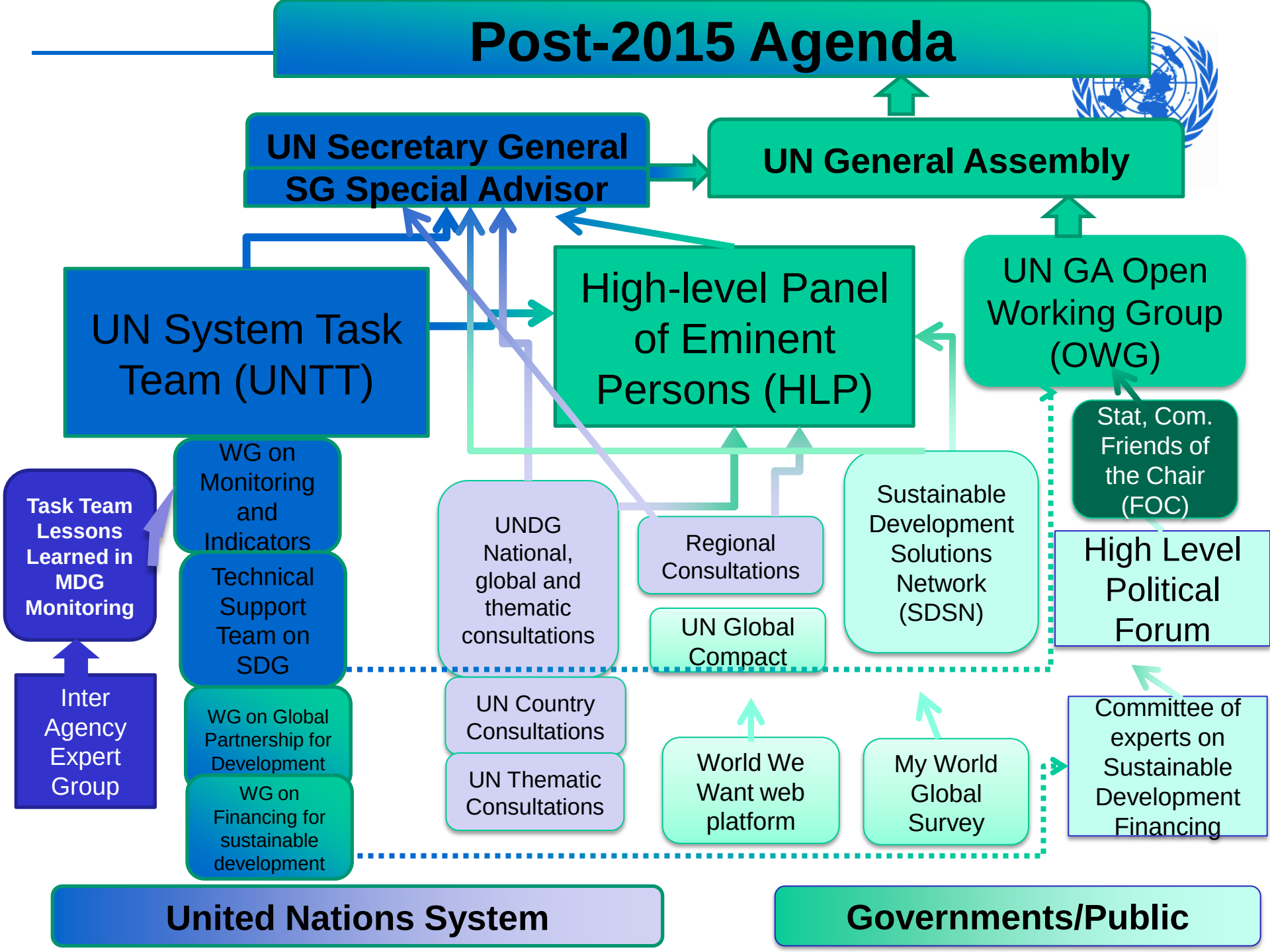
4 Strands in the current debate

- Measuring Sustainable Development
  - Reporting on SD Goals
  - Measuring Progress of society, GDP and Beyond
- Data revolution for SD
- Monitoring and accountability
- Financing for development, governance

The SDGs also call for "Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"

Setting the stage

- **MDGs, critique**
  - Focused more on least-developed countries
  - Inconsistencies between goals, targets and indicators
  - Top-down approach, no consultation
  - Statisticians were not involved
- **Post-2015 agenda**
  - Open, inclusive consultations
  - Universal Goals, valid for all countries
  - Statisticians are involved


Post-2015 Agenda
UN Secretary General
SG Special Advisor
UN General Assembly
UN System Task Team (UNTT)
High-level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP)
UN GA Open Working Group (OWG)
Stat, Com. Friends of the Chair (FOC)
High Level Political Forum
Task Team Lessons Learned in MDG Monitoring
WG on Monitoring and Indicators
Technical Support Team on SDG
WG on Global Partnership for Development
WG on Financing for sustainable development
Inter Agency Expert Group
UNDG National, global and thematic consultations
Regional Consultations
UN Global Compact
UN Country Consultations
UN Thematic Consultations
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
World We Want web platform
My World Global Survey
Committee of experts on Sustainable Development Financing
United Nations System
Governments/Public

Post 2015 process and statistics

- **Rio+20, "The Future we want"**
  - Broader measures of progress to complement GDP
  - Requested statisticians to launch work in this area

- **High-level Panel of Eminent Persons**
  - Called for a data revolution

- **UN Expert Group on Broader Measures of Progress**

- **Draft SDGs, Synthesis report (The Road to Dignity by 2030), Report on Data revolution**

Measuring SD, Measures of progress

- 2005, UNECE/Eurostat/OECD work on Measuring SD
- 2007, OECD Project on Measuring Progress
- 2009, EU "*GDP and Beyond"* and *Commission on Measurement of Economic performance and Social Progress* (Stiglitz and others)
- 2011, OECD Better Life Initiative; Eurostat Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, well-being and SD
- 2012 E-frame for Measuring Progress
- **End 2013, UNECE published CES Recommendations for Measuring SD**

CES Recommendations for Measuring SD

- Framework with a set of indicators
- 3 pillars of SD – economic, social, environment
- 3 dimensions of human well-being: here and now, later and elsewhere
- Links theoretical concepts and policy needs
- 3 sets of indicators are recommended

- Informed the development of SDGs

CES Recommendations

- **8 countries pilot tested the indicator sets**
  - Australia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine

- **Outcome**
  - All produce the majority of 95 indicators (Australia - 80%)
  - Appreciated the flexibility – could adjust national indicators to fit into the framework
  - Suggestions for the missing “place holders” (22 of 95)
  - Willingness to produce certain indicators not currently produced

CES Recommendations

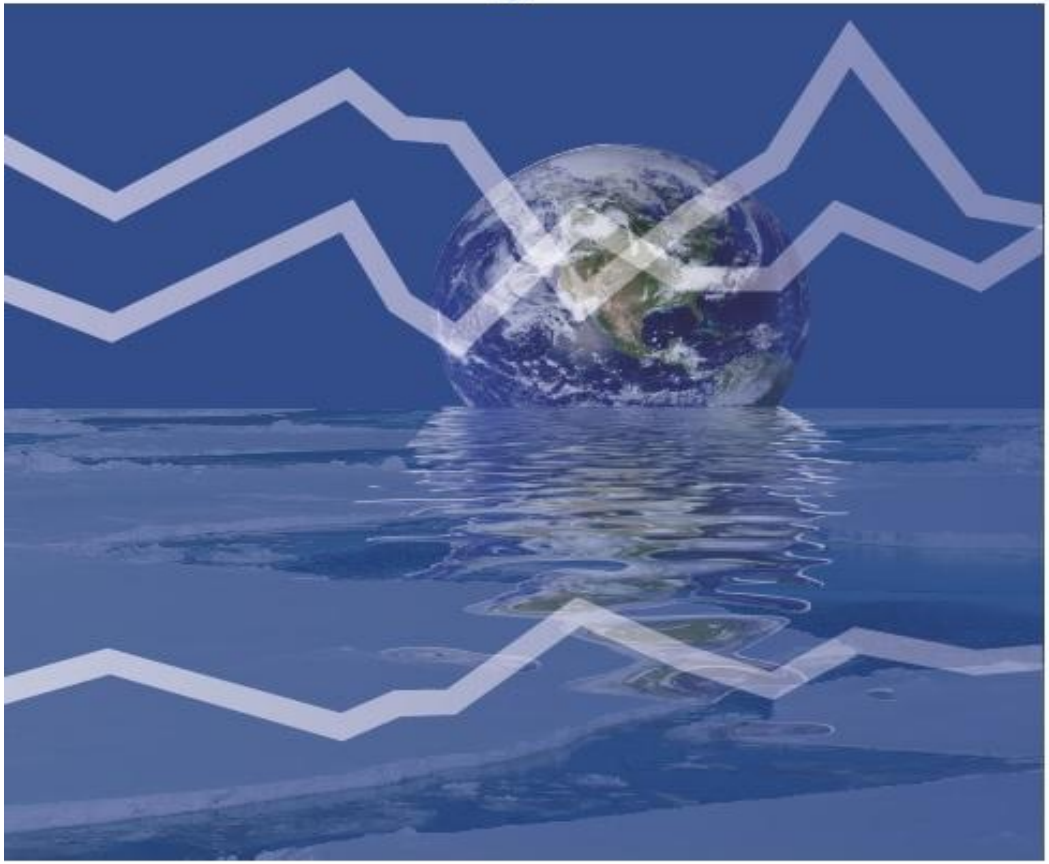
- An important input to defining the indicators for reporting on the SDGs
  - Currently 50 of the 95 CES indicators are used in mapping against the SDGs and targets

- Further methodological work
  - Measuring trans-boundary impacts
  - Linking subjective and objective indicators
  - Social, human and natural capital

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on

Climate Change-Related Statistics



UNITED NATIONS

The World that Counts :Data revolution

- Recommends a program of action – the need for innovation, financial resources and coordination

- Role for governments, international and regional institutions, statistical systems, civil society, private sector, academia and scientists

- **Data are the lifeblood of decision - making**

Data revolution for SD

- Not synonymous with Big data
- **It is about**
  - Understanding the impact of data on policy making
  - New types of data sources and tools, new dimension of timeliness
  - Changing culture of how we produce, disseminate, use and understand data (statistical literacy)
  - Modernization of statistical production
- Investment and support from governments
- The need for coordination, collaboration and data sharing is bigger than ever

UNECE HLG on Modernisation

- High-level Group (HLG) for the Modernisation of Statistical production and Services
- Oversees activities that support modernisation of statistical organisations
- Stimulates development of global standards and international collaboration activities

HLG

30+ Expert Groups

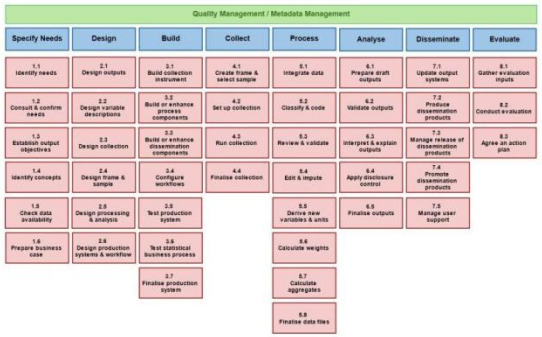
Projects

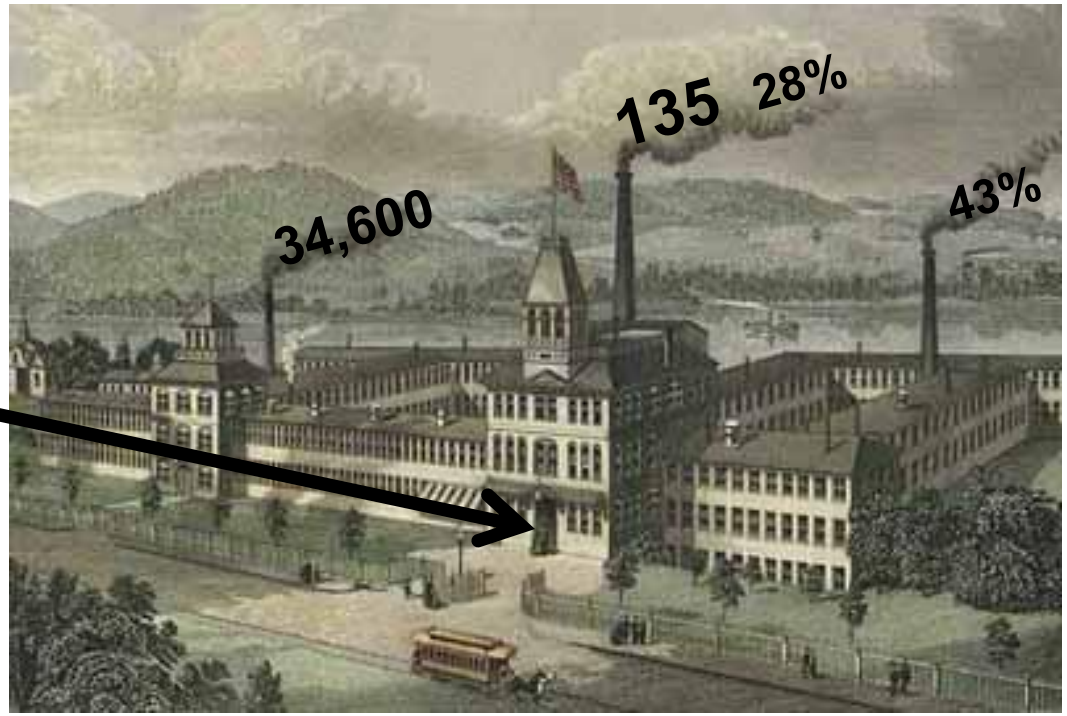
What has the HLG achieved in 3 years ?

UNECE

Standards-based Modernisaton

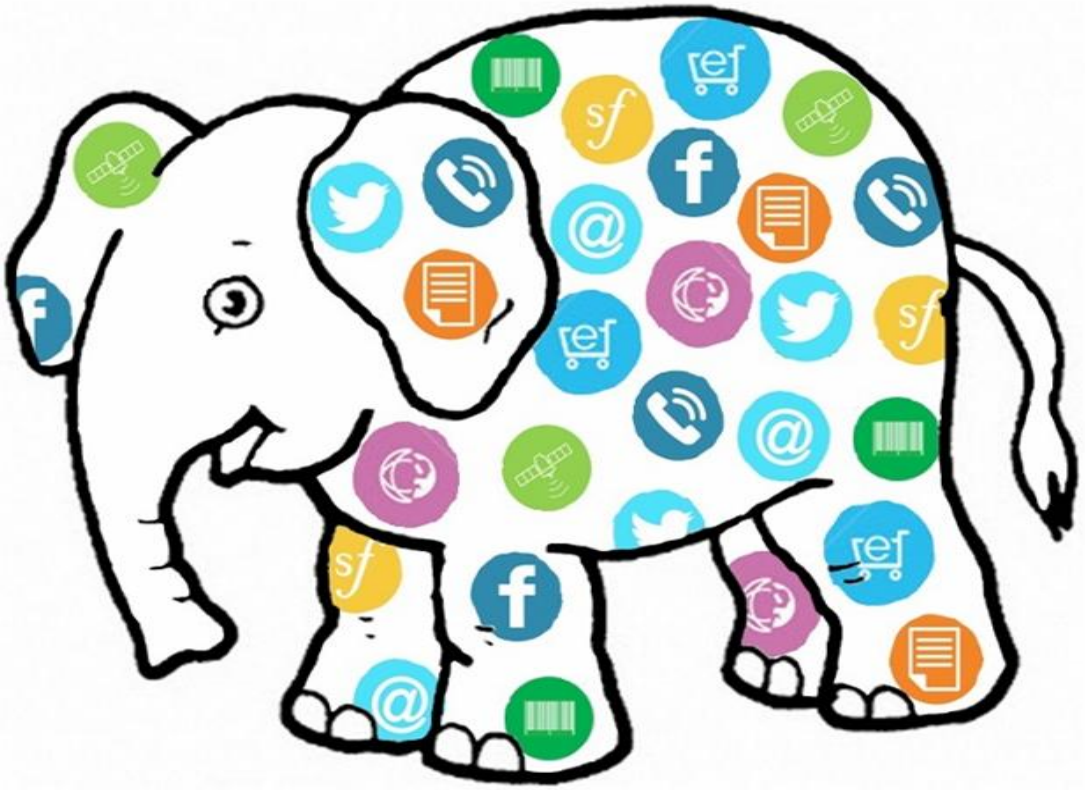
UNECE





Implementation of Common Statistical Production Architecture

Big Data



Big Data: Priority Areas

- Partnerships – **Guidelines**
- Privacy – **Guidelines**
- Quality – **Guidelines**
- Skills – **Survey**
- IT / methodological issues - **Sandbox**

Sandbox

- Ireland is hosting a Big Data ‘sandbox’ containing data and tools for international experiments

“Play is the highest form of research” – Einstein

Modernisation priorities in 2015

- Support the Implementation **of Common Statistical Production Architecture**

- **Big Data**
  - Produce joint international outputs
  - Develop skills and capacity

More Information on UNECE HLG Wiki:

- www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/hlgbas

Monitoring and Accountability (1)

- Integral part of the post - 2015 Agenda
- Data needs will be significant
- National strategies and mechanisms – a key instrument
- Relevance of SDGs will vary across countries – different roadmaps depending on national circumstances

Monitoring and Accountability (2)

- **Global level** – High-Level Political Forum on SD under ECOSOC
  - Conduct reviews from 2016

- **Regional reviews**
  - Link between national and global levels
  - Facilitate exchange of practices and lessons

- **International organizations** to support the implementation of the new agenda

Roadmap

In 2015

- Jan.-June Inter-governmental negotiations on SDGs
- February Start developing the indicators for reporting on SDGs
- March UN Statistical Commission roadmap
- July First report on possible indicators
- September: High-level Summit adopts post-2015 development agenda

Roadmap

Indicator framework for SDGs

- UN FOC Group on Measuring progress recommends
  - CES conceptual framework as a useful starting point
  - Map SDGs targets with CES Recommendations to identify inter-linkages, overlaps, gaps
  - Take into account the criteria for the indicator selection used in the CES Recommendations

Roadmap

In 2016

- March: UNSC endorses Indicator framework
- July: Release a SDGs baseline data report for global monitoring, providing data and identifying gaps
- March-December: possible Release of national and regional baseline data reports

- 2016-2020: Scaling-up of national, regional and global capacities to monitor the goals and targets

In parallel

- Financing for statistical development and capacity building

- Methodological work, strengthening of statistical systems

- New Expert Groups will be created
  - IEAG on SDG Indicators
  - HLG for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building
  - World Forum on SD Data
  - The Expert Group on Broader measures of Progress will continue

Three separate processes ahead

- Monitoring and reporting on SDGs
- Advancing the work on measuring SD, Progress, GDP and Beyond
- Data revolution: Advancing the work on new sources, new technology, etc. – a long-term task

Conclusions

- Much has happened in measuring progress and sustainability
- CES Framework with indicators is widely quoted
- Post-2015 agenda will boost further the statistical development and capacity building
- Develop new data sources, methods and methodologies to support the Data Revolution

- SDGs will influence what will be considered as globally accepted measures of progress

Conclusions

- Setting up a relevant mechanism for monitoring and reporting will be a challenge
  - MDGs: 8 Goals, 21 targets, 60 indicators
  - SDGs: 17 Goals, 169 targets, 600 indicators ?
- Get prepared for reporting on global SDGs and design your roadmaps!