# The Post-2015 Development Agenda: The Role of Statistical Community

Keiko Osaki Tomita, Ph.D.
Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division

12th Coordination Meeting on International Migration
20-21 February 2014, New York

# Why Statistics Matter ?

" ***Being a statistician is the sexiest job of the 21st Century***"

- Hal Varian, Chief Economist, Google (2012)
- Harvard Business Review (2013)

- Statistical data have become essential for objective, evidence-based decision making in any sector of a society.

- We need data scientists who are data savvy and able to churn the large amounts of information being generated daily into digestible pieces of information.

# Why Statistics Matter ?

## Success of MDGs

- MDGs has been effective in mobilizing worldwide awareness on development challenges, leveraging resources, guiding development efforts and increasing accountability.

- Quantitative targets are powerful as a communication tool and can provide benchmarks for monitoring progress.

- High expectation for the statistical community to play a central role in identifying targets/indicators, and monitor the progress of the new development agenda.

## 1. SG-led process on the post 2015 development agenda

- HLP meeting on MDG in 2000 requested the SG to make recommendations to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015 (Res 65/1).
- UN System Task Team has published in 2013 a report "*Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda*"

## 2. Process emanated from Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable development

- Rio+20 outcome document 1) recognized the need for broader measures of progress to complement GDP, and 2) requested to initiate a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) (RES 63/288).
- UN Statistical Commission created a Friends of Chair group (FoC) in 2013 to work on the broader measure of progress.
- Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) was established in 2013 to prepare a proposal of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration by the GA in 2014.

- ***The two processes are expected to converge into one development agenda***

# UNTT Report: Statistics and Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda

- Drawing lessons from MDG, it 1) clarifies the relationships between goals, targets and indicators, and 2) addresses the challenges of designing an appropriate monitoring framework.
- Recognizes international migration as a rapidly developing theme area, but acknowledges the difficulties to create “trans-boundary indicators”.
- Immigrants, refugees, and IDPs are among the population groups of interest, given inequalities in a society.

# FoC Group on Broader Measures of Progress

- Review the work done to develop broader measures of progress and to measure sustainable development.

- Key messages
  - The Post-2015 development agenda should address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way, capturing interlinkages and cross-cutting issues.

  - The new agenda should reflect the three-dimensional nature of well-being: the well-being of 1) the present generation in a country, 2) the future generation, and 3) the people living in other countries (elsewhere)

  - For the development of goals/targets, early and close involvement of the statistical community is critical.

# Open Working Group on SDGs

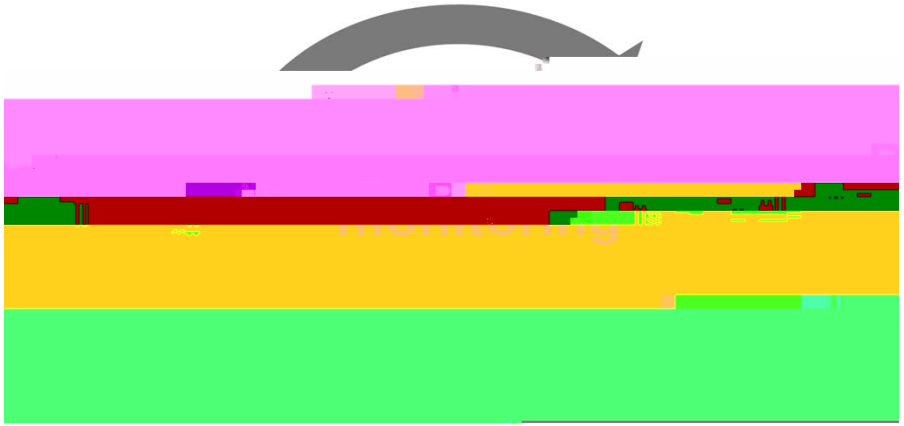
- OWG held eight thematic sessions from March 2013 to February 2014.
- Special event on “Monitoring and Measuring”, a dialogue between chief statisticians and policy makers on 17 December 2013.
- Preparation of statistical notes for the 29 thematic issue briefs, to supplement the debates from statistical viewpoints. (data availability, measurability, data sources, etc.)
- International migration does not appear as a stand-alone development issue, yet integrated in the areas of “Population dynamics”, “Social protection”, “Promoting equality” and “Human rights”.

# From OWG Statistical Notes

- Existing data on migration suffer from availability and international comparability. Administrative data should be further explored.
- Need data which can address inequalities and plight of disadvantaged populations (ex. migrants)
- In order to identify disparities/inequalities, data need to be disaggregated by sex, age, location and by particular social groups.
- Some suggested indicators relevant to migration/migrants:
  - Existence of provisions for the protection of migrants' rights
  - Number of prosecutions relating to human trafficking
  - Cost of remittances, recruitment fees, etc.

## What are possible consequences of the post-2015 development agenda on Statistical Community ?

1) Significant extension of data requirements (scope and disaggregation) and possible redirection of focus
2) Demand for better coordination mechanisms for monitoring and reporting
3) Increased role of statistics in guiding policy making



# 45th Session of the UN Statistical Commission
## 4-7 March, New York

- FoC Group on Broader Measures of Progress will report back to the Commission.

- SG's Paper on International Migration Statistics

  Reviews recent activities of UN DESA to improve international migration statistics

  Suggests to develop a global initiative to improve migration data for evidence-based policymaking

  Urges to consider establishing a dedicated programme to enhance the capacity of countries to improve the collection, processing and analysis of migration data.

# Thank you !