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**Integrated statistics for the post-2015 development agenda:  
Implications for national statistical systems**

Expert Group Meeting  
**Data and statistics for the post-2015 development agenda:  
Implications for regional collaboration on statistics in Asia and the Pacific**  
New York, 10-11 December 2014  
Session 3

**Matthias Reister**  
Senior Statistician  
United Nations Statistics Division

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## Post-2015 development agenda

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- An **integrated** agenda for economic, environmental, and social solutions
- Integration provides basis for
  - Economic models that benefit people and environment
  - Environmental solutions that contribute to progress
  - Social approaches that add to economic dynamism and allow for preservation and sustainable use of environment
  - Reinforcing human rights, equality, and sustainability.
- Opportunity to integrate broader United Nations agenda:
  - Peace and security
  - Development
  - Human rights
- Responding to all goals as a cohesive and integrated whole
  - Critical to ensuring the transformations needed at scale
  - Beneficial unifying effect on organization of work within UN system

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## Measurement challenge

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- ❑ Well-being is a multidimensional concept
  - ❑ Measuring quality of life requires subjective and objective multidimensional measures of well-being
  - ❑ Measuring sustainability is a highly complex task that requires capturing complex interactions among economy, society and the environment
  - ❑ *Need to advance existing statistical measurement frameworks with a systems approach*
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## Principle of universality

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- ❑ Indicators will need to:
    - Be addressed to all countries and all people
    - Take account of environmental, economic, and social interdependence,
    - Recognize realities of differentiated national needs and capacities
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## Integrated approach to statistics

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- Merits of following an **integrated approach to the development of economic statistics** are well established:

*“Integrated economic statistics are a set of economic statistics that depict a consistent and coherent picture of economic activities for policy, business and other analytical uses. The integration of economic statistics is about the use of common concepts, definitions, estimation methods and data sources for statistical reconciliation”*

- Similarly, for the post-2015 monitoring framework, an **integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental domains** should be followed
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## Integrated approach to statistics

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- A broad and comprehensive system-wide approach encompassing:
    - Adoption of umbrella **frameworks** for organizing statistics
    - Alignment of interdependencies between components of **statistical production process** (from the collection of basic data to the dissemination of the resulting statistics)
    - Establishment of enabling **institutional arrangements** for statistical integration (including legislative, organizational, budgetary, managerial and customer arrangements)
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## Measurement framework

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- “Set of methodologies and organizational rules for turning basic data into useful information coherent with an underlying conceptual framework”

*(Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development, Measuring Sustainable Development (Geneva, 2009), p. 13).*

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## Need for a measurement framework

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- A statistical measurement framework can facilitate the analysis of the inter-linkages across issues of concern for policy makers in the context of the post-2015 development agenda
  - Examples of building blocks towards a measurement framework for Sustainable Development:
    - Conceptual framework based on the concept of capital  
*(Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Working Group on Statistics on Sustainable Development)*
    - System of National Accounts, which is the source for measures of financial and produced capital stocks
    - System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, which is a measurement framework for natural capital that is consistent with the System of National Accounts
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## Statistical production process

- Historically, many NSOs have organized their production processes according to “stovepipe” model:
  - Each unit is responsible for producing statistics related to a specific domain, conducting all the steps from collection to dissemination
  - Each unit has its own set of data suppliers
  - The information collected from each unit integrated *ex post* into a common framework (e.g., SNA) by closely studying and harmonizing the sources and transformations that take place in the other units, in order to achieve the highest level of consistency and coherence of the statistics compiled by each of the units.
- Drawbacks:
  - Risk of omission and duplication of statistical units
  - Falls short in addressing users’ need for statistics that will allow them to make links quickly among various social, environmental and economic domains



## Integrated statistical production process

- **Standards and methods:**  
Common concepts, definitions and classifications to ensure that data collections are comparable and can be related to each other
- **Data collection:**  
Common universe of statistical units to be regularly collected in surveys, and common protocols for conducting surveys and using administrative records
- **Data processing and validation:**  
Harmonization, transparency and documentation of all the data processing and editing steps involved in the compilation of statistics
- **Dissemination and communication:**  
Harmonization in the provision of access to the statistics in various formats and media to a broad range of users
- **Metadata:**  
Use of standard terminology for metadata across the various statistical domains to facilitate comparability of data
- **Data quality framework:**  
Common quality frameworks allow for the assessment of statistical systems across countries, institutions and statistical domains



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## Integrated data collection

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- Main area where efforts may be integrated across statistical domains (horizontal integration) in the post-2015 monitoring framework
    - In particular in the area of use of administrative sources, household and business surveys
  - Agreements need to be reached regarding effective and efficient data collections, including the use of administrative records and various government data files to avoid the duplication of data collections and an undue burdening of respondents.
  - Legislation on data-sharing arrangements and access can be set up between the statistical office, other government departments or public bodies.
  - If administrative data sources are used, the confidentiality and integrity of the data sources must be ensured with the utmost care, and adequate methodology needs to be guaranteed.
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## Institutional arrangements

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- Essential elements of the institutional arrangements needed for an integrated system of statistics for the post-2015 development agenda:
    - Institutional and operational frameworks
    - Strategic planning
    - Process management
    - Coordination and governance arrangements
    - Human and financial resources
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## Strategies for statistical integration

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- Strategic plans are needed for the integration of statistical data within countries, over time and across countries worldwide.
  - The recommended practices for countries will vary:
    - *For countries with centralized statistical systems:*  
“Bottom-up” practices, such as the development of integrated data-collection plans, to ensure the use of consistent microdata
    - *For countries with more decentralized statistical systems:*  
“Top-down” practices, such as procedures to adjust input data to common concepts and definitions, including reconciliation techniques
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## Benefits to data producers

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- The benefits of integration not only accrue to the users of the data, but also to data producers and data providers.
    - Reduces respondent burden
    - Facilitates introduction of consistent, automated edits and other best practices that reduce likelihood of errors
    - May reduce costs in the longer term, allowing statistical agencies to direct their scarce resources better to answering demands by users for updating and extending their statistical programmes
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## Challenges

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- Need to develop the capacity to integrate the production of relevant statistics
  - Need for investment of resources in:
    - Adopting statistical standards
    - Developing and re-engineering statistical production processes
    - Changing institutional arrangements to receive long-term benefits
  - Need for flexibility in developing integration plans in countries with different types of statistical systems
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# Thank You !

**Matthias Reister**  
**Senior Statistician**  
**United Nations Statistics Division**  
[reister@un.org](mailto:reister@un.org)  
<http://unstats.un.org>

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