Measuring progress towards the SDG’s

Colombia

August 2020
Why is it important to measure the progress towards the SDGs?

To review the actions and progress made by national governments in complying with 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, there has been created the Voluntary National Reports.

Beyond the VNRs we also have the Global SDGs Data Base and the national SDGs Data Bases.

However, it is necessary to complement with quantitative measurements, mainly because:

- By identifying the existing gaps and distances towards the achievement of each target/goal, the relevant actors of the development cooperation community would have a great input for assessing and evaluating the actions in each country/region.

- Quantitative measurements highlight the data gaps that have not allowed us to know the current situation in strategic areas that require attention. It allows the identification of partnerships and specific actions to fill the information gaps.

- The generation of tools, such as indexes, allows simplifying and evaluating phenomena or actions, giving way to an easy interpretation, generating property for the integration of SDGs in political and economic agendas.

- Generate measurements that show progress on the challenges identified in the VNRs.

- Taking into account we are entering now in the “Decade of Action” it is important to have a tool that allows us to inform the different stakeholders to take the necessary actions regarding the implementation of the 2030 agenda.
International studies

**SDG IndexDashboards**
**Detailed Methodological paper**
September 2018

Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller, Jorge Moreno, Guido Schmidt-Traub, Christian Kroll

**Measuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): an inclusive approach**

Arman Bidarbakhtnia*

*United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
SDG Index to measure the progress of Latin America and the Caribbean in achieving the 2030 targets

- Work coordinated between the SDG Center for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODS) of Andes University and The Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

- Objective: grouping of common indicators to measure progress in the fulfillment of the SDGs under a single criterion so that the different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean can be compared.

- The SDG Index always ranks different countries on a scale of 0 to 100 in terms of their progress using a comparable metric.

- It also allows the generation of control panels by SDG and the analysis of trajectories of each country for the fulfillment of the 2030 targets, so that it is possible to evaluate the level of progress of each country, as well as the speed at which they are or are not progressing in the achievement of these goals.
Main methodological challenges

- The definition of quantitative goals is subject to the marked differences between countries according to their characteristics, needs, and individualities.

- Complementary indicators are selected based on parameters such as global relevance, reliability, data quality, coverage, but one challenge is to ensure continuous data collection.

  Country performance measures are presented either at the target level or the level of the 17 SDGs, however, for a large majority of countries it is not possible to cover all the targets proposed in the agenda with national indicators.

- Quantitative goals are generally could be established by national experts based on available information and the identification of priorities according to the orientation of public policies at the time the indicators are defined.
Several initiatives have emerged from different actors in the international statistical community, to develop and/or use different approaches and methodologies to assess the current status of implementation of the SDGs and project whether the goals will be achieved by 2030. In this regard, the main approaches are:

- Measurement of the current status of goal achievement.
- Measurement of trends of the achievement made.
- Projections to 2030 considering the path travelled and explanatory variables that impact future behavior.

Other decisions:

- Selection of battery of indicators to be used. All? How are they selected? Are they complementary?
  - Internal decisions depending on what is intended to be measured and the availability of data in the country.

Cross-cutting theme: definition of base year and target values (may vary across national scenarios)
- The definition of the targets will depend on whether you already have a previous scheme in which they have been defined. But it must be considered whether these targets are in a quantitative or qualitative format.
Presentation of results

Communication of results in a synthetic and clear way

- Various methods of aggregating indicators.
  - Target
  - Objective
  - Geographical Level

- Equal weighting by indicator.

- Levels of progress (color) according to their fulfillment, proximity or reversal of trend towards the goal (traffic light).
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