



Executive Summary:

Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals

Launching a Data Revolution



A report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the
Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network



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Sustainable Development Solutions Network

June 12, 2015

About this report

This report is the result of over 18 months of consultative work led by the SDSN with the contributions of nearly 500 organizations and thousands of individuals – draft versions of the report have so far been downloaded over 80,000 times. The SDSN [Thematic Groups](#), a large number of UN agencies and other international institutions, national statistical offices, civil society organizations, academia, and businesses have provided expert input that has helped us improve the indicator framework. We are particularly grateful for the detailed comments received during two public consultations, the first from February to March 2014, and the second in January 2015. Comments submitted during these consultations and changes made to our report are provided on our [website](#).

This is the final version of the report, though the list of Global Monitoring Indicators may be periodically updated as experts agree on metrics or new ones are developed to fill the identified gaps. These updates will be made on our new indicator web platform: <http://unsdsn.org/indicators>.

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1,000 Days Partnership | 11.11.11 - Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement | A38 | A4ID | AbleChildAfrica | Aboriginal Rights Coalition Australia | Access Global Ltd | Action Against AIDS Germany | Action Against Hunger | Action for Global Health | ActionAid International | Active Remedy Ltd | ADD International | Addis Ababa University | AEEFG | Africa Freedom of Information Centre | Africa Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) | African Medical and Research Foundation | Aga Khan University | Agirre Lehendakaria Center for Social and Political Studies, Basque Country University | AGRECO | AIG | American Public Health Association (APHA) | American Red Cross | Amis des Etrangers au Togo (ADET) | Amnesty International | Anheuser-Busch InBev | AquaFed | ARGE Consulting | Asia-Europe Foundation | Asian Development Bank | Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) | Associated Country Women of the World | Association pour la Formation et l'Insertion de l'Adolescent et de la Femme | Australian Refrigeration Association | Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection | Aviva | Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia | Baruch Professional Services Ltd | Beer Canada | Belgian Development Cooperation | Beyond Copenhagen Coalition | Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law | Bioregional | Bioversity International | Bokma Multilink | Brazilian Society for Ecological Economics | Bread for the World, Germany | Bridging Agriculture and Conservation Initiative (BACI) | Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe | Business Innovation Research Development (BIRD) | CAFOD | Cambodian Child's Dream Organization | Caribbean Policy Development Centre | Caritas Austria | Caritas Germany | CBM | Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University | Center for Sustainable Development, Bangalore | Center for Sustainable Development, Udayana University | Centre for Communication and Development Studies | Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society | Centre for Development, Environment and Policy, SOAS (University of London) | Center for Global Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children | Centre for Global Mental Health, King's College London | Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) | Centre for Public Mental Health, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town | Centre for Public Mental Health, University of Cape Town | Centre for Sustainable Community Development, Simon Fraser University | Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University | CESR | CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers |

Change Planet Partners Climate Innovation Foundation - CPPCIF | ChildFund Alliance | Children of the Earth | Children's Investment Fund Foundation | Christ is calling you (Cristo te llama) | Chung-hua Institution for Economic Research | CIMMYT | CIRCE - Research Center for Energy Resources and Consumption | Citizens United to Promote Peace & Democracy in Liberia | Civil Society Working Group on HIV | Columbia University | Commons Action for the UN | Commonwealth Youth Council | Commonwealth Youth Programme | Communitas Coalition | Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) | Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd | Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social | Conservation for the Oceans Foundation | Consumers India | Consumers International (CI) | Corporación Globalización Ciudadana CGC | Countdown 2015 Europe | Counterfactual Consulting and Advocacy | D. Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia | Dance4life foundation | DataShift, CIVICUS | Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Program | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) | Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung | Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. (WHH) | Developmental Media Inc | Dignitas International | Disability & Development Cooperation (bezev) | Disability Rights Fund | DSW | Earth Institute | Earth System Science Group, University of Exeter | Education International | End Water Poverty | ENDA Tiers Monde | Endangered Wildlife Trust | ENERGIA, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy | ENERTEC-SARL | Environment Research Centre, University of Technology, Iraq | Equity for Children | Ericsson | Esri | Ethical Markets Media | EuroNGOs | European Federation of Older Persons | Eurostat | Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) Metrics Group | Family Care International | FEMNET (The African Women's Development & Communications Network) | FIA Foundation | Fondazione Achille Sclavo | Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) | Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | Forest Stewardship Council | FOS | Free Trade Union Development Center | French Water Partnership | Friends of Franbarnie International (FOFI) | Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress | Frontline Health Workers Coalition | Future Earth ecoHEALTH and EcoHealth Alliance | Gallup | Gender and Development Network | Gender and Disability Advisory Committee | Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh | Gender Links | GenderInSITE | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development | German NGO Forum on Environment and Development | Gerontology Centre Belgrade, Serbia | Girls Not Brides | GlaxoSmithKline | Global Alcohol Policy Alliance | Global Alcohol Producers Group | Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves | Global Alliance on Armed Violence (GAHV) | Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS) | Global Campaign for Education (GCE) | Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors | Global Crop Diversity Trust | Global Ecovillage Network | Global Financial Integrity | Global Forest Coalition (GFC) | Global Forum for Media Development | Global Health Technologies Coalition | Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children | Global Network for Disaster Reduction | Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases/Sabin Vaccine Institute | Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap (PPPHW) | Global Reporting Initiative | Global Soap Project | Global Water Partnership | Goal Patrol | Habitat for Humanity | Habitat International Coalition (HIC) | Handicap International | Harvard University | HDS systems design science | Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative | HelpAge International | Hertie School of Governance | High-Level Task Force for the ICPD | HNB Garhwal Central University | Horizon International, Yale University | Human Rights Defenders Alert | ICCA Consortium | IDEAS For Us | Institut pour un Développement Durable | Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies - Potsdam | Institute for Global Health - University College London | Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission | Institute of Noahide | Instituto Politécnico Nacional-México | Inter-American Development Bank | Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland | International AIDS Vaccine Initiative | International Alliance Of Women | International Budget Partnership | International Center for a Research on Women (ICRW) | International Center for Alcohol Policies | International Center for Not-for-Profit Law | International Collaboration for Essential Surgery (ICES) | International Council on Social Welfare | International Disability Alliance (IDA) | International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) | International Environment Forum | International Federation for Family Development | International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association | International Federation of Surgical Colleges (IFSC) | International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) | International Forum for Volunteering in Development | International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) | International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) | International Labor Organization (ILO) | International Movement ATD Fourth World | International Organisation for Migration (IOM) | International Pediatric Association (IPA) | International Planned Parenthood Federation | International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) | International Risk Governance Council | International Service | International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) | IntraHealth International | IPPF EN | IRENA | IREX | Islamic Relief Worldwide | Islands and Small States Institute, University of Malta | Istituto per lo Sviluppo della Formazione Professionale dei Lavoratori (ISFOL) | Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) | JSD and co Consulting | Kalpavriksh | Kiel Institute for the World Economy | Kindernothilfe | King's College London | Kinga Africa | KPMG International | Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology | L'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) | L'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi-AIDB | Landesa | Learning Metrics Task Force Secretariat | Leonard Cheshire Disability | Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) | Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA) | Liberia NGOs Network (LINNK) | Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons | Light for the World | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | Major Group for Children and Youth | MARCH Centre London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) | March of Dimes | Materia de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo de la Universidad Católica Boliviana, La Paz | Medical Mission Sisters | Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute | Micronutrient Initiative | Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere | Millennium Project | Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden | Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic | Misereor | Momma Bear | Movement for peace - MPDL | NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies/Columbia University | National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) | National Planning Commission, Johannesburg, South Africa | Natural Resources Defense Council | NAWO (National Alliance of Women's Organisations, UK) | NCD Alliance | NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology | New Economics Foundation (NEF) | New York University Program in Global Mental Health | Newcastle University | Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics | NORRAG | NPS Italia onlus | Occupy Canada | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | Omniclimate | On The Way | Open Contracting Partnership | Open Society Foundations | Open Society Justice Initiative | Orchid Project | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | Otto & Associates | Overseas Development Institute (ODI) | Oxfam | Oxfam India | Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) | Pace University | PARIS21 | Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health | Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) | Peace Child International | Pforzheim University | Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies | Plan Bleu (UNEP-MAP) | Plan International | Planetafilia | PLANETE 21 | Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) | Population Matters | Population Media Center | Practical Action | Programme for the Conservation of Forest in Peru – Ministry of Environment | Reacción Climática | ReAct - Action on antibiotic resistance | RIPPES - Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy | Roll Back Malaria - Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group | Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences | Royal Society | RRI | Rutgers WPF | Saferworld | Samajik Augraon Foundation | Save the Children | Saving Newborn Lives | ScEnSers Independent Expertise | SDSN Youth | Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) | Secretariat of the International Land Coalition (ILC) | Senior Policy Advisor, Fragile States | Sensoa | Seton Hall University | SFU Ctr for Sust Comm Dev | Siemens | Sightsavers International | SIL International | SIPC, Aboriginal Rights Coalition joint submission | Sisters of Saint Anne Social Justice Office | SIWI | SJ Around the Bay | Society for Development Studies (SDS) | SOLIDAR | Sonke Gender Justice | SOS Children's Villages | Statistics Canada | Stockholm International Peace Research Institute | Stockholm International Water Institute | Stockholm Resilience Centre | Stop AIDS Alliance | STOPAIDS | SUST4IN | Sustainabilitycorp.net | Sustainable Energy Associates | Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment | Tellus Institute | Texas A&M University | The Church of Sweden | The Ecumenical Foundation for Africa | The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) | The Foundation for Civilizational Transformation and Conscious Evolution | The Girl Generation: Together to End FGM | The Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (The G4 Alliance) | The Global Coalition on Aging | The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) | The Johanniter International Assistance | The Land Alliance Inc | The Rainforest Foundation UK | The Society for Upliftment of Masses (SUM) | The Sustainability Report | The Wecksaop Project (What Every Citizen Should Know About Our Planet) | The Wellbeing Foundation | The WILD Foundation | Thornicroft | To Love Children Educational Foundation International Inc. | Tsere Iamba | UK Department for International Development (DFID) | UK Health Forum | UK Office of National Statistics | UN Economic Commission for Europe - Population Unit, Statistical Division | UN Foundation | UN Peacebuilding Support Office | UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation | UN Statistics Division | UN-Habitat | UN/CSD Education Caucus | UNAIDS | UNECE - Working Group on Ageing | UNEP | UNESCO Institute for Statistics | UNF Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNIDO | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México | Universidade Federal do Ceará | Universitat de València | Université de Djibouti | University College London | University of California, Berkeley | University of Edinburgh | University of Hawai'i | University of Hong Kong | University of Pennsylvania | University of Siena | University of the Witwatersrand | University of Washington | University Research Company | UNSCN | UNSG Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation | USAID Office of Population and Reproductive Health | Verband

Entwicklungspolitik deutsche Nichtregierungsorganisationen (VENRO) | Village Water | Volvo Group | VSO | Walmart | WaterAid | WECF International | White Ribbon Alliance | Women Deliver | Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR)-NEW WAYS | Women in Alternative Action | Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) | Women's Environment and Development Organization | World Aquarium | World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts | World Bank | World Food Programme | World Future Council | World Obesity Federation | World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) | World Values Survey | World Vision International | WSSCC | Wuppertal Institute Climate, Energy and Environment | WWF | Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy | YouAct | Young Lives | Youth Network for Good Leadership in Nigeria | Zonta International | Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Table of contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	1
Executive Summary	2
Designing Indicators and an Integrated Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals	5
I. Towards a Data Revolution for the SDGs: the Role of Indicators	7
II. An Integrated Monitoring Framework: Multi-level Review Processes and Indicators	9
III. Principles for setting SDG indicators and an integrated monitoring framework	17
IV. Priority Challenges in Setting SDG Indicators	21
V. Next Steps and Opportunities for Leadership	25
Table 1: Suggested SDG Indicators arranged by OWG Goals	29
Table 2: Suggested SDG Indicators arranged by OWG Targets	39
Annex 1: Cross-Cutting Issues in the SDG Indicator and Monitoring Framework	68
Annex 2: Moving Towards Annual Monitoring	93
Annex 3: Disaggregating Indicators for the SDGs	97
Annex 4: An Illustration of SDG Monitoring Levels	100
Annex 5: Detailed Description of Proposed Indicators and Monitoring Framework	104
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.....	105
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	114
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	124
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	138
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	145
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	151
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.....	157
Goal 8. Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All	161
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	166
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.....	171
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.....	174
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	183
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.....	187
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	191
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	194
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	200
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	206
Annex 6: Frequently Asked Questions on Goals, Targets, and Indicators.....	211
Bibliography.....	217

Executive Summary

In September 2015, a summit of heads of state will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) underscores the importance of thinking through the indicators as early as possible; we cannot afford a lag of several years before we start to measure progress towards achieving the SDGs. The international community has rightly begun to shift attention to the indicator framework and associated monitoring systems. In June 2015, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will convene to start the technical work of defining an SDG indicator framework.

This report is offered as a contribution to the multi-stakeholder debate in support of the SDGs. It outlines how a comprehensive indicator framework might be established to support the goals and targets proposed by the Open Working Group on the SDGs (OWG). The report is the result of 18 months of intensive global discussions involving thousands of experts from UN organizations, academia, civil society, business, and a large number of national statistical offices (NSOs). The large number of detailed comments received from all parts of the world and all areas of expertise gives us confidence that it is possible to measure the full spectrum of SDGs and their targets through a compact indicator framework.

Indicators will be the backbone of monitoring progress towards the SDGs at the local, national, regional, and global levels. A sound indicator framework will turn the SDGs and their targets into a **management tool** to help countries develop implementation strategies and allocate resources accordingly, as well as a **report card** to measure progress towards sustainable development and help ensure the accountability of all stakeholders for achieving the SDGs.

The mechanics of SDG monitoring are still being worked out, but an emerging consensus suggests that the focus of SDG monitoring will be at the national level. Complementary monitoring will occur at regional and global levels. Moreover, each major thematic community, such as health, education, agriculture, and so forth, will mobilize, analyze, and communicate data on progress towards achieving its objectives. Such thematic monitoring and review will be an important complement to official monitoring and review at national, regional, and global levels.

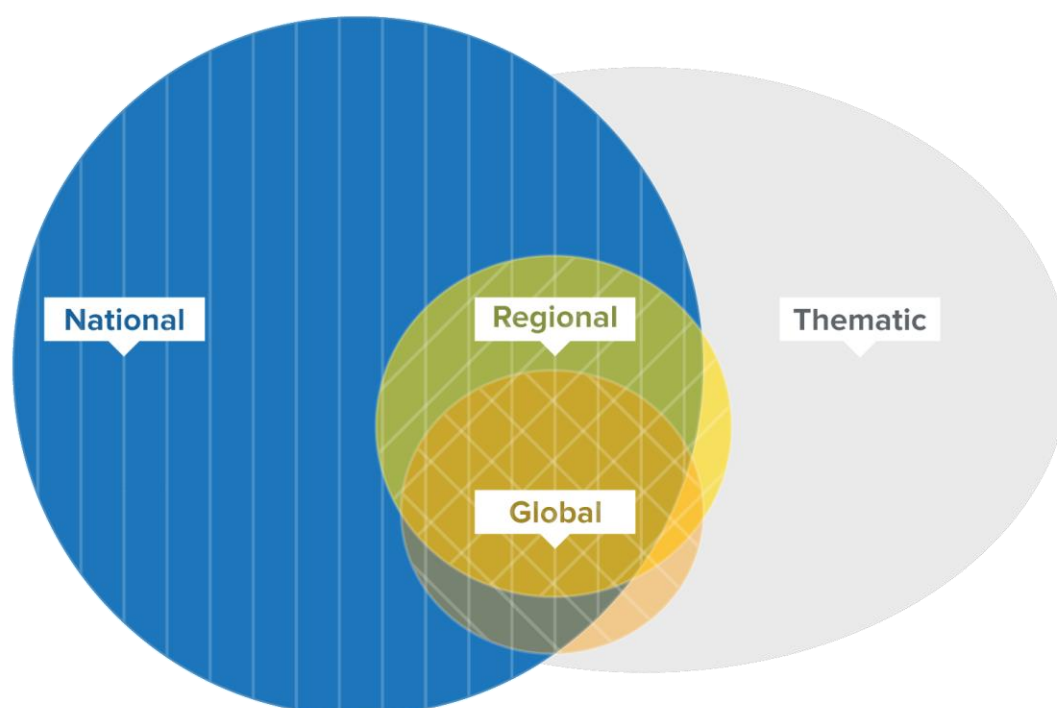
Each level of monitoring requires different types of indicators (see Figure 1 and Annex 5 for an illustration). This report proposes **100 Global Monitoring Indicators**, accompanied by suggestions for **Complementary National Indicators**, which together track the full range of SDGs and targets in an integrated, clear, and effective manner (see Tables 1 and 2). Based on discussions with a large number of statistical offices, including Eurostat, BPS Indonesia, the OECD, the Philippines, the UK, and many others, we believe 100 to be the maximum number of global indicators on which NSOs can report and communicate effectively in a harmonized manner. This conclusion was strongly endorsed during the 46th UN Statistical Commission in March 2015, as well as the preceding Expert Group Meeting on SDG indicators.

Each country should pick the number and range of Complementary National Indicators that best suit its needs and capacity to collect and analyze data. Given the breadth of country circumstances we expect substantial variation in the number and type of national indicators that countries will adopt. This report includes some initial suggestions for such indicators. We underscore that the preliminary list of Complementary National Indicators is far from exhaustive and meant only for inspiration and illustration.

All SDG indicators need to be considered as an integrated package and must work in harmony with one another. Many important issues, such as gender equality, health, sustainable consumption and production, and nutrition, cut across goals and targets. The goals and targets are themselves interdependent, and must be pursued together, since progress in one area often depends on progress in other areas. As a result many indicators contribute to monitoring more than one target (Table 2). An SDG indicator and monitoring framework must also give careful thought to tracking cross-cutting issues so that it can support integrated, systems-based approaches to implementation (see Annex 1, page 67).

This report outlines ten principles for Global Monitoring Indicators (GMIs), so they track the range of SDG priorities in a clear and effective manner. Inter alia such indicators should be limited in number; simple, intuitive, and policy-relevant; consensus-based, in line with international standards; relevant to all countries and all people; and able to be disaggregated to track progress for all relevant groups.

Figure 1: Schematic illustration with explanation of the indicators for national, regional, global, and thematic monitoring



National monitoring is the prerogative of each national government. Each country decides on number and nature of national indicators, which follow national standards and may not all be internationally comparable. A limited set of Global Monitoring Indicators will also be integrated into national monitoring efforts. Although likely to be drawn from official data sources, countries may also decide to include non-official data among their national indicators.

Global monitoring is based on a set of Global Monitoring Indicators that are harmonized to common global standards and would form basis for review at the High Level Political Forum. GMIs would be predominantly drawn from official data. GMIs are generally applicable to all countries, but some may only cover a subset (e.g. malaria does not apply to countries in temperate zones and landlocked countries do not report on oceans).

Regional monitoring provides a platform to foster knowledge-sharing, peer review, and reciprocal learning across regions. Regional indicators comprise Global Monitoring Indicators, Complementary National Indicators, and possibly a small number of indicators targeting specific regional priorities. Regional monitoring mechanisms should build on existing regional mechanisms.

Thematic monitoring comprises specialist indicators reported on by epistemic communities. They can include input and process metrics as helpful complements to official indicators. Many communities may also use other sources of unofficial data and experiment with creative and novel ways of collecting, analyzing, and presenting data.

This report identifies a number of urgent technical priorities that need to be addressed over the coming months to develop an effective indicator framework for the SDGs. They include filling gaps in available indicators; harnessing new, innovative sources of data; and moving towards annual monitoring. Annual monitoring is particularly crucial if the SDG indicators are to serve as a management tool, informing national planning and budgetary processes, as well as global follow-up (see Annex 2, page 92). In contrast to the MDGs, where data was spotty and produced infrequently with long lags, SDG indicators should be *reported* annually, though not all data will be *produced* annually. For some metrics, interim annual estimates can be produced using robust estimation methodologies.

Implementing the changes outlined in this report and ensuring effective data for the SDGs will require increased resources. Working with major leading international organizations and in consultation with large number of NSOs, the SDSN has detailed the investment needs for robust SDG monitoring. We project that \$1 billion will be required each year to monitor the SDGs. At least half of this will need to be raised through domestic resource mobilization, but at least \$100-200m will be required in incremental ODA.

Another key step will be the establishment of a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, to help drive the Data Revolution. This Partnership can bring together public and private stakeholders to fill gaps in our knowledge, establish global norms and standards to increase the ease and security of sharing and using data, help countries develop robust national strategies for data development, and – crucially – help mobilize urgently needed financial resources. If adequately resourced, a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data would empower countries around the world to make the SDGs a real management tool for sustainable development.

Our confidence in the robustness and feasibility of the steps towards a data revolution for the SDGs that are outlined in this report is based on extensive, in-depth consultations with the world's leading experts and stakeholders involved in the SDG process. In our broad, global consultations with the technical communities, as well as other stakeholders, we have witnessed outstanding expertise and tremendous enthusiasm for making the SDGs and their monitoring a success. We are convinced that the practical steps discussed in this report can be taken in a timely fashion. The SDSN will continue to work with other interested partners to help develop a sound SDG indicator and monitoring framework, and to realize the great potential of the data revolution for sustainable development.