



SDGs:

Breathing new life into old indicators



Today's discussion

From MDGs to SDGs



Measuring the SDGs

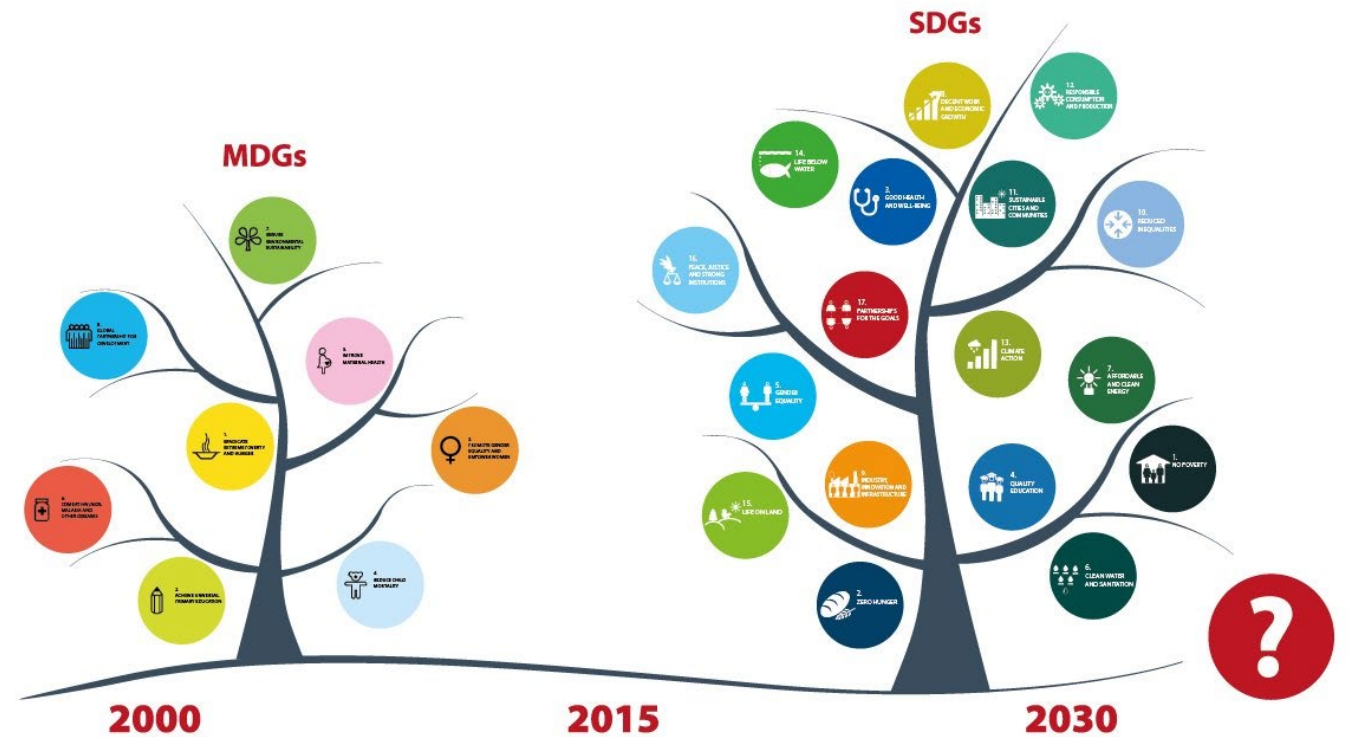


Some unanticipated consequences



Things to consider

Part 1 - From MDGs to SDGs



MDGs

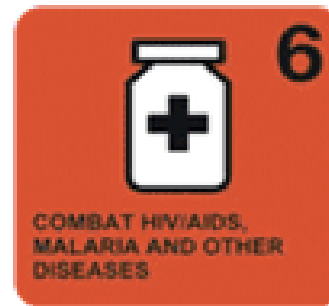
(2000 – 2015)

8 Goals

21 Targets

60 Indicators

The 8 Millennium Development Goals



Agenda 2030 (2016 – 2030)

Action oriented

Global in nature

Universally applicable

17 Goals

169 Targets

231 Indicators



'To do list for planet and people' – Ban Ki-moon

A mixed reaction



The Economist

Stupid Development Goals

'169 commandments means, in practice, no priorities at all'



A global vision

Universal: applies to all countries

Holistic coverage: integrated, indivisible

Precautionary approach

Addresses causes e.g. peace and security

'zero' targets

Leaves no one behind

Catalyst for statistical innovation

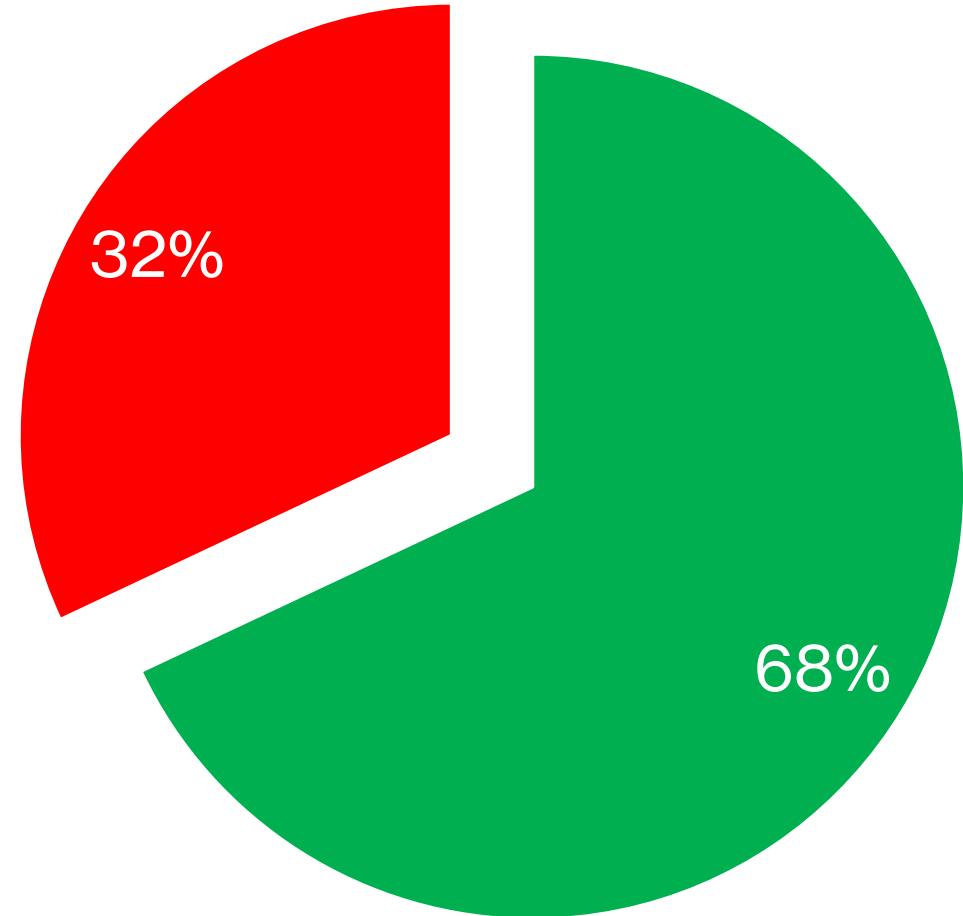
Part 2 - Measuring the SDGs



Lesson from MDGs

2015:

- Developing countries can only populate 68% of MDG indicators



An “unprecedented statistical challenge”

Mogens Lykketoft

President 70th session UN General Assembly,

Scale

8 goals
21 targets
60 indicators

MDGs

SDGs

17 goals
169 targets
232 indicators



Disaggregation

Target 1.3

(social protection systems)

- sex;
- age;
- employment status;
- disability status;
- pregnancy;
- work-injury victims; and
- income

Target 10.2

(social, economic and political inclusion)

- sex;
- age;
- Disability status;
- race;
- ethnicity;
- origin;
- religion; and
- other economic or social status



Unclear definitions and inconsistent use of terminology

- Sustainable
- macro economic stability
- basic services
- new technologies

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

appropriate
vulnerable
sustainable
benefit
access
it



Target 17.19

By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP and support statistical capacity building in developing countries



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By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP and **support statistical capacity building in developing countries**

Target 3.3

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

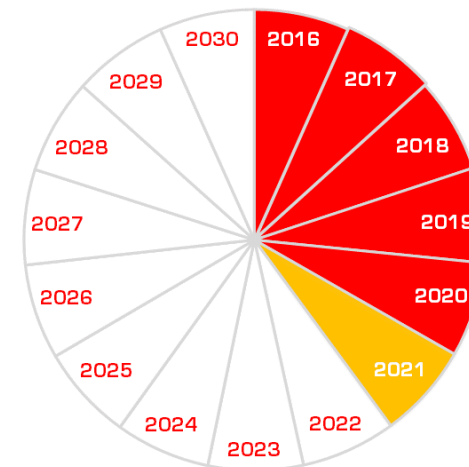




Target 15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services – in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands – in line with obligations under international agreements.

Progress and Timeline



Tier Classification	December 2016		December 2017		December 2018		December 2019		December 2020	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
1	81	35	93	40	101	44	116	50	130	56
2	57	25	66	28	84	36	92	40	97	42
3	88	38	68	29	41	18	20	9	-	-
Multiple	4	2	5	2	6	3	4	2	4	2
Total	230	100	232	100	232	100	232	100	231	100

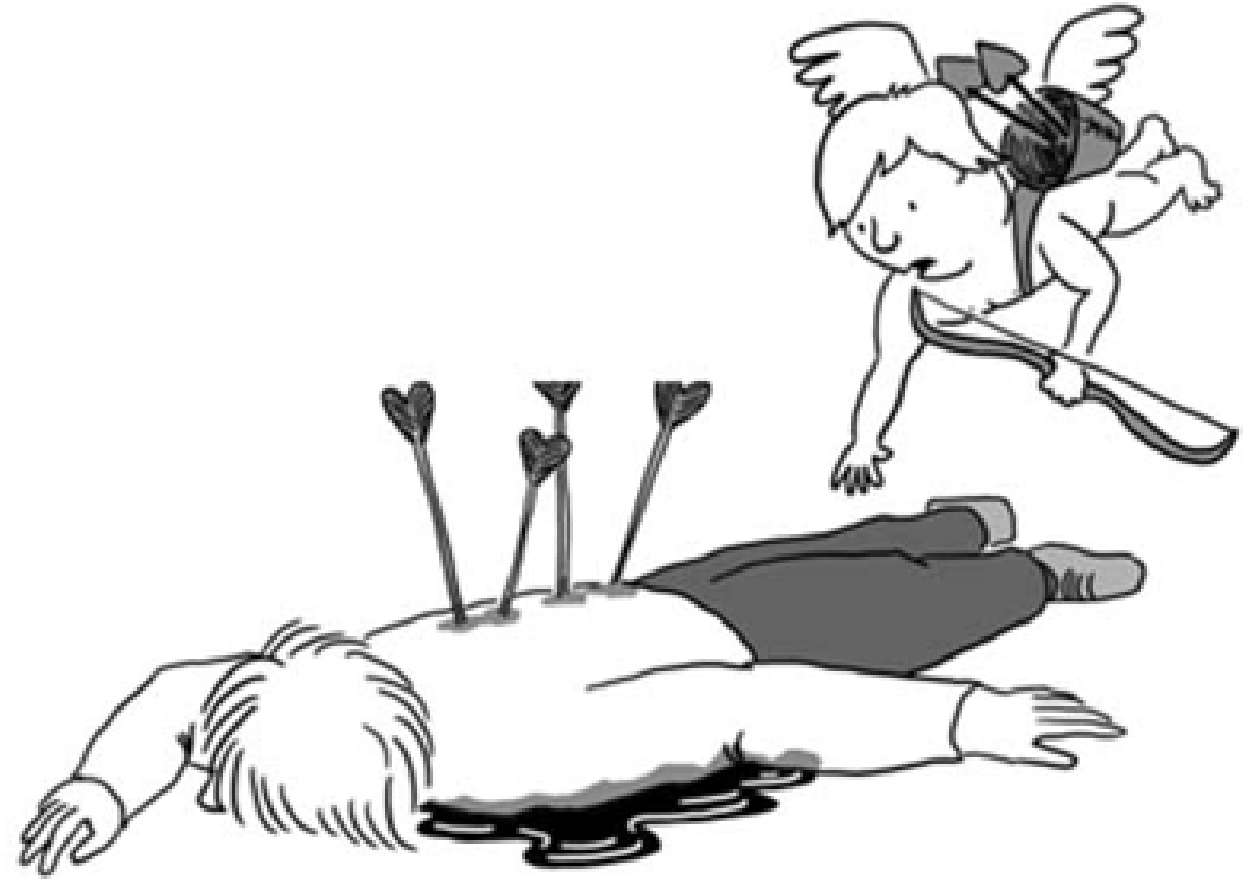
Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>

Defining Progress?

- What determines success?
- Many targets do not have clear objectives or timelines?
- What is the appropriate baseline?



Part 3 - Unanticipated Consequences



Delegation

SDG indicators
do not simply
measure the
2030 Agenda.

They define it!



Indicator per target

- Few indicators fit the specifications of targets exactly
- Most indicators are proxies
- Most indicators originally designed for another purpose

PRIORITY

Prioritisation of official country may be counter-productive



Influence

The 2030 Agenda will have a profound influence on the future shape and organisation of official statistics

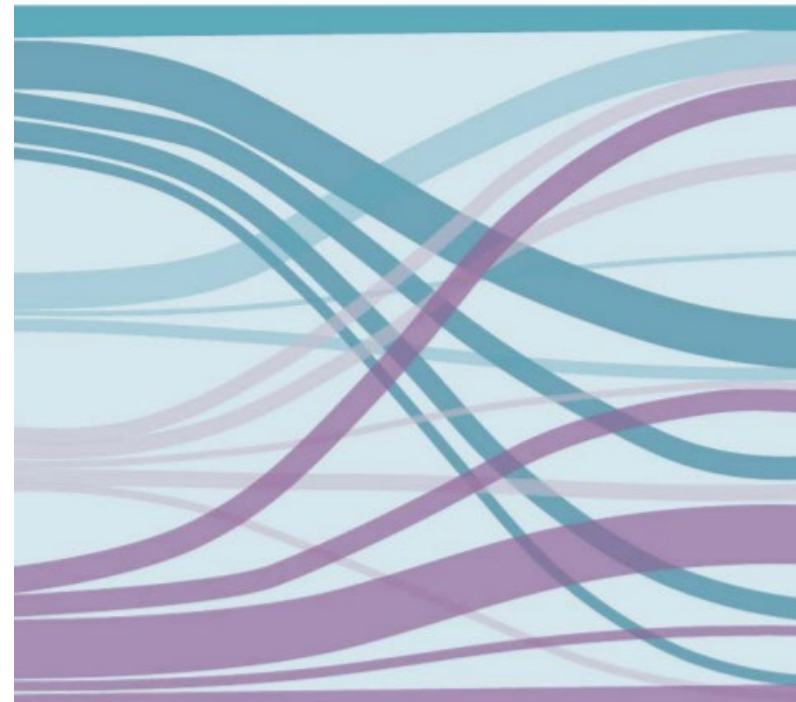


16.4.1 – Value of illicit financial flows



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
STATISTICAL MEASUREMENT OF
ILLCIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

October 2020



17.3.1 – Value of illicit financial flows



South-South
Cooperation



SDGs are only performance metrics

Discussion on data/statistics framed by SDG indicators

But what about policy formation and SDG implementation?

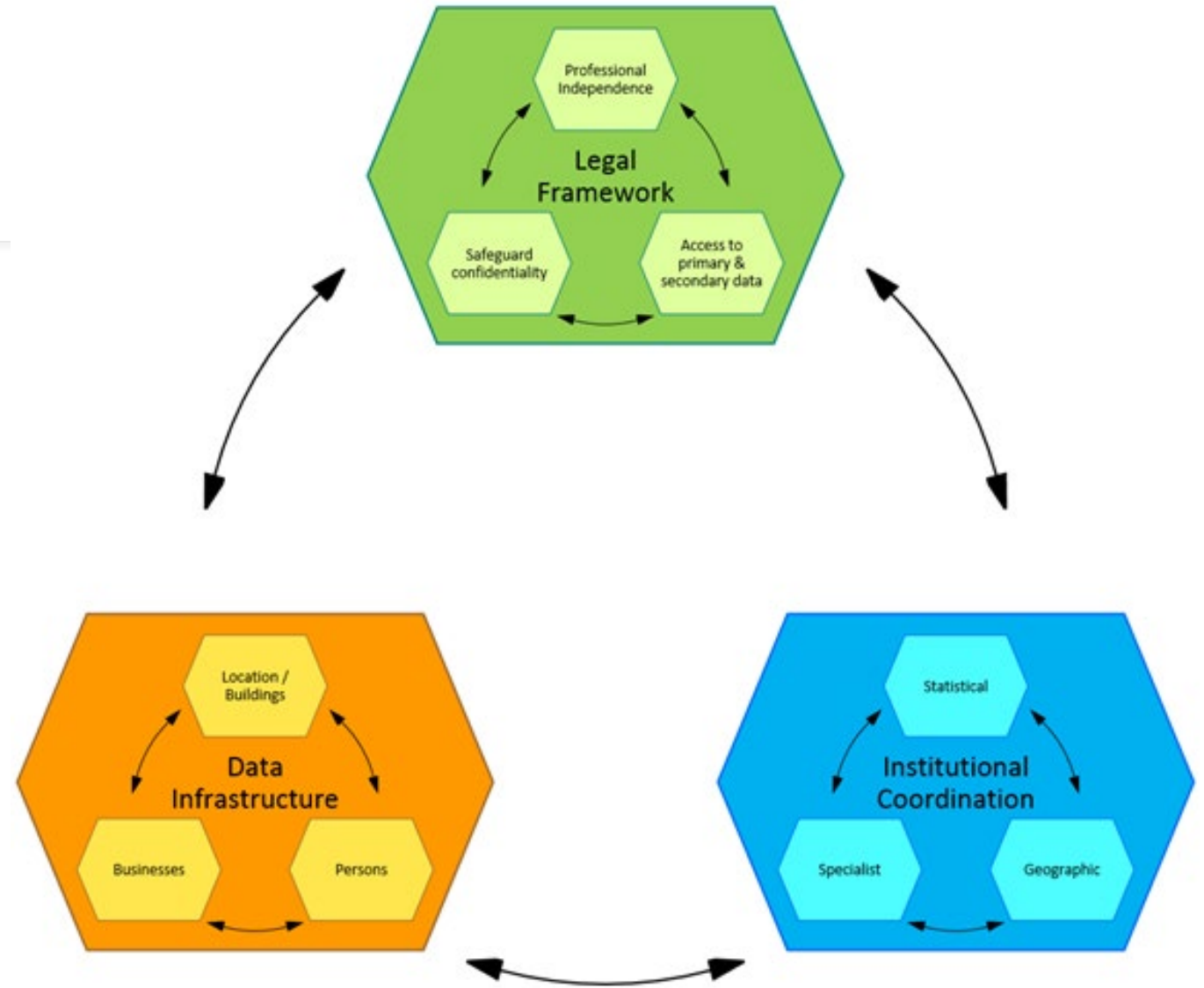
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Part 4 - Things to Consider



NSSs and National Data Infrastructure

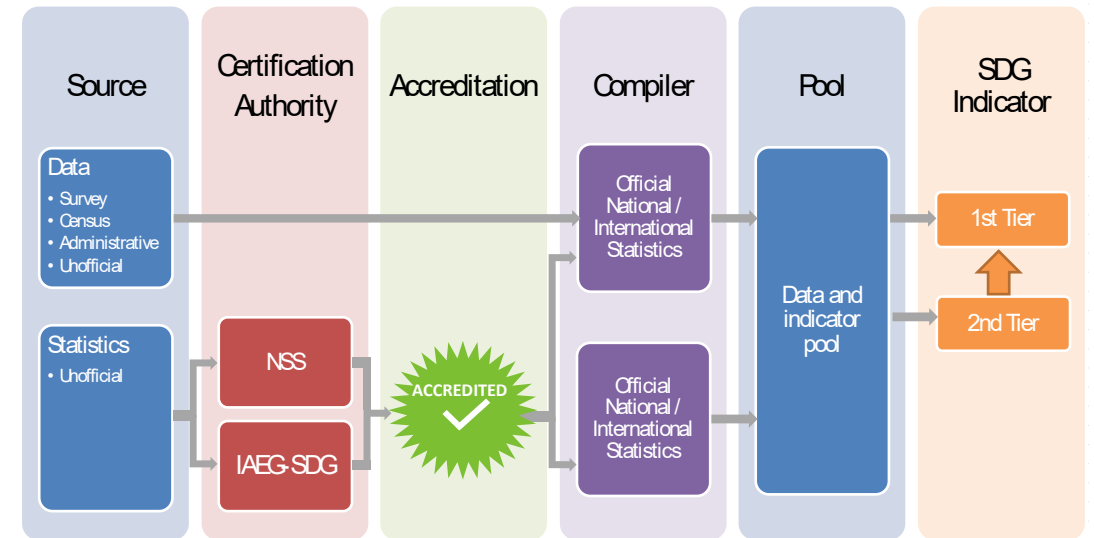
MacFeely, S. & N. Barnat (2017). Statistical Capacity Building for Sustainable Development: Developing the fundamental pillars necessary for modern national statistical systems. *Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*, Vol.33, No. 4, pp. 895 - 909.



Accreditation

Nastav, B. and MacFeely, S. (2020). You say you want a (data) revolution: reflections one year on. *Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*, Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 1299 – 1306.

MacFeely, S. and Nastav, B. (2019). You say you want a (data) revolution? A proposal to use unofficial statistics for the SDG Global Indicator Framework. *Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 309 – 327





Global v National Production

MacFeely, S. (2019). The Big (Data) Bang: Opportunities and Challenges for Compiling SDG Indicators. *Global Policy*, Vol. 10 (1), pp. 121 – 133.

MacFeely, S. and Nastav, B. (2019). You say you want a (data) revolution? A proposal to use unofficial statistics for the SDG Global Indicator Framework. *Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 309 – 327

The background features a light grey field with several semi-circular arcs of colorful, fan-shaped segments in shades of blue, green, yellow, orange, pink, and red. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is positioned in the upper left quadrant, containing the text 'Part 5'.

Part 5

Conclusion

Some parting reflections

- 2030 Agenda is the first democratically forged agreement on development. It will guide global development but also profoundly influence many new statistical developments. It will be the driving force behind the breaking of new statistical ground.
- Despite many constraints (not least financial) the UN Statistical Commission and the IAEG-SDG has made tremendous progress - the SDG GIF was assembled in record time.
- SDG indicators criticised for have missing their targets or being reductionist / of watering down the ambition of the goals and targets. Unavoidable, given the complexity of targets and requirement for only one indicator per target. But in unavoidable distillation process has the essence of the targets been faithfully captured or not?



...and some more

- Not clear that policy makers understood in delegating the measurement to the statistical community, they also delegated the meaning of Agenda2030.
- While there are issues surrounding some indicators, they hopefully offer, at least some common ground to progress policy discussions.
- Risk that in fulfilling the SDG GIF we have lost sight of wider role of statistics. SDGs indicators are only performance metrics. What about upstream role?
- The SDG process also offers an opportunity for statisticians to engage and reflect with data users on the future direction of official statistics.



Thank you

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