



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
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United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

Paper on Targets and indicators for age- in particular Children and Youth across the SDGs

Targets and indicators for age- in particular Children and Youth People across the SDGs

Introduction

This position paper details the UN Major Group for Children and Youth's views on the targets and indicators pertaining to age for the Sustainable Development Goals. It included the general views of the MGCY on the indicators process, and specific comments on all the age relevant targets & indicators.

This has also been submitted as an official input to the consultative process facilitated by UN-NGLS and UN DESA-DSD.

General Position on Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals

As the Major Group of Children and Youth, we acknowledge the importance of the indicators to measure the Sustainable Development Goals. A strong indicator framework is needed for us to understand progress made against the commitments and to identify gaps in the implementation. It also ultimately links to strong monitoring and accountability regarding the Post-2015 agenda - issues that have been called upon as crucial by young people from the outset of the discussions on Post-2015. We agree with the UN Statistical Commission that this is a technical process, which requires time and needs to be conducted in stages, and although we understand the need for a dialogue with the political process, we call for the indicators to not be politically negotiated.

It is crucial to recognise children and young people's role and participation in all stages of SDGs, hence also in the identification of the indicators and monitoring & review mechanisms, and support children and young people's inclusion that so far has been championed throughout post-2015 process, from consultations to for example the recent UNSG Synthesis Report. What is measured, counts. Children and Youth people want to count and be counted.

These are our key recommendations for the March Intergovernmental Negotiations:

Process: We agree with the UN Statistical Commission that this is a technical process that requires time and needs to be conducted in stages. We understand the need for a dialogue with the political process and intergovernmental negotiations on the goals and targets, but indicators should not be politically negotiated. Further, research and development of the indicator framework should remain open after the UN Statistical Commission meeting in 2016. The indicator framework should not be perceived as a discrete agreement to be adopted at a single point in time; there must be scope for further elaboration of it in the coming years.

Role of Civil society: We acknowledge the leading role of national statistical offices in developing the indicator framework to ensure national ownership. However, we also want to stress the importance of collaborating with civil society, in particular children and young people and their organisations, around this area. Civil society has a great deal to offer, particularly with respect to the development of indicators for targets that resist quantitative measurement. At

the global level, this could mean giving civil society a formal role in, or clear ways to contribute to, the work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (IAG-SDGs) and the High-level group (HLG) that will provide strategic leadership for the SDG implementation process. This will be important not only for the development of indicators, but also in the following years. Civil society should be engaged to be able to share experiences, encourage good practices and to identifying missing indicators and gaps along the way. Including civil society is not only necessary at the global level but also at the national level. Governments and National statistical offices should guarantee the involvement of civil society in the national indicator setting, data collection and monitoring of the SDGs, and ensure their voices are heard. Finally, we are calling for a balanced regional representation in those new bodies, and funding should be made available to ensure meaningful representation from the Global South.

Data disaggregation: Although most stakeholders seem to agree on the need for data disaggregation, we are calling for a platform for further discussion and work on this. Only including a preamble which states that all indicators will be disaggregated ‘where appropriate’ or ‘where possible’ will not be sufficient. The need for disaggregated data is paramount. For example, today, 50% of the world’s population is under 25 and young people represent the largest generation in history. At the same time, many young people are experiencing challenges with finding employment, and children and young people, specially the most vulnerable, can’t access resources to assist them with issues related to health, education and inequality. In order to address these global issues and the risks associated with them, policymakers, decision makers and civil society must be armed with good quality, readily accessible and disaggregated data on children and youth. Currently this data is lacking globally, and there is inconsistency in how data is disaggregated, and how young people are defined. We call for data disaggregation by gender, and by age in five-year intervals, which is crucial to understand key demographics such as adolescent girls and early childhood. Investing in resources and capacity building for disaggregating data is essential to ensure we have the right data to make the right decisions for a sustainable future.

Beyond official statistics and data: Single indicators are often not enough to measure a target. There is a need to not only measure the objective situation, but also gather information on people’s perceptions on certain issues (perception-based indicators). Only then we will be able to state if progress has been made or not, and if we are on the way to achieving the commitments made. Asking people what matters to them most and their opinions of change will also help stimulate public debate and is essential for holding decision-makers to account. Qualitative data should be an essential part of the new indicator framework. Innovations in data collection can, and are already, producing this kind of data, through for example participatory monitoring and research, which is a great way to engage citizens in monitoring and data collection.

Further, if the post-2015 framework is to be truly transformative, it must harness the unique ways children and young people are generating data. These data, and the means through which they are created, also offer limitless opportunities for how the development agenda more broadly is owned by the next generation, and should hence be considered in this discussion.

The indicator framework should therefore:

Build on existing data: The post-2015 indicator framework must capitalize on existing

measurement systems, and make effective use of existing data.

Include new indicators and data: There should be room for the development of new indicators to better capture information on areas where data is already being collected (e.g. health including sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, early childhood care and development, education). Further, there will be a need to develop new indicators and ways to measure ‘newer’ areas such as inequality, discrimination, inclusive and responsive governance and means of implementation. Finally, the indicator framework should be understandable to the wider public to also enhance communication between policy makers and their constituency.

Global and national level indicators: In order for us to be able to compare progress against the SDGs, which is a universal agenda, the SDGs need to have universal indicators that can be shared across countries. Throughout the development of the SDGs, policy and decision-makers and civil society alike, have been calling for an ambitious, inclusive and long-term agenda. We recognise the capacity constraints of member states, but hope that with substantial financial and capacity building support, and with the involvement of civil society and private sector, we can also aim for a strong, effective and ambitious indicator framework.

Open, accessible data and role of children and young people in monitoring SDGs: Further, the role of civil society and citizens, in particular young people and children organizations and youth organisations, in the actual monitoring process, needs to be acknowledged. All children and youth organisations should be empowered to monitor and implement the Sustainable Development Goals, through access to good quality, open, timely data and information accessible and understandable by children. Evidence shows that generating real-time data that can contribute to children young people’s ability to monitor implementation and communicate findings can be an effective and immediate method of promoting accountability. Availability and access to data are essential components of inclusive, effective development.

Capacity building: Based on the discussions and feedback from the UN Statistical Commission, we agree on the need for capacity building of national statistical offices to be able to meet these new expectations. Further, it is also important to recognise the need to match this by a concerted and comprehensive effort to build the capacity of the stakeholders who can help generate and use this data. Civil society organisations and citizens, especially children and youth, are often ill equipped to collect, analyse, interpret and manage data effectively. This impedes their ability to undertake evidence-based actions including policy development, advocacy, and decision-making. These standards should be relevant, fit for purpose, and translatable for the most basic community operations, such as small grassroots youth organisations, to ensure no one is left behind in the ‘data revolution’. Finally, there is an urgent need to concretize financing and capacity-building mechanisms to put this into practice, in particular in developing countries. Innovative financing to fund the data revolution should not come at the expense of the building the capacity of the state to collect data, but complement this.

An Analysis of Targets that make reference to children & youth

.... - Indirect Reference

.... - Direct Reference

GOAL	TARGET	COMMENT FOR INDICATORS
Proposed Goal 1- End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Target 1.1- By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	The disaggregation of data by age and sex will allow us to monitor progress for young men and women against this indicator.
	Target 1.2- By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	The disaggregation of data for both proposed indicators by age and sex will allow us to monitor progress for young men and women.
	Target 1.3- implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all , including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	Given high levels of youth unemployment (higher than overall unemployment), having the indicator of % of unemployed receiving unemployment benefits disaggregated by age (as well as by sex) would be useful in order to monitor progress.
	Target 1.4- By 2030 ensure that all men and women , particularly 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	The disaggregation of data for both proposed indicators by age and sex will allow us to monitor progress for young men and women.
Proposed goal 2- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.	Target 2.2- By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in	The disaggregation of data for 'children under 5 years of age' should be disaggregated by sex to allow us to monitor progress for young boys and girls.

	<p>children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of <i>adolescent girls</i>, <i>pregnant and lactating women</i>, and older persons</p>	<p>The disaggregation of data for 'adolescents' should be disaggregated by sex to allow us to monitor progress for both, adolescent boys and girls.</p> <p>The disaggregation of data for "pregnant and lactating women" should be disaggregated by age to allow us to monitor progress for young women.</p>
<p>Proposed goal 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.</p>	<p>Target 3.1- By 2030 reduce the global <i>maternal mortality</i> ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births</p>	<p>Data for both indicators should be disaggregated by age; As complications in pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death in girls aged 15-19 in low- and middle-income countries, this will be important to monitor</p>
	<p>Target 3.2- By 2030 end preventable deaths of <i>newborns and under-five children</i></p>	<p>The disaggregation of data for 'newborns and children under 5 years of age' should be disaggregated by sex to allow us to monitor progress for young boys and girls.</p>
	<p>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</p>	<p>Indicator of direct relevance in monitoring youth development progress, and particularly important given that adolescents and young people represent a rapidly growing share of people living with HIV worldwide.</p>
	<p>Target 3.4- By 2030 reduce by one-third premature mortality from non- communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>The disaggregation of data for both proposed indicators by age, sex and type of mental illness will allow us to monitor progress for young men and women, specially since certain types of mental illnesses afflict</p>

		young people more widely and have a large negative impact.
	Target 3.5- Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	Indicator of direct relevance in monitoring youth development progress, disaggregated by age and sex.
	Target 3.6- By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	Would be useful if data for this indicator could be disaggregated by age (and sex) since globally road traffic injuries were leading cause of death in adolescents in 2012 (per latest available data of WHO)
	Target 3.7- By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	<p>Adolescent birth rate is important indicator to monitor.</p> <p>Demand satisfied disaggregated by age would be very useful in monitoring young people's access to contraceptives, which remains a challenge in many countries Additional indicators could be considered, including for national level monitoring.</p> <p>knowledge indicator will be critical for youth to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies and STIs, including HIV</p> <p>An abortion indicator is particularly relevant to young women, as a large proportion of all unsafe abortions occur among young women ages 15-24 (41% per latest available data, and young women account for about a quarter of all abortion deaths)</p>
	Target 3.8- Achieve universal health coverage (UHC),	The nature of this target to seek universal coverage implies that

	including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	youth should be included; but as young people are often facing challenges in accessing health services, it could be recommended that at national and/or regional level specific indicators to measure progress in this area be considered. Specific measures could be recommended regarding monitoring “youth friendliness of health services.”
	Target 3.9- By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.	A lot of youth and child workers so not receive appropriate protective gear at the workplace. In addition a lot of chemical toxins like mercury, disproportionately affect young children and have longer term or permanent health effects. Finally bio concentrating of certain chemicals during pregnancy and lactation gravely affects newborns.
Proposed goal 4- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Target 4.1- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	Data for these targets should be disaggregated by age and sex. It will be important to apply gender analyses to seek to measure progress (or lack thereof) of closing gender gaps in proficiencies and completion rates If data to be further disaggregated by residence (rural/urban), social- economic wealth quintiles, and/or other levels of disaggregation, to provide useful tool in ensuring the equitable approach (as per target’s definition) be tracked
	Target 4.2- By 2030 ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-	Indicators should reflect the disaggregation by sex already mentioned in the target. Additionally the qualifier for

	primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	“ready” need to be clear and not imposed.
	Target 4.3- By 2030 ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	Data for this indicator needs to be disaggregated by sex to reflect the target. It will be important to apply gender analyses to seek to measure progress (or lack thereof) of closing gender gaps in access . Very important to qualify “quality” through appropriate indicators.
	Target 4.4- By 2030, increase by x% the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	Disaggregation by age and sex. In addition the indicators will need to measure
	Target 4.5- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations	
	Target 4.6- By 2030 ensure that all youth and at least x% of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	Data for this indicator needs to be disaggregated by sex to reflect the target. In addition staggered disaggregation by different age groups with in ‘youth’
	Target 4.7- By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender	Data for this indicator needs to be disaggregated by sex to reflect the target. In addition staggered disaggregation by different age groups with in ‘youth’

	equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	
Proposed goal 5- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Target 5.1- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	Recommend consideration for national and regional level indicators against this target to include specific focus on adolescent girls and young women. Legal and social barriers will have to be accounted for in the indicators.
	Target 5.2- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	Disaggregate data for the indicators by age groups to enable monitoring of progress on this target as it relates to young women. The indicators should also adjust and account for underreporting and unreported instances.
	Target 5.3- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations	Disaggregate data for the indicators by age groups to enable monitoring of progress on this target as it relates to young women. The indicators should also adjust and account for underreporting and unreported instances.
	Target 5.4- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	As adolescent girls and young women carry often large share of the burden of unpaid domestic and care work, including water fetching, this is an important indicator to monitor using sex- and age-disaggregated data.

	Target 5.5- Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision- making in political, economic and public life	It would be useful if the data for the indicators be age- disaggregated Furthermore consideration could be given to indicators on the number of people who vote as an indicator of participation in public life, disaggregated by age and sex
	Target 5.6- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the ‘Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences’	Analyse age- disaggregated data against the first indicator to monitor progress for adolescent girls and young women. Monitor specifically the existence of laws and regulations applicable to adolescents
Proposed goal 6- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Target 6.2- By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	If disaggregated by age, this indicator could allow for tracking progress for girls and women of all ages
Proposed goal 8- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Target 8.5- By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	Disaggregation of data on age and sex will ensure progress for youth can be monitored
	Target 8.6- By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.	Disaggregation of data on age and sex will ensure progress for youth can be monitored
	Target 8.7- Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination	Indicator a key to monitoring youth development progress.

	of the worst forms of child labor , eradicate forced labor and, by 2025, end child labor in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers	The indicator on number of people in forced labor would be useful to measure youth development progress if disaggregated by age and sex. A 'child soldiers' indicator could be recommended for national and/or regional level.
Proposed goal 10- Reduce inequality within and among countries	Target 10.1- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	Disaggregation of data by age, sex and against other identifiers will support analyses of youth development in general as related to income inequality as well as that of sub- groups within the broader youth definition (e.g. indigenous youth, migrant youth, etc. to enable monitoring of progress of the most marginalized youth
	Target 10.2- By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all , irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin religion or economic or other status	Disaggregation of data by age, sex and against other identifiers will support analyses of youth development in general against indicators that will be selected for such analysis, as well as that of sub-groups within the broader youth definition (e.g. indigenous youth, migrant youth, etc. to enable monitoring of progress of the most marginalized youth
	Target 10.3- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.	If disaggregated by grounds of discrimination, age could be useful marker in monitoring discrimination of young people
	Target 10.4 - Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater	Disaggregation of data along age and sex, will allow for monitoring progress for all youth against this target

	equality	
	Target 10.7- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well- managed migration policies	Given that young people tend makeup large proportion of those that migrate, the indicator for this target will be relevant for tracking youth development
Proposed goal 11- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.1- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums	If data for these indicators could be disaggregated including by age and sex it would allow for youth specific analysis
	Target 11.2- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all , improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children , persons with disabilities and older persons	If data for these indicators could be disaggregated including by age and sex it would allow for youth specific analysis
	Target 11.3- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	“Inclusive” in this context should account for initiatives that specifically include young people (disaggregated by age and sex)
	Target 11.5- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and decrease by [x] per cent the economic losses relative to gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	While taking into account data relevant to people, it should be disaggregated by age and sex, to account for youth specific monitoring.

	Target 11.7- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children , older persons and persons with disabilities	Measured by 'accessibility' to public spaces.
Proposed Goal 12- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Target 12.8- By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and	And Indicator on inclusion of sustainable development and lifestyles topics in formal and informal education curricula should be included..
Proposed goal 13- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts * *Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.	Target 13.3- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	An indicator on integration of mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into education curricula should to have impact on youth development (for those with access to education). Age- (and sex-) disaggregation of data will allow for monitoring progress for young men and women
Proposed 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	Target 16.2- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	The indicators need to be very comprehensive, and needs to take into account actual reductions, and under reporting.
	Target 16.6- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	Indicators should take into account the perception of young people.
	Target 16.7- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	Indicators should take into account the perception of young people, and their direct inclusion through initiatives such as national youth councils,

		<p>and their role in governance. countries with national youth councils</p> <p>Number of countries that consult with young people in national development plans</p> <p>Number of countries with fully funded youth policies And for national and/or regional level: Percentage of parliamentarians under 35</p>
	<p>Target 16.9- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p>	<p>The indicators should in fact operationalizes 'for all' regardless of any status, and stress that this means no discrimination on any on grounds.</p>
	<p>Target 16.10- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p>	<p>Indicators should ensure that the 'access' is actually child and youth friendly. In addition special reference to youth and child rights need to be taken into account.</p>
<p>Goal 17- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>	<p>Target 17.16- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries</p>	<p>The indicator should monitor engagement of youth organizations and networks in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships.</p>
	<p>Target 17.17- Encourage and</p>	<p>The indicator should monitor</p>

	promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	'meaningful' engagement of youth organizations and networks in the context of partnerships.
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Position and Comments on Indicators as per the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)

For our detailed position on the proposed indicators people see the attached Annex 1.

Conclusion

We hope that our positions are the indicators and targets are taken on board by the UN system and the member states that will be a part of this process.

Sources:

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