

**First session of the Preparatory Committee for the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development**

**Multi-Stakeholder Round Table Discussion on “Data, monitoring and follow-up”**

Friday, 26 July 2024, 10:00 – 11:30

***Concept Note and guiding questions***

Data, including data on financing, is crucial for assessing progress and guiding actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its means of implementation. The Addis Agenda emphasizes the importance of robust data collection, use and standards for achieving development goals, the need for measures of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income and a dedicated financing for development (FfD) follow-up and review mechanism.

Since 2015, various global and regional data initiatives have been launched to **support data availability and use**. Comprehensive monitoring frameworks have been established to track progress towards the SDGs. These include indicators and targets that guide countries in measuring their achievements and identifying areas requiring attention. The adoption of the SDG indicator framework has triggered major efforts by the statistical community to develop internationally established methodologies or standards for all indicators and to produce data.

At the national level, countries have made significant strides in improving their **national statistical systems**. Progress in statistical systems has focused on expanding available data. This positive trend was in part driven by increased investments in data, and stepped up international support. Total external funding disbursed for data and statistics in 2021 reached nearly \$850 million. International organizations have provided technical assistance and capacity-building programs to improve data collection, analysis, and reporting, which have led to better data quality and availability.

Despite this progress, **significant data gaps remain**. Many countries lack the infrastructure and resources to collect, analyze, and disseminate high-quality data regularly. despite the potential for substantial economic returns – there is an average return of \$32 for every \$1 invested in strengthening data systems in developing countries – there is underinvestment in public data systems and statistical activities.

New **measures and tools have also been developed to more adequately measures sustainable development progress and vulnerabilities**. A high-level panel of experts developed the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and there is renewed political momentum to develop and adopt metrics that go beyond GDP. These ongoing efforts open the possibility to address long-standing concerns over metrics used in national and international monitoring frameworks, allocation of and eligibility for concessional finance, decisions on debt relief and related matters.

**The Addis Agenda also strengthened the FfD follow-up process.** The annual Financing for Sustainable Development Report of the Inter-agency Task Force presents Member States with an annual assessment of implementation of the FfD outcomes. The FfD Forum, the center piece of the strengthened FfD follow-up process, has succeeded in strengthening the participation of Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors in UN financing discussions and helped strengthen dialogue and collaboration between the UN and BWIs. It also served as an anchor for multistakeholder engagement with CSOs and the private sector, including through an SDG Investment Fair organized on the sidelines of the Forum since 2017. The General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held back-to-back with the SDG Summit every four years, has served to galvanize commitment and action at the highest political level.

Challenges remain, however, with participation of Member States uneven, negotiations for the Forum outcome hampered by tight timelines, insufficient space for engagement between ECOSOC and BWIs Executive Directors, and sometimes limited consideration of regional perspectives.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Data collection, use and standards
  - What are the most pressing actions needed to address data gaps and improve the quality and timeliness of data in developing countries? How can existing initiatives be leveraged to achieve this?
  - How can the experience of the SDG indicator framework inform targets and indicators that would support the FfD follow-up process?
  - How can international organizations and development partners enhance their support to developing countries in building robust national statistical systems?
2. Measures of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income
  - How can measures of progress on sustainable development that go beyond GDP become more embedded in the decision-making frameworks of international financial institutions and other international organizations?
  - What new measures are needed to recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions or how can existing initiatives be built on, and what measures are needed to capture the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps?
3. FfD follow-up and review mechanism
  - How can the FfD follow-up process be enhanced to strengthen engagement from national and regional actors?
  - How can dialogue and collaboration between the UN and international financial

- institutions and their governing bodies be further deepened?
- What steps and initiatives would help incorporate a wider range of perspectives and inputs into the FfD follow-up process?