



WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS (WGSDGI)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted by the ACSS Committee in its 6th Session on 1-3 November 2016

1. BACKGROUND

Following the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the world leaders in September 2015; the UN Statistical Commission Meeting in January 2015 encouraged coordination between national statistical systems and international organizations in order to ensure transparency and efficiency in reporting, avoiding duplications, and that attention should be given to strengthening the reporting capacity of poorer countries. Statistical systems are further urged to promote stronger global cooperation as well as regional and national stakeholder partnerships to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources.

In the case of ASEAN, the region's experiences, and aspirations will be closely intertwined and influenced by global developments and challenges. With the implementation of *ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together*, regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses of global issues.

In particular, the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) has long established enabling mechanisms to address these emerging regional and global initiatives, as follows:

- The ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics (AFCS) has been revised in October 2014 to reflect developments in statistical cooperation at the global and regional levels relevant to the acceleration of the ASEAN Community;
- The Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics (BFSDAS) which defines statistical domains in ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) has been reviewed in January 2016 to include the SDG indicators under cross-cutting areas; and
- The ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025, adopted by the ACSS Committee in 2015, includes new initiatives taking into consideration global developments and regional statistical priorities.

Taking into account that the global indicators proposed on SDG may not necessarily be applicable to all national contexts; and that indicators for regional, national and subnational

levels of monitoring will be developed at the regional and national levels, it is deemed important to create the Working Group on SDG Indicators, its Terms of Reference to be adopted at the 6th Session ACSS Committee in November 2016. The group's work on the SDGs indicators shall be for incorporation to the ASEAN Statistical Indicators.

2. OBJECTIVE

The Working Group on SDG Indicators (WGSDGI) aims to address the statistical requirements in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the SDGs in the AMSs and in the ASEAN, and the region's position at the global level.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The main activities of the WGSDGI involve:

Technical

- a. Support to the compilation, dissemination, and communication of indicators in the global monitoring framework over the 15-year period towards 2030;
- b. Agree, in consultation with the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community, on a set of ASEAN SDG indicators, with corresponding metadata, that are commonly available and deemed relevant to the Member States;
- c. Work towards adopting internationally accepted definitions/concepts/methodology of agreed indicators through a regular review of methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;
- d. Develop/implement a medium-term work plan in line with activities of the UN Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- e. Align ASEAN SDG with national priorities, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development; and
- f. Monitor ASEAN progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, aligning to the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025.

Coordination

- g. Establish a clear reporting mechanism for the annual updating of the SDG database, that will facilitate data submission to UN;
- h. Foster partnership and coordination with relevant agencies/institutions on resource mobilization and capacity building activities; and
- i. Collaborate/liaise/consult with pertinent regional bodies, international organizations and relevant stakeholders on related activities to ensure that no work is duplicated;

Dissemination

- j. Provide recommendations to the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee on the communication and dissemination of ASEAN SDG indicators;

- k. Facilitate the development and maintenance of a comprehensive database on SDG indicators by the ASEAN Secretariat;
- l. Provide annual update of the database of the SDG indicators in support of the UN's mandate for annual regional SDG report; and
- m. Provide inputs to the preparation of the ASEAN SDG Indicators Report every 5 years; providing guidance on format, content, dissemination of this report including data visualization.

Capacity Building

- n. Facilitate/coordinate capacity-building activities in statistical areas relevant to SDG monitoring including on how to possibly address the challenge of data disaggregation, such as on gender, geographic and sectoral;
- o. Promote collaboration among ASEAN Member States, facilitating the sharing of best practices, with a view to bridging and closing the gaps among Member States' statistical capacity to produce SDG indicators; and
- p. Participate in ASEAN/international meetings/activities/regular sharing of information and experience on SDG.

4. ORGANIZATION

The WGSDGI membership shall comprise designated officials/staff from relevant national statistical agencies/institutions involved in the compilation/reporting/monitoring of activities related to SDG. The National Statistics Office shall serve as the focal point in coordinating inputs and activities related to ASEAN SDG indicators with relevant national statistical agencies/institutions. At the regional level, the ASEANstats shall coordinate with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community on all SDG-related activities.

Chairmanship. Shall rotate every two years among the ASEAN Member States, in alphabetical name of country order, or as agreed by the WGSDGI.

Reporting line. Shall report on the progress of the production and dissemination of the SDG indicators to the ACSS Committee, who may update the relevant ASEAN Bodies.

Secretariat. The secretariat function to the WGSDGI shall be undertaken by the ASEANstats.

Meetings. Shall meet physically at least once a year, and otherwise conduct its work, preparatory meetings as well as exchange views inter-sessionally or through video conference, telephone, mails, or emails. Outside consultants or experts can be invited to attend meetings when a particular subject or objective is to be addressed. Hosting of the meeting can be rotated in line with the ACSS Committee chairmanship, or as agreed by the WGSDGI.

Others. The WGSDGI may create task forces, to undertake specific tasks in the fulfillment of its functions. The work of such task forces shall terminate upon completion of the assigned task(s).

5. WORKPLAN

The WGSDI shall start its work with the crafting of its workplan.
