



## ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS (WGSDGI)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 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 context, indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring will be developed. The ASEAN Working Group on SDG Indicators (WGSDGI) has been created, by which its Terms of Reference was initially adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Session ACSS Committee in November 2016. The ASEAN priority SDG indicators are included into the ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template (ASI-CT) regular data collections.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The ASEAN Working Group on SDG Indicators (WGSDGI) aims to address the statistical requirements in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the ASEAN priority SDG indicators in the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and 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 the ASEAN priority SDG indicators, with corresponding metadata, that are commonly available and/or deemed relevant to AMS;
- 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 Multi-Year Work Plan (MYP) 2018/19-2030 in line with activities of the ACSS strategic plan 2016-2025 and the UN Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- e. Align the ASEAN priority SDG indicators with national SDGIs where relevant, taking into account different national capacities and levels of statistical 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. Facilitate the strengthening of the national coordination in data collection/compilation of the ASEAN priority SDG indicators with AMS national SDGI coordinator, relevant line ministries and other stakeholders (national or international agencies);
- h. Foster partnership and coordination with relevant line ministries and/or other stakeholders on resource mobilization and capacity building activities; and

### Dissemination

- i. Provide recommendations to the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee on the communication and dissemination plan of the ASEAN priority SDG indicators;
- j. Facilitate the development and maintenance of a comprehensive database on the ASEAN priority SDG indicators by Statistics Division of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEANstats);

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

#### Capacity Building

- m. Facilitate/coordinate capacity-building activities in statistical areas relevant to the ASEAN priority SDG indicators monitoring including on how to possibly address the challenges of data production, communication and dissemination, including the potential use of other sources and data estimation for SDG indicators;
- n. Promote collaboration among AMS, facilitating the sharing of best practices, with a view to bridging and closing the gaps among AMS's statistical capacity to produce SDG indicators; and
- o. Participate in ASEAN/international meetings/activities/regular sharing of information and experience on SDG implementation monitoring.

#### **4. ORGANIZATION**

The ASEAN WGSDGI membership shall comprise up to 2 officials/staff from ASEAN Member States (AMSs) National Statistical Offices (NSOs), relevant line ministries and/or other stakeholders when necessary. The representative from NSOs shall serve as the focal point in coordinating inputs and activities related to the ASEAN priority SDG indicators regular data collection with relevant line ministries and other stakeholders (national or international).

The focal point of ASEAN WGSDGI shall be responsible for regularly submitting the required data in ASI-CT for SDG indicators and subsequent data clarifications to ASEANstats. The focal point of ASEAN WGSDGI also shall provide periodic updates on WG matters directly to the heads of the respective national statistical agencies or through the ACSS Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) members.

At the regional level, the ASEANstats shall coordinate with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community on monitoring the ASEAN priority SDG indicators.

Chairmanship. The Chair of WGSDGI is selected from the WG designated focal points, rotating every two years among AMS, in alphabetical name of country order, or as agreed by the WGSDGI. ASEANstats shall serve as Co-chair. The Chair shall be responsible primarily for steering the activities/meetings of the WG towards the achievement of the stated objectives within a reasonably set time frame. The Chair shall coordinate closely with ASEANstats in planning, initiating, and leading the implementation of the work plan.

Reporting line. ASEANstats on behalf of WGSDGI shall report on the progress of the production and dissemination of the ASEAN priority SDG indicators to the ACSS Committee, who may update to the relevant ASEAN Bodies.

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

Meetings. WGSDGI focal points 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 AMS on the basis of self-funding, 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 ASEAN WGSDI shall start its works based on the adopted WGSDGI MYP 2018/19-2030 and its Annual Work Plans (AWPs).

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