



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Third Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on
Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

**Establishment of baselines for tracking
global trends in SDG indicators**

30 March – 1 April 2016

Mexico City, Mexico

Background

- Baselines should be based on best-practices and agreed baseline methodologies
- Determination of baselines can follow different approaches:
 - Multi-indicator or indicator-specific baselines
 - Global, regional or national baselines
 - Baselines for specific sub-population groups
- Baseline setting needs to be consistent with the purpose of trend analysis, e.g.:
 - Explore evolution over time of a single indicator a country
 - Provide a global picture all indicators across many countries

Baselines for Global SDG Indicators

2 Mentions of baselines in “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

- Para 57: “ We recognize that baseline data for several of the targets remains unavailable, and we call for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity building in Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist.”

- Para 75: “The Goals and targets will be followed up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. These will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels which will be developed by Member States, in addition to the outcomes of work undertaken for the development of the baselines for those targets where national and global baseline data does not yet exist.”

Experience with Baselines with MDGs

- The MDGs were ~~adopted in 2000~~ with an end date of 2015.
- The baseline year for global tracking of MDG indicators was established as 1990 ~~in order to allow for comparing trends before and after the adoption of the MDGs~~
- The 2030 Agenda makes no specific reference to a baseline year(s) for global tracking

Decisions to be made by IAEG-SDGs regarding baselines

- **Governance:** What will be the baseline approval process?
- **Degree of specificity:** Will the IAEG-SDG recommend specific baselines for each indicator, or only baseline selection criteria?
- **Revision process:** Should baselines aim to remain (mostly) fixed, or be revised periodically?