Implementing the Fundamental Principles in a transforming statistical system

15th IAOS Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 6-8 December 2016
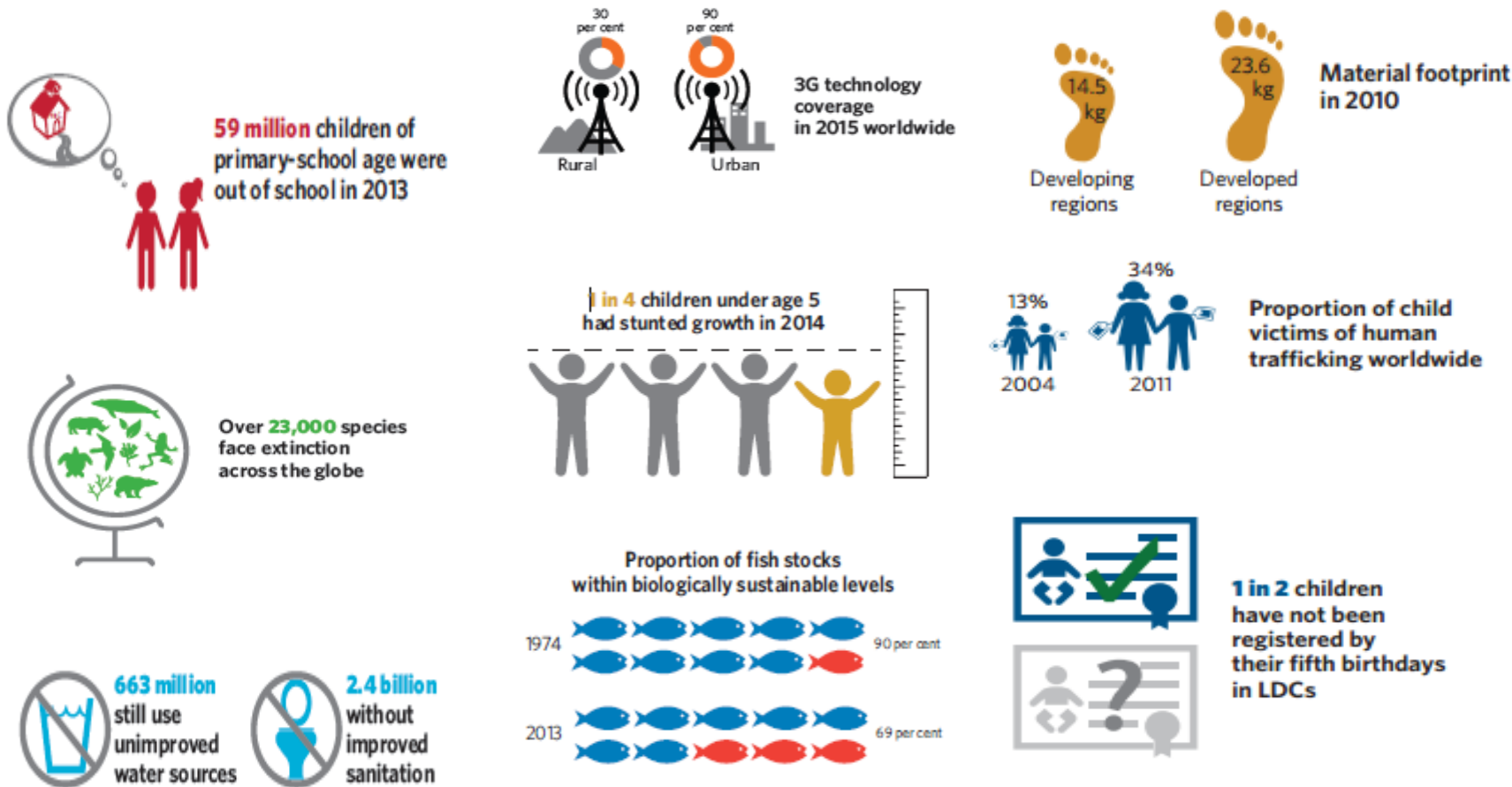
Data for the 2030 Agenda

➢ Accessible, timely and reliable and disaggregated data are critical for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

➢ The data requirements for the global indicators are almost as unprecedented as the SDGs themselves and constitute a tremendous challenge to all countries.

➢ Fulfilling these requirements is an essential step in establishing where we are now, charting a way forward and bringing our collective vision closer to reality

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Need to address a wide range of policy issues

59 million children of primary-school age were out of school in 2013

Over **23,000** species face extinction across the globe

663 million still use unimproved water sources

2.4 billion without improved sanitation

30 per cent — 90 per cent

Rural — Urban

3G technology coverage in 2015 worldwide

1 in 4 children under age 5 had stunted growth in 2014

Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

1974 — 90 per cent

2013 — 69 per cent

14.5 kg — 23.6 kg

Developing regions — Developed regions

Material footprint in 2010

13% — 2004

34% — 2011

Proportion of child victims of human trafficking worldwide

**1 in 2 children** have not been registered by their fifth birthdays in LDCs

The need for a data revolution …

Key ideas of the data revolution

- More and better data covering the broad scope of SDGs

- Harnessing new and non-traditional sources of data

- Broader and systematic data disaggregation

- Use new data technology and innovations

- Strengthening national statistical capacity

A WORLD THAT COUNTS

MOBILISING THE DATA REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
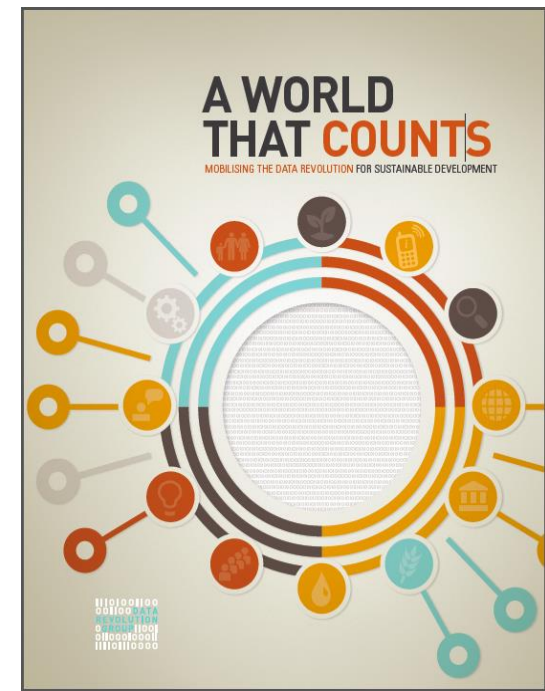
But we also need:

- Data timeliness

- New data literacy

- Public transparency and information sharing

- Open access to data, while never compromising the right to privacy

- Governance and independence

- Data rights: right to be counted, right to an identity, right to confidentiality

We have the tools …

….the data revolution started over 20 years ago

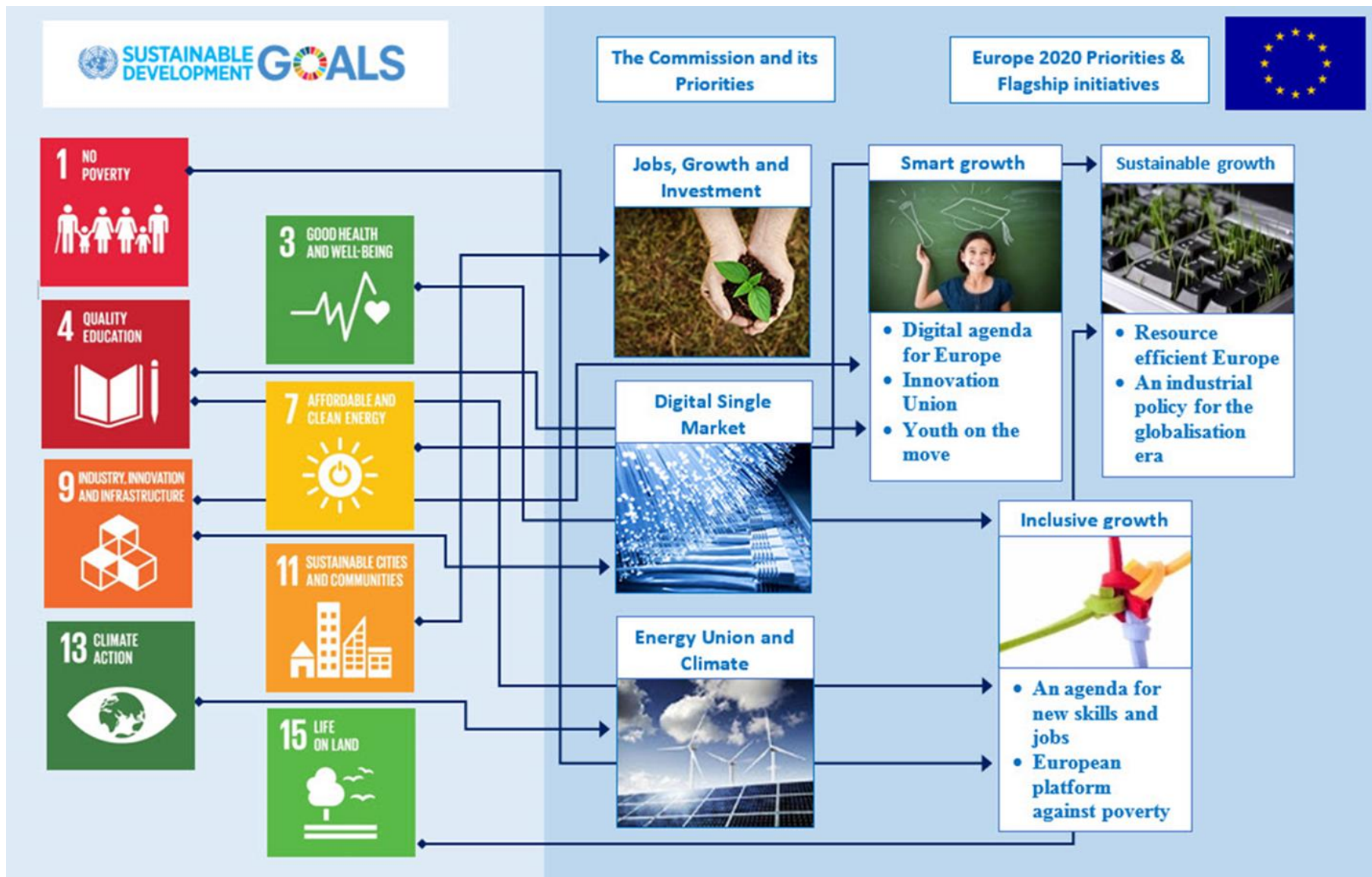- MICS&DHS
- Increased use of administrative sources
- Development of gender statistics
- Measurements of VAW, FGM
- GGIM
- New definitions and methods
- Improved consistency across sources and data compilation

….and the data revolution continues

- Private sector, civil society, academia launching initiatives on indicators' measurement/data collection
- Mobile phone data/call details records
- Social media data
- Web-scraping data
- Citizen-generated data
- Perception data
- Satellite imagery and remote sensing
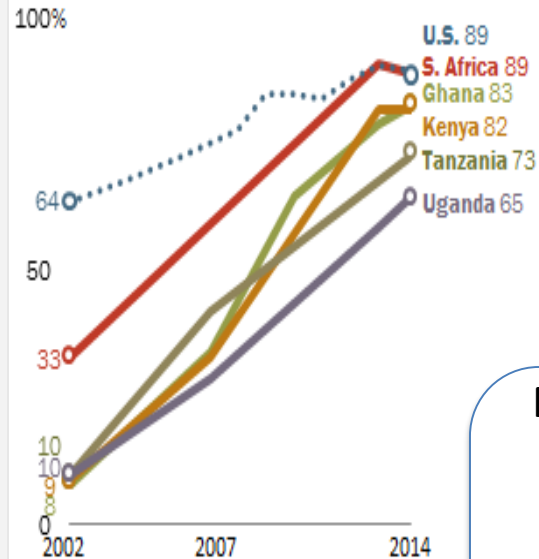- Geospatial information

UN-GGIM: SDGs that benefit from disaggregation by location

Cell phone call

Cell Phone Ownership Surges in Africa
Adults who own a cell phone

100%

U.S. 89
S. Africa 89
Ghana 83
Kenya 82
Tanzania 73

64

Uganda 65

50

33

10

2002   2007   2014

Note: U.S. data from Pew Research Center surveys.

Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q68.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

User make
call from

Protecting confidentiality
-Aggregate summaries
-Regulator approval
-Raw data never leaves
operator

Mobility: Changing densities, flows, seasonal/permanent migration

Social networks: Number of contacts, calling patterns

Consumption: Credit purchase frequencies, top-up amounts

User trav
to Y and
makes a c

FLOWMINDER.ORG

distance (km)

Source: Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation, UNICEF, New York, 27-29 June 2016

How can we turn these data into reliable statistical information?

Integrating new data sources

- Data need to be validated

    - Need for internationally agreed criteria that would guarantee lack of biases, quality, reliability and comparability.

- New partnerships

- A transformation of NSOs and NSSs

- Opportunities:

    - The Global Action Plan

    - First UN World Data Forum

Not all new data sources are the same

- What are the new data sources?

    - Produced within the boundaries of what can be considered "official statistical system"
    - Produced outside the boundaries of "official statistical system"
    - Public versus private?
    - Civil society/academia
    - They often contain biases and gaps (need to be integrated with official data)

- We need to clearly define "new data sources"!

The FPOS and the new data landscape

- New data sources are available and are key to address the new data requirements

- The FPOS are "our constitution" and should be used as a starting point

- There are important tools and frameworks (QAF) that build on the FPOS and could be expanded/adapted

- They need to be newly re-interpreted to define what the spirit of the Principles means in changed times

- ….and to ensure that the statistical community can respond to the unprecedented data requirements of the new development agenda

The FPOS and the new data landscape

- The most important principle regarding the use of new data sources is **Principle 5**

    "data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources", and that statistical agencies are to "choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents"

- This allows the official statistical authority to use and incorporate data from different sources – provided that doing so complies with the other principles of official statistics.

- **Principle 1** - Relevance, Impartiality and Equal Access

    Statistics must be relevant, of suitable quality and in a form that facilitates easy and correct use whereby "Relevance" is the degree to which statistics meet current and potential users' needs.

- This ensures "appropriate measurement" and the consistent "availability of a data over time".

- Need to guarantee "Impartiality", which will imply validating data in terms of their coverage of all population groups and the absence of possible biases

- **Principle 3** – Accountability and Transparency

    Information must be presented according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

- This will guarantee that the methodology to derive statistics from data sources outside the official statistical system is fully described and verifiable by users.

- This will require defining some basic requirements/standards on the documentation supporting the data collected outside the official statistical system

- **Principle 9** – Use of international standards

  Use of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

- International guidelines for the use of new data sources will have to include criteria for full adherence to international standards

- **<u>Principle 10</u>** – International Cooperation

    An essential requirement to have high-quality statistics is to build the necessary capacity and share lessons learned and best practices

- Technical cooperation efforts will need to take into account the need for national statistical systems to develop new skills and to have the necessary resources to build their capacity to utilize these new data sources and to establish partnerships with data producers outside the system.

Conclusions

- New data sources are a large and increasing portion of data available to the public

- Based on the FPOS, statistical offices can consider new data sources and establish mechanisms to integrate them in the statistical process.

- Key is to ensure that the necessary resources and skills are available

- Need to establish partnerships

- Legal framework

Thank you