

Regional Round Table III (Data and Monitoring), ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2017

Intervention by Marianne Haslegrave, Commonwealth Medical Trust

(I have been following the process for the development of the 2030 Agenda and HLPF – the ‘political’ and for the development of the global indicator framework through the IAEG-SDGs and the Statistical Commission – the ‘technical’)

How to address the interface between the ‘technical’ and the ‘political’?

The question now is how to ensure that the two processes – the ‘technical’ and the ‘political’ – go forward together. In achieving this it is important that the ECOSOC draft resolution “Work of the UN Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is approved, without any changes, by the ECOSOC in June. This draft resolution brings the last ‘technical’ piece – the global indicator framework, developed by the IAEG-SDGs – into the 2030 Agenda. What strategies will be necessary to ensure that the draft resolution gets the necessary ‘political’ support, both in ECOSOC and subsequently in the UN General Assembly?

How can we bring data collection and implementation of the 2030 Agenda together and involve other stakeholders, including civil society organizations and academia?

With fewer than 14 years to go until 2030, the question is “how to bring together data collection and implementation together, so that they work in tandem?” Ways should also be found to use other channels for collecting and reporting data, including through civil society organizations and academia. Traditionally, national statistical offices have not engaged with civil society organizations and vice-versa.

Measuring sexual and reproductive health and rights

As countries in this region were the strongest and most progressive in working for the inclusion in the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), they could play an important role in ensuring that they are measured, as such, going forward. The SDGS, in this case SDG 5.6 on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, recognise the global highest level of ambition. Given that many countries in the region support SRHR, which represents a higher level of ambition, they could take the lead in including indicators for its measurement in their national indicator frameworks.