
TASK TEAM INPUT

Open Consultation of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators on Grey Indicators
December 2015

Input target 16.10

Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment comments: The original target proposed [i] is too narrow as it does not adequately reflect the access to information and fundamental freedoms target. The current indicator masks the spectrum of ways in which for example civil society organisations (CSOs) are currently experiencing threats to their operations and existence.

The Task Team would fully support the creation of an additional indicator for the “fundamental freedoms” component. This could be as per the previous consultation's suggestion of the US: “(a) Number of times in which UN Special Rapporteurs report violations of fundamental freedoms, including freedoms of association, expression, and assembly, (b) Percentage of recommendations to strengthen fundamental freedoms – including freedom of association, assembly and expression – that were implemented, as identified through the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review, (c) Perception of the public and of civil society organizations on whether they can pursue issues of interest, including human rights and governance, in the public arena without fear of government retribution. (Surveys/polls; Disaggregated by age, sex, gender), (d) Adoption and implementation of access to information laws and regulations and the number and percentage of requests for information fulfilled in the past 12 months (though it is difficult to measure), (e) Existence of enabling laws, policies and practices with regard to the freedoms of expression, association and assembly.” Alternatively, this indicator could be as per Canada's previous suggestion: “(a) Presence of legislative framework that protects fundamental freedoms and recourse mechanism when they are violated; (b) length of time to participate in recourse mechanism, (c) percentage of public access to government information request that are accepted or denied.”

At minimum, the Task Team would like to see a modification of the original indicator such as the suggestion of the US: “Number of reported cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, arbitrary blocking or shutting down of activities, and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists, staff of civil society organizations, and human rights or governance advocates in the previous 12 months.”

Input for target 17.16

The Task Team can support the OECD-UNDP's most recent (December 15) indicator proposal “Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of sustainable development goals” given its emphasis on multi-stakeholder engagement and mutual accountability across stakeholders in reviewing progress.

Input for target 17.17

Recognizing that it is not in the grey indicator category, the Task Team reiterates the position in its Oct. 23 letter to the IAEG recommending that an indicator reflecting CSO engagement and the enabling environment for such engagement is needed under target 17.17. This position reflects that of other stakeholders that the current indicator for target 17.17 is too narrow as it does not capture the dimension related to the effectiveness of partnerships with CSOs. Such an indicator would respond to the concerns previously raised by the African member states in the IAEG that the indicator needs to reflect partnerships with civil society. It is also in the spirit of the proposal previously made by the UK to include a CSO enabling environment indicator under target 17.17. Therefore the Task Team could support the **development of a complementary alternative indicator, specifically: “Number of criteria met by the country in the “Civil Society Organisations Enabling Environment Assessment”**.

[i] “Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months.”