



Permanent Mission
of Germany
to the United Nations
New York



*Permanent Mission of Brazil
to the United Nations*



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

Summary of Sessions Indicators and Monitoring Assessment and Evaluation

Measuring Sustainable Development:
How Can Science Contribute to Realizing the SDGs?

23 – 24 April 2015, New York City



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY



Measuring Sustainable Development:

How Can Science Contribute to Realizing the SDGs?

- Science can engage with UN-DESA in the development of a sound and **informative indicator framework by:** focusing on “essential sustainability variables”, more comparable across countries, rewarding current and future states, being cognizant of underlying trade-offs and easy to communicate.
- Science could provide an answer to the question: What is the **added value of evidence-based decision making** and can it be demonstrated that better data and indicators have resulted in improved policy?
- Science can help to **grow technical capacity** around the world and in particular in developing countries; and **support indicator-enabling institutions** to become sufficiently **strong, independent and transparent** in order to remain **independent** of political pressures.

Measuring Sustainable Development:

How Can Science Contribute to Realizing the SDGs?

- ❑ **To make the SDGs happen: Regular evaluations and assessments**
 - Evaluations – “continuous” information for Member States & other stakeholders on progress to targets
 - Assessments – “on demand” – provide feedback to Member States & other stakeholders on key scientific issues concerning SDGs
- ❑ **The Community is ready: Already have needed experience & knowledge for good evaluations & assessments**

Assessments should be ...

- Multi-level: Global, national, topical
- Transparent, participatory
- Questions: jointly selected by policy and science communities
- Summaries: consensus

Measuring Sustainable Development: How Can Science Contribute to Realizing the SDGs?

- ❑ **Assessments to support SDGs need to go the extra mile ...**
 - Assess interlinkages, trade-offs
 - Assess policy options to transform tradeoffs to synergies
 - All underlying assessment data made widely available on new digital platforms (e.g. *UNEP Live*)

Measuring Sustainable Development:

How Can Science Contribute to Realizing the SDGs?

- Activity (scoping workshop?) around a fit-for-purpose innovative indicator framework making use of concepts such as negotiated ‘essential sustainable development variable/indicators’ with to goal to stay below 50!and the value of composite indicators.
(ICSU/DFG, Future Earth, SDSN, UN-DESA)
- Activity (early career / summer schools?) around the area of capacity building on indicator frameworks, supporting statistics, observing systems on the regional and national scale.
(Development Agencies, UNU, Future Earth, UN-DESA)
- Activity (foresight workshop?) around anticipating the difficult areas of implementation of the SDGs. Where are the needs for more scientific information which might provide the motivation for ‘thematic’ assessments?
(UN-SAB, Future Earth, SDSN, e.g. UNEP UN-specialized agencies)