10TH EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON

Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange

JANUARY 25-28, 2021

SDG DSD

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Purpose of the SDG DSD

- To support the transmission of all SDG indicators and their disaggregation, as approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission
  - Adopted by countries and international and regional organizations for collection and/or dissemination of official SDGs data and metadata.
  - Exchanged information is used to populate the global SDG database, custodied by UNSD (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/).
  - Intended to be used for formal data transmission (reporting) of information between the parties

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Challenges Faced for the SDG DSD Definition

- Integration of information from many countries with different IT development levels
- Continuous changes due to new definitions of indicators required by an evolving framework
- Heterogeneous generation of information due to different capabilities, contexts and interests of the countries
- Compatibility between the Global Dataflow and the National Dataflows (for reporting)

Design Approach

- One DSD covering all indicators
  - Open to definition of additional DSD if it is needed
  - Four versions (one in 2019 and three in 2020). Most recent published on December 24th, 2020
- Tested in pilot projects
- Customizations are possible accordingly to agreed guidelines
  - Note: for dissemination purposes
- Continuous integration of feedback by means of the Working Group
  - Participation of international organizations and national statistical offices

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/SDG-DSD-Customization-Guidelines.pdf

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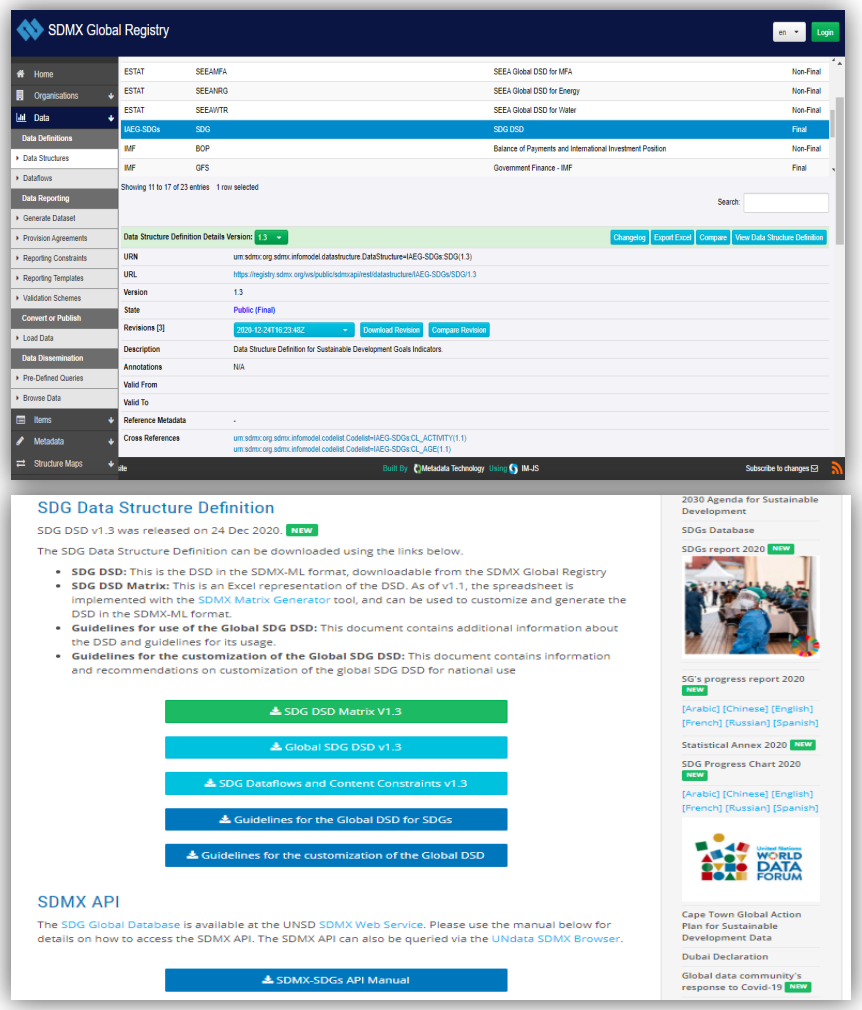
SDG DSD as a Global Artifact



- Published in the SGR (https://registry.sdmx.org/)
- Supported by SDMX Sponsors Committee
- One definition for any organization requesting information about SDG
- Additional documents can be found in the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on SDMX site (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/sdmx-working-group/)

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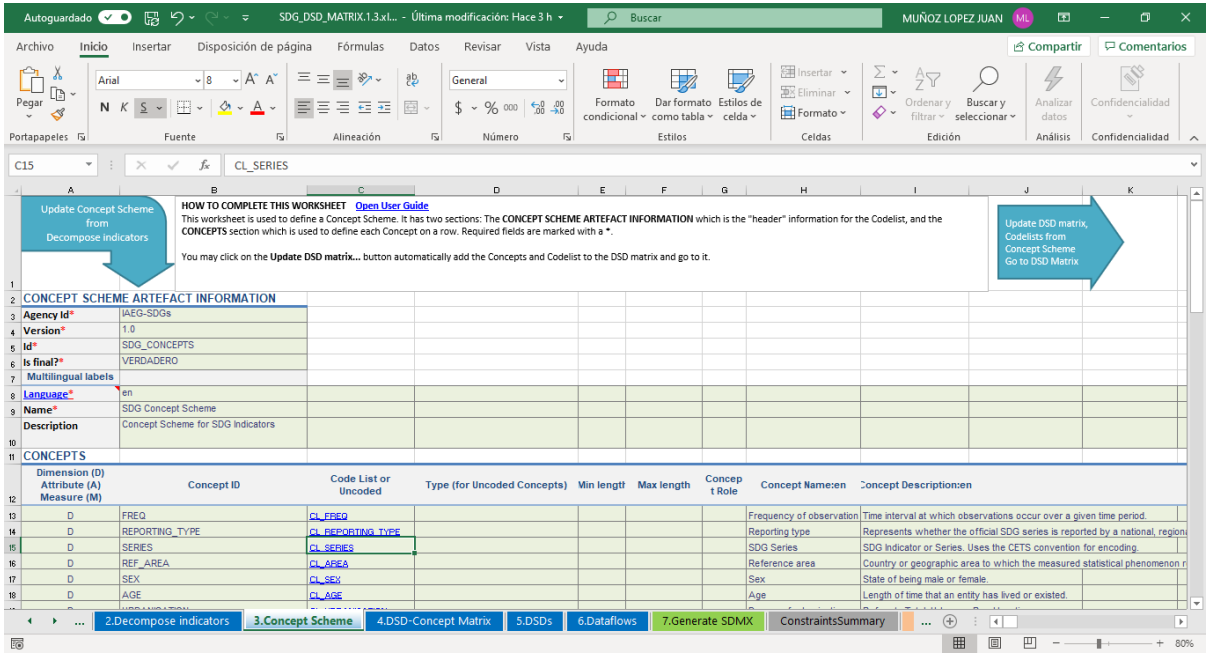
Some Facts About the SDG DSD 1.3

- Concept Scheme composed by 33 concepts:
  - **Dimensions (16):** FREQ, REPORTING_TYPE, SERIES, REF_AREA, SEX, AGE, URBANISATION, INCOME_WEALTH_QUANTILE, EDUCATION_LEV, OCCUPATION, CUST_BREAKDOWN, COMPOSITE_BREAKDOWN, DISABILITY_STATUS, ACTIVITY, PRODUCT, TIME_PERIOD
  - **Attributes (16; 3 mandatory and 13 conditional):** OBS_STATUS, UNIT_MULT, UNIT_MEASURE, BASE_PER, NATURE, TIME_DETAIL, COMMENT_OBS, TIME_COVERAGE, UPPER_BOUND, LOWER_BOUND, SOURCE_DETAIL, COMMENT_TS, GEO_INFO_URL, GEO_INFO_TYPE, CUST_BREAKDOWN_LB, DATA_LAST_UPDATE
  - **Measure (1):** OBS_VALUE
- Two defined Dataflows:
  - DF_SDG_GLC, Reporting and dissemination dataflow for non-harmonized global SDG indicators reported by countries
  - DF_SDG_GLH, Reporting and dissemination dataflow for harmonized global SDG indicators.
- 577 series of indicators defined in CL_Series
- 208 breakdown codes defined in CL_COMP_BREAKDOWN

SDMX Matrix Generator

- This Excel tool (SIS-CC / SDMX Matrix Generator · GitLab) facilitates the customization of the DSD.
- Since version 1.1 of the SDG DSD has been published using this tool



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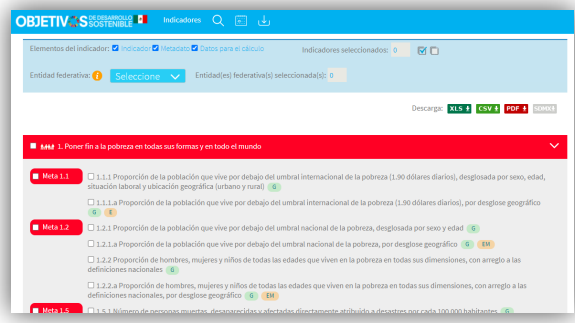
Sustainable Dataflows in ONS

Challenges faced by the ONS to stablish sustainable dataflows:

- Fluent (continuous) data feed
  - Inefficient manual work by making Excel transformations
  - (Implementation and) Mapping of dissemination databases
  - Remapping databases to new DSD versions
- Integrating information
  - Implementation of SDMX in Domestic statistical systems
  - Different disaggregation levels for domestic and international purposes
  - Additional indicators and dimensions for internal purposes
  - Not enough skilled resources in the domestic statistical systems
- Duplication of work disseminating SDGs
  - Domestic and international channels (services and sites)
- Dealing with different languages
  - Translations to national languages



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Optimization of the DSD for Disemination

- SDG DSD designed for reporting, not for dissemination
- Possible issues when used for dissemination:
  - Sparseness of the SDG DSD and complex dimensions complicates data selection.
  - Code labels too long to be displayed on the screen.
  - Captions of multi-purpose dimensions vary depending on the context, not supported by most dissemination software.
- Possible solutions:
  - Hiding dimensions unused in a particular context.
  - Shortening and optimizing code and concept Names for dissemination.
  - Updating Custom Breakdown labels.
  - Use of dissemination software designed or customized to support the specific DSD (Open SDG platform, .Stat system, SDMX-RI, etc.)

Conclusions

- SDG DSD is the result of a collaborative effort between International Organizations and National Statistical Offices
- Common agreements to solve discordant operational issues must be reached all the time that the flows are operating
- The SDG DSD is operational and ready to be implemented, but there will be new versions as the SDG project continues advancing *
- Structures, supporting documentation and software tools must be maintained as an integrated set, preserving the work previously made *
- Translating the SDG SDMX documentation is a must *
- Regional workshops focused on implementing the SDG DSD and the SDG MSD are needed to develop reporting capacities of the countries *

(*) Already envisioned in the working plans of the SDMX-SDG WG for 2021

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Questions?

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