

First meeting of the Inter-Agency Group on Disaggregated Education Indicators (IAG-DEI) to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals

World Bank, Washington, DC

5 April 2016

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics invites UNICEF and the World Bank to become co-convenors of a new Inter-Agency Group on Disaggregated Education Indicators (IAG-DEI). An initial meeting of the group is proposed for 5 April 2016 at the World Bank in Washington, DC to discuss and agree on terms of reference for the IAG.

The IAG is being established in response to the call for a greater policy focus on education equity in the Sustainable Development Goals and the concomitant need expressed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) proposal for global indicators that are disaggregated by personal and household characteristics (e.g., sex, location, wealth) and other factors linked to disadvantage (e.g., disability status, refugee status) across many of the SDG education targets.

The overarching goal of the IAG would be to support countries' monitoring of the new education agenda within the framework of the SDGs through the establishment of common standards for producing disaggregated education indicators. This would include ensuring harmonised design, data handling procedures, and reporting for greater efficiency and consistency in disseminating data from various sources (e.g., household surveys, learning assessments, and administrative records).

The initial focus of the IAG would be to map available national data sources, definitions and potential disaggregation relevant to the 10-11 global education indicators currently proposed by the IAEG. This would eventually be extended to the 43 indicators proposed by the Technical Advisory Group for thematic monitoring that are listed in the Education 2030 Framework for Action. The IAG would also seek to identify areas where harmonized procedures are needed to calculate education indicators based on a review of approaches followed by participating agencies and regional and national partners.

It is proposed that as lead UN agencies, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UNICEF and the World Bank are the founding members of the IAG-DEI. The work of the IAG will be guided by an Advisory Board with key data users and producers. Expansion of the IAG to include other partners can be discussed by the founding members.

Potential outputs include guidance documents on questionnaire design, indicator calculation, data quality assessment; a new edition of the existing guide to analysis of education data from household surveys and censuses; and a regular joint indicators-based report.

Costs associated with participation in the initiative would be borne by member institutions. The UIS would bear the costs of establishing the Secretariat in Montreal. Fund-raising to support Advisory Board members not affiliated with a member institution would be considered.