



Enhancing capacities of national partners to mainstream the degree of urbanisation methodology into SDG 11 monitoring

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Abstract:

SDG 11 presents unique challenges for monitoring even for the most developed nations. Many urban SDG 11 targets and indicators refer directly to cities as the unit of analysis for tracking progress. However, countries define cities differently, some based on a single or combination of criteria that includes aspects such as population size or density (or both), economic function, nature of activities (agricultural versus commercial), amount of locally generated income, as well as political and administrative measures. A globally led informed guidance on definitions, measurements, and unified standards for cities is necessary to make sure that monitoring and reporting of urban agendas and human settlements statistics are undertaken using harmonized and mutually agreed concepts.

To support data generation and comparability at the global level for all indicators that require a city definition under the SDG 11 indicators' family, UN-Habitat and partners developed the degree of urbanization approach which was submitted for endorsement at the UN Statistical commission in 2020. However, development and endorsement are not sufficient conditions for uptake. Consequently, several consultative and capacity development workshops attended by representatives from over 85 countries were organised across various regions of the world to understand the challenges and opportunities of integration of the degree of urbanization into SDG 11 monitoring. Since 2019, various countries have moved on to implement the degree of urbanization methodology in their SDG 11 structures, while others requested for direct support to initiate this process. Plans for direct support for 13 countries to apply the degree of urbanisation are now underway.

In conclusion, understanding the local challenges of integrating new statistical methodologies for national statistical systems through a consultative process is vital, since this allows you to tailor the support and capacity development to the most immediate need of national counterparts. Working with a variety of partners at the global, regional, and national/local levels has ensured that we understand the immediate local challenges and translate these into global programmes that are more targeted to the real concerns hindering the adoption of the degree of urbanization methodology.

Keywords:

Degree of urbanization; SDG 11; New urban Agenda; city definitions; capacity development