



The SDGs and country implementation: Navigating between international needs and local realities

21st September 17:30 – 19:00

(followed by a reception)

The Roosevelt Hotel, Sutton Suite – 2nd Floor

45 E 45th St, New York

During the 2016 UN high level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) the topic of measurement and monitoring came up in various sessions showing the increasing importance that data and statistics gained in the international debate on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Session 12 on “National mechanism for monitoring progress on implementation for the achievement of SDGs” for example, focussed on the challenges, opportunities and concrete actions that countries are experiencing while starting to measure and monitor the SDGs at the national level. Various topics emerged such as the relationship between global, regional and national reporting, how to address the specific challenges of developing countries, fragile states and SIDS in terms of measuring and monitoring the SDGs and a call for more cooperation, dialogue and partnerships between data producers and users.

Implementing the SDGs at the country level has just started and there is a lot to learn from the experiences of those countries which have already embarked on this journey. While each country is different, there are many common challenges that countries are facing and there is a great potential to learn from the different emerging experiences at first hand. One of the key challenges is the possible divergence between the efforts to produce internationally comparable data according to harmonised standards on the one hand, and data that is relevant, timely, and accurate from the national perspective on the other hand. Ultimately, new and reliable data of all types will be needed to provide governments with the capacity to design better policies and programmes. At the same time, more quality data needs to be collected for international monitoring. Can countries manage both?

Against this background, the objective of the PARIS21, CEPEI and Southern Voice hosted during the margins of the United Nations General Assembly is to take stock of existing experiences in implementation looking at it from both the national and international perspective in view of coming up with ideas how the implementation, measurement and monitoring of the SDGs can be beneficial for both the countries and the international community. The following questions are intended to facilitate the discussions:

- What are main challenges and gaps that hamper the measurement and monitoring of the SDGs at country and international level and how can those be overcome?
- What can countries and development partners do to strengthen national data ecosystems in addressing both national needs and global requests?
- What kind of support structure in countries would be helpful to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs when it comes to measurement and monitoring?

- The variety of goals, targets and indicators bear the risk of losing out on synergies, coherence and systemic issues that is needed to address the global and national challenges – how can this be avoided?

Time	Title	Speaker
17:30 – 17:35	Welcome & Introduction	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21
17:35 – 17:45	Keynote: First experiences in the implementation – what have we learned?	Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
17:45 – 18:30	Roundtable Dialogue	<p>Moderator: Claire Melamed, Managing Director, Overseas Development Institute</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Philip Thigo, Senior Advisor, Data & Innovation Strategy, Office of the Deputy President, Kenya</p> <p>Francesca Perucci, Chief, Statistical Services Branch, UNSD</p> <p>Philipp Schönrock, Director , CEPEI</p> <p>Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21</p>
18:30 – 18:55	Open discussion and questions	
18:55 – 19:00	Closing and way forward	Organisers
19:00 – 20:00	Reception	