PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY BOARD

PSA Board Resolution No. 05
Series of 2020

ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP) SDG MEASURES AND THE TIME DISTANCE MEASURE IN TRACKING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) PROGRESS

WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations (UN) Member States, including the Philippines, gathered to affirm commitment to a new global plan of action entitled, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," geared toward achieving a better and sustainable future for all and ultimately, aimed in eradicating poverty and other deprivations, improving health and education, reducing inequality, spurring economic growth, combating climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

WHEREAS, the government is fully committed to achieve the SDGs by adopting appropriate measures and mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the country's performance of the SDGs, one of which is through the issuance of PSA Board Resolution No. 04 Series of 2016, entitled "Enjoining Government Agencies to Provide Data Support to the Sustainable Development Goals", which enjoined all concerned government instrumentalities to provide the necessary data support to monitor the country's performance vis-à-vis the SDGs based on the identified Philippine SDG indicators;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) conducted in July 2016 focusing on the mechanisms for achieving the SDGs building on the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the second VNR in 2019 providing a thorough analysis on the focus goals with in-depth analysis for each of the targets that have corresponding Tier 1 indicators;

WHEREAS, in order to provide a complete picture of progress toward the SDGs and highlight goals and targets where further action is required, it is deemed necessary to adopt a methodology in tracking the SDG progress taking into consideration relevant factors that would contribute to the attainment of the SDG targets, as well as the need for international comparability;

WHEREAS, various methodologies in tracking the SDGs have been examined, namely; UNESCAP Methodology on the Anticipated Progress Approach and Current

Status Index; United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific's (UNSIAP) Methodology on the probability of achieving the target adopted during the MDGs; Time Distance Measure by Prof. Pavle Sicherl of the University of Ljubljana, Sweden; and SDG Index of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network;

WHEREAS, the PSA as the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines which compiles and maintains the SDG Watch and SDG Database, recommends the adoption of the following:

1. ***"UNESCAP's Anticipated Progress Approach"*** to measure how likely the country will be able to achieve the individual targets under each of the goals by 2030, judging by the pace of progress so far;

2. ***"UNESCAP's Current Status Index"*** to measure where does the country stand for each of the goals; and

3. ***"Time Distance Measure of Pavle Sicherl"*** to measure the number of years ahead/behind the path to target;

WHEREAS, the methodologies for estimating the progress in achieving the SDGs were presented in two (2) meetings of the Philippine SDGI Focal Points (SDGI-FP) dated   22 January 2019 and 22 December 2019;

WHEREAS, 17 out of 30 member agencies of the SDGI-FP, representing majority of the constituent agencies, expressed agreement with the proposal of PSA through a referendum

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the PSA Board approves the adoption of the UNESCAP measures and the Time Distance of Pavle Sicherl, based on the attached methodology (BR 05-20200811-01), in tracking the SDG progress.

Approved this 11th day of August 2020, in Metro Manila.

DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D
Undersecretary
National Statistician and Civil Registrar General
Philippine Statistics Authority
Designated Chairperson, 24th Meeting of the PSA Board

MEASURES FOR SDG PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

Technical Notes

A. **By 2030, how likely will the country be able to achieve the individual targets under each of the goals, judging by the pace of progress thus far?**

1. *Anticipated Progress Index (United Nations Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)[1]*

The anticipated progress index assesses progress by looking at progress towards achieving the individual targets associated with the goal. This methodology involves predicting the indicator value for the target year and benchmarking the predicted against the target value.

$$P = \frac{|TV - I_{target}|}{|TV - I_{base}|} \; x \; 100$$

Where: TV refers to the target value

I_{target} refers to the predicted value of the indicator *I* for the target year
is estimated using weighted regression making used of at least two previous data points as regressor

I_{base} refer to the baseline value

Source: Arman Bidarbakht Nia, UNESCAP. Assessing progress in achieving WEE-related goals/targets

P is calculated only for indicators for which the predicted value of the indicator is not equal to or greater than the target value (for indicators that target is not expected to be achieved by 2030). Indicators for which the predicted value has reached or exceeded the target value the associated target is automatically considered as "will be achieved". For the rest of the indicators, *P* may be interpreted as the extra effort or acceleration needed in order to meet the target.

Percentage of Progress		Interpretation
$0 \leq P \leq 10$		Will meet the target with current rate or minor extra effort
$10 < P \leq 100$		Need to accelerate the current rate of progress to achieve the target
$P > 100$		Regression or no progress expected

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[1] Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017). "Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress", ESCAP Working Paper Series. Available from www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp05may-2017-tracking-progress-towards-sdgs-measuring-otherwise.

B. As of now, where does the country stand for each of the goals (e.g. SDGs)?

1. Current Status Index (UNESCAP)[2]

The *current status index approach* assesses the *current* state of progress by creating a linkage between the progress made since a fixed starting point in the *past* and the distance to the fixed target value in the *future*. In the context of the SDGs commitment that put forward universal goals and targets to be achieved by the end of 2030 (the future), this approach views the year 2000 as an appropriate starting point (the past) as it was the first time that all nations collectively agreed on a set of universal goals and targets (the MDGs) and concentrated efforts on achieving those within the next 15 years. . Given a specified target value for an indicator, indicator values at the current and start years can be used to construct a metric that measures the *"progress made"* since the global development agenda was inaugurated (2000) in relation to the *"progress needed"* to achieve the targets by the end of the current agenda (2030). The distance between the current year value and the "midpoint" (2015) expected value also shows *"unfinished work"* since the universal development agenda was inaugurated.
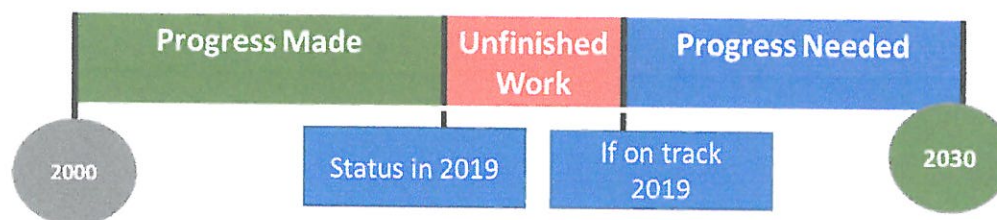
To compute for the current status index:

1) A metric is developed for each indicator to measure the progress made which can be compared with the entire progress needed from 2000 to 2030.

   Setting the normalized values of indicator *I* at start and target at 0 and 10, respectively, the normalized value for the indicator at current year on the scale of 0 to 10 is be calculated as (this expression is applied to capture regression with negative values)

$$I_{cr}^{N} = \frac{|I_{cr} - I_{st}|}{|TV - I_{st}|} \ x \ D$$

Where: I_{cr} is the indicator values for the current year, measure of relative progress on the target associated with the indicator;

I_{st} is the indicator value for the base year (2000);

TV is the target value

$I_{cr} - I_{st}$ progress made (green bar)

$TV - I_{st}$ progress needed to be made over the period of the start point to the end of the current agenda

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[2] Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017). "Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress", ESCAP Working Paper Series. Available from www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp05may-2017-tracking-progress-towards-sdgs-measuring-otherwise.

$D = 10$ if increasing is desirable and -10 if decreasing is desirable

2) To see how much progress has been made – and still needs to be made – to achieve the goal, the metrics computed in step 1 are combined into one index that indicates the "average progress made" and the "average progress required" on a fixed scale.

The current status index is the *average* over all normalized values of indicators associated with each goal, $\overline{I_{cr}^{N}}$.
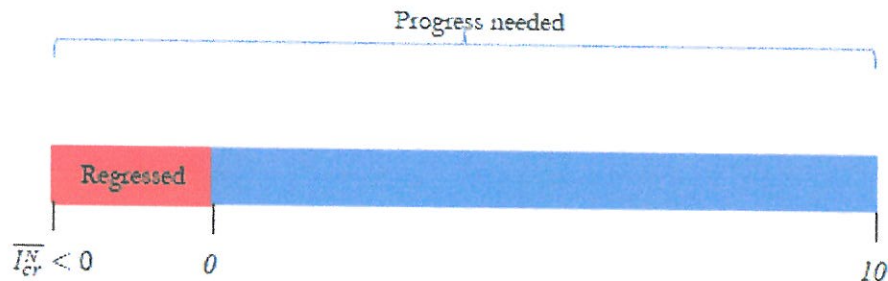
This index has values between 0 and 10 if the region has progressed on average since the start point and has a negative value if the region has regressed. That is,

If progress made since start year:
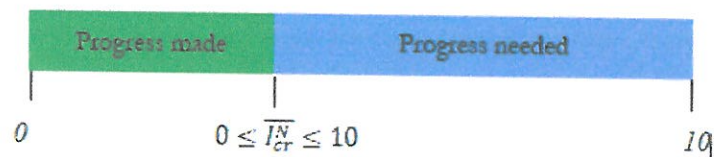
Source: Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017)

If regressed since start year:

Source: Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017)

2. *S-Time Distance Measure (Prof. Pavle Sicherl, SICENTER and University of Ljubljana, used in the MDGs)[3]*

Time distance in general means the difference in time when two events occurred. This is defined as a **special category of time distance**, which is related to the level of the analysed variable. **S-time-distance** measures the distance (proximity) in time between the points in time when the two series compared reach a specified level of the variable X. The observed distance in time (the number of years, quarters, months, etc.) is used as a temporal measure of disparity between the two series in the same way that the observed difference (absolute or relative) at a given point in time is used as a static measure of disparity.

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[3] System For Monitoring Implementation of Targets: Present MDGs and Post-2015 SDGs. Accessible at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280712983_SYSTEM_FOR_MONITORING_IMPLEMENTATION_OF_TARGETS_Present_MDGs_and_Post-2015_SDGs

Advantages and Disadvantages based on the Initial Assessment

Methodologies	Strengths	Weaknesses
Anticipated Progress (UNESCAP)	- Provides information on the pace of progress to achieve the target at the indicator, target and goal level - Takes into consideration previous data aside from the latest data - Gives a special weight to the vulnerable group in the aggregation - International comparability	- Would need at least two datapoints in the past to estimate the predicted value for the target year,
Current Progress Index	- Provides progress assessment by goal and by indicator - On track, accelerate progress, reverse trend - Provides information on sufficiency of data and evidence strength - Gives a special weight to the vulnerable group in the aggregation	- Uses 2000 as baseline - Assessment is sensitive to the addition of new indicator as data becomes available, thus, the results must be interpreted with caution
Time Distance Measure	- Provides information on the number of years behind or ahead the path to target - It complements the other methods	

References:

Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017). Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress

Sicherl, P. (2008). Tracking timetable of implementation of MDGs with time distance measure: An added perspective on MDG implementation

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2020). "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2020"