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UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND  
REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

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## I. Introduction

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Expanded in scope, the SDGs specify 17 universal goals, 123 targets and 230 indicators) and address the most pressing global challenges of our time, calling upon collaborative partners across and between countries to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

## II. Key Issues

4. It is leaving no one behind commitment, there is unprecedented demand for data to measure progress towards achieving the SDGs. This includes provision of data at subnational level. Measurement of development change at these levels could assist to determine how much effort governments are required to put in to improve people's living conditions at the grassroots level.

SDG indicator framework is a vital tool in measuring progress in the population SDGs. It is used properly, it aids in ensuring that all the SDG targets and indicators are tracked and reported on. However, in the process of operationalizing the framework, lack of coordination among its users may lead to inconsistencies in measuring population-related SDGs.

There is competing needs to generate data for administrative use and for SDG reporting. Countries have to commit on both needs. Alignment of national plans to international goals and targets is essential. Where possible, some targets and indicators should be restated to make them more applicable to national circumstances and conditions. This fact is in line with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 July 2012.

The economic progress towards the achievement of the SDGs needs to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development.<sup>2</sup>

Emerging population trends have brought additional challenges that countries have to face in the quest of achieving sustainable development. Urban population growth in recent times has posed a challenge in meeting the targets by 2030. The rapid growth of urban centers is increasing, becoming a source of planning problems associated with urbanization. The rural population has decreased from 29.3 percent in 2000 to 20.1 percent in 2010, leading to an increase in the percentage of total urban population from 30.1 percent to 33.1 percent, respectively. Urban population in 2018 is estimated at 28 percent and is expected to reach 38.1 percent by 2030. The proportion of population living in cities that implement

