Measuring Transboundary Effects in the 2030 Agenda

15th Meeting of the National Focal Points for Policy Coherence

14 November 2018

Michal Shinwell, OECD Statistics and Data Directorate
The 2030 Agenda, with its **17 Goals, 169 Targets and 232 Indicators**, represents a major challenge for all countries to achieve domestically, and contribute to globally through transboundary impacts and collective action.
Assessing the effort countries need to make: OECD Measuring Distance Study 2017: how far is country A from achieving SDG targets?
First approach for assessing countries’ global contributions

Example from Measuring Distance Study, 2017

- Average ODA Score
- Demand-based CO2 productivity
- Unsubsidised agricultural production
Transboundary effects can be considered as any impact (intended or not) by a country on any other country – this is **too broad to be operational**

In order to assess the transboundary effects in the SDGs we have to limit the scope

We consider here: **for each SDG target, does achieving the target directly impact other countries or a global good?**

If so, is there an indicator in the UN Global List or in OECD Measuring Distance Study that measures this impact?
Proposed approach to mapping transboundary effects in the SDGs:

Country A makes efforts to achieve SDGs → Other Countries

Global common goods

Other Countries → Country B

Narrowing the approach, part 1: Identifying transboundary targets

How many targets in each goal have a transboundary effect as defined by:

If (OECD) country A acts to achieve SDG target X, these actions are likely to have direct effects on other countries, or on a global good

- 97 targets identified as transboundary (57% of all SDG targets)
- Some goals have more transboundary targets than others (e.g. relating to Planet)
Which goals have the most transboundary targets?

**Substantial**
- Responsible Consumption and Production (12)
- Climate Action (13)
- Life Below Water (14)
- Life on Land (15)
- Partnerships for the Goals (17)

*More than 2/3 of targets in these goals are transboundary*

**Partial**
- Affordable and Clean Energy (7)
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (9)
- Reduced Inequalities (10)
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16)

*Between 1/3 and 2/3 of targets in these goals are transboundary*

**Minimal**
- No Poverty (1)
- Zero Hunger (2)
- Good Health and Well-Being (3)
- Quality Education (4)
- Gender Equality (5)
- Clean Water and Sanitation (6)
- Decent Work and Economic Growth (8)
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (11)

*Less than 1/3 of targets in these goals are transboundary*
Summary of the narrow approach

Step 1: For each SDG target, does country A’s performance on the target directly impact other countries or a global good?
→ 97 of 169 targets identified as transboundary
→ a substantial share (but by no means all) relate to “planet”

Step 2: For each target with transboundary elements, is there an available indicator? *(UN Global List or OECD Measuring Distance Study)*
→ 30+ indicators available
→ 15 are official development assistance (ODA)
→ Considerable data gaps
→ Gaps are particularly large for Planet and Implementation Goals
For the 97 targets identified as transboundary, fill the data gaps by identifying additional indicators. To that end, how?

- **Use OECD data sources** for indicators relating to the 97 transboundary targets, such as indicators on Trade in Value Added and Global Value Chains and Responsible Business Conduct.

Next: Consider transboundary effects OUTSIDE the narrow definition adopted so far?
Narrow approach means taking country A’s perspective.

Country A makes efforts to achieve SDGs.

Other Countries and Global common goods.

- Narrow approach
- Makes efforts to achieve SDGs
- Other Countries
- Global common goods
Expanded approach might start from Country B’s perspective:

Makes efforts to achieve SDGs

Country B

Other Countries

Global common goods

Country A
A further expansion would go beyond the limited approach:

- Recognising transboundary effects as flows across borders, according to the Capital approach:
  - *Economic capital* (e.g. financial flows, trade)
  - *Human capital* (e.g. flows of people, knowledge)
  - *Natural capital* (e.g. flows of natural resources, pollution)
  - *Social capital* (e.g. support of international institutions, peace-keeping missions)

- Addressing issues in measurement of transboundary effects, e.g. intentionality, policy relevance, size of impact, normative interpretation
Thank you.