United Nations Semantic Interoperability Framework (UNSIF)

Statement on Sustainable Development Goals
Linked Open Data Identifiers

1. In addition to parliamentary documents, UN organizations produce a considerable wealth of SDG-related documents and data, by processing a large amount of SDG-related information published by national governments, civil society and other stakeholders. Most of this information is not available in a shared machine-readable format, thus making it difficult to consistently retrieve and integrate information in a seamless fashion across the UN system.

2. To bridge the documents and data divide and support the review and accountability mechanisms required by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of the High-Level Committee on Management (HCLM) of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management converged on a common system of permanent Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs) for Goals, Targets, Indicators and related statistical series to promote the development of a UN-wide ecosystem of machine-readable documents based on Linked Open Data (LOD) principles.

3. Using common LOD identifiers for goals, targets, and indicators - and the entities related to them - will contribute to transitioning from the current SDG document and data silos approach into a seamless SDG information space. This will provide the foundation to enhance automatic retrieval, processing, and integration of SDG-related information, to better support the effective implementation of Agenda 2030.


5. The IRIs have been mapped to the UN Environment Programme SDG Interface Ontology (SDGIO) IRIs, so as to use both resources seamlessly. This will allow to link documents and data from various sources to goals, targets, indicators, and closely related concepts.

6. With the intention to achieve better uniformity and sharing of information across documents and data from the UN system and beyond, and to exploit the power of Linked Open Data to support the effective implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we urge all UN organizations and stakeholders to use these IRIs to map their SDG-related resources.

The parties hereto agree and sign this document, as follows:

For: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Name: Mr. Liu Zhenmin
Title: Under-Secretary-General
Signature: ........................................
Date: Oct. 12, 2019.

For: United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
Name: Mr. Movses Abelian
Title: Under-Secretary-General
Signature: ........................................
Date: November 13, 2019
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For: United Nations Department of Management
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Name: Ms. Catherine Pollard
Title: Under-Secretary-General
Signature: 
Date: 13-11-2019

For: International Telecommunication Union
Name: Houlin Zhao
Title: Secretary-General
Signature: 
Date: 02-Dec-2019

For: World Intellectual Property Organization
Name: Francis Gurry
Title: Director-General
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Date: 24-11-2019

For: UNHCR
Name: Filippo Grandi
Title: High Commissioner
Signature: 
Date: 13-12-2019

For:
Name: Kitack Lim
Title: Secretary-General
Signature: 
Date: 14-12-2019

For:
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Title: 
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