



Oral Statement by
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
For
First Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promised that this agenda will fulfill human rights to equality and non-discrimination across the 17 goals, “leaving no one behind.”

In 2020 the SPSSI’s UN Team conducted a content analysis of the 2030 SDG framework, as part of its Anti-Racism campaign. We found that although the introduction to the SDGs is visionary in its commitment to protect and fulfill human rights for all and to end racial, gender and other forms of discrimination prohibited by international law, the actual goals, targets, and global indicators developed fail to reflect an equally robust focus on this human rights commitment.

Yes, the call for disaggregated data by income, sex, age, race, and ethnicity, among other factors, appears at the top of the initial list of 230 indicators. But this list does not include a single indicator specifically requiring disaggregation by race or ethnicity even in SDG10 on “Reducing Inequalities.” Further, our analysis of the most recent update of the Global Indicators Framework shows only a slight increase in the inclusion of race and ethnicity from zero to five indicators. Only two of 169 targets and five of 231 current global indicators require disaggregated data on race and ethnicity. As such, and for the near future, these factors will continue to be sidelined when monitoring the SDGs.

The SPSSI/UN team’s Anti-Racism campaign encourages UN Member States to endorse the need for data disaggregation and to develop and adopt indicators that would allow for disaggregated data analysis on the SDGs, specifically with respect to race, ethnicity, and indigenous status. We are very pleased have received supported and co-sponsorship on this effort from the Missions of Costa Rica, Mexico, and South Africa at the UN Headquarters in New York City. They have worked with us to advocate for the need for disaggregated data at the 2021 and 2022 UN High Level Political Forums. We continue to work with these and other Missions going forward. (2 Minutes)

But we ask that other Member States join to:

1. Monitor and evaluate progress on all SDGs by using indicators disaggregated by race, ethnicity, descent, national origin, indigenous identity, among other nationally relevant factors.
2. Invest urgently, with the leadership and support of the UN Statistical Commission, in efforts to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable SDG data, disaggregated by these same factors.
3. Develop partnerships in developing countries to enhance their technical capacities for generating disaggregated data and statistics, consistent with SDG17, initial Target 17.18.

4. Speed up urgent contributions to the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), by Member States and all stakeholders in support of the theme “Recognition, Justice, and Development.”