SDG assignment

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1. The SDG target and goal that I was assigned to is the “reduction of inequality within countries”.

SDG 10 focuses on reducing inequalities within and among countries. When it comes to reducing inequality among countries, the least developed countries and most vulnerable nations continue to make inroads into poverty reductions. However, inequality still persists and large differences in accessibility to services like health and education remain. In fact, while the income inequality in a few countries has been reduced in the recent years; however, the inequality within countries has only increased. The information is that between 1990 and 2010, income inequality in developing countries increased by 11% and income inequalities has also increased in developed countries. SDG states that countries should pay more attention to the income growth of low-income people. The income of the poorest 40% of the national population should therefore show a faster growth than the national average in 2030. Global financial institutions should be regulated better and stricter checked ups. The way that SDG is trying to stop this type of discrimination is that with this goal they are requiring an improved migration by this way they can improve the organization of people mobility and increase the safety thereof. The laws and practices that are discriminatory against people only increase inequalities and need to be stopped. Their point is that everyone must have equal opportunities and be involved in all social, economic and political aspects of society. The SDG explains, that they have provided three levels to turn the global inequality debate into national action: peer focus (a common metric), peer pressure (a ranking of countries) and peer review (mutual learning of policies). Matching the drivers of inequalities with these types for action. Even though the current support is quite limited, the potential of SDGs for reducing inequalities deserves attention.

Furthermore, people should not just look at governments and request for effective policies but acknowledge that businesses have a key role as well.

Business can invest in new markets and customer groups.

For example in the plan of creating more equality, new markets could be discovered that could offer new business opportunities. By investing in the health market in emerging countries, e.g. by investing in new technologies or medicine. This gives the emerging markets opportunities to grow, and offers with these possibilities to decrease inequality. Not only market types, but also new customer groups could be engaged that are commercially beneficial. The World Economic Forum gives an example of this: they indicate it is worthwhile to invest more in the LGBT community. Not only is the LGBT market estimated to be worth more than 3 trillion dollar, it is also being recognized as a powerful market force. Furthermore, with research showing that LBGT customers are often loyal to a brand when it’s LGBT supportive, this creates opportunities for customer loyalty.4

Reference: (<http://www.iddri.org/Publications/Collections/Analyses/ST0117_inequalities>)

<http://sdgaruba.com/sdgs/reduced-inequalities/>

<https://www2.deloitte.com/nl/nl/pages/risk/articles/reduce-inequality.html>

* + - * + Target 10.3

The international human rights law is against all types of discrimination, which includes discrimination against certain population groups on the basis of specific characteristics or ‘grounds’. The grounds of discrimination is prohibited under international human rights law, explained by international human rights mechanisms, include ethnicity, sex, age, income, geographic location, disability, religion, migratory or displacement status, civil status, sexual orientation and gender identity. While some grounds are common to all countries and follow standard definitions, such as sex, age or disability, the precise categories to be included under grounds such as ethnicity, geographic location and religion will vary according to national circumstances and should be determined in a participatory process at national level.

The indicator 10.3 is calculated as the percentage of persons reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the last 12 months and the way they calculate this is using survey results, with techniques of imputation, estimation and data weighting to ensure a representative sample and data reliability.

* + - * + Target 10.4

The description of the labor share is based on ILO and augmented with social protection transfers including (but not only) employers’ social security contributions.

The existing indicator mistakenly overlooks the internationally agreed meaning of social protection, mainly based on cash transfers (e.g. pensions, disability, child and maternity benefits, etc.).

In contrast, the alternative indicator addresses income distribution directly. The rationale is to monitor progress toward Target 10.4 encompassing all three policies (fiscal, wage, social protection) and their impact on inequality.

The indicator provides and an aggregate measure of primary income inequality, offering insights the role that social protection can have in reducing it.

Reference: - http://fra.europa.eu/en/survey/2012/eu-midis-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination- survey

- <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Metadata-compilation/metadata-goal-10.pdf>

1. Why is this SDG target and goal important to Aruba?

Reduction of inequality is important to Aruba because based on the Solidarity Principle, Aruba is proud that it can provide its citizens with a universal health care services, general pension benefits, and various financial assistance programs for those who qualify to the program. It is centered on the ideology of equality, equal opportunities, and uniting the people by ensuring that the less educated and the less prosperous, marginalized, citizens also have equal opportunity to flourish. This is done through the various social and educational programs, which are funded through direct and indirect taxes. The Solidarity Principle does not only entail equal opportunities for all, but also considers the prosperity and quality of life of future generations on the island. In relation to this, the idea to leave the world in an equivalent, if not superior, condition than how it was acquired.

Their continuous goal is safeguarding improvement on social (People), environment (Planet), and economy (Profit) levels drive the Aruba in its mission to leave no one behind in this developing small island state.

Reference: <http://sdgaruba.com/sdgs/reduced-inequalities/>

1. How does this SDG target and goal relate to waste management in Aruba?

Reduction of inequality among countries can provide fair wages and employment rights for all types of workers and that is an essential part to equal, inclusive and communities. By providing people with the same amount of wages, they are able to pay the same amount of taxes to the government and that can be use to provide better waste management in Aruba. More funds can be used to make Aruba more sustainable and introduce a new method for waste management. Waste management is a serious problem in Aruba, with the smell and smoke of “parkietenbos”. Therefore, by eliminating a gap in income, it can be a start to making Aruba more sustainable. Or the government can increase the environmental tax, and dude to the fact that people make more money, they will not mind paying more taxes when they shop.

1. Find out if the described indicator is being monitored in Aruba:

- If so, who collects it? If possible, include a link or reference to the data.

- If not, describe where you inquired, and what the response was (e.g. CBS).

After exploring the databases such as CBS or the government of Aruba website, the indicator that was assign to me has not been put to use in Aruba, however on the website of Aruba foreign affairs it has put reduced equality in a group with goal 4 (quality education) and 5 (gender equality). They have a Center for the Development of Women in Aruba. The center’s primary focus is on promoting equal rights and equal opportunities for both women and men in Aruban society by operating on the principle of gender equality. The women in Aruba can enjoy a high participation in the labor market and generally have a high level of education. The principal goal of the center is to make vulnerable groups of society become more independent. They try to achieve this goal by making them aware of their rights and by offering guidance and support by means of workshops.

Reference: <http://www.arubaforeignaffairs.com/afa/readBlob.do?id=3049>

Inequality matters. (Income) equality is an issue that has become a growing concern in society. Especially for people with low income or social exclusion and this prevents them from exercising their rights. People need to make sure that there is a reduction of inequality among countries, also in Aruba. Inequality affects us all because it has a negative impact on economy, social structure and overall well-being. In my opinion Aruba does not appear to have a high rate of discrimination against international human right law, and maybe this is the reason why they haven’t use the indicators in Aruba yet. But I believe that there is room for improvement and that Aruba should definitely start using the SDGs framework for reducing inequality.