

Measuring and Reporting Sustainability Performance: Are Corporations and SSE Organizations Meeting the SDG Challenge?

UNRISD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

3–4 June 2019

Tomas Hak: Relevance of SDG Indicators to Sustainability Reporting

Highlights:

- SDGs are an **innovative tool for measuring sustainability at various levels** (including company or business/industrial sector) – stronger component of environmental sustainability; all countries are supposed to assess and contribute to global sustainability
- SDGs are a very valuable tool because it has been **broadly negotiated and agreed upon**
- SDSGs provide a robust political framework without concrete/detail information – **conceptualization of targets is needed** (it cannot be simply done by the indicators – each Target should be elaborated as a concept with clearly linked indicators)
- **Indicators – must be relevant !**, i.e. be linked to the SDG theme (thematic relevance) and there should be a tight link between the indicator and indicated fact (indicator relevance)
- “Experiments” with targets and indicators are not very recommended (various SDGs indices etc.) – they should remain at the realm of research otherwise they may send false signals)

Recommended reading:

Scheyvens, R., Banks, G., & Hughes, E. (2016). The private sector and the SDGs: The need to move beyond ‘business as usual’. *Sustainable Development*, 24(6), 371-382.

Hunt, P. (2015). SDG series: SDGs and the importance of formal independent review: an opportunity for health to lead the way. *Health and Human Rights Journal*.

Hák, T., Janoušková, S., & Moldan, B. (2016). Sustainable Development Goals: A need for relevant indicators. *Ecological Indicators*, 60, 565-573.

Janoušková, S., Hák, T., & Moldan, B. (2018). Global SDGs Assessments: Helping or Confusing Indicators?. *Sustainability*, 10(5), 1540.

Hák, T., Janoušková, S., Moldan, B., & Dahl, A. L. (2018). Closing the sustainability gap: 30 years after “Our Common Future”, society lacks meaningful stories and relevant indicators to make the right decisions and build public support. *Ecological Indicators*, 87, 193-195.