

Data availability, acquisition and validation at the national, regional and global level

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Outline

- An overview of the current situation in terms of food security and nutrition information systems, at global level
 - Key problems emerging from the current situation and possible solutions
- The state of data availability for (some of) the indicators included in the proposed draft monitoring system
- Conclusions and key points for discussion

The current state of food security and nutrition information systems

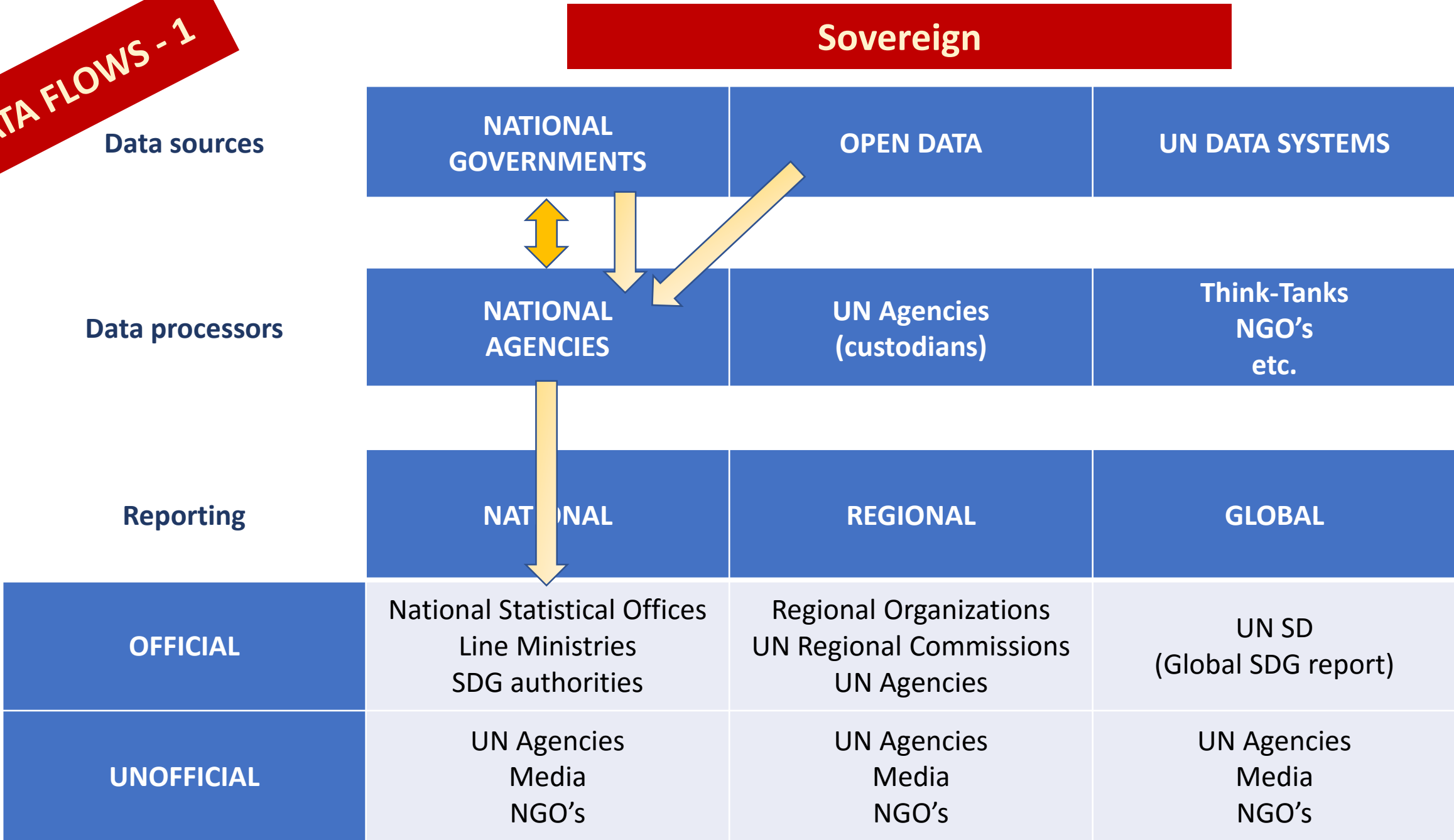
- Many actors are involved. I identify three major functions
 - Data production/collection/harvesting
 - Data processing and compilation of indicators
 - Reporting and communicating
- Different models for data flow co-exist
 - “Sovereign”
 - “UN centered”
 - “Think Tanks/Media/NGOs”

ACTORS

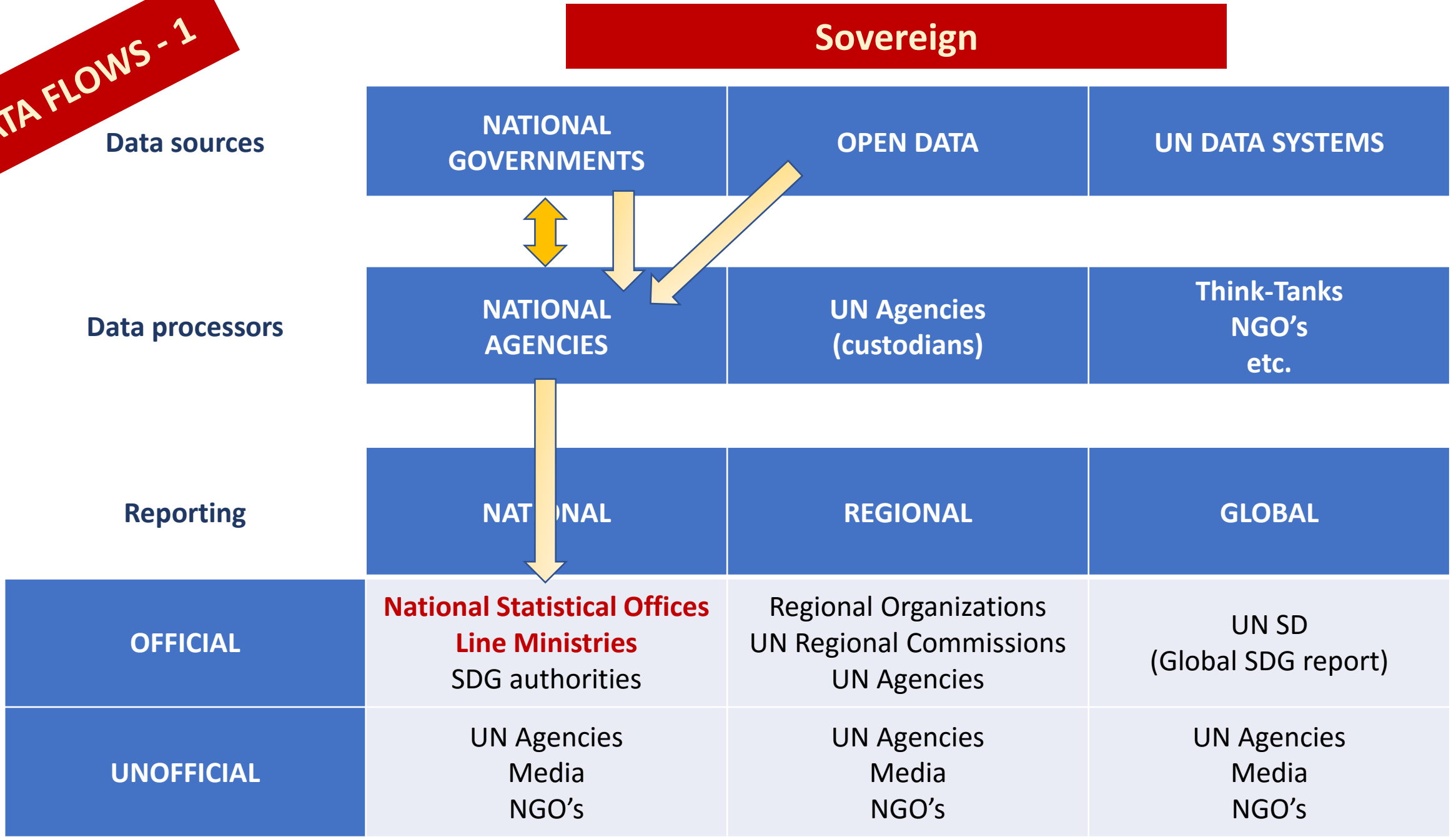
ACT

Data sources	NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS	UN DATA SYSTEM	OPEN DATA
Data processors	NATIONAL AGENCIES	UN Agencies (custodians)	Think-Tanks NGO's etc.
Reporting	NATIONAL	REGIONAL	GLOBAL
OFFICIAL	National Statistical Offices Line Ministries SDG authorities	Regional Organizations UN Regional Commissions UN Agencies	UN SD (Global SDG report)
UNOFFICIAL	UN Agencies Media NGO's	UN Agencies Media NGO's	UN Agencies Media NGO's

DATA FLOWS - 1

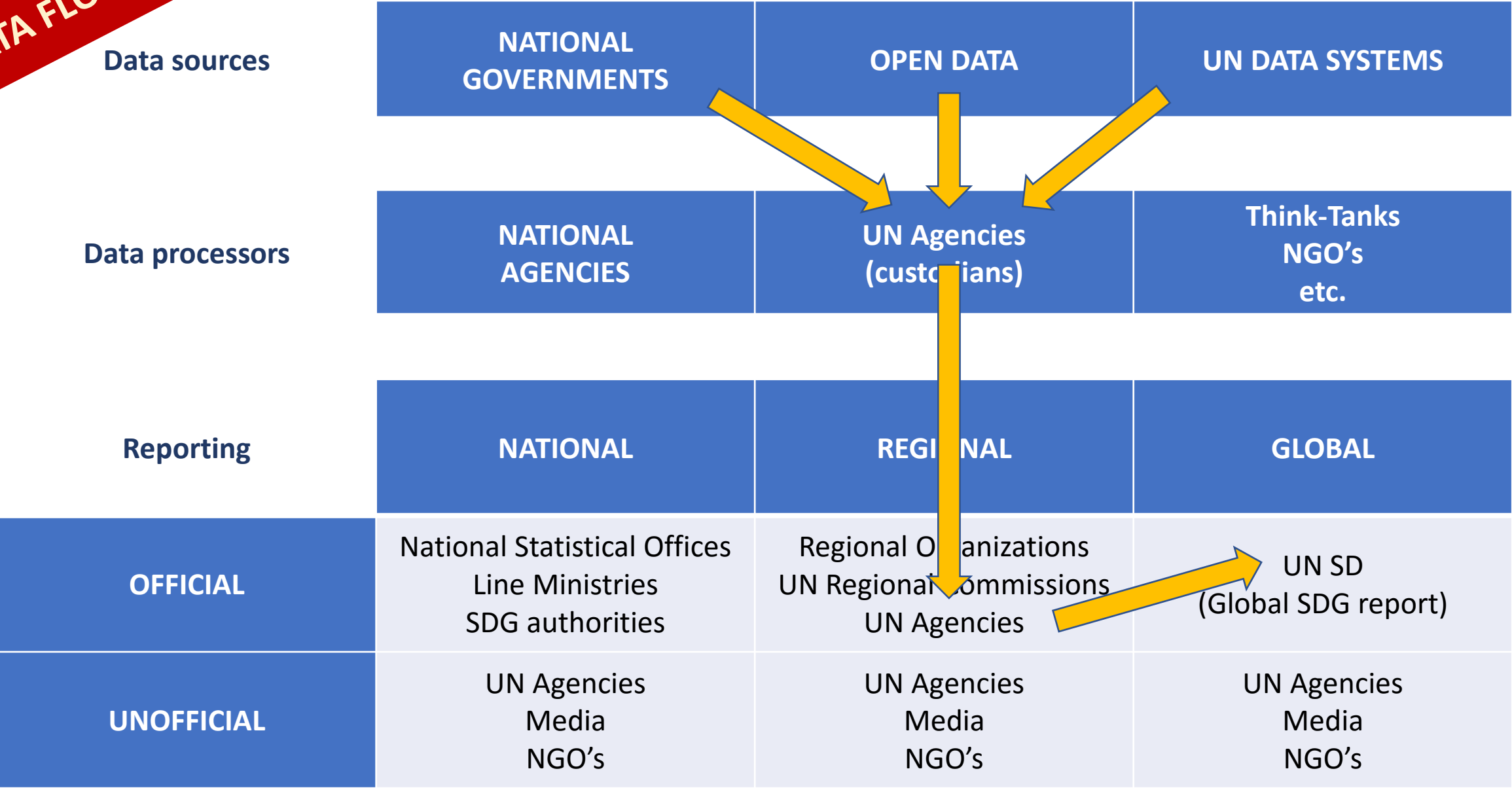


DATA FLOWS - 1



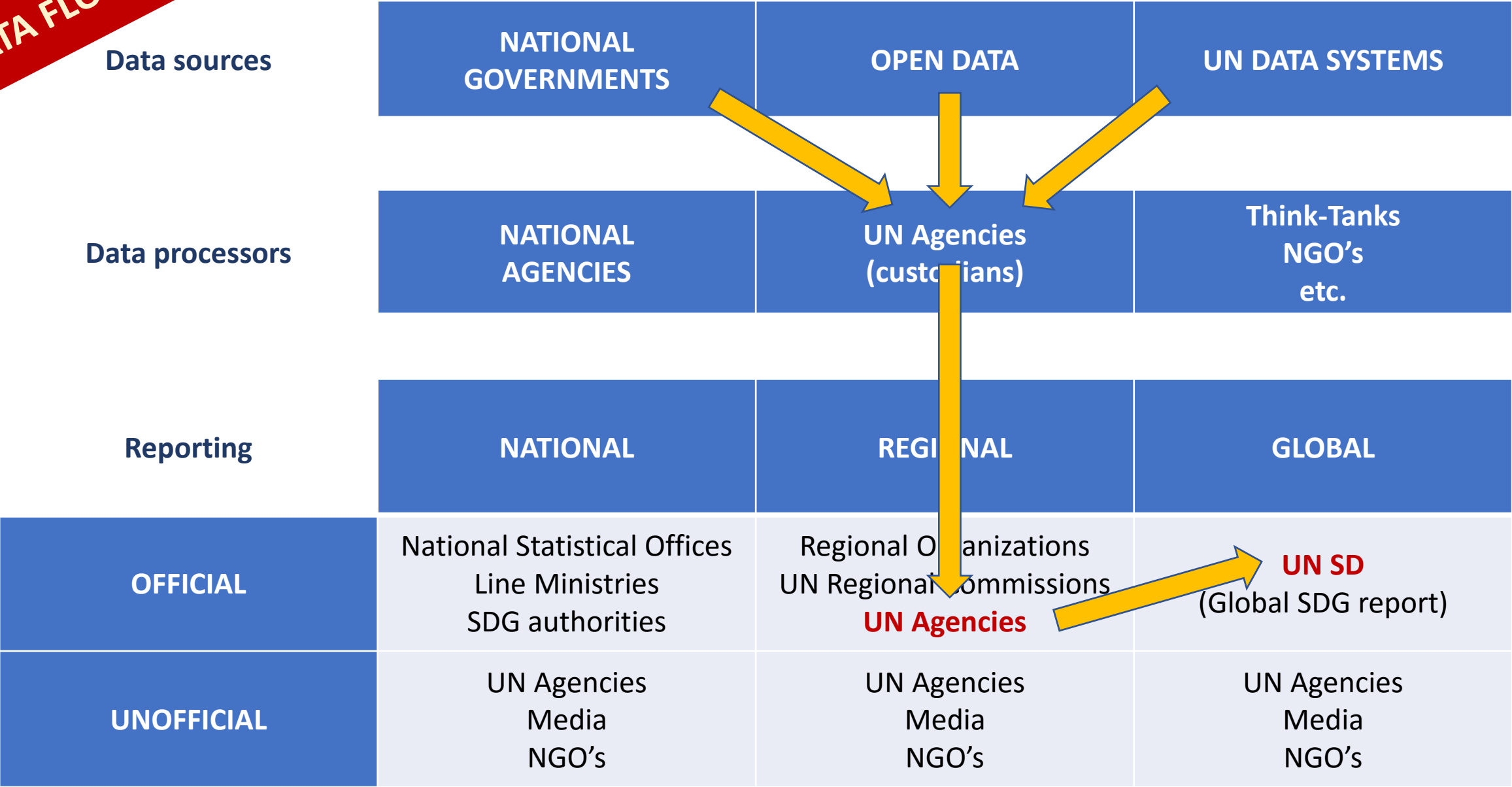
DATA FLOWS - 2

UN Centered (MDGs model)



DATA FLOWS - 2

UN Centered (MDGs model)



DATA FLOWS - 3

Think-Tanks, NGOs

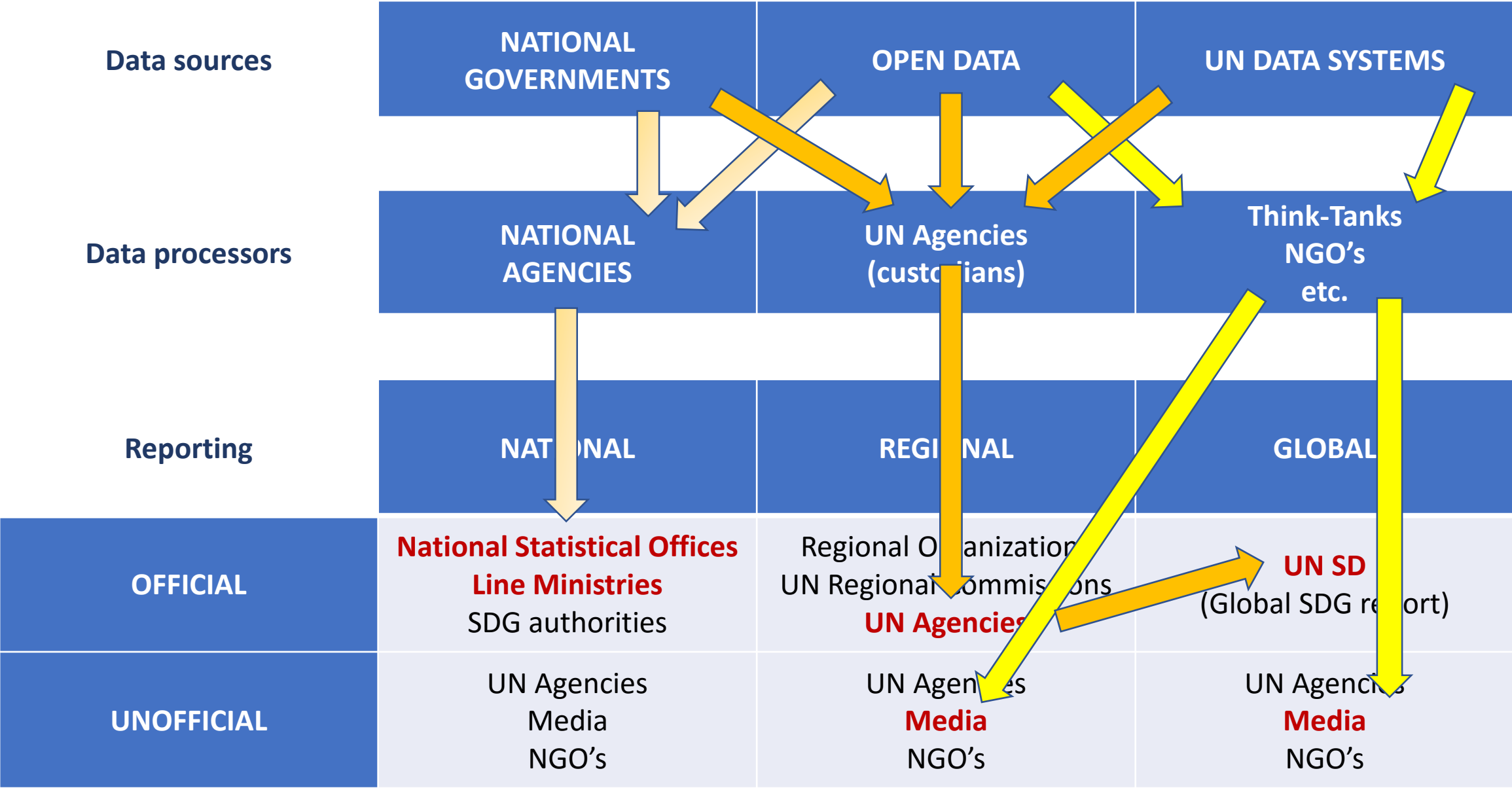
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DATA FLOWS - 3

Think-Tanks, NGOs

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Anarchism !?

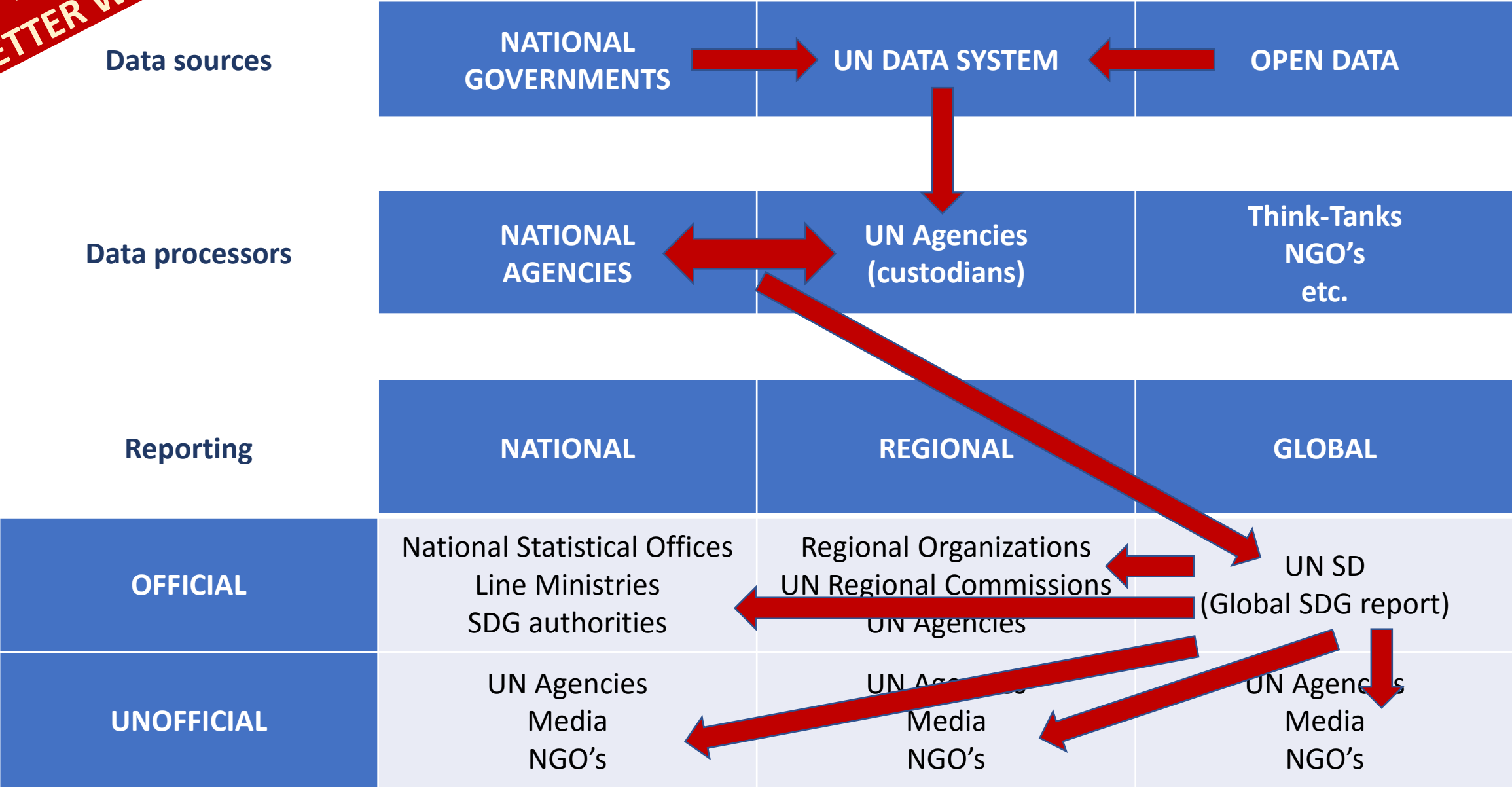


Key problems

- Duplication of efforts (inefficiency)
- Lack of coordination (inconsistency)
- Lack of quality control (unreliability)
- Communication!!!

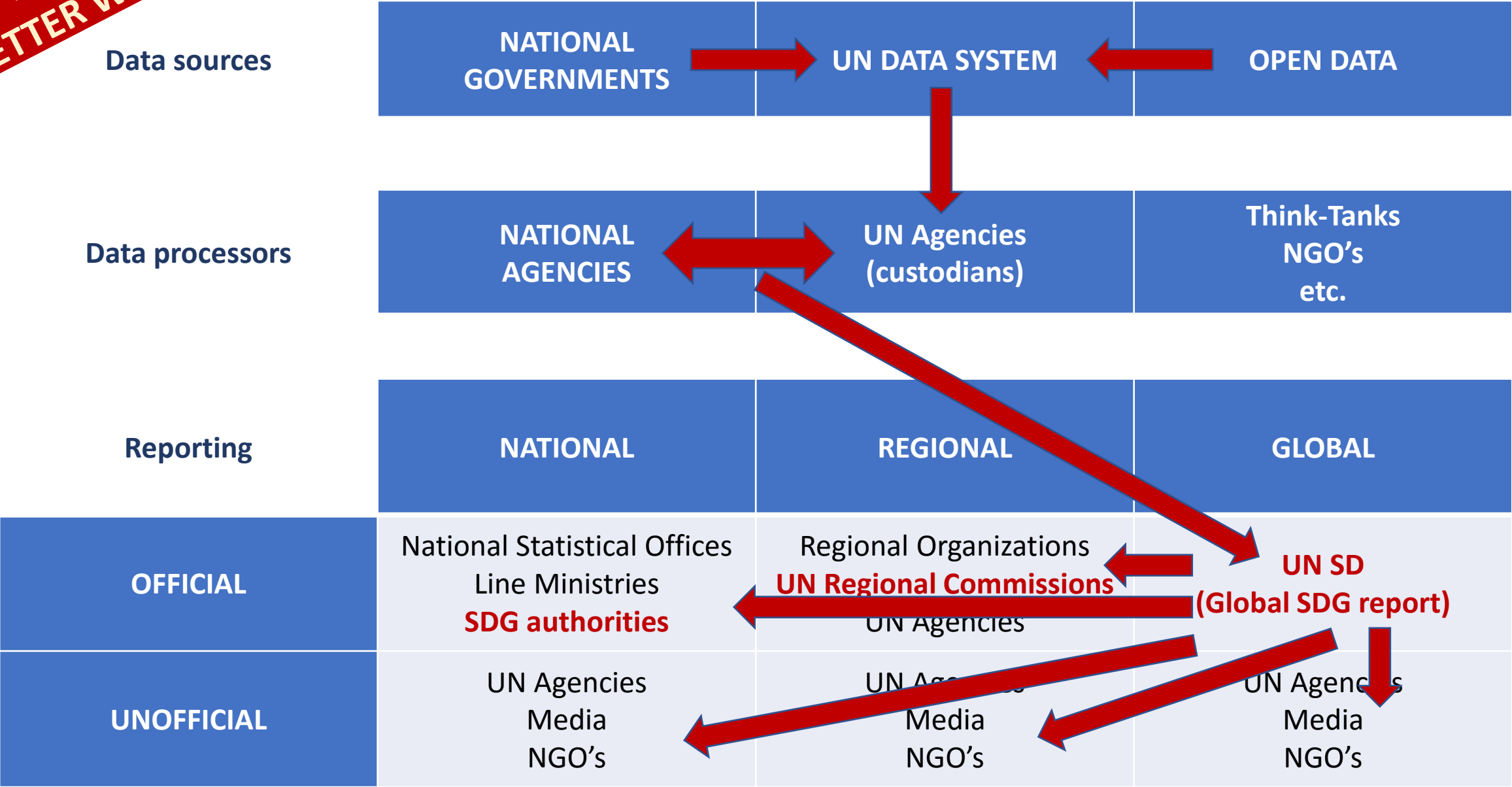
IS THERE A
BETTER WAY?

IAEG-SDG guidelines for data flows



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IAEG-SDG guidelines for data flows



The current state of the discussion

- Draft guidelines have been discussed and presented for endorsement to the UN Statistical Commission earlier this month, but have not been endorsed yet
- There are still unresolved issues on how to make the collaboration between National Agencies and UN Agencies most effective
 - Need for preserving national sovereignty
 - Need to compile regional and global aggregates
 - Ensure timeliness and consistency of reporting

Example: FAO statistics and the indicators included in the proposed monitoring framework

Article I

Functions of the Organization

1. The Organization shall collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. [...]

FAO Constitution, 1945

Guiding Principles of the FAO Statistics Division

Vision

“In contributing to a world free from hunger and malnutrition, the Statistics Division of FAO serves as the foremost authoritative source of standards and methods as well as timely and reliable data on hunger, food and agriculture.”

Mission

“Our mission is to advance statistics on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development at national and international levels. In pursuing this mission:

- We develop, implement and promote international statistical standards, methods and tools in collecting, analysing and disseminating data.*
- We work directly with countries to develop national statistical strategies, strengthen institutional and technical capacities and improve statistical systems to better design, monitor and evaluate policies and programmes.*
- We ensure coordination of statistical programmes and activities within FAO and in partnership with national, regional and international stakeholders.*
- We provide free and easy access to harmonized, reliable, timely and policy-relevant data and advocate their use for evidence-based decision making.”*

Guiding Principles of the FAO Statistics Division

Values and principles

- *We adhere to the highest professional standards in collecting, analysing and disseminating data, in line with the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities.*
- *We align our work and goals with strategies and priorities outlined by member countries, respecting the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action, and the Dakar and Busan Declarations.*
- *We promote the adoption of international statistical standards set by FAO or other international organizations in close consultation with national statistical authorities.*
- *We work in partnership with the international development community to promote complementarities and synergies and to avoid duplication of efforts.*
- *[...]*

Example: FAO statistics and the indicators included in the proposed monitoring framework

- Food Balance Sheets-based information
 - Since 1946, FAO maintains the system of Food Balance Sheets/Supply Utilization Accounts.
 - Data on agricultural production, trade and various forms of utilization, are requested by FAO to member countries via an annual questionnaire.
 - These data are combined with official data from the UN Data System and other reliable sources to produce Food Balance Sheets that provide an account of the national food supply and its composition
- Issues
 - Timeliness
 - Reliability

Example: FAO statistics and the indicators included in the proposed monitoring framework

- Suite of food security indicators
 - Created in 2012, in response to a solicitation by the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS), collects in a single database a number of indicators classified by “pillar” (availability, access, utilization, stability)
 - Not all indicators are compiled by FAO, but rather are “harvested” from other sources (mostly UN Data System)
- Issues
 - Some of FAO compiled indicators are subject to revision
 - FAO cannot ensure continuity in the publication of indicators that are not under its specific mandate, or that depend on the former

Example: FAO statistics and the indicators included in the proposed monitoring framework

- Prevalence of food insecurity in the population based on the FIES
 - This has been endorsed as the SDG indicator 2.1.2 and was originally classified as Tier I
 - Data are available from FAO for about 150 countries since 2014, collected thanks to a commercial, contractual agreement with the Gallup® World Poll™
 - In 2017, India challenged the indicator at the IAEG-SDG, claiming that it were still “experimental” and requested re-classification as Tier III
 - The IAEG-SDG rejected the claim but, considering that FAO data collected through Gallup cannot be considered “official national data”, re-classified SDG 2.1.2 as Tier II
 - We are working with countries to promote inclusion of the FIES module within national surveys, to obtain official national data from countries that choose to do so
- National level estimates are available for 57 countries that authorized FAO publication
 - Only Jordan, Palestine and Yemen in the Arab region authorized publication

Example: FAO statistics and the indicators included in the proposed monitoring framework

- Prevalence of undernourishment
 - The traditional FAO indicator, used to monitor progress towards the World Food Summit and the MDG goals
 - It uses food consumption data obtained from household surveys, integrated with food supply data from FBS and population data from UN Population Statistics
 - Compiled by FAO and widely cited, it has never been implemented at country level (no national MDG report has reported its own estimates of the PoU)
 - When countries reported on MDG target 1C, did so with different (and sometimes questionable) indicators, based on child malnutrition or on food “poverty”

Conclusions and discussion points

- There is a need to recognize and identify actors
 - At national, regional and global levels
- It is also very important to define roles...
 - To define and maintain standards ► CAs
 - For data collection ► national statistical offices (NSOs)
 - For data cleaning and validation ► NSOs + custodian agencies (CAs)
 - For data processing and analysis ► national institutions (NIs) + CAs
 - To develop technical capacity ► CAs + regional organizations + NIs
 - To communicate
- ... and assign clear mandates
 - UN Statistical Commission
 - UN Regional Conferences

Conclusions and discussion points

- Effective, continued, full collaboration between national institutions and international organization is essential
- Particularly urgent is the need to coordinate and harmonized methods for food consumption and food insecurity data collection and analysis
- FAO traditional counterpart for food security has been the Ministry of Agriculture, but this is clearly insufficient, as food and nutrition security involve other sectors (economy, health, environment, education)
 - The ideal counterpart would be an interdisciplinary food security cabinet or council, working in close collaboration with the National Statistical authority, to ensure continuity of appropriate data collection