DRAFT 140901

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE STATISTICAL INDICATORS DERIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT MEETINGS

Prepared by

Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission for the 2002 UNSC Meeting

November, 2001

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Executive Summary: To be added

1 Introduction

1. In the last decade or so major United Nations conferences and summit meetings (averaging almost two per year) have covered a wide range of economic and social issues. These meetings have resulted in declarations related to future goals and targets that have been endorsed by member states and are intended to improve the wellbeing of the world's population. Goals and targets call for a commitment to monitor progress towards them and, consequently indicators (usually statistical indicators) have been identified in relation to each goal. The intention is to monitor and report on these so that progress towards the declared goals and targets can be measured.

2. However, this process has gone on with little co-ordination between officials concerned with the separate UN meetings in terms of the number and choice of indicators to be monitored. The meetings have varied considerably in terms of the number of resulting indicators (ranging from a handful or less to as many as 70 being identified from a single UN conference). In total about 280 indicators have been identified from the conclusions of these major UN conferences and summits. The perception is that this uncoordinated process has resulted in a plethora of indicators of different levels of importance in policy terms. Also there is potential for confusion among users because of an appearance of inconsistency and a lack of coherence among the indicators. It has resulted too in a large demand for statistical information from each member state: a demand that has to be set alongside the demands for statistical information for national policy purposes. For countries with a poorly developed statistical infrastructure this total demand can be disproportionate to the resources available to meet it.

3. Attempts have been made to distil core sets of indicators that might be afforded greater recognition and therefore higher priority. For example the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) identified the Minimum National Data Set (MNDS: 15 indicators), the OECD Development Assistance Committee – in co-operation with the UN, World Bank and IMF - identified the International Development Goals (OECD-DAC: 21 indicators). This set drew heavily on international summits up to 1995. The United Nations Development Group identified indicators to support Common Country Assessment again based on an analysis of the requirements of UN summits (UNDAF-CCA: 57 indicators). An additional set is the Basic Social Services for All (BSSA) set identified by the UN.

4. And this process continues. While this report was in preparation the choice of statistical indicators to support the UN Millennium Goals was under discussion and will, when established, form another high profile set of indicators against which progress will be monitored.

5. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) considered these issues in 1999 and 2000 and there is a general recognition that better co-ordination is needed and that full participation and ownership by Member States was needed in all stages of indicator

development. At the 2000 meeting (E/CN.3/2000/27) ECOSOC turned to the Statistical Commission (UNSC) as its authoritative technical advisory body to:

- Provide leadership in the field of conference indicators;
- Conduct an in-depth technical analysis of conference indicators;
- Make recommendations regarding a limited list of conference indicators, and
- Develop and recommend to the Council a mechanism of statistical review for future proposed indicators.

6. As a consequence the UNSC, at its 2001 meeting, established a group of 'Friends of the Chair' to consider the issues further and to report back to the UNSC at the 2002 meeting so that the UNSC could report to ECOSOC.

7. The members of the group were (subject to confirmation):

Tim Holt (United Kingdom): Chair
Guest Charumbira (Botswana)
Claudia Cingolani (Italy)
Francisco Guillen (Mexico)
Hasan Abu Libdeh (Palestine)
Hans Lindblom (Sweden)
Jil Matheson (UK)
Yue Renfeng (China)
Hussain Shakhatreh (Jordan)
Bounthavy Sisouphantong (Laos)
Ken Tallis (Australia)

8. In order to carry out the required in-depth technical review the group subdivided the 280 identified indicators into 7 domains:

- Demography,
- Health and Nutrition,
- Environment and Energy,
- Economics and Poverty,
- Employment and Labour,
- Education, and
- Other Social Indicators.

Seven indicators related to Human Rights and Good Governance were excluded from this framework. This was because all of the indicators were qualitative in nature and no statistical indicators had been identified. We return to this point in due course.

9. We considered the requirement to make recommendations about a limited number of indicators and following the UNSC discussion in 2001 decided to approach this by establishing a hierarchy of indicators containing three levels. The first level contains statistical indicators that might be regarded as of the highest priority. These contain a small number of indicators in each domain. These would be suitable for a broad monitoring purpose but are unlikely to give enough information to provide a coherent statistical picture of any domain or policy area with sufficient depth to support national policy initiatives or more extensive needs of international agencies. The second and third

levels give a progressively more comprehensive statistical framework within each domain. We are very aware of the need for countries to reconcile their statistical needs for national policy purposes with the international requirements. The hierarchical structure offered is not meant to be mandatory nor to impose a straightjacket on member states although we think that all countries should be encouraged to compile all indicators within the first category unless there are overwhelming national reasons not to do so. In our view the second category and many of the indicators in the third category would be valuable in most countries. However, it is likely that countries with particular concerns or policy initiatives would wish to collect extensive statistics for some domains and less for others. Also the statistical requirements for national policy purposes would go beyond the indicators identified in the framework. Nonetheless the framework is intended to enable countries to assess their statistical priorities and to reconcile the statistics that are needed for national purposes with the global requirements. As such we hope that countries will find the framework useful.

10. For each domain we established an expert group drawn from member states across the world. Some members of each expert group were official statisticians and others were more concerned with policy issues. As well as carrying out the technical assessment required the groups have suggested new or alternative indicators where this was felt to be appropriate. The terms of reference of the expert groups are given in Appendix 1.

11. In addition we had useful discussions with representatives of UNSD, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, OECD and World Bank. We also attended the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities meeting in September 2001 at which our draft report was discussed.

12. As a further consultation phase a draft version of the report was circulated to all National Statistical Offices, UN Regional Commissions and International Agencies. It was also placed on the UNSD web site. The final version of the report takes account of the responses received to this consultation.

13. We acknowledge and thank all contributors but the final responsibility for this report rests with the Friends of the Chair.

2 Key Issues

14. The request from ECOSOC to the UNSC and the terms of reference established for the Friends of the Chair demonstrate that there is concern over the current process for identifying indicators. This concern includes the lack of co-ordination between stakeholders, insufficient involvement by member states in the process and the lack of structure of the resulting indicator sets. In our view there are a number of key issues that need to be recognised and taken into account.

2.1 The Stakeholders, Competing Needs, Statistical Capacity and the Burden on Countries

The Stakeholders

15. The identification of statistical indicators for monitoring purposes is neither a pure policy nor a pure statistical issue. The basic expression of the policy goal must drive the monitoring requirement but turning that expression into a statistical indicator that will be relevant, reliable and acceptable to the various stakeholders is a statistical function. The

tension between the policy view of what is needed and the statistical view of what is feasible and technically sound should be resolved by joint determination.

16. A second stakeholder issue is that although the statistical indicators that are derived from UN conferences and summits are motivated by international needs, they are based on policy issues that have to be reflected in the national policy agenda if the desired progress is to be achieved. The use of indicators for national purposes supports the development of evidence-based policies to the benefit of the countries concerned and their citizens. There is a perceived, and to some extent a real, tension here since different countries or, indeed, the same country at different stages of its development, will have different policy priorities and the need to reconcile the **national and international priorities** needs to be addressed. It is essential that statistical indicators reflect genuine policy requirements if they are to have the impact and the support that they should.

17. The third stakeholder issue rests on the simple fact that most of the statistical indicators are derived from statistical programmes carried out by national statisticians. These programmes are generally funded from national resources and reflect a range of user needs of which the international need is but one. It falls to national statisticians to try to respond to often disparate user needs within the resources available. Their ability to respond will depend heavily on the general level of **statistical capacity** in the country and the extent to which additional demands create a **response burden** on countries or whether existing statistical sources can be used or adapted to meet additional needs. In general the skills and experience of statisticians working within National Statistical Institutes is different from statisticians working within international agencies and they have an important contribution to make to the development process.

National and International Priorities

18. Relevance is a dominating requirement of statistical information. If the statistics are not relevant to the policy need, then they will not command the attention, nor have the impact that they should. Nor will the statistical production system command the financial and administrative support from decision makers that is essential if it is to fully support policy needs. These statistical needs reflect both the national and international policy context and there can be a tension between them.

19. Many, but not all, of the listed indicators focus on outcomes rather than inputs or outputs of public provision. For example life expectancy, literacy, HIV/AIDS infection rates. This is natural, particularly from the perspective of monitoring the wellbeing of the world's population since these outcome measures reveal the ultimate impact of policies on people's lives. In some areas input or output measures are used, particularly if no satisfactory outcome measure exists. However from a national perspective, governments may also give high priority to additional input and output measures as a more immediate way of monitoring the implementation of public policy and hence as a supplement to the outcome measures. However the greater the timeliness of all the indicators the more effectively will they serve policy needs.

20. To an extent it is possible to reduce this tension if the statistical system is designed to be rich enough and flexible enough to support diverse needs. For example a well-designed Household Budget Survey can estimate the proportion of the population below an international poverty standard and against a national poverty standard. In such cases the conflict between national and international requirements is avoidable. In other cases the

resolution may call for additional resources – to collect a wider range of data, or to fund larger sample sizes so as to meet competing needs. In our view all efforts should be made to reconcile national and international needs so as to support both. This implies that countries recognise the need to support international needs and international agencies accept the need to support statistical activities in support of national, as well as international, needs. In particular investment in modular frameworks or analytical capacity that allows countries to exploit core sets of survey data for a variety of purposes would be valuable.

21. Failure to meet both national needs, in particular, will undermine the requirement to develop sustainable statistical capacity since in the long term this must depend on national governmental support.. It will also undermine evidence-based policy as a basis for good governance and public administration within countries. From the UN perspective this would, as a consequence, undermine the provision of statistical indicators for international monitoring purposes.

22. Thus any rationalised set of indicators should be applicable (or readily adaptable) to both national and international priorities. In the time available we have not been able to assess this as comprehensively as we would have wished. We have considered the indicators arising from the UN summits and major conferences but our rationalisation of the large set of indicators has drawn upon the experience of the members of the expert groups. We have not been able to check systematically with the designers of the conference indicators and similarly our assessment of national priorities is necessarily incomplete. In our view this assessment should be done more systematically before the proposed framework of indicators and their priority levels are 'set in stone' and the recommendations that we shall make for the UNSC to maintain the indicator framework would permit this.

Statistical Capacity

23. The ability to produce consistent, reliable statistical information on an ongoing basis requires a basic sustainable statistical capacity. Economic statistics needed to estimate GDP or social statistics needed to estimate demographic or social indicators depend upon a statistical infrastructure that is essential. By statistical infrastructure we mean underpinning systems to create and maintain sampling frames for business and household surveys. We also mean a critical mass of professional expertise including a critical mass of ongoing statistical activity: survey design, data collection and analysis in order to nurture the basic professional skills. These together with a developed analytic capability provide the capacity to respond to emerging needs. Statistical frameworks and an adequate IT infrastructure are also important. Finally we include good management to make the most use of the resources that are available. And all of this needs to be embedded within a wider legal and administrative structure that recognises the importance of good statistical information and the need to sustain the conditions in which it can be produced with high professionalism and integrity.

24. Without this core capacity and the ongoing resources to support it, neither the statistical needs of the country itself nor those of the international community will be reliably served. Where this core capacity is fragile the sporadic provision of additional funds to satisfy a particular statistical need will be much less effective and is no substitute for what one might term 'statistical sustainability'.

25. In this regard, statistical indicators need to be viewed as the end product of often complex statistical infrastructures that are essential if the indicators are to be produced with adequate quality. Population estimates for example, that are fundamental to so many indicators that are expressed as rates or per capita estimates, depend on periodic Censuses to provide benchmarks and on systems of vital registration or other sources to permit inter-censal population estimates. Many social statistics depend upon social surveys that need sustained expertise if they are to be well-conducted and complex measures such as GDP require a complex framework of business surveys, administrative sources and underpinning infrastructure if the statistics are to be relevant and reliable. Too much emphasis has been placed on the indicators (which are the end product) and too little on the statistical sources and infrastructure that underpin these.

26. Countries and international donors need to recognise that each statistical initiative depends on the core statistical capacity within the country and that internationally sponsored activities must contribute to this sustainable capacity. It is essential that these activities support both national and international statistical needs rather than being perceived as being driven by international goals alone. The effective use of statistical information within national governments needs to be promoted and ECOSOC and international donors have an important role to play. This is essential if the statistical system is to command consistent financial and political support from the national government of the day. To an extent initiatives such as PARIS21 should help this to occur by promoting better co-ordination and more sustainable statistical development.

27. We believe that a measure of statistical capacity could be developed and would be useful to monitor. This measure could be based on the level of regular statistical activity within a country, an ongoing critical mass of survey taking and statistical analysis and the existence of basic elements of statistical infrastructure. It could also take account of other initiatives such as the GDDS and the IMF's attempts to develop a quality framework.

28. Building and monitoring statistical capacity is clearly a systemic issue. In our recommendations about the statistical indicator framework we have tried to take account of this in several ways. First we have tried to focus on indicators (especially in the highest and high categories) that it should be feasible for all or lost countries to compile (either immediately or with statistical assistance). Second we propose a systematic inquiry to all countries to asses the availability of indicators in the first two categories. Third we have in some cases defined a sequence of successive approximations to ideal indicators that countries might compile as their statistical capacities develop. We commend this approach for the maintenance and development of the framework.

The Response Burden on Countries

29. A frequently heard complaint is that the uncoordinated demand for a wide range of statistical indicators places a burden on National Statistical Offices (NSO's) that cannot be responded to. Linked to this complaint is the related view that such a burden is incompatible with the national statistical needs and diverts scarce resources (skills as well as finance) from other priorities.

30. What is almost always meant by this concern is not that NSO's do not wish to respond to the requirements – statisticians usually wish to respond to all needs – but that the demand cannot be met within the resources (both financial and skills) available.

31. International agencies have taken steps in recent years to align their statistical requirements and to improve the co-ordination when requesting statistics from countries. This process should go on with a view to streamlining the demand on countries further.

32. There are two solutions: to reduce the demand or increase the resources. In our view both are needed:

Managing demand

- Making the international and national statistical requirements more compatible will reduce the burden.
- Establishing a hierarchical structure of statistical indicators; so that nations may determine their priorities more systematically will also help.
- So too will the production of more internationally agreed standards and guidance on best practice.
- Improving the co-ordination between international agencies for indicator development and data collection from countries will also help.
- Developing a core statistical infrastructure and a critical mass of professional and technical skills will also allow the competing requirements to be met.

Increasing Resources and Enhancing Capacity

- But in addition increasing the funding available for the poorest statistical offices is essential and this will be needed on an ongoing basis.
- Such support must come as a partnership between national governments and international donors.
- In the former case a climate of support will be developed only if national governments see statistical information as essential in support of national policies and good governance. In seeking efficient and effective public administration governments must see statistics as part of the solution rather than simply as an additional claim on public expenditure.
- In the case of the donors, they must ensure that all statistical activities strengthen the sustainable statistical capacity and, by taking account of national needs, strengthen the value that national governments place on statistics.

33. The resource requirements for new statistical outputs may be very different in different countries. From the lowest additional cost to the highest one may set out a hierarchy of resource implications.

- In some cases it is simply a question of analysing existing data in a different way in order to provide the required output. An analysis by gender is often a good example of this so long as the basic information on the subject's gender is available for each data record. In such cases the resource requirement (assuming the professional skills are available) is relatively small.
- An approach more demanding of professional skills is the use of modelling, synthetic estimation and other analytical techniques applied to exploit existing data sources for new purposes. The financial cost may be low but the technical knowledge to produce high quality outputs is significant.
- In other cases the new requirement may call for a small number of additional items to be collected and analysed using an existing survey. The resource implications are a little

higher but so long as the core statistical capacity is in place it is generally feasible to support the requirement.

- More seriously the new requirement may call for a substantial increase in the sample sizes employed. Regional and other sub-national estimates are a good example of this. This can add a significant proportion to the existing costs and the need for analytic skills.
- Even more seriously, the new requirement may call for an entirely new data collection system: for example a new household survey or a new business survey. This is generally an order of magnitude more demanding in terms of time for development, in terms of costs including interviewer and data processing costs, and also in terms of diverting often scarce professional and technical skills from existing programmes to the new survey. In order to avoid this issue, there are examples where existing surveys become overburdened with competing and potentially conflicting data requirements to the extent that one must question whether they are manageable. Also the burden on the respondents who participate in the survey is very severe.
- Where the primary data source is an administrative system new needs may call for the system (or the underpinning software) to be redeveloped. This can be a major undertaking unless the administrative system is being redeveloped for other purposes but for some statistical uses this may be the best long-term strategy for a statistical office.
- Finally some new requirements may call for an infrastructure which simply does not exist in a particular country. For example the administrative systems that usually support an administrative function may be non-existent or in such poor state that their use for statistical purposes is impractical. Or measurement processes (for example as are often used for some environmental indicators) do not exist. In such cases the basic infrastructure must be established and this can be a long and expensive process.

34. In general the better the core statistical infrastructure the better able is a country to respond to new statistical requirements. If the national and international goals are to be met then a strengthening of the core is required in many countries.

35. Hence we make a set of inter-related **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **That the identification of statistical indicators for monitoring purposes should involve both policy officials and statisticians and each of these groups should draw upon international agencies and member states. We elaborate this recommendation in section 4 (paragraphs xx –yy).**
- **That ECOSOC and international donors recognise the need to support and develop the core statistical capacity within member states and that all donor activity for statistics should recognise the need to address both national and international statistical requirements.**
- **That, as part of this recognition, ECOSOC and international organisations and donors promote the use of statistics to support effective national policy development and good public administration.**
- **That UNSC develops and monitors a statistical indicator of national statistical capacity.**
- **That UNSD promotes the development of standards and guidance on best practice for indicators where needed.**
- **That the international agencies strive to improve co-ordination for data collection from countries.**

2.2 Quality and Technical Properties, Continuity and Change

Quality and Technical Properties

36. It is important that the chosen statistical indicators are relevant to the purpose and satisfy technical criteria. Measurement for statistical purposes is an exacting discipline, calling for specialist development. Definitions and concepts need to be as precise as possible consistent with the intended use. The resulting statistics need to satisfy statistical quality criteria. The development of good quality statistical indicators takes time and may well require field tests and evaluation before a suitable indicator is developed.

37. Over the years, largely independent of the need to monitor Conference goals, countries have developed suites of core statistics such as population estimates, GDP or life expectancy. These have been developed through extensive processes over time; international guidelines exist to support best practice and the statistical properties are relatively well understood. So long as such indicators are relevant to the conference goal they are readily available for monitoring purposes. Nevertheless, even for indicators such as these, actual quality varies between one country and another depending on the strength of the statistical infrastructure in each country and the basic statistical capacity.

38. But for new policy areas such as Human Rights and Good Governance no established indicators exist. In such areas the development of statistical indicators will take time and the process needs to involve statisticians and policy officials.

39. Also for newly developed indicators there is another difficulty. This is concerned with the fact that many agreed targets relate to improvements from a baseline date (for example reducing by a third the incidence of a particular event within a period of 10 years). If the statistical indicator that is used to monitor this target is not widely available at the baseline time then there is no base value from which to measure progress. There is no easy solution to this problem but when such targets are adopted there is a need for the conference to recognise the need to support the development of baseline measures. If not, it risks bringing discredit to the whole process of target setting.

Continuity and Change

40. For all statistics there needs to be a regular process of review and development. As the economic and social environment change so the statistics that are used to monitor development need to change if they are to capture the new situation and so remain relevant. This is as true for statistical indicators monitoring goals as it is for all other statistics. If this process of review and renewal does not occur the statistical indicators will become increasingly less relevant. For global statistics there is another reason for continuous development and this is the capacity for more countries to achieve higher standards. The need to establish an indicator quickly may reasonably mean that technical standards are chosen to allow as wide a range of countries as possible to be able to produce the statistical information. Technical standards need to reflect the reality of what can be achieved in the short term and should not become a barrier to producing useful (albeit imperfect) statistical indicators. However, as statistical capacity develops the technical standards that one may apply to any indicator may be increased: definitions may be refined and the quality of the indicator at a global level improved. This process creates a tension between continuity over time and necessary change to maintain relevance. This balance needs to be recognised and often will call for continuity but

there are established methods, such as statistical revisions, to address the need for consistency of time series.

41. **We RECOMMEND**
    - **that all statistical indicators should be subject to periodic review and improvement and**
    - **that when such a review results in change, an approach be provided to support countries in moving to the improved indicator while maintaining continuity with the recent past.**

3 A Technical Assessment and Framework for Indicators

42. From the UN Summits of the 1990's we identified about 280 separate indicators, of which the overwhelming majority were statistical in nature. These covered a wide range of topics. But note that this set, albeit large, does not include all of the statistical indicators that have been identified as desirable by the UN and other international organisations. It includes only those indicators identified from the UN summits and major conferences.

The Expert Groups and their Task

43. As described in paragraph X the indicators were subdivided into 7 Domains and expert groups established for each domain (Demography, Health and Nutrition, Environment and Energy, Economics and Poverty, Employment and Labour, Education, Other Social).

44. The expert groups, with the support of UNSD staff, carried out a technical assessment of each indicator and this material is available on the UNSD Website (address) and will be maintained in future. This is the source that contains detailed definitions and specifications for each indicator and we **RECOMMEND that the UNSD web site be the definitive source of technical information about the indicators.**

45. This Friends of the Chair report contains a summary of the findings of the expert groups. For convenience a Room Document entitled *Technical Assessment of Statistical Indicators* has also been prepared to provide a more comprehensive picture of the work of the expert groups.

46. The expert groups identified Sub-Domains within each Domain as being relatively self-contained and comprising a separate policy area. Each indicator was allocated to one of three priority categories:

    - A small number of Indicators were allocated to the HIGHEST PRIORITY category and contains indicators that useful for broad monitoring and which all countries should be encouraged to compile.
    - A second tier of HIGH PRIORITY indicators that added to the information contained in the highest priority indicators and which helped to convey a fuller picture. These indicators are likely to be valuable for both national and internationally comparative purposes.
    - A third tier of DESIRABLE Indicators that would be needed to gain a comprehensive picture of the situation in any Domain (depending on national circumstances) and

would be particularly important if policy in a particular domain was a strong national priority.

Some indicators were classified as NOT RECOMMENDED if there were technical deficiencies, if there was an alternative REPLACEMENT indicator that was superior or if two original indicators were so close as to be measuring essentially the same thing.

47. The recommendations take account of the technical properties of the indicators, the immediate relevance to policy issues, the need to cover the Domain and Sub-Domains in a structured way and the question of availability. The recommendations also take account of the main existing sets of high level indicators unless there is an overriding technical reason for recommending an alternative.

48. The question of availability was particularly problematic for the expert groups since it was impossible to carry out a detailed assessment of the availability of 280 indicators in all countries of the world in the time available. We **RECOMMEND that when the hierarchical framework is established countries be asked to report to the UNSD on the availability of indicators in the highest two categories at least and of their relevance to national needs.**

The Indicators Considered

49. We have referred to the tension between National and International priorities and to the fact that even though an analysis of UN summits and major conferences revealed over 280 indicators this does not represent the total picture. There are more indicators that have been identified by international agencies or are in common use within countries to monitor national policies.

50. In a very real sense this difference created a dilemma for the Friends of the Chair. In order to fulfil the mandate given to the UNSC by ECOSOC the task was to consider the 280 indicators identified through the summits and major conferences. But UNSC itself has a wider responsibility to establish a hierarchical framework that takes account of all of the priorities that member states may face. In this context a partial framework of indicators that happen to have been identified by UN summits is of limited use. In particular there are important Sub-Domains, such as inflation and productivity, that occur within the Economics and Poverty Domain and which should appear in any framework designed for national needs even though these Sub-Domains have not appeared in the indicators derived from the UN summits and major conferences.

51. These additional indicators are either:

- well established indicators that are important if a comprehensive picture is to be obtained of a particular Domain or Sub-Domain but have simply not been identified by a UN conference (for example inflation) or
- a small number of additional indicators that are less well established but may offer potential benefits.

52. We have dealt with this issue in the following way. In general the recommended framework contains both the indicators identified from the UN summits and major conferences and the additional indicators identified by the expert groups. The one exception is a set of additional Health indicators that were advocated by members of the expert group and were additional to the original indicator list. These are included in a separate table. Within the main framework indicators (or very close equivalents) that are contained in the major indicator sets (MNDS, UNDAF-CCA, OECD-DI and BSSA) are shown in bold font. All other indicators are shown in normal font

53. In addition to the 7 Domains we have set aside a small number of indicators of Human Rights and Good Governance. This is an important area but the indicators listed were not statistical and were therefore outside our remit. The development of statistical indicators in this field will not be easy and would take time. We **RECOMMEND that the UNSC establish a mechanism (perhaps a City Group involving statisticians and others) to develop statistical indicators of Human Rights and Good Governance.** Whilst we recognise the importance of this area, we take the view that it would be better to 'get it right' rather than 'get it quick' if wide ownership of the indicators is to be established across the world.

General and Domain-Related Issues

54. *Comparative Measures:* International comparisons require that statistics be put on a basis that is immediately comparable and for this reason almost all of the indicators are presented as proportions or in per capita terms or as rates. These measures require a denominator (often a population figure of some kind). Economic and some other measures use GDP as a denominator in the same way. This raises a number of important issues:

- The pervasive use of GDP and of population estimates in this way places particular importance on the quality of these estimates if a wide range of indicators are to be sufficiently reliable.
- Both GDP and Population estimates require a strong statistical capacity and infrastructure if they are to be regularly produced.
- Whilst the immediate population indicators call for population counts by gender and broad age group (0-15, 16-64, 65+) the reality is that finer estimates are required to support a range of other indicators. For example 5 year age categories are needed to support the calculation of age specific mortality or fertility ratios (and hence measures such as the Total Fertility Rate). Also other age groups are needed to support rates for indicators such as educational participation or HIV/AIDS infection rates. Measures such as the HIV/AIDS infection rate for pregnant women requires a denominator of the total number of pregnant women in the appropriate age category and this is much more difficult to provide for some countries.
- An added difficulty is that the numerator of such indicators and the population denominator are often provided from different sources within a country and may be inconsistent. Hence the rates, when calculated, may not be recognised within the lead policy Ministry. In extreme cases different population denominators may be used for different policy areas. This is clearly unsatisfactory and when it occurs may imply a systemic problem of consistency and quality assurance.

International agencies have an important quality assurance role in identifying such situations and may act as a catalyst in helping countries to resolve them.

55. We **RECOMMEND:**

- **That when considering statistical capacity, international donors and countries themselves take particular account of the importance of a core set of demographic statistics and GDP estimates as an integral component of many statistical indicators.**
- **That the need for coherent statistics used in the numerator and denominator of indicators is recognised and that international agencies work to identify such inconsistencies and act as a catalyst in helping countries to resolve them.**

56. *Purchasing Power Parity:* Another aspect of comparability is that a number of indicators (in Economic and Poverty and Employment and Labour Domains) call for international comparisons of monetary aggregates in PPP terms. This measure is virtually unique in the sense that its primary purpose is to convert monetary aggregates to a common unit for international comparative purposes. As such it falls low on the national priorities and yet is vital for international purposes. These measures need continued effort if quality is to be improved and this has been recognised by the UNSC and among international agencies, the World Bank. Given the nature of the measure, international funding is essential. We **RECOMMEND that all efforts be made to fulfil the UNSC resolutions of 2001 in respect of Purchasing Power Parity measurement.**

57. *Meta-Data:* Another general issue is the provision of meta-data so that users can understand any particular issues affecting the statistical indicator values for any country. Good meta-data is a general requirement but there are specific situations when countries should ensure that the meta-data is provided. The first is when national priorities result in an indicator which is not fully comparable with those produced by other countries. Failure to provide informative meta-data will fail those users who seek to use the indicator for comparative purposes. Second where national standards or targets are adopted (for example in setting a national poverty standard) the basis of this measure needs to be available to users. Third, some of the population indicators require forecasts and these will depend crucially on the assumptions made about age-specific fertility rates for example. A clear specification of the underpinning assumptions is essential to users. Similarly in countries where the inter-censal framework for making annual estimates of the population structure are fragile, underpinning assumptions need to be presented in meta-data. We **RECOMMEND that member states supply adequate meta-data to support users needs and in particular where national norms differ from international measures or underpinning assumptions may affect the indicator value materially.**

58. *Gender:* A number of indicators call for separate measures by gender. As a general rule we **RECOMMEND that where the data source supports an analysis by gender then this should be provided for all indicators.** However to add emphasis we have identified in the recommendations the indicators for which separate estimates by gender are particularly needed.

59. *Frequency:* Also, as a general issue, we raise the question of the frequency of provision of indicator values. In many countries with well developed statistical systems annual estimates will be available and we regard this as the desirable goal. However not all countries can sustain this and the frequency of reporting must be related to the rate of change of the particular indicator. For example the rate of infant mortality can be altered faster by policy intervention than the life expectancy at birth. In general, even in countries with lower statistical capacity, **we RECOMMEND that indicators need to be measured no less frequently than 5 yearly if they are to monitor progress effectively and the fastest changing indicators need to be measured more often.**

60. *Demography Domain:* The choice of indicators in the highest two categories was relatively simple for the expert group because many are common to the needs of the UN Conferences. They are well established nationally and internationally, are relatively widely available and are relatively few. They depend upon a good infrastructure for population statistics and vital registration. The indicators provide important contextual information for the indicators in other domains. The precise detail of one or two may need to be considered further, for example whether mean age of motherhood should be median age.

61. *Health and Nutrition Domain.* This Domain has an exceptionally large number of indicators listed (the majority of which arose from one UN Conference). In some cases there are multiple indicators of a given health dimension and each indicator addresses a very specific aspect of that dimension. Some countries will want very extensive statistical information on particular aspects of health but in general our concern is that the list is too extensive and needs to be reduced substantially. In our view it would be better to provide a clear emphasis on a smaller number of indicators that countries could measure, even if this is not comprehensive, than to leave too large a set from which countries have no guidance in choosing. We have made an initial attempt to provide some structure but a large number of indicators have been allocated to the 'Desirable' category and the indicators in this category as well as some of the other indicators would benefit from further methodological development, consolidation or refinement. As this set of indicators needs more work we **RECOMMEND that the UNSC establishes a mechanism (perhaps a City group) involving official statisticians and others, including officials from the WHO, to review the hierarchical framework and priorities in the Health Domain with the intention of reducing the number (including Health indicators classified under Demography/Health) to about 5 in the Highest Priority, 15 High Priority and no more than 25 Desirable indicators.** Many of the proposed indicators, however worthy, are unmeasurable in an indicator framework and would require extensive survey and administrative data sources to be developed.

62. *Economics and Poverty Domain.* Except for GDP, which is provided as a contextual indicator, it is recommended that monetary indicators be expressed, not as a level, but as a percentage of current price GDP. GDP is generally recommended rather than GNP for this purpose. When the indicator is measured in a financial unit (e.g. GDP or GDP/Capita) the group favour the use of PPP conversion for international comparison purposes but recognise that for some countries this may not be available and exchange rate conversion may be the only option. When the indicator is a ratio of two financial units (e.g. Expenditure on Health as a proportion of GDP) then the issue does not arise.

63. A number of indicators depend on a poverty measure that may be an international standard (e.g. $1 per day or $2 per day) or may be a nationally determined poverty threshold. Additionally measures may be based upon income or expenditure. The group favour an expenditure measure and for international comparison purposes an international standard. In all cases the indicator should employ PPP conversion. Countries may also wish to utilise nationally determined poverty thresholds if appropriate. A well-designed household budget and consumption survey can be used for both universal and national measures. Where these are produced we **RECOMMEND that the meta-data must make the basis of Poverty indicators clear and, in the case of national poverty lines, the meta-data should contain an explanation of the methodology employed.**

64. *Other Social Domain.* This Domain is necessarily diverse since it comprises the social policy issues not allocated to other Domains. Also many of the topics do not have as strong a framework of international statistical standards and guidelines as other areas. As a result a number of the proposed indicators need further conceptual and statistical development if they are to be well based. We have drawn attention to these in the web site and have suggested some additional indicators that may be considered further through the process described in section 4.

Expert Group Recommendations

65. Table 1 contains the recommendations of the expert groups for a classification of the indicators into the priority categories and also indicators that were in the original list but which are NOT RECOMMENDED. The framework includes the structure of Domains and Sub-Domains so that users may see how any indicator fits into the wider framework. More information on these indicators is available in the Room Document *Technical Assessment of Statistical Indicators* and on the UNSD web site (address).

66. Table 2 provides a breakdown between the Domains and Sub-Domains by priority. For convenience some Demography Sub-Domains (Mortality and Fertility) include appropriate Health indicators. In total the highest, high and desirable priority categories contains x,y and z indicators respectively.

67. Table 3 provided an analysis of the relationship between the priority recommendations in Table 1 and the lists of indicators comprising the high level sets (MNDS: 15 indicators, OECD-DAC: 21 indicators, UNDAF-CCA: 57 indicators and BSSA: 12 indicators). The indicator set relating to the Millennium Declaration and Goals has not yet been announced. These counts include cases where the expert group recommended a technical change in an indicator already identified by UN summits or where a direct replacement was judged to be preferred. For example the substitution of GNP in favour of GDP for economics indicators as described in paragraph x.

Additional Indicators

68. The Health and Nutrition group identified a set of additional indicators that are presented in Table 4. These go beyond the indicators identified from the UN summits and major conferences and have a potential benefit. **We RECOMMEND that the additional Health indicators shown in Table 4 be considered under the recommendation contained in paragraph 58.**

4 Future Processes

69. The third task required of the Friends of the Chair group is to develop and recommend to the Economic and Social Council a mechanism of statistical review for future proposed indicators. We see the need to consider three related issues:

- Establishing new indicators in response to future major conferences and summits.
- Keeping under review the proposed hierarchical framework
- Reviewing and Refining Existing Indicators over time

70. The work to establish new indicators should begin as part of the preparation for any forthcoming major conference or summit and should involve both policy officials and statisticians from both international organisations and from member states. In our view there is not necessarily a need for new mechanisms. Rather there is a need to make existing mechanisms work more effectively. But a number of principles need to be applied.

- Although policy officials for a particular conference will see themselves as being in the lead on indicators related to a particular topic, many other officials from other parts of the UN and other international agencies have a legitimate interest in the development of indicators in any field.
- The indicator requirement should be seen within the wider context of the totality of indicator needs. As such, emerging needs need to be set alongside the existing needs.
- The development of new indicators should, as far as possible, be reconciled with national policy needs for statistics and also take account of the statistical capacity of countries to produce them.
- Statisticians from international organisations have a role to play in assessing quality and reconciling the definitions of proposed indicators with the range of policy uses that may exist. National statisticians should be involved to contribute to all of this too. But in addition, since they are closer to the raw data, they have a special perspective on the technical properties of indicators, the availability of any proposed indicator and the data collection and resource implications.
- International consultation takes time as does the development of high quality statistical outputs. This needs to be recognised by the UN and other international agencies. However, if the wish of the Economic and Social Council to build agreement and ownership across the international community and member states is to be realised then this time is time well spent.

71. We **RECOMMEND that the identification of statistical indicators for monitoring purposes should involve both policy officials and statisticians and each of these groups should draw upon international agencies and member states:**
    - **That the identification and development of new indicators should be co-ordinated by the appropriate lead policy area.**
    - **That it should take account of the capacity of countries to produce them.**
    - **That the officials concerned should have a clear responsibility to involve other agencies and parts of the UN organisation who have a legitimate interest at the earliest stage.**
    - **That the liaison should involve both policy officials and statisticians within the international agencies.**

- **That in particular the UNSD should be involved from the outset as the essential link with statisticians in member states and agencies and should use the regional UN statistical commissions and direct electronic communication with national statistics offices to involve national statisticians in the development process.**
- **That national statisticians, in turn, should use their regular contacts with their user communities (and particularly national policy officials) to provide feedback on the reconciliation of national and international requirements and that UNSD should provide feedback to the development process through these mechanisms.**
- **That UNSD should also use the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities meetings to ensure full communication between statisticians in agencies.**
- **That in due course the lead policy area should, in consultation with UNSD, make proposals to UNSC who would report to ECOSOC.**

72. We **RECOMMEND that the responsibility for maintaining the indicator framework and for extending this to take account of new requirements should rest with UNSC who would recommend to ECOSOC the adoption of new indicators and their position within the hierarchical framework. In this connection, UNSD shall, in close consultation with the lead policy officials and as a result of the consultation described in the previous paragraph, prepare recommendations for UNSC.**

73. We **RECOMMEND that periodic reviews of individual statistical indicators within the framework should be included within the appropriate work programmes of statistical review and revision that are regularly reported to the UNSC. The existing review and development mechanisms should ensure that statistical indicators within the framework are covered as appropriate when particular areas are reviewed. The UNSC should ensure that this is done and that appropriate policy officials have been involved in the process.**

5 Acknowledgement

74. This report depends heavily on the contributions generously made by a large number of individuals from across the world. People from X countries contributed. In particular the chairpersons of the expert groups made an invaluable contribution. Also members of various international agencies made valuable inputs to the process. Finally, a significant burden fell onto the staff of the UN Statistics Division. We wish to thank all who contributed to this report.

75. In our view the future development of the indicator framework should be based on this report and accordingly we **RECOMMEND that the Friends of the Chair group be discharged.**

6 Summary of Recommendations

Development of Indicators

1. That the identification of statistical indicators for monitoring purposes should involve both policy officials and statisticians and each of these groups should draw upon international agencies and member states:
- that the identification and development of new indicators should be co-ordinated by the appropriate lead policy area.
- that it should take account of the capacity of countries to produce them.

- that the officials concerned should have a clear responsibility to involve other agencies and parts of the UN organisation who have a legitimate interest at the earliest stage.
- that the liaison should involve both policy officials and statisticians within the international agencies.
- that in particular the UNSD should be involved from the outset as the essential link with statisticians in member states and agencies and should use the regional UN statistical commissions and direct electronic communication with national statistics offices to involve national statisticians in the development process as well as City groups where appropriate.
- that national statisticians, in turn, should use their regular contacts with their user communities (and particularly national policy officials) to provide feedback on the reconciliation of national and international requirements and that UNSD should provide feedback to the development process through these mechanisms.
- that UNSD should also use the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities meetings to ensure full communication between statisticians in agencies.
- that in due course the lead policy area should, in consultation with UNSD, make proposals to UNSC who would report to ECOSOC.

2. That the responsibility for maintaining the indicator framework and for extending this to take account of new requirements should rest with UNSC who would recommend to ECOSOC the adoption of new indicators and their position within the hierarchical framework. That in this connection, UNSD shall, in close consultation with the lead policy officials and as a result of the consultation described under recommendation 1, prepare recommendations for UNSC.

3. That the UNSC establishes a mechanism (perhaps a City group) involving official statisticians and others, including officials from the WHO, to review the hierarchical framework and priorities in the Health Domain with the intention of reducing the number (including Health indicators classified under Demography/Health) to about 5 in the Highest Priority, 15 High Priority and no more than 25 Desirable indicators.

4. That the additional Health indicators shown in Table 4 be considered under the recommendation contained in recommendation 3. (paragraph 58.)

5. That the UNSC establish a mechanism (perhaps a City Group involving statisticians and others) to develop statistical indicators of Human Rights and Good Governance.

Production of Indicators

6. That when the hierarchical framework is established countries are asked to report to the UNSD on the availability of indicators in the highest two categories at least and their relevance to national needs.

7. That indicators need to be measured no less frequently than 5 yearly if they are to monitor progress effectively and the fastest changing indicators need to be measured more often.

8. That where the data source supports an analysis by gender then this should be provided for all indicators as a general practice.

9. That the need for coherent statistics used in the numerator and denominator of indicators is recognised and that international agencies work to identify such inconsistencies and act as a catalyst in helping countries to resolve them.

10. That member states supply adequate meta-data to support users needs and in particular where national norms differ from international measures or underpinning assumptions may affect the indicator value materially.

11. That the meta-data must make the basis of Poverty indicators clear and, in the case of national poverty lines, the meta-data should contain an explanation of the methodology employed.

12. That the international agencies strive to improve co-ordination for data collection from countries.

Technical and Quality Issues

13. That the UNSD web site be the definitive source of technical information about the indicators.

14. That UNSD promotes the development of standards and guidance on best practice for indicators where needed.

15. That all statistical indicators should be subject to periodic review and improvement and that when such a review results in change, an approach be provided to support countries in moving to the improved indicator while maintaining continuity with the recent past.

16. That periodic reviews of individual statistical indicators within the framework should be included within the appropriate work programmes of statistical review and revision that are regularly reported to the UNSC and that appropriate policy officials have been involved in the process.

Statistical Capacity

17. That ECOSOC and international donors recognise the need to support and develop the core statistical capacity within member states and that all donor activity for statistics should recognise the need to address both national and international statistical requirements.

18. That, as part of this recognition, ECOSOC and international organisations and donors promote the use of statistics to support effective national policy development and good public administration.

19. That when considering statistical capacity, international donors and countries themselves take particular account of the importance of a core set of demographic statistics and GDP estimates as an integral component of many statistical indicators.

20. That UNSC develops and monitors a statistical indicator of national statistical capacity.

21. That all efforts be made to fulfil the UNSC resolutions of 2001 in respect of Purchasing Power Parity measurement.

Miscellaneous

22. That the Friends of the Chair be discharged.

Table 1: Hierarchy of Statistical Indicators by Domain and Sub-Domain

- **Highest**
  - **High**
    - **Desirable**
      - **Not Recommended**

Demography: Population Growth

- Annual population change
  - Crude birth rate
  - Crude death rate
  - Natural change rate
  - Net international migration rate
  - Population by age (0-15,16-64,65+) and gender in 2025
  - Total population in 2010 by gender
    - % living in urban areas
    - Population density

Demography: Current Population Structure

- **Population by age (0-15,16-64,65+) and gender**
  - Average Household size
  - Population by 5 year age groups and gender
    - Number lone person households by gender
    - Number lone person households aged 65+ by gender

Demography/ Health: Fertility/ Reproductive Health

- **Total Fertility Rate**
  - Mean age of motherhood
  - Mean age at first birth
  - Fertility rate, age 15-19 girls
  - **Contraceptive prevalence rate**
    - % Women of reproductive age screened for haemoglobin levels
    - Positive syphilis serology rate in pregnant women
    - Adolescent sexual behaviour
    - Average family sizes for recent generations (up to 1965) and family size distributions
    - % Obstetric and gynaecological admissions due to abortion
    - % Women of reproductive age at risk of pregnancy who report trying for a pregnancy for 2 years or more
    - Attitude towards condom use

Demography/ Health: Mortality

- **Infant mortality rate by gender**
- **Under 5 mortality rate by gender**
- **Life expectancy at birth by gender**
  - Malaria mortality rate
  - **Maternal mortality ratio**
  - Life expectancy at age 65 by gender
  - Mortality by major causes by gender
  - Under 5 mortality rate from measles
  - Under 5 mortality rate from diarrhoea
    - Under 5 mortality rate from acute respiratory infections
    - Perinatal mortality
    - Neonatal mortality
    - Mortality rates (20-39, 40-59, 60-64) by gender
    - Under 5 mortality rates by major causes

Health and Nutrition: Health Status and Health Behaviours

- **HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, age 15-49 by gender**
  - Total child disability rate

- Under 5 diarrhoea rate
- **Low birth weight (under 2500 gms) rate**
    - Malaria morbidity rate
    - Bednets
    - ORT use rate
    - Rate of food-borne diseases
    - Proportion adult population knowing HIV-related prevention practices
    - Proportion with knowledge of mother-child HIV transmission
    - Proportion women who have been tested for HIV
    - Proportion women who know where to be tested for HIV
    - Proportion with knowledge of misconceptions about AIDS
    - Attitude towards people with AIDS
    - Malaria treatment
    - Social and economic losses due to malaria
    - Home management of diarrhoea
    - Dracunculiasis rate
    - Reported incidence of urethritis in men
    - Reported prevalence of female genital mutilation
    - Prevalence of Hepatitis B and C antibodies among drug users
    - Prevalence HIV infection among injecting drug users

Health and Nutrition: Access to Health Care

- **Access to basic health care**
- % pregnant women attended at least once by skilled health personnel for pregnancy reasons
    - **% Births attended by skilled trained health personnel**
        - Obstetric care
        - Number of facilities with functioning basic obstetric care per 500,000 population
        - Number of baby friendly facilities
        - Antenatal care rate
        - Neonatal tetanus protection rate
        - Care-seeking knowledge
        - Care-seeking for acute respiratory infections

Health and Nutrition: Nutritional Status/ Healthy weight

- **% children under 5 suffering from malnutrition (underweight) (severe and moderate malnutrition)**
    - **% pop'n undernourished (below min level of dietary consumption)**
    - Continued under 5 breastfeeding rate
        - Exclusive under 5 breastfeeding rate
        - Average dietary energy supply per person
        - Cereals, roots and tubers as % of DES
        - % children receiving vitamin A supplements
        - per capita iodized salt consumption
        - prevalence of iron-deficiency anaemia
        - prevalence of low vitamin A
        - Under 5 timely complementary feeding rate
        - Prevalence of stunting
        - Prevalence underweight by gender
        - % mothers receiving vitamin A supplements
        - Prevalence of wasting
        - Famine related deaths per 1000 population
        - % Under 5 affected by disasters excluding severe malnutrition
        - Prevalence low urinary iodine
        - % adults with BMI below 18.5
        - Volume and value of rejected foods in international trade

Health and Nutrition: Immunisation /Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- **% Under 5 Immunised against childhood diseases**
    - Proportion population immunised against TB

- Under 5 immunisation rate against DPT
- Under 5 immunisation rate against polio
    - Neonatal tetanus rate
    - Under 5 measles rate
    - Polio incidence rate

Environment and Energy: Atmosphere

- **Carbon dioxide emissions**
- Ambient concentration of pollutants in urban areas
    - Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG)
    - Consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS)

Environment and Energy: Land

- **Forest area as % of land area (and trend over time)**
    - Use of fertilizers
    - Use of pesticides
    - Wood harvesting intensity
    - Land affected by desertification
        - **Arable and permanent crop land area**
        - Agricultural population per hectare of arable and permanent crop land
        - Area of urban formal and informal settlements

Environment and Energy: Oceans, Seas and Coasts

- Algae concentration in coastal waters
    - Annual catch by major species
        - % population living in coastal areas

Environment and Energy: Fresh Water

- **% population with access to safe drinking water**
- **% population with adequate sewage disposal facilities**
    - Annual withdrawals of ground and surface water as % of total available water
    - Water consumption
    - Waste water treated
    - Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in water bodies
    - Concentration of faecal coliforms in fresh water

Environment and Energy: Biodiversity

- **Protected area as % of total area**
    - Abundance of certain key species
    - Area of selected key ecosystems

Environment and Energy: Consumption and Production Patterns

- **Energy use per unit of GDP**
- Generation of hazardous wastes
- Generation of radioactive wastes
    - Annual energy consumption per capita
    - Share of consumption of renewable energy sources
    - Intensity of energy use in manufacturing
    - Intensity of energy use in commercial/ services sector
    - Energy intensity in transportation
    - Intensity of energy use in the residential sector
    - Solid waste disposal
    - Rate of waste recycling and reuse
    - Generation of industrial and municipal solid waste
        - Distance travelled per capita by means of transport
        - **% population relying on traditional fuels for energy use**
        - Intensity of materials use

Environment and Energy: Institutional and Other

- **National sustainable development strategy**
    - Implementation of ratified global agreements
    - Human and economic loss due to natural disasters

Economics and Poverty: Economic Resources

- **Real GDP per capita (in PPP terms)**

- Growth in real GDP per capita
- **Growth in real GDP**
- Real GDP (in PPP terms)
- Average household income
- **Real GNP per capita**
- Real GNP

Economics and Poverty: Distribution/Inequality

- Gini coefficient of (disposable) income distribution
- P80/P20 ratio of household income OR P90/P10 ratio of household income

Economics and Poverty: Poverty

- **Poverty headcount ratio**
- **Poverty intensity (depth of poverty) ratio**
- Lowest (income) quintile's share of disposable income
- **Lowest (income or consumption) quintile's share of total consumption**
- Proportion of households without earned income.

Economics and Poverty: Saving and Investment

- **Investment as a proportion of GDP**
- Gross domestic saving as a proportion of GDP
- Gross domestic saving per household (or per capita)
- Expenditure on R&D as a proportion of GDP

Economics and Poverty: International Trade and Foreign Investment

- **Balance on current account as proportion of GDP OR Balance of trade in goods and services as proportion of GDP**
- **Trade as a proportion of GDP**
- **Gross foreign investment inflow as proportion of GDP**
- **Net external debt as proportion of GDP**
- Balance of trade in goods and services

Economics and Poverty: International Development Assistance

- **ODA (given or received) as proportion of GDP**
- ODA (given or received) as proportion of GNP

Economics and Poverty: Particular Components of Expenditure, Income and Production

- Government expenditure as proportion of GDP
- **Government expenditure on education as proportion of GDP**
- **Government expenditure on health as proportion of GDP**
- City product
- Central government expenditure on health and education
- Public current expenditure on primary education as proportion of GDP
- Expenditure on social services as a proportion of GDP
- Local government revenues and expenditures

Economics and Poverty: Miscellaneous

- Housing price to income ratio
- Land price to income ratio

Economics and Poverty: Wealth

- Real national net worth per capita

Economics and Poverty: Productivity

- Labour Productivity

Economics and Poverty: Inflation

- Annual average rate of inflation

Employment and Labour: Labour Supply

- Labour force participation rate

- **Employment to population ratio**
    - Inactivity rate age 25-54
    - Proportion population aged 25-29 with tertiary education
    - Proportion of population aged 25 and over with tertiary education
    - Proportion labour force aged 25-29 with tertiary education
    - Proportion of labour force aged 15 years and over with tertiary education

Employment and Labour: Labour Utilisation

- **ILO comparable unemployment rate by gender**
    - Long term unemployment rate
    - Unemployment rate by educational attainment
        - Ratio of youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate
        - Proportion youth unemployed to total unemployed
        - Proportion youth unemployed to total youth population
        - Youth unemployment rate
        - Time-related unemployment as % of labour force
        - Time-related underemployment as % of total employment

Employment and Labour: Distribution of Labour

- Employment proportions by sector (Agriculture/ Industry/ Services)
    - % employed by status (Waged and salaried/ self-employed)
    - **Informal sector employment as % of total employment**
        - Urban informal sector employment as % of total urban employment

Employment and Labour: Labour Volume

- Mean annual hours worked per person
- Part-time employment as % of employment
    - Proportion of employees working 1-10 hours per week
    - Proportion of employees working over 40 hours per week

Employment and Labour: Cost of Labour

- Hourly compensation cost in PPP$
- Real manufacturing wage trends (ILO and UNIDO series)
    - Labour compensation per unit of output in PPP$ (1990$)
    - Non-wage labour costs as % of total labour costs
    - Wages or earnings per unit of output in national currency

Employment and Labour: Gender equity

- **Female share (%) of paid employment in non-agricultural activities**
    - Ratio of average female to male wages

Employment and Labour: Labour Output Measures

- Value added per person employed in PPP$
    - Value added per hour worked in PPP$

Employment and Labour: Child Labour

- **% children aged less than 15 who are working**

Education: Financial Resources

- Government expenditure on primary education as % of GDP
- Government expenditure on primary education per pupil as % of GDP per capita
- Government expenditure on primary education as % of total government expenditure on education
    - Ratio of public to private expenditure on education
    - Support through subsidies

Education: Teachers

- Pupil teacher ratio
    - % primary teachers having required academic qualifications
        - % primary teachers certified to teach according to national standards
        - Mean teachers' salaries (primary / secondary)
        - Teaching time and work time

Education: Participation

- Net enrolment ratio in primary (or basic) education by gender
- Net enrolment role in secondary education by gender
- **Gross enrolment ratio in primary (or basic) education by gender**

- **Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education by gender**
    - Net intake rate: new grade 1 entrants of official entry age as % of corresponding population
    - Apparent (gross) intake rate: new grade 1 entrants as % of corresponding population
    - Gross school enrolment ratios (primary and secondary) by gender
        - Proportion entering school
        - **Ratio of boys to girls in primary and secondary education combined**
        - Participation in adult programmes

Education: Output and efficiency

- Secondary or primary school completion ratio
- **% pupils starting grade 1 reaching grade 5 [completing grade 4] of primary education**
- **Net primary school attendance rate**
    - **Average number of years of schooling completed by urban/rural, gender and where possible by income classes**
    - % of pupils reaching grade 4 primary who master a set of nationally defined basic learning
    - Coefficient of efficiency: ideal number of years to complete primary as ratio of average time taken
    - Repetition rates by grade

Education: Output

- **Adult literacy rate by gender**
- **Literacy rate age 15-24 by gender**
    - **Ratio of literate females to males (age 15-24)**
    - Literacy gender parity index: ratio of female to male literacy rates

Education: Early Child Development

- Gross enrolment in early child development programmes (inc public, private and community)
- % new grade 1 entrants who have attended some form of organised early childhood development programme
    - Pre-school development

Other Social: Crime and Justice

- Homicide rate
    - Number of victims of violence per 1000 population
    - Crime rates
    - Number of persons in prison per 1000 population
    - Prevalence rates of illicit drug use (or) illicit drug-related death rate
        - Area under illegal cultivation of coca, poppy and cannabis
        - Seizures of illicit drugs

Other Social: Children's wellbeing

- % children aged 0-14 living in households below poverty threshold
    - % children living in households with no employed parent
    - % children living in households with one parent
        - Proportion of orphans living in households
        - Children's living arrangements

Other Social: Female Empowerment

- **% seats in national government, including parliament held by women**
    - % administrators and managers who are women
    - % professional and technical workers who are women
        - Ratio male/female decision makers at city level

Other Social: Housing

- % Households with piped water
- % Households with electricity
    - % Households who own their dwelling (with or without mortgage)
    - % Households in rented dwelling
    - **Number of people per room (excluding kitchen and bathroom)**

- Evictions as % of households
- Tenure type
- Mortgage-not mortgage
- Floor area per person
- Price of water

Other Social: Transport and Communication

- Internet subscribers per 100 population
- Main telephone lines per 1000 population
- PC users (in previous month) per 100 population
- Transport modes
- Travel time

Table 2: Number of Indicators by Domains, Sub-Domains and Priority Levels

Domain and Sub-Domain	***Priority Levels***			
	Highest	***High***	***Desirable***	***Not Recommended***
Demography	6	18	16	0
Health and Nutrition	5	9	45	0
Environment and Energy	11	25	7	0
Economics and Poverty	6	8	13	8
Employment and Labour	4	12	18	0
Education	13	10	11	0
Other Social	6	10	7	8
TOTAL	51	92	115	16

Table 3: Correspondence of Recommended Indicators to Existing Sets by Priority Level

Indicator Sets	***Priority Level***			
	Highest	***High***	***Desirable***	***Total***
MNDS	9	4	0	13/19
UNDAF-CCA*	25	7	7	39/44
OECD- DI	17	6	4	27/29
BSS for all	11	2	0	13/14

* Total count for UNDAF-CCA excludes 7 proposed non-statistical indicators on Human Rights and Good Governance

Table 4: Additional Health Indicators

Sub-Domain	***Indicator***
Mortality	Neonatal mortality rate
Fertility/ Reproductive Health	Prevalence rate of unplanned pregnancies
Nutritional Status	% of population overweight [obese]
Health Status/ Behaviours	Tobacco use prevalence
	Physical activity
	Alcohol use
	Breastfeeding prevalence among HIV+ mothers
	HIV prevalence of infants and children
	Cancer incidence
	Diabetes (type 2) prevalence
	Chronic respiratory disease prevalence
	Incidence of injuries
	Mental Health [Depression?]

Annex 1: Terms of Reference of Expert Groups

The Expert Group should:

Consider the Indicators assigned to the Domain together with any additional indicators from the entire set under consideration that need to be included to produce a coherent assessment.

Identifyas necessary Sub-Domains of indicators that are relatively self-contained and comprise a separate policy area.

For the Domain or each Sub-Domain identify a hierarchy of indicators as follows:

A very small number of Indicators that would be the HIGHEST PRIORITY in any general set of indicators and which all countries would be encouraged to compile.

A second tier of indicators that were important (for both national and internationally comparative purposes) within the Domain (or Sub-Domain) and which countries would consider with HIGH PRIORITY.

A third tier of the remaining Indicators that may be DESIRABLE to gain a comprehensive picture of the situation (depending on national circumstances) and would be particularly important if policy in a particular domain was a strong national priority.

Whenever possible the intention is to identify the hierarchy of priorities to be consistent with existing sets of indicators (subject to any technical evaluation). When selecting highest and high priority indicators the expert group should use indicators included in the main high level sets unless there is an overriding technical reason for recommending an alternative:

UN Minimum National Data Set
OECDInternational Development Targets
UNDAFCommon Country Assessment Indicators
WorldBank Development Indicators

The expert group should comment on any apparent inconsistencies between the indicators chosen for inclusion in the above sets and recommend any reconciliation of these.

For the high priority indicators (first two layers) the expert group should assess the suitability of the indicator to the policy objectives, the technical properties of each indicator including general levels of accuracy, its general availability in a wide range of countries and its use for national policies and priorities (where

known).

Technical assessment materials prepared by the UNSD will be made available to support this work wherever possible.

Many indicators for international comparisons focus on outcomes (e.g. life expectation, literacy, poverty) and it is natural that they should. In some areas the indicator is a measure of input or output rather than outcome (e.g. educational enrolment rate). This may be the best surrogate for an outcome indicator. However, for developing and monitoring National Policies input measures may be more relevant (e.g. number of teachers trained to a certain level, proportion of births at which trained medical worker present). Expert Groups should take account of the nature of each indicator.

The expert group should also consider the frequency with which high priority indicators (first two levels) should be produced for making international comparisons and for monitoring change in each member state.

In some circumstances, even though the indicator might be considered as high priority, many countries may find the ideal indicator difficult to achieve (because of technical difficulties or full data availability for example). In these cases the Expert Group may wish to suggest an approximation (or even a sequence of approximations) that might be more feasible for countries to produce as a first step whilst aspiring to achieve the ideal.

The Expert Group should feel free to consult other experts including staff working in international agencies. The Chair of the Expert Group has the authority to co-opt additional members to the Group where this is considered necessary.

The form of the report from each expert group to the Friends of the Chair Group set up by the UN Statistical Commission should contain for each indicator the information required above. It should also provide any views over any related issues including the processes for assessing the technical properties of Indicators and for identifying priorities for indicators. The comments may include any general observations on each indicator separately or on the set of indicators as a whole.

It would assist the friends of the chair group if the expert groups were to provide a brief narrative about the criteria and the process that they found most beneficial to assess and prioritise the indicators.