

ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
Thirty-fifth session
Vienna, 18-20 September 2001
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

SA/2001/14
20 August 2001

REPORTING ON THE REVIEW OF GLOBAL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE
MILLENNIUM DECLARATION GOALS

Note by the United Nations Statistics Division

Adoption of the Millennium Declaration

1. At its fifty-fifth session the General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* (A/RES/55/2, <<http://www.un.org/millennium/index.html>>), and a companion resolution, *Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit* A/RES/55/162.

2. In resolution A/RES/55/162, the General Assembly:

– *Reiterates* the call to assess, on a regular basis, progress towards implementing the Declaration;

– *Requests* the Secretary-General urgently to prepare a long-term “road map” towards the implementation of the Declaration within the United Nations system and to submit it to the general Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (autumn 2001);

– *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the Declaration, taking into account the following:

(a) The annual reports should reflect the broad array of specific goals and commitments enunciated in the Declaration, though each could explore in greater depth one or two areas covered in the Declaration;

(b) All reports should focus, in this respect, on the results and benchmarks achieved, identify gaps in implementation and strategies for reducing them and

highlight in particular cross-sectoral issues and cross-cutting themes on development and peace and security;

(c) Reports should draw on the work of the entire United Nations system, including Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

(d) The reporting should be appraised with a view to strengthening its coherence and integration.

Agreed responsibilities at the national, regional and international levels

3. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, in its capacity as Chair of United Nations Development Group, will cooperate in preparing the quantitative assessments on developmental goals that will be required for the annual reports of the Secretary-General to the general Assembly on progress achieved towards implementing the Declaration, starting with the first such report due in September 2002.

4. The Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will provide the statistical basis for a review of global progress towards the Millennium Declaration Goals. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will also provide substantive analysis of the statistical data. In so doing, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will use global statistical sources and analysis from the United Nations systems.

5. The United Nations Development Programme will support United Nations Country Teams to assist countries in preparing national reports on progress towards the Millennium Declaration Goals. This information will be collated, tabulated and analysed by the United Nations Development Programme and forwarded to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for incorporation in the Secretary-General's report.

6. Indicators for monitoring implementation of the Millennium Declaration will have to be implemented on the basis of established data sources of the national statistical services, which are the ultimate providers of any information basis. The ECOSOC-mandated review of conference indicators provides a process for reviewing the

validity and reliability of indicators at the international level. The results of this review will be used in assessing indicators and data for the Millennium reports beginning with the 2002 session of the General Assembly.

7. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General organized in July and August 2001 one meeting and one teleconference to discuss harmonizing the International Development Targets and Millennium Declaration Goals, consider relevant indicators, and confirm respective responsibilities at both global and country levels for monitoring and reporting. These meetings included representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Statistics Division, United Nations Development Group, the Bretton Woods institutions and OECD.

Time-line for reporting to the General Assembly

8. The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/55/162, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report every five years (2002, 2007 + 5, etc.), supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the Declaration.

9. Most of the indicators called for by the Declaration are currently compiled on a regular basis by the responsible international organizations. The requirements specified in the Declaration are given below. The United Nations Statistics Division is reviewing these data for periodicity, consistency and reliability. The benchmark year adopted for trend analysis is 1990. These data are being included in the Unstats Common Database <unstats.un.org> as available, where they are fully accessible to national and international statistical services, governments and the public.

10. In compiling these data, complete documentation is also being collected by the Statistics Division. All the source offices will be asked to comment and make available to the Division informations on periodicity of series relative to the monitoring and reporting timetable, methodological documentation, available data evaluation studies and the like. In as much as the data series will be widely circulated to regional and national statistical services, agencies should take particular care to make sure they are based on a reliable and documented national source.

11. Millennium Declaration, targets and data sources

"To halve, by the year 2015, [a] the proportion of the world's population whose income is less than one dollar a day and [b] the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, [c] to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water".

Data sources: [a] World Bank, [b] Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, [c] Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council.

"To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education".

Data source: United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization.

"By the same date [a] to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, [b] and under-five child mortality by two-thirds, of their current rates".

Data sources: [a] World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, [b] United Nations Population Division.

"To have [By the same date] halted, and begun to reverse [a] the spread of HIV/AIDS, [b] the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity".

Data sources: [a] UNAIDS, [b] World Health Organization.

"By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" Initiative".

Data source: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and United Nations Statistics Division.

"[To] address the special needs of the least developed countries".

Data sources to be determined

"To implement the enhanced program of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty eradication".

Data source: World Bank.

"Deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long run".

Data source: World Bank.

"To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction".

Data source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee.

"Resolve to address the special needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), by implementing the Barbados programme of action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the general assembly rapidly and in full. Urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of SIDS are taken into account".

Data source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

"Recognize the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography and by improving their transit transportation system".

Data source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee.

"To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries".

Data source: World Health Organization.

"To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies (ICT) in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all".

Data source: International Telecommunications Union.

"To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable".

Data source: United Nations Statistics Division based on the *Women's Indicators and Statistics Database* (WISTAT).

Para 23 (environment)

-- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

-- To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

-- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

-- To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.

-- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of man-made disasters.

-- To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

Sources: To be determined.

12. In conclusion, the Subcommittee may wish to:

-- Take note of the agencies identified to provide series for reporting on progress in implementation of Millennium reporting and indicate any other sources which it agrees should be consulted;

--Request agencies to inform the Statistics Division of the calendar for releasing new data for the indicators called for, between now and May 2002 and to comment on reliable trend series available starting with 1990;

--Request agencies to provide the Statistics Division with copies and citations of methodology monographs, evaluations, analytical articles, and academic and research articles pertaining to the Millennium indicators;

--Invite further consultation by agencies with the Statistics Division on the choice, methodology and analysis of series for monitoring implementation of the Millennium Declaration.