

COORDINATION OF DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS,
INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING

Status of the Web-site on Development Indicators and future actions

Report by UNSD

1. At its thirty-second session, the Subcommittee “reviewed the report of CCPOQ and ACC in which it was requested to give consideration to the request of the Task Force on the Enabling Environment that the United Nations Statistics Division develop an inventory of indicators produced by the United Nations system” (ACC/1998/14, para 2(a)). In this context the Subcommittee also “took note of the request of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs to the Statistics Division to facilitate the completion of a development indicators Web-site” and supported the establishment of such a Web-site (ACC/1998/14, para 2(a)). Further, the Subcommittee “welcomed the offer of the Statistics Division to provide substantive support to and work with the agencies in the preparation of their information for the Web-site. The Subcommittee urged that in making judgments about the amount of material to be included in the Web-site, the principle of parsimony be employed. It was agreed that initially the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) would work with the Statistics Division” (ACC/1998/14, para 2(a)).
2. The United Nations Statistical Commission at its session in March 1999 supported this work recognizing the inventory of development indicators as a tool for a more in-depth analysis of duplications, overlaps, and inconsistencies (E/1999/24 para 92 (a)).
3. The Statistics Division designed the database framework and developed the Web-site (<http://domino.un.org/indicator.nsf>). The UNSD inputted the information related to the production and dissemination of its indicators and worked with the initial three agencies (FAO, ILO, and UNESCO) to include similar information on their indicators. The codebook of the database with illustrative examples of information included in the Web-site are shown in Annex 1.
4. The Statistics Division has reviewed the information inputted for the four organizations (FAO, ILO, UNESCO, and UNSD) and proposes the format described in Annex 2 for an

extension of the Web-site to other UN organizations and specialized agencies. In the spirit of the principle of parsimony strongly suggested by the Subcommittee in its thirty-second session, this extension would involve the inclusion of metadata information only for those indicators produced and disseminated for the follow-up of UN Conferences and Summits.

5. For the extension of this work to other organizations UNSD would play the same role as it did with the initial three organizations, subject to priorities and availability of resources. Namely, UNSD would work with the organizations to select the indicators to be included in the Web-site and provide the information as described in Annex 2; would input the information collected from them and produce the final version of the Web-site.
6. With the inclusion of other UN organizations and agencies the Web-site would provide a tool for (a) identifying common international sources of indicators used to monitor international conferences and summits; (b) providing a comprehensive reference system for the indicators used and produced in the follow-up of international conferences and summits; (c) identifying areas where the data collection capabilities of countries need to be strengthened; (d) identifying overlaps in data collection and close associations, gaps, and inconsistencies among the various sets of indicators.
7. In the light of the support for the development of the Web-site expressed by the Subcommittee at its last session, the experience in the last 15 months with the initial organizations, the limited set of information proposed to be included, and the proposed method of sharing the work load, the Subcommittee is asked whether it (a) agrees that the amount of information proposed to be included is appropriate (see Annex 2) and (b) agrees to proceed with the inclusion of the remaining organizations of the UN system under the conditions proposed (see para 5 above).

Annex 1:
A. Codebook of the Development Indicators Database

1	<u>Name</u>	Name of the indicator. Editing of the original name published/disseminated by the agency may be required to make the name of the indicator more clear.
2	<u>Key Words</u>	List of key words that can identify the theme, issue, or topic of the indicator.
3	<u>Generic name</u>	
4	<u>Original Headings</u>	List of original topic(s), issue(s) under which the agency disseminates the indicator (poverty, gender, energy consumption, ...), first and subsequent levels separated by coma. Blank =the indicator is disseminated under no specific headings.
5	<u>Typology</u>	Type of indicator is characterized by the agency. Examples: reference indicator, status indicator, process indicator, outcome indicator, input indicator, driving force indicator. Blank =the type of indicator is not specified.
6	<u>Agency</u>	Acronyms of the agency or department which disseminates the indicator.
<i>Sources:</i>		The scope of the fields number 6,7,8,9, 10 and 11 is to clearly define the source of the data. Basically 4 possibilities are identified: (i) the data for the indicator are collected by the agency through national reports or/and a questionnaire that is sent to all the member countries (field number 6); (ii) the data for the indicator are taken from another international organization (fields number 7, 8 and 9); (iii) the indicator is a result of an original calculation made by the agency using other sources (Example: calculation of population density using data on population from the UN Population Division and data on the country area from FAO) (field number 10); (iv) the data are results of an estimation process (Example: Population projections) (field number 11). It is considered the possibility that an agency adjusts some of the figures obtained by other national or international sources, therefore field number 11 should always be filled.

7	<u>Source: National</u>	Q =the agency has collected the data presented for the indicator directly through a questionnaire sent to the countries. NR =the agency has collected the data presented for the indicator directly through national reports. INA = information not available. Blank =no national sources were used.
8	<u>Questionnaire code</u>	Code linked to the Data collection Database
9	<u>Source: International</u>	Name(s) of the agency which have provided the data for the indicator. INA = information not available. Blank =no international sources were used.
10	<u>Source: Reference</u>	Reference of the data source. Author, Year, Title, Publisher, City, ISBN number. INA = information not available. Blank =no international sources have been used.
11	<u>Source: Compilation</u>	Y =the indicator has been compiled originally by the agency based on data from national and international sources. No =the indicator has not been compiled. INA = information not available.
12	<u>Source: Estimates</u>	Y = the agency has made adjustments, interpolation or projections to data provided by countries or another agency for certain countries/ years or the indicator itself is an estimate. N = the agency has not made any adjustment. INA = information not available.
13	<u>Provided to</u>	Name of the agency to which the data are provided in response to a request or by some arrangement. Blank =No information on the agencies which use the data.
14	<u>Description</u>	Brief description of the indicator, ie. what the figures/statistics represent. For example: Gross National Product= sum of gross value added by all resident producers plus any taxes (less subsidies) that are not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income from non-resident sources. Blank = No description given.
15	<u>Definition of concepts</u>	Definitions of specific concepts wording used in the indicator. Example: Fishers are people who catch, harvest, breed, and cultivate fish and other forms of aquatic life, or hunt and trap aquatic organisms, for sale or delivery, on a regular basis, of the animals or animal products to wholesale buyers, marketing organizations. Blank : no need for definition of concepts or definitions not available.
16	<u>Methodology</u>	Brief description of the methodology and formula (where applicable) used to compile, estimate, or calculate the indicator. Blank : No description of methodology available.

17	<u>Medium of dissemination</u>	Reference of the publication: Author, Year, Title, Publisher, City, ISBN number (when the indicator is disseminated on a regular basis reference year is not necessary), Web Page (address), and/or database (Name) where the indicator is presented.
18	<u>Conferences</u>	Name(s) of the international conference for which the indicator may be used or is relevant. Blank =the indicator not used for recent international conferences.
19	<u>Goal/Target</u>	State specific international targets/goals cited in international conference or programmes for which the indicator may be relevant. Blank =no specific target identified for the indicator.
20	<u>Purpose: Key words</u>	Key words that identify the purpose of the indicator. GI =indicator disseminated for general information, without a specific purpose (typically in yearbooks). Other key words: see Attachment 4 (Stefan's list). Blank = information not available.
21	<u>Purpose: Description</u>	Brief description of the purpose for using the indicator as stated by the agency. For example one pupose for <i>Labour force participation rates</i> is stated as “The participation rate is a key indicator of the level of labour market activity in a country” (ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market). Blank = information not available.
22	<u>Unit</u>	Unit of measurement. %=percentage, #=absolute number, n.c. =national currency, \$=U.S. dollar, x year = 100 =index with base year equal 100, n.c. x year price = national currency at certain x year price, physical measures such as metric tonnes , s.m. (square meter), per cent per year ,...
23	<u>Periodicity</u>	Information on how often the indicator is regularly available. Annual, monthly, quarterly , 10 years (every 10 years),.... Ad hoc = the indicator is disseminated for a specific study, not on a regular basis. Blank = information not available.

24	<u>Time coverage</u>	Time-period for which the data for the indicator are available. Mainly three cases can be distinguished: (i) the data for the indicator are available for many years on a regular basis. Example: 1974-1998 which means that the indicator is available for every year from 1974 to 1998; (ii) the indicator is available only for a specific year or few selected years. Example: 1974, 1998 which means that the indicator is disseminated only for the years 1974 and 1998; (iii) The year for which the indicator is presented varies from country to country. Example: 1974/1998 which means that the indicator is available for a certain year between 1974 and 1998 depending on the country. Blank = information not available.
25	<u>Country coverage</u>	Rough estimate of number of countries for which the indicator is available. 4 classes are considered: <50; 50-100; 101-150; >150 . Blank = information not available.
<i>Breakdowns</i>		The fields number 25, 26, 27, and 28 are meant to collect information on the possible variables used to disaggregate the indicator. For social and demographic indicators two variables are considered: Sex (field number 25) and Age (field number 26). Field number 27 is filled if standard international classifications are used to breakdown the indicator (ISCED, ISIC, ISCO, ICIDH,...). Field number 28 is used if the indicator is broken down by other variables.
26	<u>Breakdowns: Sex</u>	T =the indicator is not broken down by sex; MF =the indicator is presented for male and female; TMF =the indicator is presented for male, female and total; F =the indicator is presented only for female. Blank =the indicator can not be broken down by sex.
27	<u>Breakdowns: Age</u>	T =the indicator is not broken down by age, and covers all ages; Age limits = the indicator is not broken down by age but limited to a specified age range (e.g. 15-64 years); Description of the age classes by which the indicator is broken down. Blank =the indicator can not be broken down by age.
28	<u>Breakdowns: Special classification</u>	State the classification used to breakdown the indicator and, in parenthesis, specify the level of classification used or aggregate classes used. Example: ISIC (Agriculture, Not agriculture), ISIC (level 1). Blank =the indicator is not broken down using any standard classification.
29	<u>Breakdowns: Other</u>	Specification of other breakdowns (not stated in 25, 26 Or 27) used in the indicator. Examples: Urban/Rural, Public/Private, ... Blank : the indicator is not broken down by other variables than eventually sex, age or categories described in special standard classifications.

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Note

Additional note.

B. Illustrative Examples

Estimated adult literacy rate

Key words:	Education, Literacy
Generic name:	
Original headings:	Literacy, culture and communication
Typology:	
Agency:	UNESCO
Source - National:	National Reports
Questionnaire Code:	
Source - International:	UNSD/UNESCO
Source - Reference:	
Source - Compilation:	Y
Source - Estimates:	Y
Provided to:	
Description:	Adult literacy rate is defined as the percentage of population aged 15 years and over who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement on his/her everyday life.
Definition of concepts:	
Methodology:	Divide the number of literates by the corresponding age-group population and multiply the result by 100. Alternatively, apply the same method using the number of illiterates to derive the illiteracy rate ; or by subtracting literacy rate from 100%.
Medium of dissemination:	UNESCO, "Statistical Yearbook", UNESCO, " World Education Report", Internet: http://unescostat.unesco.org
Conferences:	Education for DEP, Women conference, Social summit
Goal/Target:	Para 8.4
Purpose - Keywords:	Universal primary education
Purpose - Description:	Adult literacy rate shows the accumulated achievement of primary education and literacy programmes in imparting basic literacy skills to the population, thereby enabling them to apply such skills in daily life and to continue learning and communicating using the written word. Literacy represents a potential for further intellectual growth and contribution to economic-socio-cultural development of society. Illiteracy rates indicate the extent of need for policies and efforts in organizing adult literacy programmes and quality primary education.
Unit:	%
Periodicity:	10 years
Time coverage:	
Country coverage:	
Breakdowns - Sex:	Male, Female, Total
Breakdowns - Age:	15+; 10-14; 15-19; 20-14; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65+
Breakdowns - Special:	
Breakdowns - Other:	
Note:	

Annual growth rates of formal wage employment in manufacturing

Key words:	Growth, Employment, Wages
Generic name:	
Original headings:	Socio-economic

Typology:
Agency: **ILO**
Source - National: **Questionnaire**
Questionnaire Code:
Source - International: **ILO, UNIDO**
Source - Reference:
Source - Compilation: **Y**
Source - Estimates:
Provided to:
Description:
Definition of concepts:
Methodology: **Based on social insurance records and establishment surveys.**
Medium of dissemination: **ILO, "1995 World Labour Report 1995", ILO, Geneva, ISBN 92-2-109447-2, Table3, pp. 110-111**

Conferences:
Goal/Target:
Purpose - Keywords:
Purpose - Description:
Unit: **%**
Periodicity:
Time coverage:
Country coverage: **<50**
Breakdowns - Sex: **Total**
Breakdowns - Age: **15+; 10-14; 15-19; 20-14; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65+**
Breakdowns - Special:
Breakdowns - Other:
Note:

Food supply: calories, fat, and proteins per capita per day

Key words: **Food, Nutrition**

Generic name:

Original headings:

Typology:

Agency: **FAO**

Source - National: **Questionnaire**

Questionnaire Code: **C.03.02**

Source - International: **FAO**

Source - Reference:

Source - Compilation:

Source - Estimates:

Provided to:

Description: **Total amount of the food commodity available for human consumption during the year**

Definition of concepts:

Methodology:

Medium of dissemination: **FAO, "Production Yearbook", Internet:
<http://apps.fao.org/cgi-bin/nph-db.pl>**

Conferences: **Food Summit**

Goal/Target:

Purpose - Keywords: **General Information**

Purpose - Description:

Unit: **Kcal, gr.**

Periodicity:

Time coverage: **1961-98**

Country coverage: **>150**

Breakdowns - Sex:

Breakdowns - Age:

Breakdowns - Special:

Breakdowns - Other: **Total vegetable products; Animal products; Crop Primary Equivalent (...); Livestock and Fish Primary Equivalent (...)**

Note:

Annex 2:
Short Codebook of the Development Indicators Database

1	<u>Name</u>	Name of the indicator.
2	<u>Definition</u>	Brief description of the indicator, ie. what the figures/statistics represent. For example: Gross National Product= sum of gross value added by all resident producers plus any taxes (less subsidies) that are not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income from non-resident sources.
3	<u>Source: National</u>	Q =the agency has collected the data presented for the indicator directly through a questionnaire sent to the countries. NR =the agency has collected the data presented for the indicator directly through national reports. Blank =no national sources were used.
4	<u>Source: International</u>	Name(s) of the agency which have provided the data for the indicator. Blank =no international sources were used.
5	<u>Source: Reference</u>	Reference of the data source. Blank =no international sources have been used.
6	<u>Source: Calculation</u>	Y =the indicator has been calculated by the agency based on data from national and/or international sources. N =the indicator has not been compiled.
7	<u>Source: Estimates</u>	Y = the agency has made adjustments, interpolation or projections to data provided by countries or another agency for certain countries/ years or the indicator itself is an estimate. N = the agency has not made any adjustment.
8	<u>Medium of dissemination</u>	Printed publication reference, Web-site address, CD-ROM, Database.
9	<u>Conferences</u>	Name(s) of the international conference for which the indicator is relevant.
10	<u>Unit</u>	Unit of measurement. %=percentage, #=absolute number, n.c. =national currency, \$=U.S. dollar, x year = 100 =index with base year equal 100, n.c. x year price = national currency at certain x year price, physical measures such as metric tonnes , s.m. (square meter), per cent per year ,...

11	<u>Periodicity</u>	Information on how often the indicator is regularly available. Annual, monthly, quarterly , 10 years (every 10 years),.... Ad hoc = the indicator is disseminated for a specific study, not on a regular basis.
12	<u>Time period</u>	First and last year for which the indicator may be available. Example: 1974-1998.
13	<u>Country coverage</u>	Estimate of number of countries for which the indicator is available. 1: <50; 2: 50-100; 3: 101-150; 4: >150.
14	<u>Disaggregation by Sex</u>	Y: the indicator is disaggregated by sex; N: the indicator is not disaggregated by sex. Blank =the indicator can not be disaggregated by sex.
15	<u>Disaggregation by Age</u>	Y: the indicator is disaggregated by age; N: the indicator is not disaggregated by age. Blank =the indicator can not be disaggregated by age.
16	<u>Other disaggregation</u>	Specification of other disaggregated used in the indicator. Examples: Urban/Rural, Public/Private, ... Blank: the indicator is not broken down by other variables than eventually sex, age or categories described in special standard classifications.
17	<u>Note</u>	Additional note.