

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

Note by UNSD on ECOSOC resolution on indicators

1. The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its thirty-second session in June 1998 “took note of and agreed with the proposals by the Statistics Division to also begin work on rationalization and harmonization through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process on indicators for the common country assessment, and to continue its work with the core indicators programme of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Subcommittee noted that harmonization was necessarily an incremental process” (ACC/1998/14 para 2(a)).
2. The ECOSOC, in its deliberations on the ‘Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits’ in July 1998, recognized the importance of the issue of statistics and indicators and decided to dedicate an informal meeting of the Council with panels of experts to this topic. A report was therefore commissioned, which was to “consider in a comprehensive manner the work being carried out by the United Nations system, and other relevant international and national institutions, on basic indicators to measure progress towards the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up of all aspects, including means of implementation of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields at all levels, with a view, as a first step, to taking stock and identifying overlapping duplication and gaps” (Economic and Social Council decision 1998/298 of 31 July 1998, para (e).)
3. The United Nations Statistics Division in close cooperation with UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes as well as with non-UN entities and member states prepared the above referred comprehensive and analytical report, drafts of which were discussed at the 1999 session of the Statistical Commission and at a meeting of international experts on indicators in New York (8-10 March 1999). The informal meeting of ECOSOC was held in New York on 10/11 May 1999 with high level panelists from UNESCO, UN-ECE, UN-ECA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, OECD, World Bank and UN-DESA as well as with country experts, who validated the findings of the analytical report. Both the report (E/1999/11) and a summary of the informal meeting prepared by the President of ECOSOC (E/1999/77) were forwarded to

the substantive session of ECOSOC in July 1999 for further consideration. They are made available to the Subcommittee as background information.

4. The ECOSOC at its substantive session in July 1999 then took action and adopted a resolution (E/1999/L.57) which in its part II. addresses 'basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major conferences and summits at all levels. (see Annex 1). In this resolution the 'efforts already undertaken by the various bodies of the United Nations, including the ACC, to harmonize and rationalize the basic indicators used in the context of follow-up to UN conferences' are welcomed and the relevant bodies are encouraged 'to continue their efforts in order to lessen the burden on Member States'.
5. The ECOSOC resolution, in operative paragraph 18, further invites the Statistical Commission 'in close cooperation with the ACC' and other relevant bodies 'to review the work undertaken in harmonizing and rationalizing basic indicators in the context of follow-up to UN conferences and summits (...) and to identify a limited number of common indicators from among those currently accepted and widely used by the member states'.
6. In this context the attention of the Subcommittee is also drawn to the work of the indicator working group of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which has elaborated a framework of currently 50 indicators for use by UN funds and programmes in their Common Country Assessment (CCA) under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (see also ACC/1998/14 para 2(a)). This indicator framework builds on the core indicators identified by the OECD-Development Assistance Committee.
7. The Sub-committee is asked to comment on these developments and to consider what further cooperative efforts may be undertaken in support of the ECOSOC resolution, and particularly operative paragraph 18 mentioned in para. 5 above and operative paragraph 20 on support for national statistical capacity building.
8. UNSD's work on an indicator webpage as one tool to harmonize and rationalize indicators (see also ACC/1998/14 para 2(a)) is being discussed in a separate document (see SA/1999/9/Add.1).



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INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP
TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council,
Mr. Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), on the basis of informal consultations

Ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation of
and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1, its resolutions 1996/36 of 26 July 1996, 1997/61 of 25 July 1997 and 1998/44 of 31 July 1998 and its decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, on a critical review of the development of indicators in the context of conference follow-up and on the possible modalities of a review by the Economic and Social Council in 2000 of progress made within the United Nations system in promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits,

**I Ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major
United Nations conferences and summits**

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II Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels

13. Requests the Secretariat in particular the Statistics Division, to serve as a focal point to promote networking among national and international institutions in the area of statistics and indicators relating to the follow-up of United Nations conferences and summits so as to facilitate the exchange of relevant information and metadata;

14. Recognizes the importance of relevant, accurate and timely statistics and indicators for evaluating the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits at all levels;

15. Recognizes the progress made in the development of basic indicators in developing countries which require international support for national efforts to build national statistical capacity in data collection, analysis and dissemination;

16. Stresses the need to further develop indicators on means of implementation to evaluate progress towards conference goals in creating an enabling environment for development;

17. Welcomes the efforts already undertaken by the various bodies of United Nations system, including the to harmonize and rationalize the basic indicators used in the context of follow-up to United Nations conferences and encourages them to continue their effort in order to lessen the burden on Member States;

18. Invites the Statistical Commission, with the assistance of the Statistics Division and in close cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system including the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and, as appropriate, other relevant international organizations, to review, with a view to facilitating future consideration by the Council, the work undertaken in harmonizing and rationalizing basic indicators in the context of follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, taking fully into account the decisions taken in other functional and regional commissions and, in that process, to identify a limited number of common indicators from among those currently accepted and widely in use by UN member States, in order to lessen the data provision burden on member states bearing in mind the work done so far in this area;

19. Reaffirms the important role that the functional commissions have to play in the integrated and coordinated follow-up and the evaluation of the implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits;

20. Urges countries, United Nations funds and programmes, the United Nations Secretariat, bilateral funding agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and regional funding agencies to work together closely in order to mobilize the required resources to support national statistical capacity building in developing countries and coordinate their statistical capacity building programmes;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of this section of the resolution for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2000.

III. Modalities of a review by the Council in 2000 of progress made in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

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