

**Inter-agency and Expert Meeting on
Millennium Development Goals Indicators**
held in Geneva, 10-13 November 2003

Report of the meeting

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Chapter I

Data availability and quality in MDG Indicators 2003

A. The Secretary-General's annual report on implementation of the Millennium Declaration (agenda item 2(a))

1. The meeting noted the presentation by UNSD on the status of existing data for the compilation of MDG indicators at the global and regional level. It was stressed that these indicators, in their summary form, are critical to developing countries, donor institutions, civil society and the major global development policy and planning institutions in setting and evaluating global policies to achieve the goals and targets. However, there are no or inadequate regional trend data for 16 of the indicators and there are continuing problems with data uncertainty for many others.
2. The attention of the inter-agency and expert group was also called to the need to put the analysis of MDG indicators on a sounder footing, which will require a major and continuous collaborative effort over the next years.
3. A review of the status of reporting on regional trends on the 48 MDG indicators and related schedule of agreed submissions for the next round of reporting is attached as Annex 1.
4. The meeting welcomed the presentation by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General providing an overview of the process for the consideration of revisions of the MDG monitoring framework. The indicators will remain as they are currently listed in the UNSD website, <http://millenniumindicators.un.org>, until the review process in 2005. Proposals and exploratory work for inclusion of new indicators or modifications to existing indicators will be carried out over the next year and a half. In general, proposals for changes can be considered by the group at its meeting in March 2005 and will have to take into consideration basic rules such as the following: MDG goals and targets are to remain the same; the MDG framework for monitoring need to be limited to a small set of indicators and therefore only few indicators can be added; indicators must be goal-oriented and not measure an intervention or input; indicators should be simple and easy to interpret across countries and regions; data should be available, including trends and regional and world averages; and indicator should be developed keeping in mind the main goal of the declaration—eradication of extreme poverty—and therefore be relevant to the situation in developing and poor countries .

B. MDG country reports (Agenda item 2 (b))

5. The meeting welcomed the UNDP report on the current situation with the preparation of MDG country report. The importance of adapting the MDG reporting and monitoring framework to national circumstances was noted and effort conducted by countries in this sense was recognized as very important especially with a view towards national ownership of MDGs.
6. The meeting welcomed participation of country representatives, recognizing that countries must be fully involved in decision-making on MDG reporting process

at all levels—global, regional and national. The participation of countries in the meeting was also regarded as crucial in order to provide partner agencies with views on what is needed at the national level for data development and for improving the use of data in policy making and monitoring.

C. Recommendations of the Coordinating Committee on Statistical Activities (CCSA) on aggregation of national data to regional and global estimates (agenda item 2 (c))

7. Several of the inter-agency and expert meetings have noted the complex methodological issues involved in preparing regional and global figures for the MDG indicators. In response to these concerns, ILO commissioned Tim Holt, former director of national statistics in the United Kingdom, to examine current practices and make recommendations on best practice and coordination for the technical issues. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities considered the consultant's report at its second meeting, held in Geneva, 8-10 September 2003.

8. The Committee decided that in order to endorse a set of specific recommendations, further work was needed and asked the forthcoming Inter-agency Technical Meeting on MDGs to discuss and review the recommendations contained in the report.

9. The following are the conclusions from the group's discussion on the suggestions of the report.

Suggestion 1: That for each indicator, the lead agencies review the available documentation on the methods employed to generate country level indicator values, including methods of imputation or modelling for missing figures and subsequent production of regional and global estimates and that a brief, clear description be provided to UNSD for publication on the millennium indicator data-base citing further references as appropriate.

Suggestion 3: All presentations of regional and global estimates should clearly identify the year or period to which they apply.

1 and 3. Supported.

Suggestion 4: All agencies present regional estimates to the same agreed regional classification system.

Supported by all agencies. IPU however stresses the need for considering one exception for the aggregation of data for indicator 12, Women in National Parliaments. A separate sub-region for the Nordic Countries is generally considered for the indicator on women in national parliaments, as a way to highlight the extraordinary achievement of gender equality in these countries, and to show the figure for the rest of European countries where trends have been significantly different. IPU therefore strongly recommends that this region continue to be distinguished in indicator 12.

Suggestions 5, 7, 8. No comments.

Suggestion 6: Agencies should seek to establish explicit imputation methods where thorough empirical analyses can demonstrate that these are robust and methodologically sound.

Suggestion 9: If linear regression on t is used for imputing missing values then as long and complete a time series as is available should be used (subject to ensuring that too long a series does not invalidate the assumption of linearity on t). Diagnostic checks should be made on the model fit and the variance of the imputed value calculated.

Suggestion 10: A wide range of imputation models may be embedded within a single coherent framework using multi-level models. This would allow the robustness of alternative models to be investigated empirically.

Suggestion 11: If no time series is available then a search for auxiliary variables that are highly correlated with the desired value and are likely to be available when the indicator value is not is needed. As far as possible an empirical investigation of the robustness of the imputation method should be undertaken.

Suggestion 15: Given that UNSD is responsible for compiling the annual reports it could prepare recommendations on how to present change after consulting with other agencies.

Imputations of missing values

Imputations for missing country data were an essential and unavoidable part of making regional estimates. The methods used and the number of countries imputed for should be clearly documented. Imputed country data on MDG indicators should not be published by international agencies, unless the countries in questions were themselves involved in producing them.

Estimates

Countries should be assisted in developing their capacities for preparing estimates in their statistical work, where appropriate statistical sources exist. Guidelines, manuals and best practices on imputations and estimation should be developed and published by international agencies for national use. Estimates are best developed and improved in a spirit of transparency, dialogue and cooperation between national and international statistical services, accompanied by documented analysis of sources used and analysis of reliability and limitations. Underlying data sources should be open for replication tests of estimates and "peer review". Harmonization of national and international data sources is essential to reinforce the essential credibility of national statistical services.

Suggestions 12, 13-14. No comments.

Suggestion 16: Estimates of trend or change should be based on consistent sets of countries (perhaps involving imputed values for missing values – see later sections).

This suggestion should be more flexible, with a realistic appreciation of constraints on international data availability over time. Good judgment in the selection and harmonization of country data sets is more important than a strict formula or rule.

Suggestions 17-23. No comments.

Forecasts

Modelling and forecasts were also discussed in the context of estimation. Little value was seen in forecasting by statisticians of MDG indicators by region or country. MDG indicators should be used to focus on identifiable trends, current shortfalls and needs. Simplistic projections could not take into account the many factors, both controllable and uncontrollable, that would affect actual outcomes, while international models faced too many data gaps and imponderable variables to serve as sound guides to policies.

10. The meeting agreed that a working group would be formed to further develop the recommendations. (See section below agenda item 5 (c)).

Chapter II

Goals, targets and indicators

A. Goal 1, part A, poverty (agenda item 3(h))

11. The basis of monitoring the poverty goal will continue to be the \$1-per-day poverty line and data based on household surveys, and update and re-estimation should be made when data on poverty through new surveys and on international price levels through the International Comparison Programme become available. It was also agreed that indicators describing the gender dimension of poverty are necessary but further research is needed to pursue such exercise, owing to the current stock of knowledge on poverty among women and the need to develop an appropriate methodology. The World Bank agreed to initiate work in this area, building on the existing studies and on the experience of their specialists in gender analysis. The responsibility for this methodological development will be shared with other agencies interested in participating in the exercise. In particular, ways of using household survey data and qualitative assessment will be explored.

12. The World Bank presented the latest estimates on poverty counts at the global and regional levels, which did not show significant change from the figures reported in 2002. It announced that the Bank will complete a comprehensive round of update and re-estimation by spring 2004 and introduce new user-oriented data tools, such as POVCALNET (an Internet tool to calculate the number of the poor, given the distribution of income and a poverty line), comparative living standards project (CLSP) and development data platform. The new International Comparison

Programme to be launched in 2004 will produce new estimates of purchasing power parities in 2006, which will be utilized to recalculate global poverty numbers.

13. Uganda and Kyrgyzstan presented their national experience on measuring and monitoring poverty and demonstrated the need for adapting poverty concepts to national policies and circumstances. They also presented how MDGs, together with other international programmes, have helped their Governments set their own national goals for development and monitor progress towards them.

B. Goal 1, part B, hunger and malnutrition (agenda item 3(i))

Hunger

14. FAO reported on the current situation and planned work on:

- Coverage of estimates for the hunger indicator
- Enhanced analysis for assessing progress in hunger reduction
- Methodological improvement
- Programmes to increase data availability and quality, including statistical capacity building

Malnutrition

15. UNICEF presented current estimates of child malnutrition prevalence for the benchmark years 1990 and 2000, highlighting the overall progress, with stagnation or deterioration in sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. It was also noted that rural/urban differentials remain wide, while gender-based differences are in favour of girls, with the exception of South Asia. This sub-region however is where the majority of the 150 million malnourished children live-78 million in total. A large number of surveys are planned for the next two years to improve the availability of data in countries. In particular, 65 new MICS surveys will be carried out in 2005.

C. Goal 2, education (agenda item 3(a)) and goal 3, part A, indicators 9 and 10 (agenda item 3(b))

16. The basis of monitoring the education goal remains enrolment. However, there are other elements that need to be included in the assessment of progress—such as some indications of achievement/ attainment and indicators of educational quality. The importance of obtaining more information on content of education was also stressed from the point of view of gender analysis.

17. UNESCO expressed concern on the proliferation of different sets of figures on the same indicators, such as those in national and regional reports and in the analysis prepared by Task Force 2 of the Millennium project. It is important to standardize measurements, with due flexibility needed at the country level to adapt the indicators to national policy priorities.

On the choice of indicators

18. It was agreed that the “new intake into the last year of primary as percentage of the children expected to graduate” was a useful complement to, at this time not a

replacement for, the official MDG indicator 7 based on the reconstructed cohort method. A completion indicator would provide a more direct measure of MDG Goal 2 outcomes, but further development work is still required comparing alternative approaches. Proposals are planned to be presented in 2005. Both survival rates or ratios and completion rates or ratios should be disaggregated by sex.

On the technical aspects of calculations

19. Gender Parity Index will be calculated as ratios of gross enrolment ratios, rather than as ratio of absolute enrolment numbers as it has been for the first two years. This will eliminate the effect of the population sex ratio on the GPIs. However, it was noted that ratios of ratios can be unstable and further revision would be needed to ensure reliability.

20. It is not certain at this stage whether data will be available to produce aggregate figures for GPIs at all three levels of education and for years prior to the change in ISCED. Producing a consistent historic data series for education indicators in general, will require a considerable amount of resources that are not at present available.

On the type of data to be used

21. Administrative records remain an important source of data on enrolment, but household surveys also provide valuable complementary data. Research is needed on the reconciliation and uses of household survey data as a complement to administrative data in the assessment of global and regional trends (GA report) and at the country level. It was agreed that both types of data are important.

Methodological work however is needed to understand the differences in existing data including differences in estimates of trends in gender parity and to improve the consistency between these two types of data. The work should focus on setting up future household surveys in such a way that data on school attendance, progress and primary completion can be used to supplement administrative records' data (for instance, concepts and definitions, classifications consistent with ISCED, etc.).

22. It was further agreed that household survey data might have some important advantages over administrative records. In particular, while enrolment data from administrative records are not available by household characteristics (such as poverty), education data from surveys can be linked to household characteristics. It was agreed that HH data from regularly fielded nationally representative household surveys can provide an important complement to national administrative data and a very valuable basis for international analysis and reporting on gender gaps, and population sub-groups. Household data also helps understand the link between the number of completed years of education and the attainment of literacy and are the only source that allows full coverage of numbers and characteristics of children not in school.

23. Household surveys on the other hand, provide data on attendance and cannot be used to assess enrolment. Also data are not available on a yearly basis as are administrative records.

24. At present data rarely can be related to the particular type of school attended, nor to the conditions of schooling (e.g. teacher/pupil ratios), which are fundamental factors that determine educational outcomes.

25. Methodological work on guidelines and recommendations should also look at consistency across data collection programmes. In the example of Nepal, different questions are asked in surveys and censuses on literacy.

Literacy estimates

26. Survey and census data are the main data source on literacy, which is an important measure of educational outcome. However these sources assess literacy on the basis of the few simple questions, rather than its operational use in everyday life. The group welcomed the methodological work undertaken by UIS on measuring literacy. Their Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme will provide a methodology for assessing adults' literacy and allow countries to collect data on functional literacy.

On global monitoring

27. After 2005, when the target of the elimination of the gender gap in primary and secondary enrolment is to be met, all countries will continue to monitor the indicator. In this regard, the meeting expressed great concern that the data seem to indicate that many countries will miss the target. This of course raises the issue of the necessary policy interventions, but it also poses the question on how to better inform those concerned with focusing the global report on an improved understanding of the conditions of those countries that will have not met the target. For instance, it will be especially important to look at those sub-groups of the population that are at disadvantage in accessing education.

Country-level reporting

28. It was agreed that data and analysis in country reports should be presented disaggregated at the sub-national geographical level, and by population groups.

D. Goal 3, part B, gender indicators 11,12 (agenda item 3(c))

Indicators on employment

29. ILO expressed concern with respect to the fact that in goal 3, the employment dimension, not being part of the target and not being considered among the key indicators is generally overlooked. This is particularly a problem when, in material used for wide dissemination, advocacy or fund raising only key indicators are presented. A strategic decision is needed on broadening the wording of the target or moving the indicator.

30. ILO presented a review of data availability and quality of the current official indicator, plans to improve coverage and methodology for imputation and regional estimation.

31. ILO presented proposals for complementary indicators resulting from a consultative process within ILO between the bureau of statistics and employment and gender specialists. The following four areas were presented :

- Employment in the informal economy
- Sex differentials in income from employment
- Occupational segregation
- Effect of small children in household on work participation

32. The group recognized the importance of these areas and encouraged ILO to continue to work if possible in all of them. With respect to data availability, the occupation segregation and effect of small children is of considerable interest for country level analysis and reporting. Whereas for global reporting, priority should be given to the first two areas: employment in the informal sector and income.

Indicators on political participation

33. IPU discussed the process by which they collect data on the indicator “Women in national Parliaments”. This indicator provides a relevant and useful assessment of the level of difficulty faced by women around the world in being elected to their national parliaments. However, IPU also recognized the need to address other critical aspects of women’s political participation-such as women’s power in legislative bodies and women’s involvement as parliament representatives in policy related to gender. Moreover, measures are needed of the participation of women in election processes. IPU is undertaking work on the following supplementary indicators with a view towards making future proposals for inclusion:

- Number of women candidates
- Voter turn-out by sex
- Number of Parliamentary Committees chaired by women
- Number of Parliamentary Committee working on gender-related issues

Suggestions for the improvement of indicators to monitor gender equality

34. Ms. Joann Vanek, resource person in statistics to the Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, reported that the task force places high priority in the development of statistics in gender equality and women empowerment and is reviewing a proposed strategy for the improvement of statistics on key indicators to supplement existing Goal 3 indicators. This strategy is to be presented as part of the key recommendations of the MP Task Force to the Secretary-General. In the area of employment the strategy recommends the development of indicators for each of the following areas:

- Gender differences in formal and informal paid employment and self-employment
- Income earned from employment
- Employment status

35. In addition to employment and women in power, the TF highlighted that a critical dimension for gender equality is security. In this domain they recommend the development of an indicator on prevalence of domestic violence.

36. On informal employment and domestic violence methods have been developed for the collection of data. Proposals are being worked out to apply these methods to obtain data in a critical mass of countries. Proposals have also been worked out for the collection of data on earned income in employment and employment status. It is hoped that within a few years the developments in these areas will be sufficient to propose the inclusion of these new indicators into MDG global monitoring.

37. The group agreed that wage employment is not an adequate indicator to monitor gender equality and it often gives a false impression of improvement. An increase in women's participation in wage employment is often accompanied by a decrease of social protection benefits.

38. Given the need to undertake work to develop the indicators on the proposed areas, before a formal recommendation can be formulated, the Inter-agency meeting proposed forming a working group coordinated by ILO. The group should be open-ended and comprise both the relevant data-producer agencies as well as gender specialists in the system. The following agencies confirmed their immediate interest: UNESCO, ILO, IPU, WHO, UNIFEM, DAW, UNDP, ECE, the World Bank and UNSD.

39. The group should review current indicators in terms of data quality and availability, and relevance to the assessment of gender equality, especially with respect to the overall main goal—the eradication of extreme poverty. The group will eventually propose indicators for consideration in 2005.

40. DAW and UNIFEM emphasized the need for making gender equality central to all MDGs. UNIFEM reported on experience in country and regional analysis and reporting in this area that involved work on indicators on both goal 3 and beyond.

41. The group agreed that a focus on the gender dimension should be incorporated in the analysis and reporting on all goals, and that agencies would present to the extent possible data by sex. DAW stressed that gender analysis in the storylines and in national reports could be improved through closer collaboration between statisticians and gender specialists both at global and national levels.

E. Goal 4, child mortality (agenda item 3(d))

Under-five mortality

42. UNICEF reported that the latest data revisions for under-five mortality had been completed and were considered reasonably reliable. They showed general progress in most countries but problems in some, especially least developed countries, CIS countries, countries in conflict and countries heavily affected by AIDS. Several countries experienced considerable increased mortality and those in western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are notably stagnant.

43. Difficulties were noted in reaching agreement with countries on estimates. This problem and plans for further work with WHO and the World Bank on the estimates for the period 2003-2005 would be taken up in a meeting among them to be held in the near future.

44. There was wide agreement that this is a critical indicator. In general there is a very close correlation between income inequality and gender participation and level of child mortality. Further, the main causes of mortality among less developed countries are amenable to interventions specified among other MDGs, notably water, sanitation, and immunizations.

45. Significant deviations by country, region, or district within some countries were also noted. Much could be learned about the causes and remedies for poor progress in mortality reduction through individual country case studies examining even limited complementary data available over a long period and sub-national disaggregation. Distinguishing different patterns in neonatal, under-one, and one-to-five mortality was also important in considering the most desirable policy interventions. Mortality indicators are not very sensitive to short-term changes; indicators such as birth weight or causes of death data can help identify key dynamics.

46. Effective, low-cost interventions have been shown for nearly all of the major causes of child mortality. Their use varies a great deal. Exceptions include malaria, for which proven successful interventions are only now starting to get large-scale wide attention and support, and neonatal deaths, where systems of care are not yet in place in many poor regions.

Infant mortality

47. The close relation between programmes needed to reduce infant mortality and those related to maternal care was noted. WHO and UNICEF noted their reservations on the quality and consistency of available infant mortality data. It was agreed the indicator would be maintained in 2004 and proposals for its use in the future would be submitted to the next inter-agency meeting on MDG indicators.

Measles immunization

48. WHO reported on a new data set recently completed for this indicator. It showed relative stability around 70 per cent in developing regions except sub-Saharan Africa since 1990. This was considered a reasonably good level but there was a continuing danger of lagging resources to keep the indicator at least at that level. The problem some countries have in adapting to the MDG one-year age limit for this indicator was also noted and the suggestion of extending the age limit to 2 years was considered. Even if this indicator does not predict where the majority of averted deaths will be in coming years, it is seen as a good proxy measure for access to health services.

F. Goal 5, maternal health (agenda item 3(e))

49. WHO and UNICEF jointly reported on the recently released new estimates of maternal mortality. They also reported on the development of indicators to track progress. Because measuring maternal mortality accurately is difficult and estimates have large margins of uncertainty, monitoring trends will continue to rely largely on the use of process indicators. The agencies also reported on the expected

availability of data for the year 2005 on MMR and on developments in data coverage and quality for process indicators.

50. The meeting discussed the need for expanding the analysis on maternal health and mortality. For instance, it was stressed that it is important to understand the extent to which the delivery of these services reaches different socio-economic groups. Work is already underway to analyse some of the process indicators by wealth and results will be published shortly.

51. The meeting also recommended that the incorporation of additional indicators on reproductive health be done in the country-level reporting. UNDP highlighted that many MDG country reports already include such indicators under goal 5. Several participants suggested that the indicators on contraceptive prevalence be included under this goal.

52. Participants from Uganda and South Africa reported that their government already attaches great importance to in-depth investigations of maternal deaths, which elucidate the underlying causes and circumstances of maternal deaths and ways of averting them.

53. Concern was expressed on the need for undertaking more work at the country level to improve availability of data. A new alliance of partners—the Health Metrics Network—is under development to improve health information systems. (See section on Agenda item 5)

G. Goal 6, HIV/AIDS, TB and other major diseases (agenda item 3(f))

HIV/AIDS prevalence

54. WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS reported on the status of the indicators on HIV/AIDS. The inclusion of the indicators already agreed upon at the March 2003 meeting was confirmed. However, some important methodological issues were raised:

- On the prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women, concerns exist on the limited availability of data for all residence strata.
- Estimates for the 15-24 year old population in general are still more problematic than estimates for the group 15-49, although some progress is expected following the completion of a number of DHS and non-DHS surveys in Africa.

55. The agencies designated for the monitoring of this target, also proposed a supplementary indicator on access to anti-retroviral therapy. The indicator suggested would be as follows:

“The proportion of people with advanced HIV infection receiving antiretroviral combination therapy”.

HIV/AIDS knowledge and prevention, and AIDS orphans

56. On indicators of knowledge and prevention and on AIDS orphans, the designated agencies confirmed the selection of indicators as agreed at the March

2003 MDG meeting. No suggestions for modifications on technical aspects of calculations are made.

57. Data availability for the three indicators will improve over the next two years. There will be approximately 15-20 more countries with data available to calculate this indicator by early 2005. In addition, UNICEF will launch MICS 3 in 2005, which could potentially provide data for approximately another 50 countries. However, data from MICS 3 will not be available in time to be used for the 2005 Secretary-General report.

TB prevalence and deaths

58. WHO presented the status of available data for the indicators on TB prevalence and mortality and on DOTS detection and treatment success indicators. No suggestions for modifications or new indicators were made.

Malaria prevalence and deaths

59. WHO presentation highlighted the limitations of data in for these indicators, mainly due to fact that case notification in Africa may represent as little as 10 per cent of all cases and that there are no reliable tools to measure malaria-specific mortality. The Rolling Back Malaria Task Force recommendations in this context are that all African countries should focus on household surveys to both monitor all causes of deaths for under-five mortality (age group where the majority of malaria deaths occur) and monitor coverage of malaria interventions (prevention and treatment). No suggestions for modification to the indicators were made.

Malaria prevention and treatment

60. UNICEF and WHO reported of progress in the data compilation and analysis of the MDG indicators on malaria prevention and control over the past year. Two major developments of particular importance are the formation of the Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) and the preparation of the WHO/UNICEF Africa Malaria Report 2003. As for progress in data availability, within MERG, a malaria module was designed to collect data on the key malaria prevention and treatment indicators for MDG monitoring, which can be added onto ongoing household surveys or serve as a stand-alone malaria module.

H. Goal 7, environment, part A (agenda item 3(g))

Forestry and fisheries indicators

61. FAO indicated that their work in these areas embraced not only environmental sustainability (the subject of Goal 7) but also the socio-economic aspects of forestry and fisheries (i.e., these sectors' roles as a sources of livelihoods and food) and that they had some well-established relevant data series. They also assisted in national capacity building and underlined their willingness to participate in the work on MDG indicators. At the same time, it was recognized that any new MDG indicators in these areas and WSSD indicators should be aligned as far as possible.

62. FAO indicated that the existing indicator, proportion of land area covered by forests, was based on data from national sources, through a participatory process

involving countries, and complemented by other remote sensing information analysis. It is considered a long-standing, well-defined and stable indicator for which time series data were available. Raw data on land area covered by forests are collected and revised by FAO on an on-going basis and published every two years together with a range of other forest-related parameters. However, it was recognized that the data series on forest areas do not capture a number of structural dimensions of forest cover that related to environmental sustainability, such as the density, composition and age structure of forests. A broader data set would be desirable to capture these and other aspects. While desirable, trend series on these structural dimension are not currently available at the global level, but are expected for the Global Forest Resources Assessment update in 2005.

63. UNEP-WCMC and FAO agreed that further work on the forests covered by protected areas would be of benefit to the understanding of the eco-system sustainability.

64. There is a WSSD goal regarding the sustainability of fisheries resources. FAO has for many years undertaken considerable work in assembling the data on the state of marine fish stocks. These data are published biennially in the State of Marine Fisheries Resources and in the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, but the interpretation of these data is still controversial. Data are also available on inland fishery resources and aquaculture. Given the nature of fishery resources, the data for marine fish stocks are disaggregated by ocean areas rather than by the geographical regions and national boundaries used for other data.

65. The invited expert questioned the feasibility of such data compilation and suggested that data on fishery capacity (such as vessels and fishermen) be used instead since it is easier to count human activities than fish location and data are easier to interpret. Also, there are problems with setting national boundaries in oceans and in rivers along national boundaries, and determining national ownership. Also, debate is ongoing about what constituted “sustainable fish stocks” which moreover varies by species and location. FAO was of the view that measurement of fishing effort and fishing capacity could be as problematic as the assessment of the state of fish stocks.

I. Goal 7, environment, part B

Protected areas

66. Significant improvements were reported on the compilation of data on protected areas. The database now contains over 100,000 sites and the indicator covers both land and marine areas. Some concerns were expressed in relation to the fact that countries assign their protected areas to the specific categories and there might be inaccuracies in this process. The importance of the inclusion of private protected areas in future analysis was also recognized.

Energy intensity

67. On energy intensity, the status of the currently available series was reported, including the change to the use of constant \$ PPP figures. International standards

for this indicator, however, need to be updated and harmonized more rigorously. The World Bank recommended to continue using the energy production data from the IEA on the grounds that they include energy derived from renewable sources.

68. On the energy indicator, the meeting agreed that using constant \$ PPP figures was more appropriate and welcomed the change. Concern was however expressed over the choice of this indicator and on whether it would be more appropriate to include also an aggregate figure on the total energy use of a country, which has more relevance to the impact of energy use on the environment.

Access to water and sanitation

69. Progress on the development of data sets on access to water and sanitation was also reported. The country and regional data are produced by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water and Sanitation. WHO and UNICEF would examine the data underlying the reported decline in water access in urban areas in some regions during the 1990s. On the expected availability of data in the first quarter of 2005, UNICEF reported that a good number of surveys have been planned and are expected to produce the necessary data.

Slums

70. Habitat reported on the important work done by the Expert Group Meeting in 2002 on the definition of slums, which now includes several dimensions of living conditions of people in urban slums. It was also stressed that the monitoring of slum population living conditions needs to be based on all aspects covered by the other goals. It is important to link urban inequality with the other goals.

71. On the household use of solid fuel, the difficulties are related to the lack of clear and standard definitions used across countries. The production of this indicator should still be considered as being at the experimental stage. Concern was expressed that given the focus of the analysis on the health impact of use of solid fuels, this indicator would be better placed under goal 6. WHO supported this idea. This suggestion will need to be considered as part of the overall review of the list of indicators.

72. There was also some discussion on the other environment indicators, although the designated agencies were not present to give a report. For instance, concern was expressed on the choice of the indicator on ozone depleting substances, CFCs, given that very little additional change in this area may be expected. Countries have already reached in 1996 the residual amount of 24,000 ODP tones, in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. There may however be a problem of under-reporting, which should be investigated further.

73. Also, questions were raised on the provenance of data on CO₂ emissions and on whether estimates of non-fuel anthropogenic sources and carbon sink effect should also be considered.

74. Different views were expressed on the difficulty of producing data for environment indicators. Some expressed concern that data are not regularly collected in these areas, environmental sustainability is not a priority for many governments and in fact, goal 7 is often not reported on in MDG country reports.

75. One important question was raised on whether the use of these indicators for the monitoring of goal 7 would eventually stimulate the production of the necessary data at the country level. In this context, the improvement of the analysis presented in the global report on goal 7, possibly expanding the discussion and providing background data, besides the official indicators, would have a great impact on increasing awareness on the importance of environmental issue and the urgency of producing the necessary data.

76. It was agreed that the area of environment indicators needs improvement and that work in this direction should include the development of a methodological framework and content for the indicators and possibly a data set to meet users' needs. For instance, on protected areas and forests, it would be useful to have an integrated set of statistics and indicators including all information on surface area and characteristics.

77. The extensive use of GIS analysis was also recommended to explore some of the interrelationships among different environmental indicators.

**J. Goal 8, part A, global partnership: trade, aid and debt
(agenda item 3 (j))**

ODA indicators

78. Indicators 33-37 were meaningful, mostly well-defined and backed by internationally-recognized data series. Nevertheless, in compiling the data and interpreting the indicators, care needed to be paid to the definition of ODA and special attention had to be given to interpreting the data for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) because of the heterogeneous nature of the group. Looking ahead, the Monterrey commitment could raise ODA to 0.28 % of GNI by 2006 and the depreciation of the dollar will raise the nominal value of ODA for 2003.

79. OECD informed the meeting that it collects data on the gender focus of ODA projects and programmes, and will include this information in the analysis of the indicator/storyline.

80. The meeting welcomed the decision by a number of developed countries to prepare their own country reports on progress towards the MDGs. These reports will focus on Goal 8- expanded to include a number of other indicators, such as foreign direct investment, workers' remittances and charitable flows- and Goal 7, Target 9. There would also be periodic reporting on how donors are addressing the topics covered by Goals 1-7 in their aid programmes and in their own country policies. The meeting hoped that other donors would follow suit in the near future.

Market access

81. WTO described improvements it had made in the calculation of market access indicators. These were statistically robust but the nature of these indicators meant that they would benefit from some interpretive notes, particularly when they displayed seemingly perverse outcomes.

82. OECD reported on an inter-agency initiative that includes a study by UNCTAD on the effects of market access on women. This information could be included in the storyline provided for the next report depending on progress made.

Agricultural support in OECD countries

83. This indicator is based on a well-established data series and has acquired a high profile in the context of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. A question was raised whether the indicator should be expressed as a proportion of agricultural output but it was decided that the proportion of GDP was preferable in order to maintain consistency with the published data and comparability with other indicators, most notably the ODA/GNI ratio. Detailed data on producer support by commodity are available.

ODA to build trade capacity

84. Having launched this indicator for the year 2001, OECD and WTO had compiled data for the year 2002 and henceforth would be in a position to provide such data on an annual basis.

Debt sustainability

85. IMF provided the most recent data for the agreed debt sustainability indicators (42-44) and explained that work was progressing on a new debt sustainability framework that would, inter alia, enable the international community to make a judgment on the balance between new debt and non-debt-creating flows to a country. This framework had been subject to wide-ranging consultations and was expected to be finalized in spring 2004. IMF indicated that aspects of the MDGs had been reflected in a recent revision of the General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS), its template for reporting on statistical practices by developing countries.

K. Goal 8, Part B, global partnership: youth employment, access to drugs and new technologies (agenda item 3 (k))

Youth unemployment

86. ILO described the further work they had done in developing four indicators reflecting youth unemployment, at the same time emphasizing that none of the indicators captured the problems of underemployment or low-wage employment among youth. It was decided that the most useful single indicator for the purpose of the MDGs was the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate. The three other series would be reflected in the 'storyline' associated with this primary indicator.

Access to new technologies

87. The indicators reflecting access to new technologies (47 and 48) were well-defined and easy to collect. However, ITU pointed out that access to new technologies was affected by knowledge and affordability (as well as availability) and suggested that the indicator should also reflect these factors. ITU therefore proposed a single composite index (comprising eight components, including some from the Human Development Index) to replace the existing indices. Some

participants expressed reservations on the ITU's proposal. It was agreed that this matter required further discussion, particularly since in the interest of ease of interpretation there were no composite indicators in the present list.

Towards a balanced set of indicators

88. It was pointed out that Goal 8 related to the partnership between developed and developing countries and that the list of indicators might therefore be extended to include data that reflected the developing countries' contribution to this partnership, for example through an indicator of their "commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction" (Target 12). The World Bank reported that it had been asked by the Development Committee to produce a Global Monitoring report that would embrace some information of this nature within a framework of policy monitoring.

Chapter III

Improving the quality of data for the MDG indicators (agenda item 4)

89. The meeting discussed this agenda item on the basis of a note prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division reviewing the status of development of international standards and guidelines and suggesting priority areas for work in the short, medium and long-term future.

90. Participants proposed a several clarifications and additions to the note and endorsed the proposals as a general guide to further work. The note, revised to take the meeting comments and suggestions into account, is attached as annex 2.

91. FAO made a series of suggestions to enhance the outputs of the work of the inter-agency group on data development and analysis for MDG indicators:

1. reconsider the structure of the annual report to the Secretary General office, reconsidering in particular, the type and scope of analysis to be presented in the next issue.
2. address the need of integrated analysis of a consistent set of indicators related to the MDG targets, including complementary indicators that can be used to support the analysis.
3. request UNSD to play a role in coordinating the different activities undertaken by agencies for the development of data sources used for MDGs indicators, including specific capacity building programmes in countries.
4. Review the reliability of some indicators considering the already identified limitations and efforts to improve quality of these statistics. Are they meeting a minimum level of reliability to be useful for global monitoring? This issue could be included as an agenda item of the next Inter-agency meeting.

Chapter IV

Statistical capacity-building for development statistics (agenda item 5)

A. Country and regional reports

92. The meeting welcomed valuable reports from countries—Uganda, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Bolivia and Jordan—and from regional commissions and agencies on regional work—UNDP on Arab States, and ESCAP and ECE on work undertaken in Asia and the Pacific, and CIS countries and south-eastern Europe, respectively.

93. ESCAP informed that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) was soon starting to implement a two-year regional training project funded by UNDP, with a range of activities aimed to build national statistical capacity to monitor progress on MDGs.

94. Country participants indicated that the MDG process has received substantial acceptance at the national level. However, there is a clear need for adapting the MDG framework to national circumstances and policy priorities. In particular, some of the MDG indicators may not necessarily be appropriate in all countries and might thus require adjustments. Kyrgyzstan, for instance set up its own target of achieving universal secondary education by 2015. MDG reporting at the national level also seems to play a key role in raising awareness on the necessity for a legal institutional framework of a national statistical system.

95. UNDP was congratulated for its role in spearheading the effort in assisting on the compilation of MDG indicators and preparation of MDG reports in many countries. However, national ownership over the MDG process remains a key aspect of the process. Some countries found the data published in the UNDP Human Development Report useful for compiling MDG indicators when data from the original sources are not readily accessible.

96. Identifying non-monetary indicators to measure poverty such as the size of agricultural holdings was proposed as a good alternative when other data are not available in countries. Further methodological work and research is needed in this context.

B International organizations initiatives

97. Under this agenda item, various initiatives were presented on statistical capacity building, being undertaken or planned by international agencies and donors.

98. DFID provided an account of their contribution to building statistical capacity in developing and transition countries. Their work is done through both bilateral programmes and by supporting the efforts of multilateral agencies working on this agenda to develop their own capacity to support national statistical agendas. Within the bilateral programmes they are currently assisting 35 countries. Their approach is to work from the demand side, with key financial, planning and sectoral ministries, to identify the main information needs required to inform and monitor development policies and then work with national statistical offices and other data collection agencies to meet these needs.

99. The meeting welcomed the PARIS21 presentation on the achievements of their first years of work and plans for the next biennium. PARIS21 noted that users-producers dialogue improved through regional workshops, although relations between the central statistical office and policy makers and other users are still weak. A quantifiable goal of their programme is that by 2006 every developing country will have developed and approved a national statistics development Strategy, with their first year of the programme financed with the aim that by 2010, they will have nationally owned and produced data for all MDG indicators.

100. UNDP presented their plans to assist national statistical offices in building capacity to disseminate efficiently MDG data and indicators and in developing statistical skills for users within Government and Civil Society to make best use of available data. The project is aimed at contributing to the improvement of evidence-based management of development policy.

101. UNFPA reported on their contribution to reporting on the eight MDGs at the national level. UNFPA country representatives in their work within country teams, must also ensure that the country reports deal with progress towards achieving the ICPD Reproductive Health Goal of “ensuring universal access to quality reproductive health services by the year 2015”. This Goal, which is not explicitly included in the MDGs, is seen as a crucial element of development and poverty reduction.

102. FAO presented its initiative on promoting and strengthening food, agricultural and rural statistical systems for poverty reduction and food security in Africa. This programme, carried out with the assistance of the World Bank and PARIS21, will improve the tracking of MDG indicators in rural African countries in the future.

103. The new global partnership Health Metrics Network (HMN) for the improvement of health information systems was presented by WHO. HMN is aimed at strengthening countries’ and sub-national health information systems, with a view at the same time to global needs for information.

104. UNICEF reported on their work plan for the next round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) scheduled to take place starting in late 2004 and continuing throughout 2005 and expected to include approximately 70 countries. Data from this round of the MICS surveys will generally not be available for the 2005 report to the Secretary General on the MDGs, but is intended to be available for the 2006 report to the Secretary General on progress toward the World Fit for Children goals.

105. UN-Habitat presented the Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme (MUIP). The programme monitors indicator 31 of the MDGs, in-depth security of tenure, in-depth governance and social capital, and the relationship between Target 11 and the other goals.

106. The World Bank reported on several initiatives for support of statistics capacity-building with special emphasis on statistics for the MDG indicators. Principal among these were its new lending facility STATCAP, which emphasized support for development of integrated national statistics plans, and its cooperation

with PARIS21 in the Task Team on Improved Support for Monitoring Development Goals. The PARIS21 Task Team had nearly completed its schedule for six country case studies and was continuing its work with the UN and the European Commission and DFID on national and international compilation issues and household survey issues, while the Bank was pursuing its review of development of concepts, methods and analysis for the MDG indicators. In response to a recommendation from Prof. Sachs, Director of the Millennium Project, that STATCAP should be converted to a grant basis for least developed and other countries with special constraints, the Bank stated it was pursuing options for providing grants to IDA countries.

107. The World Bank also reported that its Development Committee would consider a new proposal for improving statistics and monitoring of MDGs at its next session, in April 2004.

108. Prof. Sachs stressed the need for more progress than had been achieved to date, in his view, in compiling data and improving collection and compilation methods and analysis for the MDG indicators and offered to assist the agencies in seeking support for new initiatives. In particular he stressed the need for better poverty measurement and challenged the group to explore and consider possible alternatives.

109. The representative of Italy reported on the work of the former Friends of the Chair group of the Statistical Commission and highlighted some of their recommendations on MDG indicators. The group was dismantled after completion of its work. The Statistical Commission has now appointed a new group of National Statistical Offices to oversee international work on development indicators—the “Advisory committee on indicators”.

110. UNHCR expressed its appreciation of having joined the UN Development Group. They stressed that refugees and other displaced populations are an integral part of their asylum country and have a substantial impact on a country's development, in particular in developing regions. Achievement of the MDGs will therefore also depend on solving the problem of displaced populations. In order to effectively monitor the situation of refugees in camps, UNHCR announced that it had developed a set of some 50 indicators.

C Priorities and recommendations

111. The meeting noted that a great deal of methodological development relating to MDG indicators was already ongoing in specialized groups organized by lead agencies in each field. It suggested that agencies with cross-cutting interests, such as the World Bank, UNIFEM and DAW should be encouraged to participate in the specialized work.

112. The meeting also agreed that although these important initiatives had been undertaken, there is still no clear framework for coordination with countries and that more resources would be needed for some international agencies to further their work on standards and methods and for being more effective in assisting countries in building national capacity.

113. The meeting also proposed to undertake collaborative work within the Inter-agency group for MDG indicators. The following areas were identified where work is most urgently needed:

1. Review in-depth the suggestions of the report "Aggregation of national data to regional and global estimates of MDG indicators" prepared by Tim Holt as a consultant to ILO and prepare a set of recommendations and list of concrete steps to be endorsed and undertaken by the Inter-agency group on MDG Indicators;
2. Producing harmonized, integrated guidelines on household income and consumption surveys to provide consistent, standardized measurement of poverty eradication for national and international uses. The guidelines need to take into account the need for transparency and simplicity in the compilation and use of PPPs in poverty comparisons; the need for more research on wide differences in NA and HHS measurement results on the relevant income and consumption aggregates; identification of gender differences; measurement of poverty among the elderly;
3. Improving the framework for the assessment of gender equality through a review of the existing list of indicators and the development and proposal of new indicators;
4. Improving the framework and selection of indicators on environment, and improving national capacities to compile these indicators;
5. Developing a full set of guidelines for measuring slum populations and their characteristics, making full use of GIS technologies to present and link data geographically and relate the data to infrastructure in many fields of concern such as education and health services, water and sanitation.

114. Proposals have already been made to form sub-groups of agencies and organize work in 2004 in some of above areas. The proposed sub-groups would work under the overall mandate of the Inter-agency group and coordination of UNSD. In particular:

- ILO, the World Bank and UNSD will initiate work on Tim Holt's recommendations before the end of this year, following further consultations with data providers on priority issues and concrete results to be achieved;
- UNSD with World Bank and the Millennium Project should initiate work on the poverty measurement issues;
- UNESCO, ILO, IPU, WHO, UNIFEM, DAW, UNDP, ECE, UNSD and the Millennium Project will work on the development of indicators on gender equality;
- UNSD with UN Habitat and the Millennium Project/Earth Institute will work on the measurement of slum populations.

115. On environment indicators, a specific proposal for a working group has not yet been formulated. However, the invited expert made important suggestions for the development of an integrated set of indicators to conduct the analysis on

environmental sustainability and to promote data development at the national level. FAO, UNEP and UNSD could be the agencies initiating action to form the group.

Chapter V

Future work on global MDG monitoring

(agenda items 6, 7, 8)

116. Some ideas were put forward on how to organize the work for the preparation of next-year and the year 2005 reports, including on how and when Inter-agency meetings should be held. In particular the following suggestions were made:

- The time allocated at the March 2004 meeting to plan preparation of the 2004 report could be shorter than the usual three days, if storylines are prepared and circulated well in advance. This would leave time to develop initial proposals for the 2005 comprehensive report;
- Thematic meetings or sub-groups could be considered rather than one more extended meeting to cover all topics/goals;
- A meeting on the detailed preparation of the 2005 report should be held as soon as the third quarter of 2004, where concrete proposals for new indicators could be considered, as well as issues of country reports and capacity-building as was done at the present meeting.

117. A draft proposed agenda for the next meeting should be circulated in December for comments.

118. UNDP called the attention on the fact that one of the purposes of having MDG country reports ready by the end of 2004 was to use them as an input to the 2005 Secretary-General comprehensive report. The inter-agency group needs to consider and discuss the most effective ways to do it. This issue will be included in the agenda of the next Inter-agency and Expert Meeting on MDG Indicators.

Annex 1

Status of reporting on regional trends in monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, 2003

Goal 1

Poverty-- World Bank

1. For the \$1/day per capita PPP, new regional estimates based on an updated database were provided, covering 1990 and 1999. New estimates will be provided in spring 2004.

Data for 94 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

2-3. No new regional estimates were available in 2003 for poverty gap ratio and share of poorest quintile in national consumption.

2. Data for 94 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

3. Data for 124 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

4. Children underweight—United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef)

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 140 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

5. Population under-nourished --FAO

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990/92-1998/2000. New estimates will be provided in Spring 2004.

Data for 116 countries; 91 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 2

6. Primary net enrolment ratio—UNESCO, Unicef, World Bank

New regional estimates were provided, based on an updated database, for 1990/91, 1998/99 and 2000/01.

Data for 175 countries; 175 countries with more than two data points.

7. Retention in primary schooling—UNESCO, Unicef, World Bank

Regional estimates not available.

Data for 108 countries; 108 countries with more than two data points.

8. Literacy aged 15-24—UNESCO, Unicef, World Bank

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 138 countries; 138 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 3

9. Gender ratios in enrolments—UNESCO, DESA/DAW, UNIFEM

For the primary level, new regional estimates were provided, based on an updated database, for 1990/91 and 2000/01.

No new regional estimates were available for secondary or tertiary levels.

Primary: Data for 197 countries; 183 countries with more than two data points.
Secondary: Data for 162 countries; 136 countries with more than two data points.
Tertiary: Data for 135 countries; 105 countries with more than two data points.

10. Women to men literacy ratio, 15-24 year-olds—UNESCO, DESA/DAW, UNIFEM
New regional estimates were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 138 countries; 138 countries with more than two data points.

11. Women's share of wage employment in non-agricultural sector—ILO, DESA/DAW, UNIFEM

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990 and 2001, based on an updated database using ILO's regional classification.

Data for 188 countries; 131 countries with more than two data points.

12. Women in national parliaments—IPU, DESA/DAW, UNIFEM

New data were provided report, updated to March 2003. New data will be provided for the 2004 report.

Data for 188 countries; 174 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 4

13. Child mortality—Unicef-WHO, DESA/Population Division

Regional estimates updated on the basis of a few new country data were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 193 countries; 191 countries with more than two data points.

14. Infant mortality—Unicef-WHO, DESA/Population Division

No new regional estimates available.

Data for 193 countries; 191 countries with more than two data points.

15. One-year-old immunization—Unicef-WHO

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided covering 1990 and 2001.

Data for 174 countries; 170 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 5

16. Maternal mortality ratio—Unicef-WHO, UNFPA

New regional estimates were provided covering the year 2000. No regional trend data available.

Data for 183 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

17. Birth attendance—Unicef-WHO, UNFPA

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 157 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 6

18. Adults living with HIV/AIDS—UNAIDS-WHO

Prevalence in 15-24 pregnant women: new data for selected countries, provided for the 2003 report. No new regional estimates available.

Prevalence 15-49: new regional estimates were provided covering 2002, both sexes. No trend estimates are available.

Data for 20 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate.

No new regional estimates available.

Data for 145 countries; 74 countries with more than two data points.

19a. Condom use at last high risk sex— Unicef, UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA

Estimates only available for sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and south-central Asia, for one data point in the period 1996-2001.

Data for 48 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

19b. Population aged 15-24 with correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (Unicef, UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA).

The indicator consists of two components:

Percentage of women and men 15-24 who know that a person can protect her/himself from HIV infection by consistent use of condom;

Percentage of women and men 15-24 who know a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV.

Regional estimates available for sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and south-central and south-eastern Asia, covering one data point in the period 1996-2001.

Data for the first component of the indicator are available for 68 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Data for the second component of the indicator are available for 78 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

20. School attendance of orphans and non-orphans—Unicef-WHO-UNAIDS

Regional estimate only available for Africa, for one data point in the period 1996-2001.

Data for 44 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

21. Deaths associated with malaria—WHO-Unicef

No new regional estimates available for the 2003 report.

Death: Data for 191 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Prevalence: Data for 109 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

22. Malaria prevention and treatment—Unicef-WHO

Data are available for selected African countries only (two indicators). No trend estimates are available.

Prevention: Data for 35 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Treatment: Data for 35 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

23. Tuberculosis mortality and prevalence—WHO

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided for 2001. Figures presented in 2003 report are DESA/UNSD calculation of regional aggregates, based on country data provided by WHO. No trend estimates are available.

Death: Data for 191 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Prevalence: Data for 191 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

24. TB cases detected and cured under DOTS--WHO

Global estimates based on an updated database were provided for 1995 and 2000 (two indicators).

Detected: Data for 183 countries; 162 countries with more than two data points.

Treated: Data for 166 countries; 155 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 7

25. Forest area—FAO

No new regional estimates were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 198 countries; 198 countries with more than two data points.

26. Protected areas—UNEP

New regional estimates and trends provided for 1990 and 2003.

Data for 198 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

27. Energy use—IEA-World Bank, DESA/UNSD

New regional estimates and trends provided for 1990 and 2000.

Data for 122 countries; 122 countries with more than two data points.

28. CO2 and CFCs—UNFCCC, UNEP, DESA/UNSD

New world estimates provided for 1990 and 1999 for CO2 and for 1986-2001 for CFCs.

CO2: Data for 210 countries; 207 countries with more than two data points.

CFCs: Data for 156 countries; 155 countries with more than two data points.

29. Population use of solid fuels

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 0 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

30. Water supply, urban and rural--WHO-Unicef

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 167 countries; 167 countries with more than two data points.

31. Improved sanitation, urban and rural—WHO-Unicef

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 162 countries; 162 countries with more than two data points.

32. Urban slum population

New regional estimates provided for 2001. Trend estimates not available.

Country data not available.

Goal 8

Official Development Assistance (ODA)--Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

33. Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income

2002 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Total: Data for 22 countries; 22 countries with more than two data points.

LDCs: Data for 22 countries; 22 countries with more than two data points.

34. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 2000-2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 21 countries; 21 countries with more than two data points.

35. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors that is untied

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 21 countries; 20 countries with more than two data points.

36. ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their gross national incomes (GNIs)

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 29 countries; 29 countries with more than two data points.

37. ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 37 countries; 37 countries with more than two data points.

Market access—World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

38. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries (LDC)s, admitted free of duties 2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for developing regions and least-developed countries aggregates only, for 1996, 2000 and 2001.

39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products, textiles and clothing from developing countries

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for developing regions and least-developed countries aggregates only, for 1996, 2000 and 2001

Agricultural support and trade capacity--OECD

40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP

2002 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 16 countries; 16 countries with more than two data points.

41. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Data for world and region aggregates only from 2001 were provided for the 2003 report.

No country data available.

Debt—International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank

Data by country and world presented in the report are updated as of July 2003.

Unemployment--ILO

45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total.

Regional estimates for 1995 and 1999 were provided.

Data for 115 countries; 115 with two data points.

Access to drugs--WHO

46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 178 countries; 178 countries with more than two data points

47. Access to telephone lines—ITU

Updated regional estimates for 2002 were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 217 countries; 217 countries with more than two data points.

48. PCs and internet—ITU

Updated regional estimates for 2002 were provided for the 2003 report.

Computers: Data for 168 countries; 168 countries with more than two data points.

Internet: Data for 208 countries; 208 countries with more than two data points.

Annex 2

Improving the quality of data for the Millennium Development Goals indicators (agenda item 4)

1. The Inter-agency and Expert Meeting discussed this agenda item on the basis of a note prepared by DESA/UNSD reviewing the status of development of international standards and guidelines and suggesting priority areas for work in the short, medium and long-term future.
2. Participants proposed several clarifications and additions to the note and endorsed the proposals as a general guide to further work. The note, revised to take the meeting comments and suggestions into account, is given below.

Development of standards and guidelines

3. The development and application of standard statistical concepts and methods for national and international use in statistical series used in relation to the MDG indicators have been an important preoccupation of the Inter-agency and Expert Meetings and consultations since the first discussions of a list of indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals of the Millennium Declaration.
4. In many areas long-standing international recommendations have found continuing acceptance and application in data collection and compilation programmes. At the international level, they are essential to the comparability and quality of the selected series. At the national level, they serve as indispensable, respected and valued guidelines for the development of national data collection programmes, with appropriate adaptation to national needs, circumstances and priorities.
5. The reliability, acceptance and value of data series can to an important extent be judged by the quality of and extent of experience with the standards and methods used in their collection.
6. After three years of intensive discussion and experience shared among the participants in the inter-agency and expert meetings on the MDG indicators, it is reasonable to assess and inventory areas where standards and guidelines need more development and testing before the indicators they pertain to can reach the desirable level of reliability, interpretability and coverage.
7. In a number of areas, often with impetus from the strong general interest in measuring progress in the MDGs, there is already significant work underway, with a work plan and timetable well in hand. In other areas, significant unresolved issues remain and more attention is needed. In some, necessary developmental

work has hardly begun. The following review of work in progress and needed for the indicators identifies gaps and recommends for further consideration elements for a work programme, as endorsed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Meeting.

1-3. Poverty and income distribution.

Very considerable work has been done over a long period in this field. However, integrated survey guidelines and measurement standards consistent with national accounting and suitable for developing countries are lacking. Given the research and experience that have been accomplished in this field, this is a relatively short-term objective.

Countries need to be more involved in international estimates of extreme poverty based on PPPs as this measure is so widely used and quoted. PPPs especially in this context is an area where many developing countries have little experience or training.

Problems have also been identified in reconciling income and consumption data from household surveys and national accounting. This is important to ensure consistency between poverty analysis and macro-economic aggregates, which are central to national development planning and international monitoring. New research and analysis are required but there has been sufficient preliminary work that a project can be organized relatively quickly for results in the medium-term.

The need for gender analysis of income and consumption and of intra-household distribution is also of long-standing but evidently requires a major long-term effort, including the development of methodologies to make better use of existing data sources-such as household and time use surveys. Similarly, there is a need to incorporate into the analysis of poverty the age dimension, given the predominance of elderly people among the poor, especially in some regions

4. Underweight children

Extensive work is ongoing and well documented.

5. Dietary energy consumption

Extensive work is ongoing including special efforts to increase the role of national statistical services in improving and disseminating these data. Work undertaken by FAO in this area is very encouraging and could lead to significant data improvements at national and international levels in the medium-term.

6. Net enrolment ratio

Ongoing research and development should systematically address comparability of methods and results between household survey and administrative sources.

7. Primary completion

Considerable work has been launched in this area relatively recently but new methods and standards are not yet thoroughly tested and agreed.

8 and 10. Literacy

Work is ongoing on more functional definitions of literacy and new guidelines and recommendations could be developed in the medium-term.

9. Gender parity index at three levels of schooling

The use of ratios of ratios in this field is still relatively new and their stability and reliability should be further evaluated.

11. Women's work

Considerable preliminary research has been done on proposed additional indicators and specific proposals have been made for further research and development. Relatively early adoption and application of new methods and guidelines is feasible.

12. Women in parliament

Good preliminary research has been done here, with specific proposals for research and development, and relatively early adoption and application of new methods and guidelines is feasible. Development of complementary indicators of empowerment has been extensively discussed and a programme is now needed to move toward more formal proposals and guidelines.

Goal 3. Additional indicator on domestic violence

Violence against women –whether in the home, schools, workplace, community or other settings – constitutes a critical barrier to women's empowerment and gender equality. An indicator on domestic violence is being developed to be proposed for inclusion under goal 3, pursuant to the Millennium Declaration, para. 25.

13, 14 and 15. Child mortality

Extensive development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing here, and innovative indicators to complement the MDG indicators could be developed for wide use within a few years, including coverage of desirable interventions.

16-17. Maternal health

These indicators have been extensively researched and work on reliable trend measurement is ongoing. Some complementary indicators of desirable interventions and their implementation are available and should be recommended for use at country level. Several agencies felt that the indicator contraceptive prevalence rate should be included under maternal health and that the decision not to include indicators of reproductive health should be reconsidered.

18. HIV/AIDS

Extensive development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing here. Successful ways of expanding coverage of the data are still at a relatively early stage, however, and measures of trends need a considerable development effort and agreement.

19-20. HIV/AIDS knowledge and behaviour; orphans

Extensive further development and review of concepts and methods are ongoing and much remains to be done. Successful ways of expanding coverage of the data are at a very early stage, and measures of trends also need a considerable development effort and agreement.

21 and 22. Malaria

Measurement of successful prevention and treatment methods is being extensively researched and tested but wide application requires at least two more years of work. Measurement of trends in prevalence and deaths still requires considerable more work.

23 and 24. Tuberculosis

The DOTS methodology has found good success in application so far and its further development and application are ongoing.

25-32

Development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing for most of the environment indicators in the MDG list. However, standards and guidelines for data collection at country level are not well developed and there is insufficient collaboration between national statistical services and policy analysts in this field. Work is needed to develop a more coherent and integrated framework for analysis and to produce specific recommendations that national agencies can use for the development of environment statistics and indicators.

25. Forest cover

This indicator is relatively well-established. Work on extensive development of the underlying database and conceptual framework is recommended. The consultation process with countries is being strengthened as measurement technologies improve and the political importance of the indicator increases.

26. Protected area

The long-term collection of data on protected areas has produced a dataset, which is now finding wide acceptance as an indicator for the environment. There has been also constant improvement in both the World Database on Protected Areas and in data collection procedures at the country level. Developing a conceptual framework for the indicator within a broader environmental accounting framework is recommended as a medium-term objective.

27. Energy use

International standards in this field need to be updated, harmonized and applied more rigorously.

28. CO2s and CFCs

International standards for statistical purposes in this field need to be updated and harmonized more rigorously, and the data compilation process at national level brought under the general responsibility of statistical services cooperating with environmental offices.

29. Solid fuels

This indicator is still at a very early stage of development, standardization and application.

30 and 31. Water and sanitation

Extensive development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing here, with considerable recent progress and agreement on measurement guidelines and standards. This work should continue, with a special effort to ensure sufficiently high data quality to successfully monitor medium-term trends.

32. Slums

Extensive preliminary research and development of this indicator have recently begun to yield good results. Considerable further development and review of concepts, methods and collection programmes are still needed. Successful ways of expanding coverage of the data are at a very early stage, and measures of trends also need a considerable development effort and agreement.

33-37, 41. Official development assistance

These indicators are now being scrutinized regularly with a view to improving detail and relevance to overall aid objectives. This work should continue and could also draw in developing country participants with a view to a better assessment of aid impact by recipient countries. Attention should also be given to coverage of non-OECD/DAC donors.

38-40. Trade and agricultural support

These indicators are now being scrutinized regularly with a view to providing country and commodity detail. This work should continue and could also draw in developing country participants.

42-44. Debt

The indicators on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative are straightforward. Debt sustainability in both HIPC and non-HIPC countries is undergoing methodological study and clarification of measurement standards, which need to be reflected in these indicators in the future.

45. Youth unemployment

ILO is organizing ongoing work to develop new and more relevant indicators and targets in this field.

46. Access to drugs

Considerably more development and research on appropriate and practical concepts and guidelines are needed for the medium term.

47-48. Information and communications technologies

Work has been started on development of new data and indicator proposals in connection with the World Summit on the Information Society and a new research and development programme for statistics in this field is expected to be launched following up the Summit programme of action.



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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Inter-agency and Expert Meeting on MDG Indicators
(Geneva, 10-13 November 2003)

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