

PART III: GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ON INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Background

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its 11th session, re-affirmed the importance of indicators for sustainable development and encouraged further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities.

Questions

1. Do you have a national programme or initiative to develop and/or use indicators for sustainable development?

The Government of India has undertaken a pilot activity for development and implementation of country specific indicators for sustainable development. Under this project, country's specific Indicators will be developed for three pillars of sustainable development namely social, economic and environmental. In addition to development of indicators, the project envisages their pilot testing as well as creation of an institutional mechanism for long term reporting needs in the country.

2. Is there an established coordinating mechanism in the country at the national level for indicators for sustainable development?

At present, social, economic and environmental indicators are monitored by different agencies. Planning Commission has developed human development index combining the social and economic indicators. The initiative taken by Ministry of Environment and Forests is expected to address environmental dimension and come out with a combined list of sustainable development indicators. At the national level Central Statistical Organisation and other Ministries have their own data-bases, which will feed into the process of sustainable development indicators.

3. Do you participate in any regional or international programmes on indicators of sustainable development?

India is developing its own set of indicators and at present is not a party to any regional or international programme on sustainable development indicators.

4. What are the 3 most difficult problem areas in the establishment of indicators of sustainable development in your country? Please indicate the order of priority.

- 1. Definition of a set of indicators which are relevant throughout the country, especially in view of different socio-economic and environmental concerns in the urban, rural and other geographical regions.**
- 2. Addressing data requirements and aggregation of local indicators at the national level.**

5. Please provide the name of a contact person responsible for indicators of sustainable development.

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