



The United Nations Division for Sustainable Development is pleased to announce that the third, revised set of indicators of sustainable development prepared for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has been released.

Background

- The CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development serve as reference for countries to develop or revise national indicators of sustainable development.
- The previous two editions of the CSD indicators were published in 1996 and 2001.
- They have been intensively tested and applied by many countries around the world.

New features

- New set of 50 core indicators has been created.
- Core indicators are part of larger set of 96 indicators of sustainable development.
- The larger indicator set allows for a more comprehensive and differentiated assessment of sustainable development by countries.
- Due to creation of a core set, CSD indicators remain manageable.
- Core indicators fulfill three criteria:
 - They cover issues that are relevant for sustainable development in most countries.
 - They provide critical information not available from other core indicators.
 - They can be calculated by most countries with data that is readily available or could be made available within reasonable time and costs.
- CSD indicators continue to be placed in a framework of themes and sub-themes.

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- The framework contains 14 themes, which are slightly modified from the previous edition:
 - Poverty
 - Governance
 - Health
 - Education
 - Demographics
 - Natural hazards
 - Atmosphere
 - Land
 - Oceans, seas and coasts
 - Freshwater
 - Biodiversity
- Economic development
 - Global economic partnership
 - Consumption and production patterns
- Indicators are no longer explicitly categorized into four pillars of sustainable development.
 - Coherence with Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators and major sectoral indicator initiatives has been increased.

Review process

- DSD decided in 2005 to review the CSD indicators with three main purposes:
 - To incorporate new thinking on the role of indicators in sustainable development;
 - To reflect country experiences over the past decade;
 - To exploit synergies with the MDG indicators and other major sectoral indicator initiatives.
- As part of the review, DSD organized two expert group meetings with participants from countries across the world and from international organizations.
- DSD also conducted internal and commissioned external studies and held extensive consultations.

Next steps

- Countries are invited to consider the new CSD indicators when revising existing or developing new national indicators of sustainable development.
- CSD indicators will be used by international agencies for capacity-building activities on indicators of sustainable development and related areas.
- Continuous work on the CSD indicators will reflect country experiences made in applying and adopting the new indicator set.
- Inter-agency collaboration will ensure coherence of CSD indicators with other indicator processes such as the MDG Indicators, the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Hyogo Framework for Action on disaster reduction.

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Further information

- [‘Indicators of Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies’](#) was published in 2007 and is currently available on the internet.
- Publication includes guidance on how to use and adapt the CSD indicators to national conditions.
- Detailed methodology sheets are published electronically and will be regularly updated on-line.
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Theme	Sub-theme	Core indicator	Other indicator
Poverty	Income poverty	Proportion of population living below national poverty line	Proportion of population below \$ 1 a day
	Income inequality	Ratio of share in national income of highest to lowest quintile	
	Sanitation	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	
	Drinking water	Proportion of population using an improved water source	
	Access to energy	Share of households without electricity or other modern energy services	Percentage of population using solid fuels for cooking
	Living conditions	Proportion of urban population living in slums	
	Governance	Corruption	Percentage of population having paid bribes
Crime		Number of intentional homicides per 100,000 population	
Health	Mortality	Under-five mortality rate	
		Life expectancy at birth	Healthy life expectancy at birth
	Health care delivery	Percent of population with access to primary health care facilities	Contraceptive prevalence rate
		Immunization against infectious childhood diseases	
	Nutritional status	Nutritional status of children	
Health status and risks	Morbidity of major diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis	Prevalence of tobacco use	
		Suicide rate	
Education	Education level	Gross intake ratio to last grade of primary education	Life long learning
		Net enrolment rate in primary education	
		Adult secondary (tertiary) schooling attainment level	
	Literacy	Adult literacy rate	
Demographics	Population	Population growth rate	Total fertility rate
		Dependency ratio	

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Theme	Sub-theme	Core indicator	Other indicator
Demographics (continued)	Tourism		Ratio of local residents to tourists in major tourist regions and destinations
	Natural hazards	Vulnerability to natural hazards	
	Disaster preparedness and response		Human and economic loss due to natural disasters
Atmosphere	Climate change	Carbon dioxide emissions	Emissions of greenhouse gases
	Ozone layer depletion	Consumption of ozone depleting substances	
	Air quality	Ambient concentration of air pollutants in urban areas	
Land	Land use and status		Land use change
			Land degradation
	Desertification		Land affected by desertification
	Agriculture	Arable and permanent cropland area	Fertilizer use efficiency
			Use of agricultural pesticides
	Forests		Area under organic farming
Proportion of land area covered by forests		Percent of forest trees damaged by defoliation	
		Area of forest under sustainable forest management	
Oceans, seas and coasts	Coastal zone	Percentage of total population living in coastal areas	Bathing water quality
	Fisheries	Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits	
	Marine environment	Proportion of marine area protected	Marine trophic index
		Area of coral reef ecosystems and percentage live cover	
Freshwater	Water quantity	Proportion of total water resources used	
		Water use intensity by economic activity	
	Water quality	Presence of faecal coliforms in freshwater	Biochemical oxygen demand in water bodies
			Wastewater treatment

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Theme	Sub-theme	Core indicator	Other indicator
Biodiversity	Ecosystem	Proportion of terrestrial area protected, total and by ecological region	Management effectiveness of protected areas
			Area of selected key ecosystems
			Fragmentation of habitats
	Species	Change in threat status of species	Abundance of selected key species Abundance of invasive alien species
Economic Development	Macroeconomic performance	Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita	Gross saving
		Investment share in GDP	Adjusted net savings as percentage of gross national income (GNI)
			Inflation rate
	Sustainable public finance	Debt to GNI ratio	
	Employment	Employment-population ratio	Vulnerable employment
		Labor productivity and unit labor costs	
		Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	
	Information and communication technologies	Internet users per 100 population	Fixed telephone lines per 100 population
			Mobile cellular telephone subscribers per 100 population
	Research and development		Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percent of GDP
Tourism	Tourism contribution to GDP		
Global economic partnership	Trade	Current account deficit as percentage of GDP	Share of imports from developing countries and from LDCs
			Average tariff barriers imposed on exports from developing countries and LDCs

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Global economic partnership (continued)	External financing	Net Official Development Assistance (ODA) given or received as a percentage of GNI	Foreign direct investment (FDI) net inflows and net outflows as percentage of GDP
			Remittances as percentage of GNI
Consumption and production patterns	Material consumption	Material intensity of the economy	Domestic material consumption
	Energy use	Annual energy consumption, total and by main user category	Share of renewable energy sources in total energy use
		Intensity of energy use, total and by economic activity	
	Waste generation and management	Generation of hazardous waste	Generation of waste
		Waste treatment and disposal	Management of radioactive waste
	Transportation	Modal split of passenger transportation	Modal split of freight transport
		Energy intensity of transport	