

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Commission on Sustainable Development Eleventh Session 28 April – 9 May 2003 × New York

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON NATIONAL REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND PAPER NO. 3

Submitted by the Division for Sustainable Development

DESA/DSD/2003/3

Note by the Secretariat on National Reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development

Introduction

National reports are one of the key instruments by which the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) can fulfill its mandate to review and monitor activities undertaken by Governments to implement Agenda 21. And, conversely, member states, through national reports, have a unique opportunity to inform both the CSD and the world community at large on progress in their commitments. The Plan of Implementation (POI), adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, calls for an enhanced role for the Commission on Sustainable Development, including its role in reviewing and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. In this regard, the Plan recognizes both the value of national reports for fulfilling this role, and the need to make more effective use of them.¹

Countries began submitting their national reports to the CSD in 1993, and an increasing number are participating in the process. Compared to 1994 when only 50 countries provided national reports, in 2002, 140 countries submitted country profiles to the WSSD. The accumulated national information collected since 1993 was analyzed and aggregated by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (DESA) Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) into a status report entitled: "National Implementation of Agenda 21", for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Analysis of current UN national reporting requests

1. UN requests to Member States for national reports

<u>DESA</u> serves as secretariat to a number of functional commissions of the ECOSOC². Among these, the Division for Sustainable Development, as the Secretariat to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), prepares guidelines, solicits, collects and analyzes national reports relevant to the work programme of the CSD. These national reports cover a wide range of issues and are submitted voluntarily by Member States on an annual basis. The guidelines call for both quantitative and qualitative information. To date, quantitative information has rarely been provided and thus most of the information is qualitative in nature. Other Divisions of DESA also request national reports from member states, most often on the occasion of a major event such as a 5-year review.

National reports solicited in the context of the <u>Rio Conventions</u>³ are mandatory, unlike the voluntary nature of the national reports mentioned above. They also follow specific guidelines and, when appropriate, they are prepared according to regional groupings of Member States. The UN Convention Secretariats have been making attempts to harmonize their requests for national reports. For example, the Secretariats for the Conventions on: Biodiversity, Wetlands, International Trade in Endangered Species, Migratory Species, and World Heritage are investigating whether there is scope for harmonizing reporting procedures by making use of common formats and databases for the five global biodiversity-related treaties.

¹ See POI paragraphs 147-148.

² Commission for Social Development, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on the Status of Women, and Statistical Commission.

³ Convention on Biodiversity, Convention on Climate Change, and Convention to Combat Desertification.

2. National reports carried out by UN-led country teams

Of the <u>UN Funds and Programmes</u>, one of the UN-sponsored country reports that may have some impact on national reporting for CSD is the Millennium Development Goals⁴ (MDGs) country reports, led by UNDP, in conjunction with national governments. This reporting is voluntary in nature and serves mainly to play and advocacy role at the national and local levels. It is not designed for inter-country comparisons or for aggregation to regional and international levels. The frequency of national MDG reporting is kept flexible, from annually (so far only three countries have done so) to one single time or none at all. The aim is for each country to have at least one MDG report by the end of 2004, in time for the Secretary-General's comprehensive review of MDG progress in 2005. Thereafter, country reporting will continue up to 2015.

UNDP also supports national Human Development Reports, which is also for advocacy, awarenessraising purposes. UNDP also assisted some developing countries to prepare their national assessment reports for WSSD, which identified major achievements, challenges and priorities for the future regarding their national implementation of Agenda 21. Concerning the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), mandatory annual progress reports are done by governments with the assistance of UNDP and the WorldBank/IMF.

3. National information/Data gathered by the UN System

For reporting by <u>UN Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations</u>, the information solicited may come from a mixture of government sources and other national and international sources. The information is usually specifically oriented to the work of the specialized agency and is very focused in nature. Examples of these agencies include ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and WTO.

National information is also sought, or surveys are conducted, to provide inputs into specific publications – such as yearbooks, trends and outlook reports and state of environment reports – issued by UNEP, Regional Commissions and other UN system organizations.

The UN Statistical Division (UNSD), as part of its mandate, collects, analyzes and disseminates a wide range of statistics from national sources submitted by countries on a regular basis, covering social, economic and environmental issues. UNSD is also responsible for developing a variety of means by which to facilitate international comparability of national data. As the Secretariat of the Statistical Commission, UNSD is responsible for the coordination of statistical activities at the global level.

<u>Matrix</u>

DESA's Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) has prepared a provisional matrix containing the above-mentioned current UN national reporting requests that are of clear relevance to CSD issues. (See the attached Annex.) A number of national governments have indicated that the availability of such a matrix could facilitate their preparation of national information strategies to address the challenge of preparing and consolidating inputs from inside as well as outside their government administrations for reporting to the UN System.

⁴ MDGs: 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2. Achieve universal primary education; 3. Promote gender equality and empower women; 4. Reduce child mortality; 5. Improve maternal health; 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; 7. Ensure environmental sustainability; and, 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Post-WSSD CSD national reporting

Given the enhanced mandate reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the objectives of future national reporting for CSD should be to:

- 1. Report on the implementation of WSSD goals, targets and time-bound measures as outlined in POI as well as in Agenda 21;
- 2. Improve the coordination of reporting among UN agencies, with respect to reducing overlap and duplication in reporting requests while improving efficiency;
- 3. Reduce the burden of reporting on member countries;
- 4. Provide support and guidance to governments on national reporting and analysis.

With the emphasis on implementation, future national reports are expected to be a key source of information in monitoring progress made by countries in meeting time-bound POI commitments, as well as in identifying constraints and challenges that will lead to further analysis and policy decisions in future CSD sessions. Specifically defined time-bound goals and targets mean that quantitative data will need to be incorporated in the national reports. However, it should be noted that UNSD has expressed concern that there are still many areas where countries are unable to provide data, and that statistical capacity-building is required. Moreover, to monitor progress towards the goals and targets, data must be available for several points in time and their absence does not allow for comparison over the years.

DESA's DSD is in the process of consulting within the UN system to refine a strategy for future CSD national reporting with a view to meeting the four objectives outlined earlier. DESA's Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination is studying different conference follow-up processes, as part of its mandate for integrated follow-up of UN conferences. Coordination between these two offices in overseeing future streamlining efforts of reporting processes will continue in terms of obtaining information on other reporting processes, and ensuring an optimum coordination within DESA in that regard.

At the regional level, the POI mandated Regional Commissions, in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional bodies and regional development banks, to facilitate and strengthen "the exchange of experiences, including national experience, best practices, case studies and partnership experience related to the implementation of Agenda 21".⁵ For that purpose, DESA will work with the Regional Commissions in developing a common and consistent framework for regional analysis.

Over the next few months, DESA/DSD will work with National Focal Points and other UN system partners to develop a formalized procedure or mechanism to enhance complementarities, avoid duplications while ensuring consistent coordinated monitoring and reporting of national and regional level information related to the implementation of the WSSD outcomes, Agenda 21 and other relevant conference outcomes.

Future guidelines for national reports that reflect the new CSD work programme and method of work to be adopted at CSD-11, will be developed with the view to maximize inter-agency coordination while minimizing burdens on the countries. Formulation of such guidelines will be an interactive process with the National Focal Points for Sustainable Development.

⁵ See POI paragraph 160 (b).

			Matrix on	Current UN Nati	Annex 1 onal Reporting Rec	quests (F	Provisional)			
1. UN requests	to Member States for n	3. Lead organi		st 5. National Food	6. Perfolden	1. Report	9.50 ¹¹⁵ 10 ¹⁰ 8. Perpetudo en	9. Perfecti	e sel of 10, we have	
WSSD and CSD reports	Issues in Agenda 21 plus 1) Trade; 2) Sustainable tourism; 3) Energy; 4) Transport; 5) Industry; 6) International cooperation; 7) SIDS Purpose: monitoring progress in implementing JPOI & WSSD follow-up	-		National focal point designated by governments: a) Ministry of Environment (84); b) National council on environment/ sustainable development (19); c) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (13)	Annually up to WSSD; most likely every 2 years after CSD-11 (subject to CSD discussion)	v	Qualitative in the past with possible inclusion of limited quantitative indicators in the future Guidelines distributed to members	GA	http://www.un.org/ esa/sustdev/csd/csd. htm	
Combat	 Natural resources; Finance; Desertification 	Convention Secretariat		A list of national focal points designated by the countries is distributed during each session of COP; a) Min. of Environment (91); b) Min. of Agriculture (26); c) Min. of Foreign Affairs (12); d) Min/dept. of Forestry (10)	First reporting to UNCCD was provided in different years - African countries affected by drought provided a report for 1999; other affected countries provided national reports for 2000; and non-affected countries reported for the years 1999-2000. In the future, reporting will be done for each ordinary session (2003, 2005, 2007) with non- affected countries reporting to every session, and affected countries reporting to every other session		Mostly qualitative with some national statistical data; Help guide available on the web; National reports are provided by countries at 4 different levels: 1) reports on national action programmes; 2) reports on local, subregional and regional action programmes; 3) reports of developed country Parties; 4) reports of affected developed country Parties not preparing action programmes	COP (Convention Art 26)	http://www.unccd.int	

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UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1) Energy; 2) Finance; 3) Emissions	Climate Change Secretariat	UNEP	NFPs designated by country; a) Min. of Environment (100); b) Min. of Foreign Affairs (18); c) Meteorological dept (16)	Every 6 months for developed countries Parties (Art 42b); other countries Parties within 3+ years of entry (Art 12)	М	Reporting requirements for developed countries are more detailed than guidelines for developing countries	СОР	http://unfccc.int	
Kyoto Protocol	Emissions of greenhouse gases	Same as above	GEF/ Intergovernm ental Panel on Climate Change		Annual report (Art. 7.3)	М	Qualitative with statistical data	СОР	http://unfccc.int/ resource/convkp.html	
The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Annual production, use, destruction, imports and exports of controlled substances	UNEP Ozone Secretariat		NFPs designated by countries; a) Min. of Environment (51); b) Min. of Industry/ Development (3)	Annual reporting; assessment every 4 years starting in 1990	М	Statistical data on production/import/export of controlled substances	COP (Art 7)	http://www.unep. org/ozone/montreal. shtml	
UN Forum on Forests	Sustainable management of forests	UNFF Secretariat		Most countries represented by a) Ministry of Forestry; b) Agriculture and/or Environment; c) Industry	Reports to be submitted to each UNFF session (26 reports received so far for this year)	V	Mostly qualitative Suggested format and guidelines available on the website Task Force on Streamlining National Reporting on Forests established and a Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) portal available on the website	-	http://www.un.org/ esa/forests/ http://www.fao.org/ forestry/foris/ webview/forestry2/ index.jsp?siteId=1220&la ngId=1	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Wild fauna and flora	Convention Secretariat	UNEP	Most countries represented by Ministries/depts. dealing with Agriculture, Environment, Forestry or Development	Annual report on export permits issued; Biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken	М	Qualitative	COP (Convention Art 8)	http://www.cites.org/	
The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	Generation and movement of hazardous wastes	Convention Secretariat	UNEP	Most countries represented by the Ministry of Environment	Annual report	M	Qualitative with statistical table and graphical representations	COP (Convention Art 13)	http://www.basel. int/about.html	

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Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Wetland conservation and use	Convention Secretariat		 a) NFP for implementation - most countries represented by Min. of Environment b) National focal points for scientific and technical review panel; c) National focal points for education and public awareness 	Triennial national reports to be submitted	M	Qualitative	COP (Convention Art 6)	http://www.ramsar.org/	
	 Definition of child; Civil rights and freedom; Family environment and alternative care; Basic health and welfare; Education, leisure and cultural activities; Special protection measures 	UNICEF	UNHCHR		First report to be submitted within 2 years of ratification; followed by regular reports every 5 years	M	Mostly qualitative with some statistical data	GA	http://www.unicef. org/crc/crc.htm	
Development	 Population growth, size and age structure; Health and mortality; Fertility, reproductive health and family; Population distribution and internal migration; International migration; Monitoring, review and appraisal of progress made in implementing ICPD PoA 	UN Population Division		All communication to countries through the Permanent Missions (90 countries responded (47%)); No list of NFPs compiled	Government inquiries conducted every 5 years; Last inquiry (8th) conducted in 1998; Next questionnaire to be sent out in 2003	V	Questionnaire containing 200+ questions (160 were closed- question); responses compiled in statistical summaries/tablesm The results used in updating computer database as well as publications such as National Population Policies		http://www.un.org /esa/population/ unpop.htm	

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Status of Women Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Measures taken to comply with treaty obligations including 1) Equality in political life; 2) Equality of rights to nationality; 3) Education; 4) Labor and employment; 5) Health; 6) Legal and civil matters; 7) Rural women	Women's Rights Unit/DAW		NFPs designated by the countries	Countries to submit CEDAW Country Reports every 4 years; 105 countries have submitted reports after 1995	Μ	Mostly qualitative; In some countries, NGOs submit shadow reports; Some countries prepare reports through multistakeholder consultations; Guidelines are distributed/briefed to countries		http://www.un.org/ womenwatch/daw/ csw/	

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Millennium Development Goals (MDG) National Reports/UNDP	 Poverty; Primary education; Gender equality; Child mortality; Maternal health; HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Environmental sustainability; Global partnership Purpose: advocacy/ awareness raising at national and local levels 	UNDP	UN Country Team	ministry/institution in consultation with UNDP Country Office and UN Country Team	Aiming for at least 1 report per country by 2004; 20 reports have been completed as of Jan 2003; expect about 100 reports by end 2003		Qualitative with selected indicators "Status at a Glance" and "Capacity for monitoring" charts to be prepared (Standard format available on the web); UN Country Team to survey relevant information available at the country level, including censuses, administrative reporting systems and household surveys. Brief qualitative overview of the current status vs. ideal trend to achieve each goal	GA	UN – http://www.un.org/ millenniumgoals/ index.html UNDP - http://www.undp. org/mdg/ UNDG – http://www.undg. org/login.cfm	
National Human Development Report/UNDP	1) HDI; 2) Poverty; 3) Health; 4) Education; 5) Trade; 6) Finance; 7) Environment	UNDP		selected by UNDP and its national partners	350+ reports have been published in 135 countries since 1992; some countries publish annually; others have only published once		Qualitative with national statistical data	UNDP Executive Board	http://hdr.undp.org	
PRSP Annual Progress Report/World Bank	 Rural/urban development; Education; Health; Water; Capacity-building; Governance; Finance; Gender; Environment 	WB/IMF		participation of civil society and development partners,	PRSPs updated every 2-5 years; During the intervening years, Annual Progress Report should be prepared	Μ	Mostly qualitative with some statistical data	WB/IMF Executive Board All low-income countries receiving debt relief under HIPC Initiative or concessional lending from WB/IMF should develop PRSPs	http://www. worldbank.org/ poverty/strategies/ index.htm	

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on Africa/ECA	 Economic trends; Governance; Market access; Foreign direct investment; Economic policies 	Economic and Social Policy Division, ECA	External peer review group		Annually since 2000		Qualitative report with graphics/		http://www.eca.org	
	1) Population; 2) Education; 3) Employment; 4) Income; 5) Health; 6) Housing; 7) Transport; 8) Tourism; 9) Energy; 10) Environment; 11) Communication; 12) Participation; 13) Crime and safety				Annually for 55 member countries		Country profiles with statistical data available on website		http://www.unece.org	
	 Population; Manpower; National accounts; Agriculture; Industry; Energy supplies; Transport and communications; External trade; Wages; Prices and household expenditure; Finance; Social statistics 			National Statistical Offices	Yearbook covers 57 countries or areas in the region;		Spreadsheet containing statistical data;		http://unescap.org/ stat/index.htm	

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State of Environment Report/ESCAP	Environment conditions, trends and emerging issues		ADB, WHO, UN, UNEP, UNICEF		Report published every 5 years. The latest one was published in 2000 as part of preparations for WSSD		Where official government figures are not available, the tables draw on data from the United Nations and other international sources		http://unescap.org/ esd/main.asp	
Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean/ ECLAC	1) Population; 2) Labor; 3) Poverty; 4) Education; 5) Health; 6) Housing; 7) Natural resources; 8) Agriculture; 9) Mining; 10) Energy; 11) Industry; 12) Infrastructure			-	Published regularly		Statistical data for countries and areas in the region		http://www.eclac.cl/ default.asp?idioma=IN	
ESCWA	 Economic development Social development Energy, natural resources and environment Sectoral issues 				Ad-hoc publications, such as statistical abstract, surveys, reports for the region				http://www.escwa. org.lb/	
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	 Conservation of biological diversity; Sustainable use of its components; Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources 	Convention Secretariat		NFP designated by countries; a) Ministry of Environment (126); b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (28)	To be decided by COP	M	National reports are prepared by Parties through a consultative process involving relevant stakeholders Parties are also invited to prepare and submit voluntary, thematic reports on one more specific items for in-depth consideration at the COP	COP (Convention Art 26)	http://ww.biodiv.org	
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	1) Safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms; 2) Transboundary movements	Convention Secretariat		Some countries have designated NFPs for the Protocol; otherwise, NFP are the same as above		М		COP (Protocol Art 33)	http://www.biodiv.org/bi osafety	

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Convention on the Law of the Sea									http://www.un.org/ Depts/los/convention_ agreements/ convention_ overview_ convention.htm	
Global Environment Outlook (GEO)/UNEP	 Land; Forests; Freshwater; Biodiversity; Costal/marine areas; Atmosphere; Urban development; Disaster 	UNEP	-		3 volumes have been published since 1997			UNEP Governing Council	http://www.unep.org/ge o/#about	
FAO	 Food and agriculture; Fisheries and aquaculture; Forests; Food insecurity; 				Regular "State of" reports published for 4 issues; Country profiles for each of the 4 issues available on the website		Qualitative reports with statistical data		http://www.fao.org	
UNFPA	 Reproductive health; Mortality; Education; HIV/AIDS; Gender empowerment; Poverty; Fertility 		-		State of World's Population Report - annual publication		Qualitative report with statistics/graphs/ICPD goals indicators Data sources include UN Population Division, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, FAO and UNAIDS	GA	http://www.unfpa.org	
UNHCR	Protection of refugees and resolution of refugee problems				Statistical yearbook published annually; State of World's Refugees published annually		statistics available on the	Annual report to the GA through ECOSOC	http://www.unhcr.ch	
UNICEF	 Child survival and health; Child nutrition; Maternal health; Water and sanitation; Education; Child rights 				State of World's Children published annually; statistical data available on the website		Mostly qualitative with 9 statistical tables with economic and social data	GA	http://www.unicef.org/inf ores/publications. htm	

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UNRWA	 Relief and social services; Education; Health 				Ad hoc publications				http://www.unrwa.org	
WFP	 Emergencies; Rehabilitation; Women; School feeding; Food for work; HIV/AIDS; Poverty 						World Hunger database (country profiles) available on website		http://ww.wfp.org	
UNCTAD	 International trade; Commodities; Foreign direct investment; Market access; 						Database on statistics available on-line		http://www.unctad. org/Templates/ StartPage.asp? intItemID=2068	
UNESCO	 Education; Literacy; Culture and communication; Science and technology 				Various publications/ documents available online		UNESCO Institute for Statistics established in 1999 to meet the needs for a wide-range of policy-relevant, timely, and reliable statistics		http://www.uis. unesco.org/	
ILO	 Employment; Wage; Labor cost; Consumer price indices; Occupational injuries; Occupational injuries; Hours of work; Strikes and lockouts; Retail prices of selected food items; Population 	-			Publications and database available online		LABORSTA - database on annual/monthly labor statistics operated by the Statistics Bureau is available on-line		http://www.ilo.org/ public/english/ bureau/stat/	
UNIDO	 Labor productivity and wage rates; Value added; International comparison of manufacturing value added 						Country information available on website with statistics		http://www.unido.org/re gions.cfm?area=GLO	

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	 Air pollution; Climate change; Ozone layer depletion; Tropical storm forecasting; Weather prediction 				Various ad-hoc publications on issues related to meteorology available				http://www.wmo.ch/ index-en.html	
UNAIDS	HIV/AIDS	(co-sponsors) UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNODC, ILO, WHO and World Bank		-	Regular and ad-hoc publications available on website		Bibliographic database on publications by UN in related subjects available online		http://www.ifad.org/ doc/index.htm	

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IFAD	Rural poverty				Various ad-hoc publications on issues related to rural poverty available		Mostly qualitative reports		http://www.ifad.org/ doc/index.htm	
World Health Report/WHO	Infectious and other diseases				World Health Report published annually; other publications on specific issues published on ad- hoc basis		Mainly qualitative reports, some with statistical information	2	http://www.who.int/ pub/en/	
WIPO	1) Industrial designs; 2) Patents; 3) Utility models; 4) Variety of plants; 5) Microorganisms				Annual industrial property statistics database available online		Mostly statistical data		http://www.wipo.org/ ipstats/en/	
Statistical Commission	Population, vital, housing, social, national accounts, international trade, industry, energy and environment statistics	UN Statistical Division		National Statistical Offices or other parts of the official statistical system of the countries	Monthly, quarterly, annual, biennial reporting depending on the area	V	Only quantitative data submitted by countries Templates and questionnaires sent to the countries by the Statistics Division Coordination among agencies in place to reduce duplication		http://unstats.un.org/uns d/statcom/ commission.htm	
Commission on Science and Technology for Development			UNCTAD							
Commission for Social Development	1) Ageing; 2) Family; 3) Youth; 4) Disabled persons	UN Division for Social Development			As needed	v	Qualitative reports and surveys Note verbale/questionnaires are sent to countries		http://www.un.org/ esa/socdev/csd/ index.html	

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Human Rights 2) rig fre 3) rig 4) rig 5) wo mi mi pe	Pacism; Violation of human Jhts and fundamental eedoms; Social and cultural Jhts; Civil and political ghts; Human rights of omen, children, igrant workers, inorities and displaced ersons; Indigenous issues	OHCHR		-	Missions undertaken at the invitation of the countries concerned		Designated special rapporteurs undertake missions and report to the Commission Report available on website (qualitative) 1) Country mandates 2) Thematic mandates	ECOSOC	http://193.194.138. 190/html/menu2/2/ chr.htm	

Any additional inputs to complete this matrix would be greatly appreciated. Kindly send your comments to dsd@un.org