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POVERTY STATISTICS: REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON POVERTY STATISTICS

(Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVING POVERTY STATISTICS AND MONITORING
IN THE ESCAP REGION**

Note by the secretariat

1. With the adoption by ESCAP of three thematic priorities including poverty reduction to guide its work, the secretariat has been undertaking a number of activities designed to improve the state of poverty statistics and analysis in the region. At its thirteenth session, held at Bangkok in November 2002 and attended by representatives of 32 Members and approximately 20 international agencies, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics considered it important to prepare a viable plan for improving the region's poverty statistics. It felt that if ESCAP could coordinate the elaboration of such a plan involving the other international agencies active in Asia and the Pacific, it would be a most valuable contribution to poverty reduction efforts in the region.

2. An initial plan was drafted in early 2003 and sent to representatives of several member countries and to selected regional and international organizations for review and feedback. It was also presented at the first session of the ESCAP Committee on Poverty Reduction, held at Bangkok from 8 to 10 October 2003. It was subsequently revised, and a copy of the revised version is attached to this note. The Committee noted that a regional action plan to improve poverty statistics and support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was needed and suggested that the Subcommittee on Statistics be given the mandate to prepare a draft plan. The view was expressed that any action plan on poverty statistics should not involve monitoring the incidence of poverty at the national level.

3. The draft, entitled "Action plan for improving poverty statistics and monitoring in the ESCAP regions", contains many proposals on the initiatives that the ESCAP Statistics Division should take. These include conducting a census on the status of MDG indicators in the ESCAP region, helping to secure the commitment of national statistical offices regarding the production of the MDG indicators, assisting individual countries in developing or amending national statistical development plans, strengthening their methodological research and data analysis capacity, reinforcing ESCAP's role in monitoring poverty and the MDGs by creating web sites related to the MDGs for information exchange and rationalizing national poverty data-collection and monitoring systems.

4. In the light of the suggestion by the Committee on Poverty Reduction, the advice of the Subcommittee is sought on the draft action plan.

Action Plan for Improving Poverty Statistics and Monitoring in the ESCAP Region¹

I. Introduction

1. The first draft of this plan was prepared based on the discussion at the 27-29 November 2002 meeting of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics. The draft also took into consideration the report of the 9-11 October 2002 Regional Seminar for Asian Managers on Monitoring and Poverty Reduction Programmes, the World Living Conditions Survey proposal by Australian Bureau of Statistics at the 13-14 November 2002 meeting of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics, activities of the Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative (PADI) of WBI, and recent developments in the production of the indicators for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The draft was presented at an open forum held on the occasion of the first meeting of the ESCAP Committee on Poverty Reduction on 8-10 October 2003. This revised plan takes into account the comments and recommendations of that open forum, as well as relevant recent initiatives of multilateral agencies, such as ESCAP-SIAP's proposed project on Building National Capacity in Statistics to Monitor the Progress on the MDGs, UNDP's Capacity Development for MDG Monitoring and Analysis, WB's national statistical master plan development assistance under its Multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, SPCs' data dissemination efforts under its PRISM database project, and ADB's statistical capacity building technical assistance program.

2. A focused way to address the task of improving poverty statistics and poverty monitoring is through the MDG road map indicators, excluding indicators 33 – 44 on international financial flows, trade subsidies, and the like that are compiled directly by the designated international agencies; see annex table 1. Most of the remaining subset covers both income and non-income indicators; moreover, these are either country-sourced or are derived from supporting statistics from the countries, at least in so far as national level indicators are concerned.² Hence, while the emphasis is on a subset of the MDG indicators, the draft plan ultimately addresses the need to strengthen countries' capabilities to improve their national databases.

3. The plan has no cost estimates inasmuch as it has a long-term scope within which statistical capacity building (SCB) resources from all sources cannot be forecast with confidence. The plan's coverage is also necessarily broader than ESCAP's potential role; however, the latter's proposed parts are clearly identified and are concentrated in the agency's

¹ A proposal prepared for ESCAP in January-March 2003 by I. P. David, Consultant; revised based on comments and suggestions during a panel discussion on the occasion of the first meeting of the Committee on Poverty Reduction in October. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of ESCAP.

² There are exceptions: The proportion of the population below minimum dietary energy level is compiled by FAO, not by the individual countries. Some national level indicators are compiled both by the countries and international agencies, and the results are not always consistent, while some indicators not available from countries are somehow available from international agencies (see section IIB below). Regional and global indicators generally are not completely derived from country-sourced indicators. International agencies do not compile sub-national indicators.

main mandate and comparative advantages as a UN regional commission. The projects in the plan that deserve priority attention in the next biennium are likewise identified.

II. Critical Success Factors in Producing the MDG Indicators

4. There are three interlocking factors that ESCAP, as regional coordinating body for statistical capacity building (SCB) in general, and for MDGs production and monitoring in particular, needs to address with urgency and high priority.

A. Full Engagement of the National Statistical Systems

5. While the Millennium Declaration was signed by 191 countries, there are indications that the national data producers in the developing countries have not been engaged nor consulted adequately on the ensuing development of the MDG monitoring process in general, and on the choice of indicators in particular. Changes in the indicators were being made until 2002 by the international agencies assigned as compilers/custodians, in meetings attended mostly by the same agencies (David, 2003). Referring to the Pacific Islands national statistics offices (NSOs), G. Parry (2003) observed that these "... have generally not been involved to any significant extent in the development and adoption of the MDG indicators – indeed in early 2003 many were still not aware of the detailed list of indicators. As an inevitable result of that lack of consultation, many NSOs in the region do not have an underlying commitment to target those MDG indicators, which are not already available ...” The same observation, though perhaps to a somewhat lesser degree, may fit the situation in the Asian countries. A recent report of the Friends of the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission (2002) mentioned that this runs through many indicators sets developed for other UN Summits. The report noted, “Token consultation by international agencies when key decisions have already been made is not sufficient.”

6. Securing NSS commitments to produce the MDG indicators is a necessary condition for improving the indicators availability situation, thus providing assurance of a more credible and successful monitoring of the progress on the MDGs at designated milestones leading to and until 2015 – at national, sub-regional and regional levels. This could be pursued by ESCAP through active collaboration with agencies that help countries prepare/amend national statistical development plans that accommodate sustained production of the MDG indicators (see section C below), as well as by engaging governments in high level dialogs whenever opportunities arise.

B. Country –By-Country Status of MDG Indicators

7. In general terms, we know that:

- Some indicators are compiled by international agencies but not by the countries (e.g. \$1 a day poverty line/incidence, proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy, energy use in kg. oil equiv. per capita). However, these indicators still require country data as inputs. Moreover, these raise possibilities of discordance

with otherwise conceptually highly correlated national indicators or with indicators compiled by the other international agencies.

- The countries update majority of the indicators at infrequent intervals than required for global monitoring (e.g. annually by the UN) or by annual flagship publications (e.g. FAO-SOFI, UNDP-HDR, WB-WDR). Examples are social indicators from decennial censuses only (e.g. proportion of population with access to secure tenure, proportion of population using solid fuels) or quinquennial demographic and health surveys (e.g. condom use rate, maternal mortality ratio). Some may not have values as far back as 1990.
- Some indicators are not compiled by the country, but basic data exists that could support the compilation in the format or concept prescribed in the MDG monitoring process. Examples are education and employment indicators required for age groups or base populations different from what the countries use.
- Many indicators are new or the definition is radically changed that no indicators nor basic data are available; e.g. number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women, proportion of population with affordable access to essential drugs, proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water source.
- In the extreme case, some indicators have multiple (often unequal or not comparable) estimates from the country and/or from international sources; e.g. poverty incidence, social indicators from sample surveys and administrative reporting systems.

8. A complete census of countries will be needed to ascertain in specific terms the situation in each country. An example of the results of such a census is shown in annex table 2, for the Philippines. The table shows, for each indicator, the years of availability from 1990, and the source in the country. The questionnaire may be expanded to gather additional information on alternative sources, whether primary data are available from which compilations (of unavailable indicators) could be made, changes in concepts and methods from 1990, and lowest level of disaggregation that the indicator is available. Note that Table 2 indicates when an indicator is not available in the country, but an international agency somehow has it (e.g. aids data from UNAIDS, energy use from WB, proportion of population with access to affordable drugs from WHO, personal computers and internet users from ITU). This raises interesting questions that need to be researched – regarding the methods used by these agencies.

9. To reduce the countries' burden, the questionnaire to be sent may be pre-filled with entries from existing national and international databases (e.g. UNSD, WB, ADB, PRISM, IMF). The returned questionnaires should be supplemented with ground verification (e.g. by ESCAP missions to the countries, including those of the Regional Advisers) to determine the real status of the indicators.

10. The census results will be useful in laying the groundwork for a poverty statistics database at ESCAP (see section xxx), putting the MDG monitoring on a sounder footing in terms of more information as well as fixing the data sources for each indicator until 2015, and crafting national statistical development plans that ensure inclusion of the MDG indicators (see next section C).

C. Long-Term National Statistical Development Plan (NSDP).

11. Each country without an NSDP should be convinced and helped to develop one that incorporates building capacity to produce poverty statistics including the MDG indicators. Countries with NSDPs may need to do revisions if the latter do not ensure capacity building for and production of the poverty statistics/MDG indicators. The aim is for most if not all ESCAP countries to improve the quality, quantity and comparability of MDG indicators they produce within a reasonable time. The customary five-year planning cycle is not adequate for SCB that is inherently a long-term process. The year 2015, which is the Millennium Declaration final evaluation period, is a good candidate end year also for the NSDPs.

12. Some vital components of an NSDP that increase the probability of success in building durable statistical capacity are discussed in David (2001). These include: annual budget estimates for the statistical system – total, divided by source (government and donors), and percent share in national budget; explicit identification of donors' roles vis-à-vis government's role; and continued donor support dependent upon observable conditionalities to be verified at designated milestone years during the NSDP implementation period. Two very important conditionalities are: that the total budget releases to the NSS are rising at the same time that the donors/government ratio in the budget releases is declining, in accordance with the NSDP estimates. These in turn imply that donors will increasingly refrain from continued funding of basic data collection (which often includes paying honoraria to NSS personnel), to a point where in 2015 donor support is essentially limited to providing training, consultants, and small-scale piloting of new data systems.

13. ESCAP should seek avenues of collaboration with agencies active in this area, notably: World Bank's Multi-donor Trust Fund for SCB and STATPAC, a loan facility for SCB; PARIS21; ADB Technical Assistance preparation missions; UNDP support for National Human Development Reports and its new project, Capacity Development for MDG Monitoring and Analysis; and some bilaterals, such as UK-DFID.

14. It is recommended that ESCAP - through its own resources or through technical assistance, in collaboration with other agencies, and by taking the lead role in coordinating statistical activities in the region – promote or implement the following:

- **Secure NSS commitments to the production of the MDG indicators.**
- **Conduct a census on the status of MDG indicators in the ESCAP countries, as described in (B) above.**
- **Conduct a review of NSDPs, and help individual countries develop or amend these along the lines suggested in (C) above.**

III. Strengthening Methodology Research and Data Analysis Capacity in the NSS

15. To-date, the bulk of research on poverty measurement, monitoring and analysis has been done outside of the NSSs. To accelerate work in these areas, donors recommend/support the provision of the needed basic data (at ultimate sampling unit level, such as household) by the NSSs to analysts in academe, research institutes, and international agencies. Little thought has been given to the advantages of extending support for similar activities to the NSSs themselves, no doubt because of the prevailing operational dichotomy in developing countries – that NSS produces, somebody else analyzes.

16. In developing countries, there are significant rewards in research and data analysis on top of the regular salaries, such as honoraria from funded projects, authorship of papers, and opportunities to present the latter in local and international meetings. The reticence of some NSSs to widely disseminate basic survey data is partly due to the fact that they are currently unable to share in these rewards. Recent suggestions for more involvement of the NSSs in the preparation of NHDRs and PRSPs, for instance, are signs that the NSSs roles in these activities have been as data providers only. In some countries, e.g. Philippines and Thailand, the NSOs are responsible for conducting the poverty monitoring surveys, after which the analysis and/or reporting is assigned elsewhere, e.g. to the National Statistical Coordination Board and National Economic and Statistical Development Board, respectively.

17. Enabling NSS to share in the rewards of data analysis is a necessary condition for increasing NSS willingness to share its basic data. NSS experience in methodological research on data quality and poverty measurement should lead to synergistic improvements in the agency's data collection methods and basic data quality on the one hand; and on the relevance, timeliness and accuracy of the resulting poverty statistics on the other hand.

18. It follows that the support being given by donors and government towards strengthening poverty research and data analysis capability should be extended to the NSS also.

- **ESCAP, particularly its Statistics Division, could play an active role here by raising its participation in the preparation of NSDPs and ensuring that these include capacity building in data management and analysis, possibly even setting up research and development units (RDUs) in NSOs where there are none. ESCAP could likewise promote – from its own projects or through inter-agency collaboration – granting small grants research on data quality and analysis to NSO staff, organizing regional technical meetings to present the results from these research grants, and NSO participation in donor- assisted projects require heavy use and analysis of national databases, e.g., NHDRs, and PRSPs.³**

³ ESCAP's Expert Group on Statistics meetings are good examples of providing a regular venue for exchanging methodology research results; their impact can be enhanced if small grants funds can be given to qualified NSS staffs in more focused topics, and gathering the grantees in a meeting to present their results. The WBI- Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative (PADI) is notable in giving priority also to capacity building for data management and analysis in the poverty data producer agencies. ADB's recently concluded Technical Assistance No 3656 to NSO-Philippines included small grants where one condition is that the proposals required use of basic data for investigating data quality and different poverty assessment approaches, as well as the creation of a Research and Development Group in NSO.

IV. Improving the Efficiency of Technical Assistance Funds Use

19. Consultant services take the lion's share of the total cost of TA projects, particularly those packaged by multilateral and regional development financing institutions. This is mainly because the recruitment of consultants has to be open to all nationals of these agencies' member states; the remuneration, benefits and allowances offered are according to "agency standard figures" that are followed uniformly in loans and technical assistance projects; and these figures are based on the market rates in the advance member states.⁴

20. Bilateral TA usually is tied, i.e. most procurement of goods and services are sourced from the donor country and consultants are hired based on home country market rates.

21. Thus, the bulk of statistics TA projects and funds have been unable, and continue to be unable, to take full advantage of the presence of much lower cost technical experts from the developing countries. And in the ESCAP region the wide range in statistical development stages among the countries implies that the less developed can look upon the more developed for technical expert services – if only a financing and operational facility to arrange such services exists. Aside from getting longer consultancy service for the same amount, there could be instances where consultants from developing countries possess skills more relevant or appropriate to the needs of another developing country. The skills required in a national statistical agency are varied, ranging from low, almost routine (e.g. data collection, editing, etc.), middle level (e.g. data processing, field and office work supervision), upper-middle (e.g. report writing, national accounts compilation, managing a census or survey), to highest technical and supervisory (census and sample survey design, database development/management, top management echelon of the office). Some of these require long-term stays to get the assigned task done. Thus, it is not cost-effective to hire high-level consultants most of the time, nor is it always appropriate to hire for a period that is enough only to leave behind some expert advice.

22. UN Volunteer types of consultants (usually middle to upper-middle statistical staffs) who stay for longer periods to implement the recommendations of a higher level expert, have proved especially effective in the Pacific island economies, in the least statistically developed Asian countries, and in the Asian transition countries. The region has many retired senior statisticians who would be willing to provide their services to another developing country at rates marginally above UN DSA rates.⁵ Reviving or exploring these possibilities is highly

⁴ For bigger projects – NSDP projects tend to fall in this category - recruitment and project implementation is easier when a consulting firm is engaged instead of hiring individual consultants. Aside from overhead charges, the more established consulting firms are from the advanced countries, hence still higher costs.

⁵ An informal survey of a limited number of senior statisticians in the region – some retired and some close to retirement – showed that many indeed like the idea of being involved in this type of TCDC arrangement. It will be a simple matter to extend the inquiry electronically to a wider group of retirees to have a more definitive assessment and, if the results are encouraging, the same inquiry could be the source of an initial list of consultants under the proposed program.

recommended for SCB funding agencies. It is clear, however, that the operational policies and procedures of the Bretton Woods Institutions, regional development banks and bilateral donors could pose serious constraints to their pursuing these modalities of providing cost-effective consultants. This is not so with the UN, as proved by the UN Volunteers Program and some UN agencies' practice of rehiring their retired professional staffs for DSA plus \$100 daily rate.

- **It is recommended that ESCAP develop a program based on a more dynamic Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and UN-Volunteers type of approach to SCB in general, and to SCB for monitoring the MDG and poverty situation in particular. Compiling a list of willing consultants-volunteers, with a corps of distinguished retired statisticians from the region forming the core of the list, will be an auspicious first step (see footnote 5). The list, if impressive and convincing, could help ESCAP seek funds for the program. It is even possible that some of the distinguished retired professionals would volunteer their services to help ESCAP administer the program.**

V. Strengthening ESCAP's Role in Monitoring Poverty and the MDGs.

23. UNSD maintains a millennium indicators website (<http://millenniumindicators.un.org>) as part of its role in the global MDG monitoring process, which is also used in preparing the Secretary General's annual report to the General Assembly on the status of the agreed Millennium Goals. The World Bank also maintains an MDG Indicators website. The other designated compilers/custodians (UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, etc.) do not have specific MDG web sites, but have their traditional statistics sites that contain their respective indicators assignments. It has been agreed that the designated compilers/custodians regularly compile their assigned indicators, carry out estimations to fill national, regional and global gaps, and report these to UNSD. There seem to be no parallel arrangements in the ESCAP region (and possibly in the other regions, which would imply a lack of discussion/agreement at the global level on the role of the Regional Commissions in the monitoring of the MDGs).

24. As in all global initiatives, ESCAP's roles in promoting poverty reduction and monitoring the MDGs include the vital task of coordinating activities in the region, which no other agency is doing or is in a better position to do. Two projects are being proposed in this regard.

25. One is to set an ESCAP *Coordination Secretariat on Poverty Statistics and SCB*. It will be initially an electronic information exchange center. Work can be sequenced in three phases.

- **Phase 1 will be to create a website that will inform monthly on activities and plans of donors and individual developing members (e.g. similar to WorldBank PovertyNet Newsletter, but with regional and country focus, hence more details). The objective is to solve the weak information exchange between UN and non-UN**

agencies, individual countries, and other stakeholders (e.g. civil society groups) in the region. This phase could be started as soon as possible and a working website could be set up well within one year.

- Phase 2 will basically be expansion of the contents of the website; e.g. linking with national DEVINFOs and NSDP documents as these become operational, research/project reports including at country level which might be of interest to other countries.
- Phase 3 will be enhancing functionalities of the system; e.g., developing a system for monitoring/rating country performance on the production of poverty statistics and MDG indicators (similar to UNSD's system for 1993 SNA implementation, for example); posting priority SCB proposals in behalf of countries for information of potential donors; providing advisory services, consultations, and meetings via teleconferencing.

26. A second proposal is for ESCAP-SD to study the pros and cons of putting up a regional MDG and Poverty Indicators website. Should the conclusion from the study favor the creation of a website, this could be integrated with the Statistics Division's Asia-Pacific in Figures site, although a distinctly named clickable site would be preferable. The site should be developed in close consultation with the Poverty Centre and Committee on Poverty Reduction. The site should be designed to serve the monitoring, research and analysis needs of ESCAP primarily, although it will of course be available globally for any interested parties. To be low cost, it should be linked to and updated largely through the above-mentioned international agency sites and the member countries sites; and these may be supplemented by ESCAP's ongoing data collection system suitably expanded to include hitherto uncollected MDG and poverty indicators. Links to national DEVINFO systems proposed for development under the UNDP project, Capacity Building for MDG Monitoring and Analysis in the next two years would make updating more cost effective and could open up possibilities of including sub-national indicators.

27. Annual regional expert group or technical meetings on the MDG and Poverty Indicators are also recommended, to help ESCAP in its responsibilities to update the website, assess the impact of SCB on availability of the MDG indicators, and monitor MDGs status in the region.

28. An ESCAP MDG and poverty indicators website will not be considered redundant if it can be justified by the following: ESCAP monitoring, research and analytic requirements at individual country, sub-regional and regional levels cannot be served fully by the other existing websites. Specifically, should the ESCAP Executive Secretary decide to submit to the Commission an annual report on the status of the MDG implementation that would require sub-regional and certain national level trends in the indicators, then having a regional website will be an advantage (assuming other regional sites, such as ADB's will not be adequate for the task). Even a less than annual report on the MDGs, such as ESCAP-UNDP publication, "Promoting the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific", if repeated at specified milestone years, could

profit greatly from a website. Work on the website will provide ESCAP first hand information on the status of MDG and poverty indicators availability in the region, which is useful in assessing the need, priorities, and design of SCB activities. Relatedly, the website would be useful in monitoring the progress of SCB activities also. Assessments of the comparability, consistency, and availability of indicators over an extended period (1990 to 2015) could be significantly different at the regional and global levels. Thus, while MDG monitoring at the global level will be based on the 48 prescribed indicators, the data situation in the ESCAP member states could very well lead to substitution of some by comparatively more available, comparable and reliable proxy indicators.

VI. Rationalizing National Poverty Data Collection and Monitoring Systems

29. Many developing countries are trapped in a vicious circle of low internal demand – low resources – inadequate supply of statistics. Scores of past statistical technical assistance (TA) failed to break this circle because these raised total demand (by adding donor needs), injected non-recurrent TA funds, and increased the supply of statistics – but only during the life of the TA. To be successful, a SCB project should help break the circle by being a positive influence towards increasing domestic demand for statistics (such as by enhancing analytic capacity), raising the share of statistics in the government’s recurrent budget, and/or boost data production capability (e.g. through training of official statisticians).

30. The adoption of poverty reduction as a priority objective by most developing countries has increased the demand for poverty data. The unprecedented endorsement of the Millennium Declaration by 192 countries, with the monitoring of the MDGs based on mostly statistical indicators, and the promotion of evidence-based decision making will further increase demand for statistics – up to 2015 at least. The demand is intensifying along three dimensions: more indicators, more frequent updating, and lower disaggregations. This is good, provided there would be matching improvements in the resource position and capability of the NSS; otherwise, user dissatisfaction with the NSS will worsen and the vicious circle would be strengthened instead of broken.

31. On the one hand, user demands often show inadequate understanding or consideration of the relationships between costs, survey errors (non-sampling error + sampling error), and the size of sample survey operations. Thus, in most ESCAP countries there is expressed demand for breaking down statistics further from national and regional, to provincial and sometimes district, village, and household levels. The core module of Indonesia’s Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas), for example, has grown from 16,000 sample households in 1963 with a periodicity of three years, to 205,000 sample households currently that is repeated annually (Surbakti, et. al. 2001). The main reason for the 12-fold growth in size is to be able to produce regency level poverty statistics. Susenas is supplemented still by new poverty data collection activities in the Central Bureau of Statistics (e.g. village censuses to identify so-called backward villages) and elsewhere (e.g. the National Family Planning Board started in 1994 an annual complete registration of all families, with the aim to classify and identify the poor that would be eligible to welfare subsidies).

32. The international donors add significantly to the demand for data. Fortunately, there have been recent positive developments pointing to a growing awareness that forcing more out of limited

capacities of NSSs is neither reasonable nor sustainable. The World Bank's work on poverty mapping aims to utilize existing data from surveys and censuses for producing small area statistics as an alternative to collecting new data or doing bigger surveys. The Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative (PADI) programme of WB Institute aims to strengthen national survey data analysis capabilities and encourages dialogs between users and producers, both of which could lead to data driven by internal demand that would be analyzed more fully, instead of continually collecting data and putting these to limited (sometimes one time) use. However, some decisions are still being made without adequate consideration of the burden imposed on the data producers. The UN Secretary General's and FAO Director General's decisions to prepare annual reports on the status of the Millennium Declaration and world hunger, respectively, are recent examples. The flagship annual publications of international agencies (e.g. WB-WDR, UNDP-HDR, FAO-SOFI) have implied needs for yearly updating of nationally sourced indicators.

33. On the other hand, some NSSs seem unsuccessful in presenting their side of the story. Much of the statistics and indicators they produce are not accompanied by measures of error, not even sampling error when the sources are sample surveys. Consequently, there is a dearth of quantitative evidence that could otherwise support or argue against producing estimates for very small areas, or that could provide scientific guidance on decisions concerning the periodicity of data collection, or whether an observed difference in an indicator is more likely due to a real change or not. More fundamentally, sample surveys and censuses with no estimates of errors lose their distinct advantage over other data collection systems employed by other bodies, such as administrative reports, rapid appraisal, use of key informants, and focus groups.

34. It is recommended that ESCAP, in collaboration with other agencies (SIAP, UNDP, WBI-PADI, ADB, and/or some of the developing countries in the region), launch a series of technical meetings, seminars and workshops between users and producers on inter-related topics like – but not limited to - the following: design of a system of household surveys that would be used for major household-based inquiries, that satisfy prescribed precision levels, and provide updates in accordance with periodicities and release dates mutually agreeable between major users and the NSS. The aims are: for the countries to learn from each other in resolving their common problems of rationalizing their system of household-based data systems; to bring data demand and supply in closer harmony, particularly with regard to levels of disaggregation and periodicities of updates; to bring the countries' methodologies, survey dates and periodicities closer; and to provide a venue for discussing potential technical cooperation between the developing countries themselves.

35. The meetings will be more technical and evidence-based than past user-producer dialogs. Successful approaches that countries tried that have potentially useful lessons or applications in other countries could be main agenda items in these meetings. For example, the Philippines has been working towards redesigning its master sample for household surveys, using the 1997 to 2000 surveys as test cases and the 2000 census of population and housing database as frame. With unemployment rate from Labor Force Surveys, poverty incidence from the Family Income and Expenditure Surveys, and contraceptive prevalence rate from the Demographic and Health Surveys as design variables, the results showed that 45,000 sample households will be needed to ensure that estimates for the 17 regions will have cvs under 10 percent; and that prescribing the same precision for 80 province estimates will require a five-fold increase in sample size and about four-fold increase in cost. The National

Statistical Coordination Board's Technical Committee on Survey Design (TCSD) endorsed the proposed redesign of the master sample during its March 2003 meeting, for use during the next ten years in about 8-10 major household surveys of the NSS. The new master sample also addressed common perennial problems of other countries; e.g. it employs partial sample rotation to ease respondent burden/fatigue and replicated sampling to simplify estimation procedures particularly of sampling errors. The TCSD also recommended user-producer dialogs on important issues brought out by the new master sample project. For instance, even if the money could be found, doing a 250,000 sized Labor Force Survey every quarter and releasing the results before the next round is conducted is just not possible. Hard decisions on the frequency of the LFS and/or whether to forego provincial estimates need to be made. Regarding provincial estimates of poverty incidence, it was decided to explore small area estimation techniques, but done at less frequent intervals, e.g. after each population and housing census.

36. The Philippines example and others, e.g. Indonesia's modular structure of household surveys, Thailand's ongoing experiment with panel surveys, Vietnam's experience in merging two different poverty monitoring surveys into one and issues of sustainability of a monthly data collection scheme, should be of interest to other countries. A very interesting possibility is for the same consultants and counterparts from these developing countries to provide technical assistance in transferring or adopting the methodologies to neighboring countries. The process likewise promotes comparability of methodologies among countries.

VII. Alternative Methodologies for Estimating Income Poverty Indicators

37. Three of the five road map indicators chosen to monitor MDG1, Targets 1 & 2 have World Bank as compiler/custodian. The countries do not compile proportion of population below \$1 PPP per day. It is not surprising that the countries do not use the \$1 a day indicator that much, given that it is not available in many of them⁶, inconsistencies with the national estimates are well documented, and it has no sub-national breakdowns. The last point is crucial, because it is not reasonable to expect a country to use one indicator nationally and then switch to another for poverty alleviation targeting and monitoring for regions and provinces.

38. If the \$1 a day indicator is used to compute the second road map indicator, poverty gap ratio, the results will likewise not be comparable to the national estimates. Similarly, the time series on the share of the poorest quintile in national consumption (or income), which is updated annually by the WB, must have some degree of non-comparability with those produced less frequently by countries. The same can be said of the fourth indicator, prevalence of underweight children under five years of age, which UNICEF/WHO need to update annually, at least to the extent that can support the production of regional and global estimates, while the countries compile these from national nutrition surveys that are conducted every five years, or sometimes even less frequently.

⁶ UNDP's HDR2003 (Box 2.1, p35) reports that 55% of developing and transition countries lack any \$1 a day estimate and 100% do not have trend data (estimates for at least two time periods).

39. The fifth indicator, proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy, is compiled by FAO alone. The countries and the other international agencies do not compile anything comparable to it. As a measure of the prevalence of undernourishment (of dietary kilocalories), it is akin to the incidence of food poverty; and theoretically, its value should not exceed that of total poverty incidence (which includes non-food basic requirements). It should also correlate strongly with other poverty measures, such as prevalence of underweight children under five years of age. However, comparisons based on a sample of countries in the region showed rather serious discordance between these indicators (see. e.g. David 2002; Maligalig, 2002).

40. It is recommended that comparisons of theoretically correlated MDG indicators and other potential proxy indicators be extended to cover all ESCAP countries and international compilers/custodians with the aim to: gauge fully the availability, agreement and discordance among them; and identify a set that, based on certain criteria (such as availability – including at sub-national levels, parsimony, concordance, comparability) can be used by countries to monitor progress at the sub-national and national levels, and by ESCAP at the sub-regional and regional levels.

41. It is recommended also that alternative methods and measures of poverty be developed and tested. The exploration should be confined to methods that advance comparability within and across countries, and should satisfy three criteria: no heavy add-on data collection burden on the countries; each country can compile and update the measures from its own data; and the measures are useful at sub-national, national and transnational levels of monitoring and analysis. In particular, it is recommended that the methods of estimating food poverty incidence and total poverty incidence suggested in David (2002), be tested in a number of countries. The methods satisfy the above criteria and are based on a common energy consumption threshold and the per capita energy consumption distribution (for food poverty) and on a common food expenditure/total expenditure ratio (for total poverty incidence). It is proposed that their use to monitor extreme and absolute poverty incidence in the ESCAP region be seriously considered.

42. The above recommendations could be implemented in-house by ESCAP, through staff/project consultants, or in collaboration with a research institution in the region – and with the cooperation of participating developing countries. The results of these studies, particularly those based on live data, including estimation of distributions from survey data, and of food poverty incidence and total poverty incidence from the countries' methods and the proposed new methods, could be useful material for a handbook or manual on poverty measurement (see next section).

VIII. A Poverty Handbook for the Region?

43. This proposal has been discussed in a number of past ESCAP-SD meetings, including the 2001 Expert Group on Statistics and the 2002 Committee on Statistics meetings. It seemed like a very good idea at the time. However, just like the idea of a Poverty Statistics and MDG

website, ESCAP should evaluate the pros and cons of the proposed Handbook in light of recent developments and related plans of other groups. In particular, the evaluation should study the following:

- UNSD has an ongoing project to produce a book, “Poverty Statistics: Concepts, Methods and Practices”, for release in 2005. The Rio Group on Poverty Statistics also has plans to compile a “Compendium of Good Practices” and put it out as a handbook. The Rio Group’s plans are not as final as the UNSD project. A proposal to combine the two books into one volume remains unresolved, but is in the agenda of the next meeting of the Rio Group.
- Is there need for, or added value from, an ESCAP Handbook? An answer will require looking at the proposed contents of the two above-mentioned books; e.g. what are the chances that the UNSD book might be thin on the data producer’s perspectives, while the Rio book might not cover ESCAP countries’ practices? If the answer is yes to both, the need for an ESCAP Handbook could be bolstered by emphasizing on good practices in the region from the point of view of the NSSs (data producers); and by including results of studies on alternative methodologies, particularly those that improve on comparability and availability of the indicators between countries in the region and within country.
- The cost of preparing the handbook needs to be estimated, which requires having a topical outline/contents and ballpark number of pages. Can the added value of the Handbook justify the cost of preparing it? What is the likelihood of finding funding sponsors? What about alternatives, e.g. compiling good practices and posting these on the Coordination Website (Section V.)

44. ESCAP might want to include the results of the study, and final proposal on whether or not to proceed with the Handbook, in the Subcommittee on Statistics meeting agenda in February 2004.

IX. Regarding ICP, World Living Conditions Survey, and PADI.

45. ICP has been in the international agenda since 1968. Despite strong support by WB, IMF, OECD and the major bilateral donors, ICP’s rate of adoption in the developing countries has been short of expectations. The timetable for the next World ICP kept inching forward, from the second half of the last decade, to 2004. For the ESCAP region, that would be more than 10 years since the last ICP price surveys in 1993. The reasons are many and had been discussed in many fora: funding; lingering administrative, technical and operational issues; and weak ownership/commitment on the part of many developing countries. The last of these reasons is perhaps the most important yet least analyzed.

46. Individual developing countries compile national accounts (and regional or states accounts for some) in their respective national currencies, which they use for the preparation, monitoring and assessment of their plans, policies and economic performance. They do not

use ICP-derived indexes and accounts for these very important functions. Hence, many developing countries view ICP as a tool for international comparisons and analyses, which are done in international agencies and academic institutions in the advanced countries. Therefore, it was not surprising that some of the developing countries had conditioned their participation on a “users-pay” arrangement. These may be fine, except that: (a) the resources used for ICP could be deducted from the total SCB funds that would otherwise go to the developing countries higher priority projects and (b) the sustainability of ICP could become a continuing issue.⁷

47. ESCAP will continue collaborating with World Bank (Global Coordinator) and ADB (Regional Coordinator) on the implementation of ICP2004. The Regional Advisers may assist in the designing the ICP price surveys and in mainstreaming the relevant poverty and MDG indicators into the ICP programmed.

48. Besides ICP and the MDG indicators, there are many unfinished international projects on the developing countries’ agenda for the remainder of the decade; e.g. implementation of the 1993 SNA, environmental accounting, and work arising from the recommendations of the City Groups. Many ESCAP countries have not fully recovered from the 1997/98 financial crises, which led to reduced resources for statistics. Some countries have failed to do their 2000 census rounds (population and/or agriculture) on time. Thus, it can be argued that the capacities of the NSSs in the region are and will continue to be stretched to their limits. These factors will have to be considered when discussing any new international proposal, such as the World Living Conditions Survey (WLCS). It is good that the proposal has been put forward to encourage debate on future data development activities relating to the measurement of poverty outcomes around the globe. In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the debate should include the following also:

- In their report (2002), the Friends of the UNSC Chair noted the proliferation of international summits and initiatives that require the compilation of an increasing number of statistical indicators; however, many of these summits and their statistical requirements tended to be foisted with token, often post-facto, consultation with the developing countries in general, and with the latter’s NSSs in particular.
- With its dominant intellectual and material investment on poverty concepts, issues and measurement methods, the World Bank – if it so chooses - can very easily emerge as the strongest choice for coordinator of a WLCS. However, WB is already coordinator of ICP, administers an SCB trust facility, has a lending window specifically for SCB projects (STATCAP), and is the main driving force behind PARIS 21. The implications of possibly giving the agency more dominance than it already has in the international statistical system needs to be reviewed carefully in close consultation with other parties like the UNSD/UNSC and regional organizations.

⁷ Similarly, developing countries compile their own poverty statistics that are disaggregated at sub-national levels; hence, they have found little use for the WP \$1 a day estimates and FAO’s supply-based dietary energy insufficiency indicator.

- Serious efforts are needed to achieve a more balanced approach to SCB, which presently appears to be very much tilted towards poverty-related social indicators, hence to household-based data collection activities.
- Until the 1960s, there was no ambiguity on the part of many governments that population and housing censuses were their responsibilities; and external assistance was mainly in the form of advisory services. In the succeeding two decades massive assistance was made available not only for providing advisers, but also for financing, and sometimes managing, the census operations. As a consequence, it has been observed that there are some countries in the region that were able to run and fund their censuses before, but found difficulty convincing their governments to provide enough resources for the 2000 census rounds. Some observers attribute this to an adverse effect of an aid dependency that has set in. Whether a WLCS coordinated by an international agency/institution, with substantial financial contributions from external donors, might have similar unwanted impact on the future sustainability of poverty monitoring surveys, will have to be looked into also.
- The control and allocation of resources for SCB, and the direction of SCB activities, seem to emanate more from central headquarters of funding agencies, such as Washington, New York, Paris. There is much to be said about reversing the trend, by decentralizing much of the formulation, processing and administration of SCB projects and resources to the relevant regional institutions. Doing so could improve cost-effectiveness of SCB funds use, increase the likelihood of more South-South cooperation, as well put those closer to the problems in the driver's seat – and that includes not only statistical units in the regional agencies, but also national statistical systems in the developing countries.

49. ESCAP may want to consider having the debate on the WLCS proposal in its future meetings, particularly of the Subcommittee on Statistics and Committee on Poverty Reduction.

50. PADI (Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative) was started in Asia in 2000 by the World Bank Institute in association with a network of regional institutions, such as the Philippine Institute of Development Studies for activities for Southeast Asia. Several regional and in-country training and workshops have been held, with emphasis on survey data processing and analysis. PADI is modeled after the MECOVI Programme in Latin America that is collaboration between the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, ECLAC, and some sub-regional and national statistics and research institutes. Thus, a draft medium-term programme (2002-2005) for PADI likewise proposes similar collaboration between WBI, ADB, ESCAP, and a network of national institutions.

51. The movers of PADI at the World Bank are analysts, mainly economists. The same is true with the network coordinators e.g. Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) for Southeast Asia.⁸ Thus the first phase activities were concentrated on increasing capability to use data for poverty analysis and bringing together analysts and statisticians to discuss supply-demand synergies. Some of the workshops were actual training on the survey data processing package STATA, using actual data

⁸ The writer was consultant to PIDS and helped plan and administer a PIDS-WBI Workshop on Strengthening Poverty Data Collection and Analysis, on 30 April – 3 May 2001 in Manila.

sets from the participating countries. **This is a very good start. ESCAP (Statistics Division) could actively collaborate to make certain that the next phases of PADI cover improving statistical capacity to improve data collection, the quality and quantity of poverty statistics being produced, and the dissemination not only of the statistics/indicators, but also of the basic data and metadata for further use by analysts.** The PADI Action Plan (2002-2005), Annex 2 contains a useful list of statistical capacity building needs expressed by the countries themselves during workshops held in 2001-2002. Majority of these are covered in the recommendations made in this report; e.g. developing rational and harmonized poverty data collection and reporting system, redesigning household surveys used in poverty monitoring and analysis, need for long-term national statistical development programs, etc.

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Annex Table 1. Millennium development indicators 2000

Goal	Target	Indicator*		International compiler(s)/custodian(s)			Type of indicator*	
G1	T1	1	Proportion of population below \$1 PPP per day	WB			End goal	
		2	Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)	WB			End goal	
		3	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	WB			End goal	
	T2	4	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	UNICEF	WHO		Outcome	
		5	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy	FAO			End goal	
G2	T3	6	Net enrolment ratio in primary education, girls, boys, total	UNESCO			Output	
		7	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5, girls, boys, total	UNESCO			Outcome	
		8	Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women, men, total	UNESCO			Outcome	
G3	T4	9	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	UNESCO			Output	
		10	Ratio of literate women to men of 15- to 24-year-olds	UNESCO			Outcome	
		11	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	ILO			Outcome	
		12	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	IPU			Outcome	
G4	T5	13	Under-five mortality rate	UNICEF	WHO		Outcome	
		14	Infant mortality rate	UNICEF	WHO		Outcome	
		15	Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	UNICEF	WHO		Outcome	
G5	T6	16	Maternal mortality ratio	UNICEF	WHO		Outcome	
		17	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	UNICEF	WHO		Output	
G6	T7	18	HIV prevalence among 15-to-24-year-old pregnant women	UNAIDS	UNICEF	WHO	Outcome	
		19	Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	UNICEF	UN Pop. Div.		Outcome	
		20	Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS	UNICEF	UNAIDS		Outcome	
		T8	21	Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	WHO			Outcome
			22	Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures	UNICEF	WHO		Outcome
			23	Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	WHO			Outcome
			24	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)	WHO			Outcome
	G7	T9	25	Proportion of land area covered by forest	FAO			Outcome

		26	Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area	UNEP	IUCN		Outcome
		27	Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)	IEA	UNSD	WB	Input
		28	Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)	UNFCCC	UNSD	UNEP	Outcome
		29	Proportion of population using solid fuels	WHO			Input
	T10	30	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	UNICEF	WHO		Output
	T11	31	Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation	UNICEF	WHO		Output
		32	Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)	HABITAT			Output
G8	T12 to T15	33	Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	OECD			Input
		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)	OECD			Input
		35	Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	OECD			Input
		36	ODA received in landlocked countries as a proportion of their gross national income	OECD			Input
		37	ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of gross national income	OECD			Input
		38	Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and from LDCs, admitted free of duty	UNCTAD			Input
		39	Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries	UNCTAD			Output
		40	Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their GDP	OECD			Outcome
		41	Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	OECD	WTO		Input
		42	Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number of that reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)	IMF	WB		Outcome
		43	Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative (US\$)	IMF	WB		Input
		44	Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	IMF	WB		Input
	T16	45	Unemployment rate of 15-to-24-year-olds, each sex and total	ILO			Outcome

	T17	46	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	WHO			Output
	T18	47	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population	ITU			Output
		48	Personal computers in use per 100 population and Internet users per 100 population	ITU			Output
Source: Indicators as included in the annex to the report of the Secretary General at its fifty-seventh session, "Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/57/270).							

Annex Table 2. Status of MDG Indicators, By Availability, Philippines

	MDG Indicator	Data Available	Source
1.	Available		
1.1	Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day <i>(For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available)</i>	1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000	NSCB
1.2	Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)	1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000	NSCB
1.3	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000 (computed using FIES results)	NSO
1.4	Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	1990, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1998 and 2001	FNRI
1.5	Net enrolment ratio in primary education	Annual (2001 latest); 1996-1999 (available by sex)	DECS
1.6	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	Annual (1990-2001 available)	DECS
1.7	Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds	1990 and 1994 (simple literacy)	NSO
1.8	Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	Primary (1993-2000); secondary (1993-2001); and tertiary (1993-2000)	DECS and CHED
1.9	Ratio of literate females and males of 15-24 year-olds	1990 and 1994 (simple literacy)	NSO
1.10	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	1990-1999	NSO
1.11	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	1992, 1995 and 1998	COMEL EC
1.12	Under-five mortality rate	1990-1995 and 1998 (NDHS)	TWG on Mortality and NSO
1.13	Infant mortality rate	1990-1995 and 1998 (NDHS)	TWG on Mortality and NSO
1.14	Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles	1990-1995 and 1999	DOH
1.15	Mental mortality ratio	1990-1995 and 1998 (NDHS)	TWG on Mortality and NSO
1.16	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	1990-2000	DOH
1.17	Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate <i>[Amongst contraceptive prevalence methods, only condoms are effective in preventing HIV transmission. The contraceptive prevalence rate is also useful in tracking progress in other health, gender and poverty goals. Because the condom rate use is only measured amongst women in union, it will be supplemented by an indicator in condom use in high-risk situations. These indicator of knowledge and misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS by 15-24 year olds (UNICEF-WHO)]</i>	1993 (NDS); 1995-1997 (Family Planning Survey); 1998 (NDHS); 1998-2001 (FPS)	NSO
1.18	Prevalence of death rates associated with malaria	1990-1998	DOH

1.19	Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	1990-1998	DOH
1.20	Proportion of land area covered by forest	1990-2000	DENR
1.21	Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area	1990-2000	DENR
1.22	Proportion of population using solid fuels	1990 only (census of population)	NSO
1.23	Proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water source, urban and rural	1998-1999	NSO
1.24	Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation	1995-1998	NSO
1.25	Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)	1990 only (census of population)	NSO
1.26	Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	1990-2001	BSP
1.27	Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds, each sex and total (<i>an improved measure of the targets under development by ILO for future years</i>)	1990-2001	NSO
1.28	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population	Telephone lines (1996-2000); cellular subscribers (1998-2000) [ITU has estimates from 1990-2001]	DOTC
2.	NOT AVAILABLE		
2.1	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	Not available	
2.2	HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women	Not available (UNICEF has low and high estimates for women, 15-24)	
2.3	Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS (<i>to be measured by the ratio or proportion of orphans to non-orphans ages 10-14 who are attending school</i>)	Not available (UNAIDS has estimates of cumulative number as of 2001)	
2.4	Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures (<i>Prevention to be measured by % of under 5s sleeping under insecticide treated bednets; treatment to be measures by % of under 5s who are appropriately treated</i>)	Not available	
2.5	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short courses (DOTS)	Not available (WHO has estimates for 2000)	
2.6	Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)	Not available (World Bank has estimates 1990-1999)	
2.7	Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)	CO2 emission not available (UNFCCC-CDIAC) has estimates from 1990-2000)	
2.8	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	Not available (ITU has estimates for personal computers from 1990-2001 and for internet users from 1994-2001)	
2.9	Personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population	Not available (ITU has estimates for personal computers from 1990-2001 and for internet users from 1994 to 2001)	

3.	NOT APPLICABLE		
3.1	Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	Not applicable	
3.2	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)	Not applicable	
3.3	Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	Not applicable	
3.4	ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs	Not applicable	
3.5	ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs	Not applicable	
3.6	Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and LDCs, admitted free of duties	Not applicable (??)	
3.7	Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries	Not applicable (??)	
3.8	Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP	Not applicable	
3.9	Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity (<i>OECD and WTO are collecting data that will be available from 2001 onwards</i>)	Not applicable (??)	
3.10	Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)	Not applicable (??)	
3.11	Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative US\$	Not applicable (??)	

Source: National Statistical Coordination Board