

CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development

Mandate

Agenda 21 (1992) Chapter 40 “Information for decision-making”

The CSD 3rd Session (1995) approved a 5 year Programme of Work on Indicators of Sustainable Development aimed at providing a core list of indicators of sustainable development accessible to decision-makers at the national level by the year 2001.

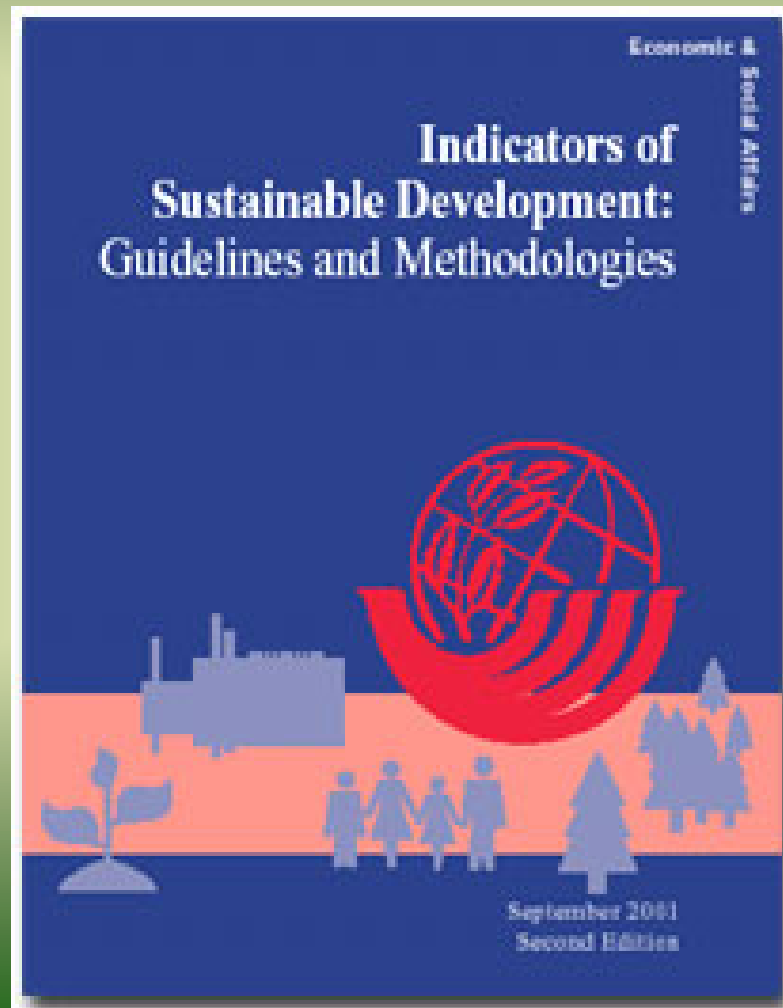
Mandate

- Encourage and promote further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level ... **(WSSD: X,130,131)**
- Encourages further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities **(CSD 11 par.13)**
- Underscores that reporting to the CSD be guided by....effective use of indicators..... **(CSD 11 par. 14d)**

Criteria for indicator selection

- **Policy-relevant**
- **Specific**
- **Reliable/high quality**
- **Accessible**
- **Measurable**
- **User-friendly**
- **Cost-effective**

Indicators of Sustainable Development



Framework

Dimension	Theme	Sub-Theme	Indicators
Social			
Environmental			
Economic			
Institutional			

ENVIRONMENTAL

Theme	Sub-theme	Indicator
Atmosphere	Climate Change	Emission of Greenhouse Gases
	Ozone Layer Depletion	Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances
	Air Quality	Ambient Concentration of Air Pollutants in Urban Areas
Land (10)	Agriculture (14)	Arable and Permanent Crop Land Area
		Use of Fertilizers
		Use of Agriculture Pesticides
	Forest (11)	Forest Area as a Percent of Land Area
		Wood Harvesting Intensity
	Desertification (12)	Land Affected by Desertification
Urbanization (7)	Area of Urban Formal and Informal Settlements	
Oceans, Seas and Coasts (17)	Coastal Zone	Algae Concentration in Coastal Waters
		Percent of Total Population Living in Coastal Areas
	Fisheries	Annual Catch by Major Species
Fresh Water (18)	Water Quality	Annual Withdrawal of Ground and Surface Water as a Percent of Total Available Water
	Water Quality	BOD in Water Bodies
		Concentration of Faecal Coliform in Freshwater
Biodiversity (15)	Ecosystem	Areas of Selected Key Ecosystems
		Protected Area as a % of Total Area
	Species	Abundance of Selected Key Species

Challenges

- Lack of data and development capacity at the national level
- International harmonization efforts
- Need for further indicator development in “less advanced” substantive areas
- Need for training in integrated information management

Country Recommendations

- Pragmatic approach based on current capacity
- Well functioning National Coordinating Mechanism
- Indicator selection through a consultative process
- Indicators as tool to facilitate discussions of sustainable development priorities
- Baseline assessment of data availability and quality
- Assessment of capacity-building needs
- Dissemination strategy
- Periodic evaluation and re-assessment