

Evolution of National Reporting

1991-2008

Use of National Reports

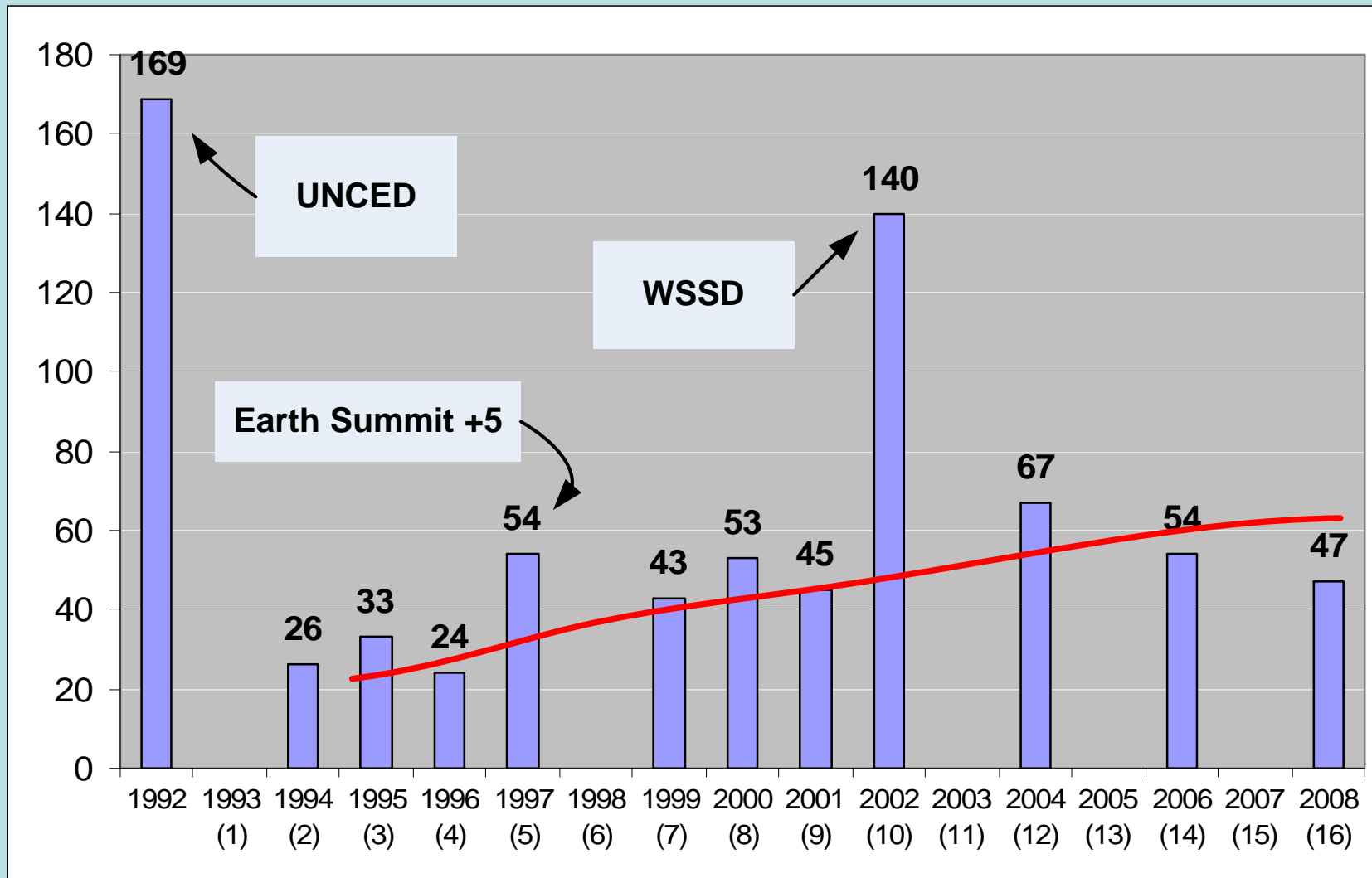
The national reports received from Governments since 1993 have been largely used for:

- ◆ Inputs for the Secretary-General's substantive reports and relevant background documents on given themes
- ◆ Inputs to analytical reports on the trends of national implementation of Agenda 21 related to a particular sectoral theme of a given year/cycle
- ◆ Country Profiles prepared for the 5- and 10- year reviews
- ◆ Development of an interactive database
- ◆ Sustainable development website processed and presented reports on a country- and issue-basis

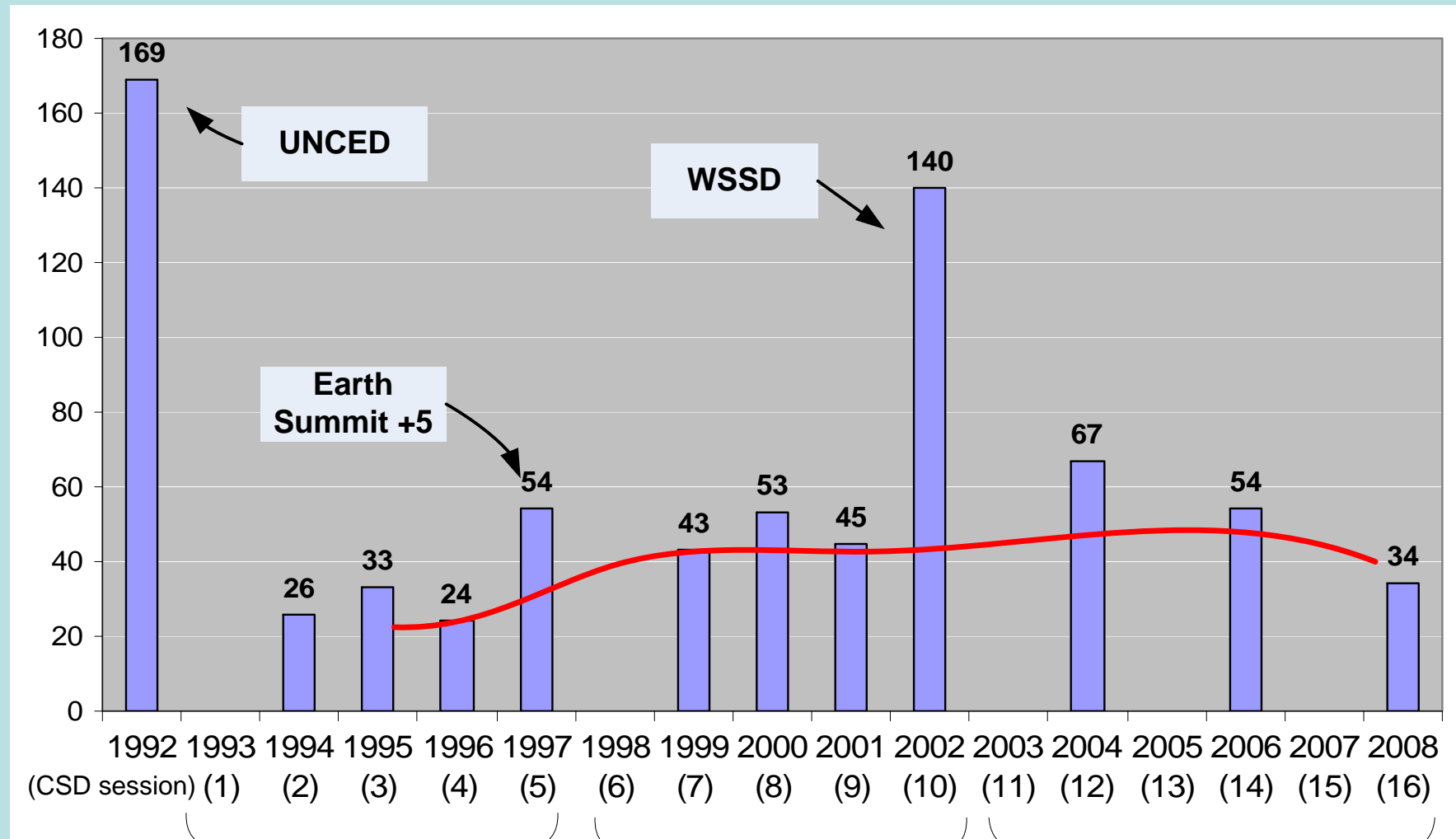
National Reporting: Chronology

1991	On the road to Rio: For the 1992 Earth Summit, the Secretariat received 169 national reports.
1992	Agenda 21 (para. 38.38) recommended "that States could consider the preparation of national reports."
1993	In a letter to Govts, UN SG proposed a format for presenting information
1995	CSD-3 requested that Secretariat further streamline and simplify guidelines for national reporting.
1997	National information website created; first Country Profiles published.
2002	First meeting of NFPs on improving future national reporting to the CSD.
2002	WSSD: 140 country profiles received.
2003	CSD-11: New format; First biennial implementation cycle; Thematic clusters introduced.
2006	CSD-14: New biennial thematic cluster - energy for SD; Industrial development; Air pollution/atmosphere; and Climate change.
2008	CSD-16: New thematic cluster - Agriculture, Rural development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa.

Number of Reporting Countries, 1992-2008



Number of Reporting Countries, 1992-2008



1st multi-year programme of work

2nd multi-year programme of work

3rd multi-year programme of work

Reporting to the Earth Summit

- ◆ The 1992 Earth Summit received 169 reports, covering 180 countries.
- ◆ Experience showed that the one-year period provided initially for the preparation of national reports based on suggested guidelines was insufficient.
- ◆ Reports varied widely in format and size.
- ◆ It was difficult to extract information and achieve uniformity.
- ◆ The UN SG UN subsequently suggested that Governments follow a standardized format in preparing their reports/communications for the Commission.

Follow up to the 1992 Earth Summit

GA Resolution (**A/RES/47/191 of 29 January 1993**)

“Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development” recommended that the Commission have, *inter alia*, the following function:

“To consider information provided by Governments, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.”

CSD-1 and CSD-2

CSD-1

- ◆ The information provided to the Secretariat in a given year should be linked to Agenda 21
- ◆ Clusters to be discussed in a given year should be in accordance with its multi-year thematic programme of work
- ◆ Reports should not exceed 50 pages
- ◆ Governments may wish to provide an executive summary of the information of up to five pages

CSD-2

- ◆ In August 1993, SG sent a letter to Governments proposing a format for presenting information
- ◆ For CSD-2, 26 replies have been received
- ◆ Agenda 21 served as a framework for analysis

CSD-4 (1996)

- ◆ CSD secretariat simplified guidelines for reporting
- ◆ Preparation of country profiles for CSD-5 - the initial step towards streamlining reporting requirements
- ◆ Voluntary country profiles to provide a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level

CSD-5 (1997)

Report of the SG on national reporting (E/CN.17/1997/6), prepared for CSD-5, proposed streamlining of requests for national reporting and also:

- ◆ Defined the scope of reporting requirements of:
 - Reports to CSD
 - Reports to other conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, CCD, Basel, etc.)
 - Reports to major conferences since UNCED
- ◆ Undertook a survey of reporting requirements to ID overlaps
- ◆ The resulting reporting matrix put A21 chapters in the context of reporting requirements, calendar, and actors involved

First Country Profiles

- ◆ The CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997
- ◆ Country Profiles were based on information submitted to the CSD in national reports
- ◆ The intent of Country Profiles is to:
 - Help countries monitor their own progress
 - Share experiences and information with others
 - Serve as institutional memory to track national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.
- ◆ Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21

CSD-7 (1999)

CSD-7 in its Decision 7/5, decided, *inter alia*, that:

- ◆ Lack of human, technical or financial resources at national level could be hindering the submission of more voluntary national reports.
- ◆ The UNDP should be requested to assist developing countries in the elaboration, translation and dissemination of their national reports.
- ◆ The Commission secretariat should further enhance the national information Web site by posting national reports in any of the United Nations official languages.
- ◆ The secretariat should prepare a new version of the country profiles.

First NFPs Meeting on National Reporting (2002)

At the meeting it was, *inter alia*, decided that:

- ◆ National presentation should be reinstated as part of the CSD plenary sessions, so that ministers could learn from each other's country experiences
- ◆ Regional approaches in sharing experiences and national reports via, e.g., regional workshops and consultations among NFPs were important
- ◆ Quantitative data should be used in national reports wherever relevant
- ◆ Guidelines should be made simpler and streamlined so as to avoid repeating and customized as to allow countries to reflect special national circumstances
- ◆ The role of NFPs should be enhanced

CSD-11: New Format, Biennial Reporting

- ◆ Experience showed that the one-year period provided initially for the preparation of national reports was insufficient.
- ◆ Pursuant to the adoption of the two-year cycle of the CSD programme of work, the national reporting was requested on a biennial basis, too.
- ◆ CSD 11 (2003) encouraged countries to present, on a voluntary basis, national reports focusing on concrete progress in implementation.
- ◆ The Commission also invited DSD to improve national reporting guidelines and questionnaires with the intention of making reporting more efficient and less burdensome on countries.

CSD 11: New Focus

CSD 11 also underscored that the reporting should:

- ◆ Reflect the overall progress, focussing on the thematic cluster of issues for the cycle
- ◆ Focus on concrete progress in implementation
- ◆ Include lessons learned and best practices;
- ◆ Identify actions taken
- ◆ Highlight relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues
- ◆ Incorporate, where relevant, the effective use of indicators for sustainable development.

CSD-12 and WSSD

CSD 12 Guidelines

- ◆ Part I is the Fact Sheet with contact data on each National Focal Point
- ◆ Part II is on the status of national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) and on progress towards meeting the JPOI 2005 target
- ◆ Part III relates to country's work on indicators for sustainable development
- ◆ Part IV provides guidelines for case studies on best practice or lessons learned in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, or some combination thereof

CSD 14 Guidelines

- ◆ For CSD 14, the guidelines for national reporting comprise the following three parts:
- ◆ Part I, as before, updates contact data on National Focal Points
- ◆ Part II is a Survey on National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS)
- ◆ Part III contains guidelines on CSD-14/15 thematic issues
 - Atmosphere/Air Pollution
 - Energy
 - Industrial Development

CSD 16 Guidelines

- ◆ The Guidelines requested information for the 3rd implementation cycle, with the focus on:
 - Africa
 - Agriculture
 - Drought and desertification
 - Land and rural development, and
 - Cross-cutting issues
- ◆ Countries are requested to report only once on the thematic issues during the two-year implementation cycle
- ◆ Countries can focus on:
 - Case studies only through the web-based case study data base
 - Completing Part I (Fact sheet) and Part II (NSDS and indicators), providing comprehensive reporting on the CSD-16/17 themes