

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
21 May 2013

English only

---

**Economic Commission for Europe**

## Conference of European Statisticians

**Sixty-first plenary session**

Geneva, 10-12 June 2013

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Measuring sustainable development in follow up to Rio+20****Measuring the global dimension of sustainable development****Note by Eurostat***Summary*

This paper focuses on the challenge of measuring the global dimension of sustainable development. The measurement of sustainable development at the national level is now well established in several countries. As a result of globalization, however, a country's sustainable development can no longer be regarded in isolation.

From a global perspective, access to natural, economic, human and social resources is unfairly distributed. The material, knowledge and financial flows between countries impact the various types of stocks of resources countries have. Thus, a new challenge is emerging – the measurement of the interactions between the countries from the perspective of sustainable development.

## I. Conceptual background

1. Measurement of sustainable development (SD) has a history of about two decades. Work at United Nations level started in the 1990s. First recommendations for SD indicators were published in 1995<sup>1</sup>; and the latest development is the 2013 report of the Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development (TFSD)<sup>2</sup>. Meanwhile many countries adopted SD strategies and related indicator sets to measure progress. Countries that have no national strategies use directly the conceptual framework by Brundtland<sup>3</sup>. SD metrics has evolved over time and includes not only Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) but the measurements stemming from initiatives like the European Commission's *GDP and Beyond* or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *Measuring the Progress of Societies*.

2. In the context of Rio+20 follow-up and review of the Millennium Development Goals, the question of how to measure sustainable development is topical. Considering more specifically its *global dimension* one needs to take an overarching view on the subject. When discussing the measurement of the global dimension of sustainable development we need to start from clarifying what is meant by *global dimension*.

3. From a conceptual point of view SD, in itself, is an inherently global concept. The Brundtland report titled "Our common future" was the first document that provides the foundation of the concept of SD. We "sit in the same boat", we share the planet and resources, global security and justice are shared values of the countries of the World. It is the notion of global, commonly shared and agreed goals and targets for humanity. The *global dimension* is rooted in the very heart of the theory. It contains within it two key concepts:

(a) The concept of 'needs,' in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and

(b) The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. Measuring national and regional progress when taking into account sustainable development is enlarged with the view of future generations and other countries.

4. At the same time from a pragmatic perspective, one can see two distinct approaches to what *global dimension* means for measurement needs. One is the widespread interpretation that measuring the global dimension of SD is related to the trans-boundary impacts of socio-economic developments. From a global perspective, access to natural, economic, human and social resources is unfairly distributed. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication aims at improving human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. This implies an impact on various types of stocks (e.g. natural and economic stocks) in countries and on the flows between countries (e.g. material, knowledge and financial flows) and thus on the sustainable development of the countries. A new challenge is, therefore, emerging: the measurement of the interactions between the countries in the perspective of sustainable development.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations.(1995)- CSD Indicators were revised twice (2001 and 2006).

<sup>2</sup> Report of the TFSD: *A conceptual framework and suggested indicators for measuring sustainable development* (2013).

<sup>3</sup> Brundtland report (1987).

5. The other interpretation of *global dimension* is the setting up of internationally agreed goals and targets in the follow-up of Rio+20 and the review of medium-term development goals (MDGs). Work on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has started in the Open Working Group. Here the global dimension means that goals and targets should be set up based on international agreement in the three pillars of SD i.e. in economic development, social equity and environmental protection. The outcome document of Rio+20 and at European level the follow-up Communication<sup>4</sup> proposes a list of thematic areas that require metrics. These areas have been highlighted by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)<sup>5</sup> and are summarised in the next section.

6. Commonalities and differences of the measurement of globalisation and the *global dimension* of SD also give a useful insight. Globalisation means the increasing interdependence and inter-linkages between nations (see Annex 1), the increasing mobility of people, the growing flow of products, ideas and raw materials. Due to the multiple interpretation and often contradictory value judgement of globalisation, its measurement remains descriptive in all different indicator sets. There has been no agreement on how to assess the progress of globalisation. Indicator sets measuring globalisation are available in several countries<sup>6</sup> and at the OECD<sup>7</sup>, economic integration is often the sole or main focus of these sets.

7. Measurement of globalisation and the global dimension of sustainable development are mutually reinforcing. On the one hand the theory and policy of SD can provide the needed normative framework for evaluating progress in globalisation. On the other hand the measurement of globalisation can contextualise progress in reaching SDGs.

8. Both the metrics for globalisation and for the global dimension of SD represent challenge for official statistics. A number of international and European initiatives conclude<sup>8</sup> that current statistical measures need to be supplemented in order to better reflect the changing, globalising world. There is a strong policy and public demand for official statistics to measure globalisation. Even though not all dimensions of globalisation i.e. interactions between countries can be easily quantified, it is important that these phenomena are better understood with the help of proper statistical measures. A number of programs and projects are on-going in the European Statistical System (ESS) to respond to this need, they are also described in the next section.

## II. Measurement needs emerging from latest international developments

### A. Global dimension as - setting up internationally comparable goals and targets

9. As indicated above, needs for thematic measurements are defined by the Rio+20 outcome document<sup>9</sup> and the post-2015 development agenda; and in Europe the first step in

<sup>4</sup> Commission Communication, COM(2013) 92 final

<sup>5</sup> UNECE (2012) *Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)* - Note prepared by the United Nations ECE secretariat; ECE/CES/BUR/2012/NOV.2012

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Netherlands (2012) *Internationalisation Monitor*

<sup>7</sup> OECD (2010) *Measuring Globalisation: OECD Economic Globalisation Indicators*

<sup>8</sup> DGINs conference on the ESS response to globalisation (2007)

<sup>9</sup> UN (2012): *The Future We Want*

this direction is the Communication ‘A Decent life for all<sup>10</sup>’ - where the Commission has indicated which areas it sees as ‘priority elements’:

- (a) Basic living standards, such as health, education, access to water and sanitation;
- (b) Drivers for inclusive and sustainable growth, such as sustainable energy, sustainable consumption; and production;
- (c) Sustainable management of natural resources, including oceans, biodiversity and forests;
- (d) Ensuring equality, equity and justice;
- (e) Peace and security.

10. In each of the policy areas common global goals have to be developed (responsibility of policy makers, with technical assistance from statistical community). A concrete result of the Rio+20/post-2015 development agenda should then be a new common ‘SDG’ indicators set, to be adopted by the United Nations and as such becoming a United Nations standard. At its meeting in February 2013, the United Nations Statistical Commission has agreed to establish a special group for this exercise (FROCH, Friends of the Chair) charged to undertake an active dialogue with United Nations bodies and with the policy sphere to ensure that a robust statistical measurement approach is incorporated, from the outset in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda.

11. Table 1 matches emerging needs with the existing indicators already present in the ESS’ SDI sets. Two colours are used in the table:

- (a) Blue areas represent the gaps in the indicator framework that will need to be developed in further steps;
- (b) Yellow areas represent an ‘unsatisfactory’ match with the current indicator set. For these areas an additional effort is needed in order to seek potential new indicators that cover the framework better.

12. This summary table is only a working tool and a first attempt to structure the need for indicators and is not a final proposal framework. It serves to map out areas to be further examined. Measurement of global human well-being cannot be placed inside such table. Human well-being is the overall aim of SD and there are many measurements published. They include the Human Development Index<sup>11</sup>, Better Life Index<sup>12</sup> among many others. Eurostat is working on releasing a set of Quality of Life indicators. Another topic difficult to represent in Table 1 is green economy/growth needs. Indicator<sup>13</sup> proposals are available but it has not yet been clarified how they will relate to SDGs. That is why in the below green economy/growth is treated as one important building block of an overall SD measurement framework.

13. As far as possible, existing United Nations standards or frameworks should be used as a starting point. Since the Rio conference in 1992 a number of such building blocks have been elaborated (e.g. SEEA, MDG, Handbook on SD) or new versions have been adopted (e.g. SNA 2008). Furthermore, the statistical community stands ready to contribute to the

---

<sup>10</sup> Commission Communication, COM(2013) 92 final

<sup>11</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (2011) Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

optimisation of the quality of the indicator set to be developed for the SDGs. The selected indicators should satisfy the following criteria:

- (a) Relevant for political decisions;
- (b) Consistent with a theoretical background;
- (c) Measurable with high quality (in particular reliable, timely, comparable).

14. A trade-off between these three objectives is characteristic for all indicators and an optimal solution can only be found by way of compromise and convention. This is why statistical standards are so important. At global level this trade-off is even more difficult to solve. What is relevant and theoretically consistent and measurable in industrialised countries is confronted with significant shortcomings regarding the statistical capacities in the developing world. As a consequence, a simpler or more selective approach has to be chosen, which should anyway reach a reasonable balance between the three above criteria.

Table 1

**Measurement needs and gaps distilled from the outcome document of Rio+20**

Dimension	Component	Issue	Coverage current Indicator Frameworks*
Economy	Trade	Trade	Import/export of goods and services High tech import/export
		Trade barriers/ tariffs	
		Trade for development	
	Industry/ Capital/ finances business	Internationalisation of companies	Foreign controlled enterprises
		Financial Capital flows, Foreign direct investments (FDI)	Inward/outward FDI FDI intensity
		International outsourcing	Outsourced employment
	Science, technology and innovation	Technology transfer	
		Technology and innovation	R&D
		Sustainable transport	Modal split, fuels
		Access to information and intellectual property rights (IPR)	
	Green economy/growth	Sustainable Consumption and production Sustainable growth	Resource efficiency Scoreboard indicators
		Inclusive growth	
	Society	Demographic changes	Migration flows, Permanent Economic migration (high/low skilled workers) Asylum seekers/fugitives
Population dynamics			Population indicators
Health		Child mortality, maternal health	Child mortality, maternal health
		Combat diseases	



	Poverty	Poverty eradication	Absolute poverty
			Relative poverty
	Education and skills	Literacy, universal primary education	Literacy, universal primary education
			Meeting needs of the labour market
	Freedom, security, justice	Basic human rights worldwide	Social protection
			Voter turnout
		Disaster risk and resilience	
		Inequalities	Inequality measure, gender equalities
	Labour market	Effects of globalisation on workers	
			Employment
Green jobs		Green jobs as defined in the EGGS	
Environ- ment	Climate change/ Energy	Greenhouse gas emissions	GHG emissions
		Sustainable/clean energy	Energy efficiency
			Emissions form energy production
	Adaptation to climate change		
	Natural resources/ Energy	Foreign resource (energy) dependency (imported/ use of own resources)	Energy dependency
			Management of trans-boundary natural resources
		Oceans and seas	
		Land degradation	Soil degradation desertification
		Sustainable agriculture	
	Waste and chemicals	Waste generation	Amount and treatment
		Chemicals	
	Biodiversity/Ecosystems	Biodiversity loss	
Ecosystem health			
Governance	Global partnership	Development policy	Official development assistance
		Financial support for SD	
		Special consideration for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDC), Africa	Official development assistance per region
	Institutional framework	Mandate and stable adequate predictable financing for UN	

		Strengthen multilateral environmental agreements	
		International financial institutions	Contribution to MDGs and SDGs
	Stakeholder participation		

\* The provided indicators are examples; there might be other supplementary ones available. The purpose here is to show where the gaps are (blue cells)

15. Setting up process of international goals and targets needs to be complemented by planning a clear monitoring process. This includes creating the institutional structure and evaluation process that guarantees independent and transparent assessment of progress towards SDGs. In this respect the work of the Expert Group of Indicator-based Assessment can serve as a valuable input. This expert group was set up and coordinated by Switzerland, it analysed and summarised European best practices of sustainable development monitoring<sup>14</sup>.

## B. Global dimension as - measuring inter-linkages and trans-boundary impacts

16. In Table 1, areas of sustainable development goals are listed and organised into a possible framework. Measuring them thematically and making indicators available for international comparisons will certainly be elements of the future SDG agreement. When moving into the other interpretation of the *global dimension* of sustainable development i.e. measuring inter-linkages, we are very close to the measurement of globalisation - using the normative support of SD. Such measurements are already part of many indicator sets. One forerunner is Switzerland with its Monet system explicitly extended to include the *global dimension*.<sup>15</sup> Global partnership is also one of the 10 themes in the EU's SDI set (Annex 2).

17. Trans-boundary impacts present a further challenge for both statisticians and policy-makers. For statisticians, measuring the full extent of trans-boundary impacts between countries remains an elusive task because these often affect multiple dimensions of SD. Measuring the trans-boundary impact of, for example, global production and consumption patterns, global value chains, migration flows, and knowledge spill-overs, touch upon the economic dimension, but also the social and environmental ones. Policy-makers, on their part, have the responsibility for ensuring coherence between policies in order to maximise positive trans-boundary impacts while minimising negative ones. Policy coherence for sustainable development will be an important element of post-2015 development framework.

18. The report of the TFSM pays full attention to the notion of trans-boundary links and impacts. Figure 1 depicts their view on the *global dimension*. Sustainable development cannot be described at just a national level. Inevitably, countries influence on one another. The problem of global poverty is one of the most important issues in the trans-boundary impacts that countries have in terms of sustainable development. In fact, the Brundtland Report pays due attention to the (increasing) income gap between rich and poor countries

<sup>14</sup> Expert Group on Indicator based assessment (2013) *Getting messages across using indicators*, Handbook –to be published in November 2013

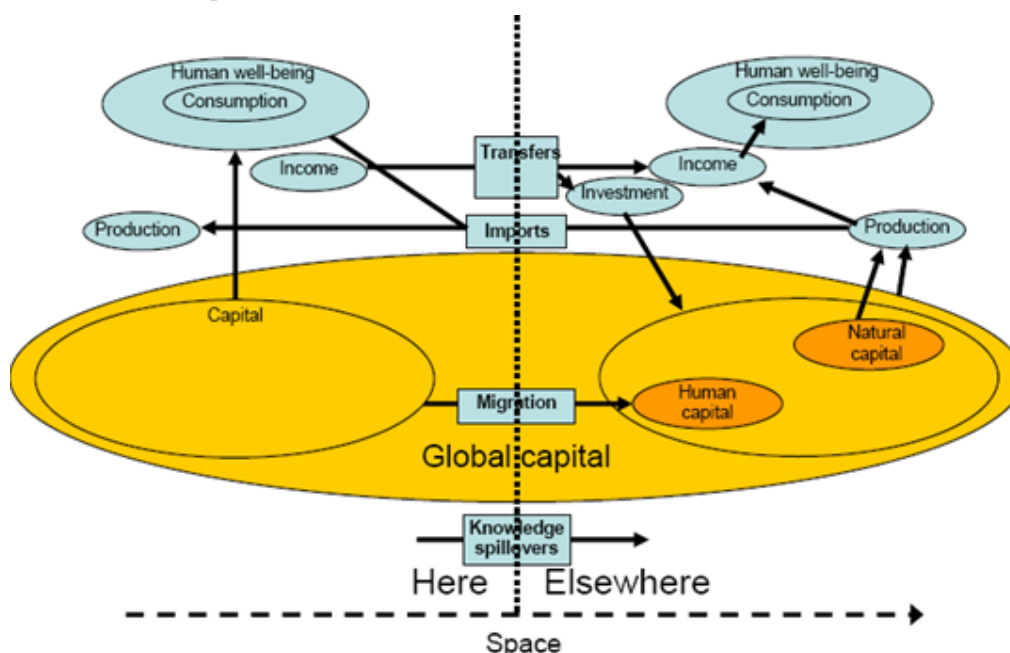
<sup>15</sup> Switzerland - Global Dimension Indicators:  
<http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/21/02/02.html>



and sees this growing inequality as a threat to global sustainable development. Indicator proposal for the global dimension can be found in the report, along with identification of areas that need further research and development.

Figure 1

**Sustainable development: "here" vs. "elsewhere"**



Source: Joint UNECE / Eurostat / OECD Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development

19. Lastly, several composite indicators have been developed to try to capture the notion of inter-linkages and impacts. One prominent example is the ecological footprint indicator (EF) which attempts to compare people's consumption of renewable natural resources with the earth's ecological capacity to regenerate them and to absorb the waste produced. The indicator is defined as the amount of biologically productive surface area needed to sustain a given human population, plus imports plus stock changes minus exports. The principal inputs are data on land use, crop production, animal feed, fish catches, forest production, built-up area, and Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and sinks (or energy consumption). It does not include persistent pollutants, such as radioactive waste, dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). Nor does it include other damage to the environment, such as soil erosion or loss of biodiversity. It is measured in terms of global hectares, which is a normalized unit representing the world average productivity of all biologically productive land and water in a given year. Even if the EF does not meet numerous statistical criteria, this concept has received much public attention in recent years due to its effectiveness in communicating complex ideas in a readily understandable way.

### III. Potential sources - relevant projects in the European Statistical System and internationally

20. The statistical system is going through dynamic modernisation in the different domains including economic, environmental and social statistics. As specified before, these three domains are of key importance for the subject of global dimensions of SD. Thus, the

new initiatives also have an impact on its statistical development, and at the international organizations level one can observe a rich variety of new projects. They range from innovative statistical measurement of the multinational enterprises activities through creating a more detailed statistical picture of the inequalities and cross-boundary employment and immigration issues to the development of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)<sup>16</sup>. Annex 3 provides a detailed but not exhaustive review of projects, some of them ongoing, that might be relevant for statistical measurement of SD and for its global dimension.

21. Regardless of which aspect of global dimension of SD these projects touch upon, what they have in common is the need to improve the methods for coping with the multidimensionality of the problem. This need looks more appealing given the different degrees of attempt to coordinate the variety of activities at international level. It is important to note that policy makers also should be included in this coordination endeavour. Their major responsibility in setting the goals and targets should be matched with the work of the statistical community, which has the technical expertise and capacity to deliver the primary statistics and accounts and to provide the indicators. Whenever one makes a step, the other should be consulted.

#### IV. Conclusions

22. The statistical system is going through dynamic modernisation. Processes that will deliver goals and targets will run parallel to this modernisation activity. It will remain a challenge to keep the two processes tuned together. For every of these steps it is important to have a coordinated approach between the policy makers - who have a major say in setting the goals and targets - and the statistical community, which has the technical expertise and capacity to deliver the primary statistics and accounts and to provide the indicators.

23. Statistical offices and statisticians are playing a role in the process of setting up goals and targets in the framework of the to-be-merged SDGs and MDG processes. Tasks stemming from the process go beyond the need for measuring the global dimension of sustainable development. SD governance will remain multi-layered, Rio+20 supports the idea of an effective linkage between global, regional, sub-regional and national processes. Therefore, while the topic of this paper was the global dimension of SD it is essential to point out that statistics at all levels will be necessary in the future framework. Providing information to citizens on SD must happen at the level most relevant to them, where this information can directly influence their democratic choices. This level is evidently national and regional.

24. Capacity building in SD measurement, as reiterated by the Rio+20 Conference, is needed for any future framework. In the ESS, positive experience has been gathered by the Grant programme<sup>17</sup> 2008-2012 that helped Member States to develop and further enhance their SDI sets and allowed countries to have space and time for knowledge sharing. Experiences from this programme might be useful for capacity building planning at United Nations level.

---

<sup>16</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seea.asp>

<sup>17</sup> Grant programme - Support for the Development of Indicator Sets to monitor Sustainable Development Strategies

25. The measurement of trans-boundary impacts between countries and how they affect SD goals remains challenging. For the statistical community, measuring trans-boundary effects is an elusive task because these often affect multiple dimensions of SD.

26. It is also important to have one body, specialised in official statistics, overlooking and steering the measuring and monitoring exercise from a cross-sectoral perspective in order to guarantee a balanced and quality assured indicator set. Eurostat recommends that – in accordance with paragraph 38 of the ‘Future we want’ outcome document – this coordination body would be the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).

## V. References

Commission Communication, COM(2013) 92 final, *A Decent Life for All: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future*, 2013

European Sustainable Development Network, Umberto Pisano, Andreas Endl and Gerald Berger *The Future of the EU SDS in light of the Rio+20 outcomes*; in ESDN Quarterly Report April 2013

Draft Report of the Task Force for Measuring Sustainable Development; *Measuring sustainable development: a conceptual framework and suggested indicators*; 2012

United Nations, *Lessons Learned from MDG Monitoring, From A Statistical Perspective Report of the Task Team on Lessons Learned from MDG Monitoring of the IAEG-MDG*, 2013

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), 1987. *Our Common Future*. New York: Oxford University Press

United Nations, 2012. The future we want – final outcome document. A/CONF.216/L.1 <http://rio20.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/N1238164.pdf>

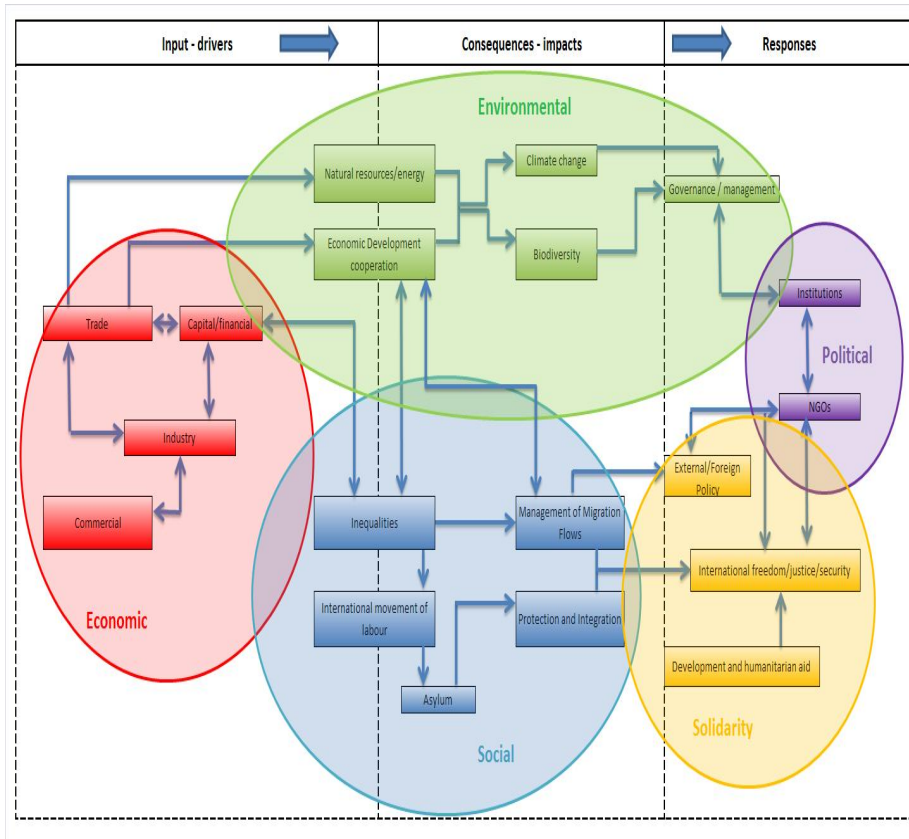
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, *Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)* - Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat; ECE/CES/BUR/2012/NOV.2012

UNEP, 2011 *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*

United Nations, 2001. *Indicators of sustainable development: Guidelines and methodologies*. New York.

## Annex 1

### Globalisation: inter-linkages



Source: Eurostat

## Annex 2

### Available metrics for the global dimension in SDI sets

Table 2  
EU SDI set - Global Partnership Indicators

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Official Development Assistance as share of gross national income</b>	<b>Sub-theme: GLOBALISATION OF TRADE</b>	
	EU imports from developing countries, by income group	EU imports from developing countries by group of products
		EU imports from least-developed countries by group of products
		Aggregated measurement of support for agriculture
	<b>Sub-theme: FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
	Total EU financing for developing countries, by type	Foreign direct investment in developing countries, by income group
		Official development assistance, by income group
		Untied official development assistance
		Bilateral official development assistance by category
		Bilateral official development assistance (ODA) for social infrastructure and services
		Bilateral ODA dedicated to debt
	<b>Sub-theme: GLOBAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	11. CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per inhabitant in the EU and in developing countries	Bilateral ODA dedicated to water supply and sanitation  Population with sustainable access to an improved water source (indicator under development)
<b>Contextual indicators</b>	Population living on less than 1USD a day (for sub-theme Financing for SD) (not yet available)  Official development assistance per inhabitant (for sub-theme Financing for SD)  Population with sustainable access to an improved water source (for sub-theme Global Resource Management) (not yet available)	
<b>Indicators to be developed</b>	sales of selected fair-trade labelled goods  share of global greenhouse emissions from countries having agreed limits on their emissions  Contribution of the Clean Development Mechanism to greenhouse gas emission reductions in developing countries.  Global footprint	

Source: Eurostat

Table 3  
Global dimension of SDI sets in the European Statistical System

Domain	Indicator	Used by
<b>Transfers and trade</b>	• Official Development Assistance	<b>Eurostat</b> , Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland
	• Imports from least-developed countries	<b>Eurostat</b> , Germany, Sweden and Switzerland
	• Income paid as dividend to the rest of the world	Hungary
	• Global purchasing power	The Netherlands
	• Origins of food consumed “here”	UK
	• Foreign Direct Investment in developing countries	<b>Eurostat</b> , Germany, Finland, Hungary and Switzerland
	<b>Environment</b>	• CO <sub>2</sub> emissions
• CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per head, <i>comparing here and elsewhere</i>		<b>Eurostat</b> , the Netherlands
• CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from domestic consumptions		UK
• Energy dependency		<b>Eurostat</b> , Switzerland
• Biodiversity impact overseas [to be confirmed]		UK
• Contribution of Clean Development Mechanism in developing countries		Austria
• Ecological footprint		Finland, Switzerland
• Material requirement abroad for import		Switzerland
• Global land use for consumption at home		The Netherlands
• Share of selected fair trade labels		Austria, Belgium, Switzerland
<b>Social</b>		• Infant mortality and life expectancy, <i>comparing here and elsewhere</i>
	• Net enrolment in primary education, <i>comparing here and elsewhere</i>	Ireland
	• Employment rate, <i>comparing here and elsewhere</i>	Ireland
	• Human Development Index	Finland, the Netherlands
	• Children per woman	The Netherlands
	• Remittances by migrants	Switzerland
	• Rate of net migration	<b>Eurostat</b>
• Population living below 1\$ a day	Ireland, Sweden	
<b>Governance</b>	• Citizens attitude towards assistance	Switzerland
	• Number of multilateral treaties ratified	Switzerland

Source: Eurostat

### Annex 3

## Projects and initiatives relevant for measuring the global dimension of sustainable development

Table 4

### Projects and initiatives with relevance for SD

Areas relevant for global dimensions of sustainable development	Link to the sustainable development	Statistical measurement	
		ESS initiative	Non-ESS initiative
1. Labour/Employment	- Access to labour market is a main aspect in various sustainable development sets because employment contributes to economic performance, quality of life and social inclusion, making it one of the cornerstones of socioeconomic development. Thus, the structural changes in the employment sector caused by the globalization processes have a direct impact on the sustainable development perspectives of the modern societies.	Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)/ EuroGroups Register (EGR)/Global Value Chains/ The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU LFS)	ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization OECD: Labour market outcomes of immigrants Eurofound: Restructuring Monitor
2. Inequality	- Globalization has a serious impact of various forms of inequalities such that go beyond income and apply to education, access to technologies, gender inequalities, etc. In this way inequality is a cross-cutting concept that captures various aspects of sustainable development.	The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)	OECD: Social Statistics Portal UN: World Inequality Database
3. Gender	- Promoting gender equality and empowering women is a main goal of the Millennium Development Goals	EU LFS, EU SILC	Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Initiative World Bank: Gender data portal



Areas relevant for global dimensions of sustainable development	Link to the sustainable development	Statistical measurement	
		ESS initiative	Non-ESS initiative
			ILO: Bureau for - Gender Equality (GENDER) UN: Women Watch OECD: Gender Initiative
4. Financial flows/income transfers	<p>- The ODA/GNI is one of the main commitments towards developing a global partnership for development. However, it does not necessarily tell us how aid improves lives at the recipient end</p> <p>- Foreign direct investment is a vital complement to development efforts. However, the distribution of income generated by these flows may be of little benefit to the population at large. They might also have negative consequences if human rights and social and environmental standards are not observed.</p>	Balance of Payments (BoP)	Official Development Assistance statistics (by OECD) Foreign Direct Investment (OECD)
5. Imports/exports of goods and services	<p>- international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth</p> <p>- however, trade of goods and services can be unsustainable, from an inter-generational point of view, if it leads to the depletion of social and natural resources</p>	<p>Balance of Payments (BoP)</p> <p>External trade statistics (Eurostat reference database for external trade COMEXT)</p>	OECD Trade Statistics
6. International sourcing and global value chains	<p>- international sourcing and global value chains provide mechanisms for rapid learning, innovation and industrial upgrading</p> <p>- however, it could push least-developed countries into resource-based exports or low value added activities</p> <p>- global value chains could</p>	<p>Eurostat work on global value chains</p> <p>“Global Value Chains and Economic Globalization - Towards a New Measurement Framework” by Dr. Timothy J.</p>	OECD Economic Globalisation Indicators

Areas relevant for global dimensions of sustainable development	Link to the sustainable development	Statistical measurement	
		ESS initiative	Non-ESS initiative
	<p>also foster “compressed development” and “double burdens” from the simultaneous appearance of developing and developed country problems, such as malnutrition and obesity, rapid industrialisation and de-industrialisation, requirements for basic literacy and world class tertiary education.</p> <p>- Last but not least, global value chains “can render poor working conditions and exploitation invisible to consumers”.</p>	Sturgeon, Industrial Performance Center, MIT.	
7. Activities of multinational enterprises abroad	<p>- the activity of multinational enterprises abroad can lead to job creation and investment in R&amp;D</p> <p>- MNEs should at the same time contribute to environmental management and good labour conditions, to the public finances of host countries, and publish timely reports about their activities</p>	<p>Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS).</p> <p>EuroGroups Register (EGR)</p> <p>Eurostat’s European enterprise and trade statistics programme (MEETS)</p>	<p>OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises</p> <p>OECD Economic Globalisation Indicators</p>