

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

UNECE-UNDP Workshop
on Standard Statistical Indicators
for National Human Development Reports
(Sofia, Bulgaria, 9-11 September 2002)

Final Report

Introduction

1. In the context of the common project on Human Development Statistics and Social Trends Reporting in Eastern Europe and the CIS, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS of the UN Development Programme (UNDP/RBEC) conducted two sub-regional workshops in 2002. These workshops followed the Seminar on Social Monitoring and Human Development for South-East European countries, held in Warsaw on 21-24 November 2001, and their purpose was to discuss with national statisticians the feasibility and the workability of a core set of social and economic indicators that should contribute to strengthening the statistical basis of the National Human Development Reports (NHDRs).

The first workshop, which took place in Sofia, comprised eleven countries from South-East Europe, Western CIS, and Russia. The second workshop was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on October 7-9 and involved Central Asian and South Caucasian countries.

2. Twenty-three statisticians took part to the Sofia workshop. Staff and consultants from UNECE and UNDP also participated. The list of participants is in Annex 1. The workshop was organised with the assistance of the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria.

3. The agenda of the workshop (Annex 2) followed the paragraph layout of a Proposal for a Standard Set of Statistical Indicators prepared by the UNECE. The tables containing the indicators proposed are in Annex 3. The discussion topics were subdivided in the following areas: Purpose of the Standard Set of Statistical Indicators in NHDRs, Principles in Selecting the Indicators, Income and Poverty, Employment, Key Economic Indicators, Demographic Background, Health, Education, Nutrition, Civil and Political Rights, Housing and Associated Services, Security (from crime and armed conflict), Social Exclusion/Inclusion, Geographical Disaggregation.

The discussion in each section was introduced by a brief opening remark delivered by one of the participating countries or a UNECE staff.

4. The workshop was opened by Mr. Hadjiiski, President of the NSI of Bulgaria, and Mr. Chapron, regional adviser on statistics, Statistical Division of UNECE. Both speakers underlined the importance of the workshop towards the development of a common statistical basis for NHDRs. The proposed set of social and economic indicators is a useful starting point, providing the participants from the region with a discussion tool that allows them to focus on the most relevant subjects and to share experiences with other countries.

Summary of the discussion on the proposed set of indicators

Purpose of the Standard Set of Statistical Indicators

5. The opening remarks on the Purpose of the Standard Set of Statistical Indicators were delivered by UNECE.
6. The workshop was presented with a comparison between the Statistical Annex of the Global Human Development Report, whose focus is mainly on inter-country comparisons, and the National Human Development Reports. The NHDRs have developed autonomously from the Global Report and present nowadays a statistical appendix, which is not necessarily related to the contents of the report itself. They contain (within the country) inter-regional comparisons rather than inter-country comparisons and their contents and topics may be divergent from one country to the other.
7. The main purposes of a standard set of indicators should be showing whether living conditions improve and how this improvement relates to economic progress and government expenditures. The set of data involved could constitute the appendix of the NHDR or a basis for a chapter and the information contained should be relevant to the region but also allow a wider comparability with other regions of the world. Each country may then complement the standard set with some other indicators significant to its situation. The advantages of this approach are relevant both for statisticians and NHDR country teams.
8. The participating countries presented their own experience with the production of the NHDRs. It was recognized that difficulties exist in the comparability of the indicators used in NHDRs, due mainly to conflicting priorities within the countries, to the lack of co-ordination between the statistical annex and the contents of the NHDRs and to the increasing divergences between the NHDRs and the Global Human Development Report.
9. In this perspective, the importance of a standard set of indicators for NHDRs was stressed and the need for specific guidelines towards a standardization of the statistics was underlined. These guidelines should include precise definitions and specific methodologies for the construction of the indicators and should help in balancing between global comparability and regional disparities. UNDP country offices should co-operate with national statisticians with this respect.

Principles in Selecting Indicators

10. The opening remarks on the Principles in Selecting Indicators were delivered by UNECE.
11. The workshop was presented with the perspective of the users of NHDRs on how to determine the living conditions in a country and with a model of living conditions whose components focus on social and economic indicators. The selected indicators should be relevant (i.e.: describe real changes in social conditions), readily available, accurate and sensitive to recent changes. Furthermore, it is deemed important that the indicators in the standard set be of a limited number, clearly understandable by all users and capable of being disaggregated by gender. Finally, they should relate to other objectives, with special attention to the Millennium Development Goals.
12. The meeting generally agreed with the selection criteria. Comments were voiced on the presence of diverging sources and the possibility of obtaining the disaggregations. A proposal for a website with more details was advanced.

Income and Poverty

13. The opening remarks on the Income and Poverty section were delivered by UNECE.

14. The meeting was introduced to the Conclusions of the Regional Informal Consultation on Poverty organised by the UNECE in Geneva, on 14-15 May 2002, which was attended by the European Union (Eurostat), UNDP (Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS and the Statistical Advisor to the Global Human Development Report), the World Bank, the International Labour Office (ILO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The international organizations participating to the consultation agreed that there are at present too many different concepts of poverty and methods to measure it. They recommended that their conclusions on the characteristics of poverty and the way to measure it be discussed with national statistical offices. First of all it is necessary to define the purpose of measurement. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, but the different dimensions should be kept apart in measurement. Poverty should be measured in the first place in terms of income (or proxies, such as consumption expenditure), and then related to other dimensions. Subjective poverty is not a proxy for income in this sense, but may have some sociological or political interest. Income-related poverty may be absolute or relative (3 poverty lines were recommended, two absolute poverty lines and one relative poverty line, depending on the country). Resulting figures of poverty should always be based on a full distribution of household income (or consumption), which should be shown in any calculations of poverty. Whether household income itself or a proxy, such as consumption expenditure, is used depends on the data available in a country. In both cases, definitions should be based on international standards. In principle, net disposable household income should be used, including income in kind as well as cash, converted to income per adult equivalent, using the OECD or other appropriate scale. Household surveys were said to be the only practical source of a distribution of income data in most countries of the region.

15. The workshop discussed the use of statistics on the distribution of household income, as proposed in Table 6 of the discussion paper. The reason for the use of deciles or quintiles to build the income distribution table and to determine the difference between higher and lower income was debated. Some questions were raised on the need for an equivalence scale. Participants accepted the distinction between 'absolute destitution' and 'absolute poverty', as mentioned in Table 7 of the discussion paper, where 'absolute destitution' is defined as the lack of sufficient income to buy essential food, while 'absolute poverty' includes also a non-food component. The importance of determining a relative poverty line was agreed upon and participants shared the practices of their countries on the definition of the corresponding indicator.

16. The layout of Tables 6 and 7 was approved. The possibility to determine the distribution of household income and to calculate absolute and relative poverty lines was confirmed by participants. With the purpose of estimating the indicator 'persons in absolute destitution', the need for a specification of what are 'essential food products' was expressed. The importance of a common definition of calorie threshold, to be determined in co-operation with experts in nutrition, was also underlined.

Employment

17. The opening remarks on the Employment section were delivered by UNECE. This session of the workshop included a discussion both in sub-groups and in plenary session.

18. The workshop was reminded about the fact that the classical dichotomies in the description of the labour market, in the context of transition are less and less reflecting the real situation. In the framework of a review of the standards and concepts, the conclusions of the Regional Informal Consultation on Employment organised by the UNECE in Geneva on 13 May 2002, were presented. Among them, the ILO resolution on the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment and its

recommendations were quoted. Means of relating earnings to employment were explored. The usefulness of combining data on employment and earnings with household data in order to evaluate the household welfare was stressed. The need of all possible disaggregations (by sex, age, ethnicity, refugee status, geographic areas and the like) of labour market statistics obtained through labour force surveys was underlined. A balance between simplicity and completeness of contents of such surveys needs to be found. There is at present no fully valid method of collecting earnings from employment. Both labour force surveys and household income surveys could be used but earnings from own account and other agricultural employment remain difficult to assess.

19. The workshop dedicated particular attention to the definition of 'not fully employed', as mentioned in Table 4 of the discussion paper. Possible specifications of this indicator were proposed in order to clarify what it should include, with particular regard towards the social benefit receivers. The use of a minimum number of worked hours per week was taken in consideration as a discriminator to distinguish the fully employed. The relevance of the employment in the informal sector was noticed, but there was no general indication on how to measure it. It was recognized that an improvement in the quality of estimates is necessary beforehand. The need for guidelines on how to define and record seasonal employment and over employment was also voiced.

20. The importance of regular labour force surveys as the most common source for employment and unemployment data has been stressed.

21. The disaggregation of the economic activity by sex was considered feasible. On the other hand, some concerns have been raised on the reliability of the available information on women administrators and managers and professional and technical workers. The introduction of the gender issue in the wage determination was considered, with views that spread from the need for more gender specific indicators to the irrelevance of the distinction between men's and women's wages if the working category/occupation is not also specified. The participants discussed also the practicability of other disaggregations of the active population, such as by ethnicity or by refugee status. There was a consensus on the necessity to refer to a common international definition of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) for the countries concerned.

22. When considering the contents of Table 4 of the discussion paper, the workshop agreed on the distinction of the economically active population into 'fully' and 'not fully' employed and unemployed. The presence in Table 4 of the upper limit of age of 64 for the economically active population has been considered as not relevant, as retirement ages are different among countries. The application of ILO guidelines on the retirement age has been suggested as an alternative. The meeting agreed also on the suggestion of using the ILO terminology and definitions of unemployment and part time/full time employment and on the importance to specify more in detail the classification of inactive and discouraged population. The introduction of a question on whether the status of under-employment is voluntary or not has been requested by some participants.

23. Participants examined the formulation of the indicators in Table 5 and requested specifications on the definitions of average wage (both total and in non-agricultural employment) and average earnings in non-wage employment. The importance of a clear definition of these indicators was stressed together with the difficulty of gathering reliable data for specific sectors such as agriculture. A proposal of substituting the indicator 'average earnings in non-wage employment' with 'average wage in agricultural employment' was formulated. The use of gross, rather than net, wages has also been voiced.

Key Economic Indicators

24. The opening remarks on the Key Economic Indicators section were delivered by Belarus.

25. The feasibility of Table 1 was verified. Special emphasis was given to the importance of estimating the GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) to allow international comparability. Some indicators on Table 2 need to be further clarified to be compiled. In particular it is necessary to specify that the indicator on 'Budget deficit, as % of GDP' refers to the government consolidated budget. Also the indicators on the deficit of the balance of payments and on official aid need an explication, while the indicator relating to the external public and private debt should be separated into its public and private components in order to provide a better understanding of the private debt. The indicators of Table 3 may be derived from National Accounts and Consumer Price Index (CPI). It is important to clarify whether the 'public consumption expenditure' corresponds to the 'expenditures from the state budget' and in this case to specify the difference between this indicator and the indicator 'Public expenditure on total social objectives'. As far as the indicator on the expenditure on social transfers is concerned, there are some difficulties in calculating it per beneficiary, as one citizen may receive more than one benefit. To avoid the risk of double accounting, it was proposed to sub-divide the indicator by type of benefit.

26. Some participants shared their experiences in the calculation of GDP, of public revenues and public expenditures. The application of two possible standards, namely those used by the IMF and the European Union, for the public revenue/expenditure definition was taken in consideration.

27. The workshop agreed on the layout of Tables 1, 2 and 3 with the specifications proposed. The definition of the 'Net official aid for countries in transition' needed some more clarification and finally the use of a national source for data on official aid, on the basis of the international standard proposed by the OECD DAC, was approved.

Demographic Background

28. The opening remarks on the Demographic Background section were delivered by Albania.

29. The meeting was reminded about the different sources of demographic data available (population census, administrative data and possibly household surveys), which allow the compilation of Table 8 of the discussion paper. The importance of the geographical disaggregation was recognized. In particular, the level of the disaggregation and the enumeration area considered were deemed very significant. The only indicator in the table that may be complicated to determine is the percentage of refugees and IDPs.

30. The open discussion focused on the definition of ethnic minorities, refugees and IDPs, as well as on the collection of the corresponding data. The presence of these indicators in the table will be decided on a country basis.

31. The participants agreed on the feasibility of Table 8. The indicators 'Dependency ratio' and 'Fertility rate' will be further defined, according to international standards.

Health

32. The opening remarks on the Health section were delivered by Bulgaria.

33. The existing health statistics and the sources available were presented to the meeting and the presence of the information necessary to the compilation of Tables 10 and 11 of the standard set of proposed indicators was assessed. The importance of having some indicators on the effectiveness of medical care and on the access and costs of medical services was underlined. A geographical disaggregation of health services was deemed useful in order to identify the inequalities in health access. In Table 10, some reservations on the relevance of the indicator on maternal mortality ratio were raised as the maternal mortality in the countries of the region is very low and the indicator fluctuates randomly.

34. The general structure of Table 9 was accepted. Concerns on the availability of data on the cost of medical consultation were raised by some participants. Some difficulties in producing the indicator on contraceptive rate were also described. The addition of the abortion rate was proposed.

35. The participants agreed on the contents and the feasibility of Tables 10 (containing mortality rates) and 11 (containing morbidity rates) and some minor changes and additions were proposed. In Table 10, it was proposed to add an indicator on mortality from tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases, which are quite relevant in the region. Furthermore, the indicator on 'Deaths under 1 year of age' (infant mortality), should be added to 'Deaths under 5'. As far as Table 11 is concerned, it was noted that malaria and diphtheria are not major diseases in the region. It was concluded that the list of diseases of Table 11 could be adapted to the country characteristics. The indicators proposed may be substituted with more appropriate ones.

36. When relevant to the country, it was suggested that it would be useful to identify the ethnic distribution or a disaggregation by vulnerable groups of the indicators present in the tables.

Education

37. The opening remarks on the Education section were delivered by Russia.

38. The meeting was proposed with some comments and additions to Table 14 and 15 of the discussion paper. In Table 14, the educational levels might be different from one country to the other and the use of international guidelines for the sub-division of educational levels was recommended. Furthermore, it is difficult sometimes to calculate the net enrolment ratios as students join both primary and secondary school at different ages. In Table 15, a question on why the educational status of people aged 16-25 was excluded, was raised. The addition of some more indicators was proposed, which could provide a picture of the quality of education ('average number of compulsory school years' was the proposed indicator), of the accessibility to education ('number of special schools for mentally-physically disabled' was proposed) and of the effectiveness of education (some indicators on the cost of education per student, both private and public, were suggested).

39. The proposed suggestions were discussed and the use of the International Standard Classification of Education published by UNESCO in 1997 (ISCE 1997) was accepted as the basis for the sub-division of educational levels. The difficulties in calculating the net enrolment ratios were confirmed by some participants. The sources of information for the compilation of Table 15 were discussed, and the workshop accepted the possibility that the data be collected from censuses and from household budget survey and labour force surveys in the period of time between two censuses. The introduction in the tables of indicators on the education of vulnerable groups, such as street children, refugees and children with disabilities, was discussed and it was agreed that the use of sources different from the traditional ones would be necessary.

40. The participants agreed on the layout of Tables 14 and 15. It was decided to delete the specification '(first eight years)' from the line relating to basic education, as basic education may last a different number of years in each country. An additional disaggregation of the educational levels, especially at secondary level, would be useful. Some countries showed an interest in the addition of an indicator on continuing vocational training for adult people or the percentage of people with a job that is not consistent with their educational level.

41. The addition of an indicator on expenditures was also considered relevant to determine the relative weight on education of the public and private sector. Some participants deemed important the presence of an indicator on the number of teachers (full time and part time) or on the number of teachers per student.

The number or percentage of school drop-outs could be interesting to determine the education effectiveness, too.

Nutrition

42. The opening remarks on the Nutrition section were delivered by Moldova.

43. The workshop was presented with the statistical information available for the compilation of Table 12 of the standard set proposal. Periodical information on the percentage of women with iron deficiency anaemia and the percentage of children exclusively breastfed at a specific age are generally provided by the Ministry of Health. On the other hand, the weight and height of children under five are data more difficult to obtain on a regular basis. Household budget surveys and statistical reports on balances of agricultural production may provide information for the indicator on the supply of proteins, but the reliability of this information may be questioned.

44. The discussion developed on the sources of information requested in filling Table 12 and on the calculation of the indicators contained. The main questions were related to the availability of the information concerning the anthropometrical data (needed to calculate the indicators ‘% of children under 5 with low weight for height’ and ‘% of children under five with low height for age’). Most of the countries have only one data obtained from a specific nutrition survey conducted in the past years, but, at the moment, have no resources to reproduce it. Two possible solutions were proposed for the periodical collection of this information. The first is to use the household budget surveys, when an ad hoc survey cannot be performed. In this case the reliability of the answers and periodicity of such data collection are very important issues. The second solution is to use the data collected by schools or available from other administrative sources. The children anthropometrical measures are already collected by the schools of some countries, but in this case the indicator could not be calculated for children below 5 years of age, but for children below 6 or 7, according to the enrolment age in schools.

45. The formulation of the indicator ‘% of women exclusively breastfeeding their children at four months of age’ was also debated, as in some countries this information is available in the form of percentage of children exclusively breastfed at a given age and not vice-versa. In some other countries the percentage of mothers is available at 3, 6 and 9 months of the children’s age. Finally, no decision was taken on the possibility of changing the original formulation of the indicator.

46. The meeting agreed in principle with the indicators proposed in Table 12. The provision of data for these indicators on a periodic basis will require additional efforts in some countries. Some participants proposed the addition of the indicator, ‘percentage of household expenditure devoted to the acquisition of a minimum number of calories’.

Civil and Political Rights

47. The opening remarks on the Civil and Political Rights section were delivered by UNECE.

48. Four currently used approaches for the estimation of the civil and political rights achieved by countries were presented to the meeting. The first consists in subjective panel estimates. The second approach utilizes objective numerical measures, and includes indicators such as ‘women in Parliament’ or the ‘average waiting period for trials’. The third approach consists in objective non-numerical statements, while the last is based on national surveys on the citizens’ perception of their freedom, political rights and so on. None of these approaches is fully satisfactory but the one that seems more reliable for the time being is based on the objective non-numerical statements. Ratification of international conventions, modifications of the Constitution, revision of administrative procedures, are all objective statements that

may be useful in determining the achievements reached by a country in the field of civil and political rights.

49. There was some agreement among the participants that the estimations based on subjective data on civil and political rights, namely the subjective panel estimates and the national perception surveys, might be biased and should not be retained. The objective numerical and non-numerical measures, on the other hand, are obtainable without difficulties, even though statisticians are not usually the providers of this kind of information. Comments were raised on the fact that these indicators are not subject to frequent changes over time, but when changes take place, they are significant. The interpretation of this kind of indicators was also debated and it was observed that a time series perspective is important with this respect.

50. The coverage of the figures related to the number of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the countries of the region, as presented in the Global Human Development Report, raised a discussion. It was agreed that this issue deserves further consideration.

51. Two new indicators were brought to the attention of the participants by UNDP, namely 'municipal budget dependency on central government expenditure', which gives an idea of the local capacities when compared to the national level, and 'level of consolidated budget as share of GDP', which should provide information on the magnitude of the state involvement in all kind of activities. UNDP has offered to develop some additional indicators on civil and political rights and to circulate them to the participants in the coming weeks for comments.

Housing and Associated Services

52. The opening remarks on the Housing and Associated Services section were delivered by Romania.

53. The concept of adequate housing was introduced and the various aspects of the analysis of the human settlements presented. The minimum set of indicators to perform this analysis should include four categories: indicators regarding living space availability, comfort indicators, indicators on house market (access to dwelling and housing cost) and infrastructure indicators. The sources of housing data were also illustrated and the feasibility of Table 16 was established. The relevance of the indicator 'average number of hours per day of electricity' was questioned in the case of countries where all households have electricity all day long.

54. The indicator on the cost of accommodation drew special attention. Various interpretations of what this indicator should include were debated. In particular, it would be necessary to specify whether costs such as repairing and maintenance, heating and electricity, or the expenses for acquiring or renting the dwelling, or the subsidies to housing should be included. Different breakdowns of the indicator were suggested. The proposal of a simple breakdown between households living in a dwelling they own and households living in a dwelling they rent seemed interesting, as it respected the principle of economy. According to this breakdown a global cost for accommodation, including all expenses, should be calculated. A third category of households would also be included, namely those freely occupying a non-owned dwelling, since the matter is very relevant in the countries of the region. The sources available for obtaining the information on the cost of accommodation were debated and participants exchanged experiences on the most useful ones.

55. The workshop agreed on the feasibility of Table 16. Clarifications were requested on the meaning of 'access to safe drinking water' as in some parts of the countries the water source may not be inside the dwelling or there may be interruptions in the supply. The presence of interruptions in the service is true also for electricity, and the participants resolved to maintain the corresponding indicator, recognizing that there might be difficulties in acquiring the data. The suggestion to obtain it in co-operation with the

electric company was advanced. The introduction of an indicator on access to central heating, possibly disaggregated by type of heating, was voiced, together with an indicator on waste treatment.

Security (crime, armed conflict)

56. The opening remarks on the Security section were delivered by Ukraine.

57. The importance of statistics on crime was underlined together with the fact that this subject is rather new to statisticians. Possible sources for crime data were analysed and the reliability of registered statistics was questioned. A more reliable source would be specific surveys, but at the moment there are difficulties in running them on a regular basis. Some amendments were proposed to Table 13. The definition of 'white collar crimes' needs to be specified. The indicator on the percentage of people who feel secure from crime is very relevant, but cannot be calculated through standard surveys, as it reflects a subjective opinion.

58. There was some consensus on the layout of Table 13. The indicators of the table are generally available from courts and the Ministry of Justice. Some participants stated the necessity of modifying the definition of the indicator on 'reported crimes' into 'recorded (or registered) crimes', as data available are mainly from administrative sources. Furthermore, it would be necessary to clarify whether 'white collar crimes' means 'corruption crimes'. In such a case, concerns on the possibility of providing this information were expressed. The indicator on the 'percentage of reported crimes in which the offender is brought to justice' should be replaced by 'percentage of crimes whose author has been arrested'. Finally, there was an agreement that the indicator 'percentage who feel secure from crime' is not possible to obtain.

59. The addition of three indicators was proposed: 'number of prisoners', with a possible specification of juvenile prisoners, 'number of drug related crimes', 'number of rapes'.

Social Exclusion/Inclusion

60. The opening remarks on the Social Exclusion/Inclusion section were delivered by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This session of the workshop included a discussion both in sub-groups and in plenary session.

61. The meeting was introduced to the definition of social exclusion and the sources useful to identify such a phenomenon. Among the objectives of the analysis of the social exclusion are the identification of its causes and the characterization of the most vulnerable groups and of the structure of the socially excluded population. The process of social inclusion was also presented together with possible mechanisms for reducing the exclusion. The possibility of producing the indicators in Table 19 was assessed and the source identified is the future household budget surveys. The proposal of considering an indicator on the number of personal computers with an Internet connection instead of 'number of personal computers' was advanced.

62. Participants discussed the possibility of gathering the information necessary to fill Table 19 from future surveys. Household budget surveys, living standard surveys and other sociological surveys available in the countries have been considered as the most reliable sources. The definition of social exclusion and participation to public social functions according to the guidelines of the Council of Europe are necessary to formulate the questions to be introduced in the surveys.

63. The workshop considered the fact that the number of mobile telephones is rapidly increasing in the countries of the region and that this phenomenon may have relevant effects on social inclusion. With the

same perspective, the access to personal computers and Internet and the knowledge to use them were considered more important than the ownership of a computer itself.

64. Participants agreed on the general layout of Table 19 and proposed the following amendments. The indicator '% saying they cannot afford to invite friends for a meal' be extended to '% of people saying that they have no possibility to meet friends (for a meal, in public places and so on)'. The indicator '% who say they do not belong to a club or association or do not participate in public social functions' could be reformulated in '% who say they are used to attend public events'. The indicator on the number of telephones per households will include also mobile telephones. 'Personal computer per 100 households' should be replaced by an indicator on the capability to access the Internet and on the various locations where this access is possible (office, school or university, internet café, home). It was recognized that the geographical location could impose restrictions to the access to telephones and Internet, since the telecommunication network is not homogeneous in some part of the countries. This dimension should be reflected in the geographical disaggregation of the indicators.

65. The introduction of an indicator on the number of television sets and radios per household was recommended. To have a more comprehensive picture of the situation, it was suggested that the reference to school drop-outs or access to medical care is made. These indicators are also present in other tables of the standard set. Additional indicators proposed by some countries related to the percentage of households who can afford one week of holiday, who can have a hobby or who can learn a foreign language.

Geographical Disaggregation

66. The opening remarks on the Geographical disaggregation section were delivered by Yugoslavia.

67. The relevance of geographical disaggregation was underlined both from the aspect of collection and presentation of data. The level of disaggregation of an indicator and the type of survey that is performed are strictly related. Two main development of geographical disaggregation were considered of particular interest: disaggregating the indicators at regional and municipality level in such a way that they are comparable at the international level and determining the incidence of poverty at a sub-regional level.

68. The discussion focused on the problems of obtaining regional disaggregations of the human development indicators at low level. Factors such as small population size, phenomena difficult to measure, and economic components that cannot be broken down at sub-regional level, are all examples of these problems. The workshop developed the subject of the disaggregation of GDP components and, in this respect, a recent tentative based on the disaggregation of GDP at regional level according to tax data, was illustrated. Participants agreed that the most important objective of human development indicators consists in determining the differences among regions (or municipalities) rather than in calculating the level of GDP of the regions (or municipalities). The development of an appropriate methodology for the disaggregation of the human development indicators, and not only of their economic components, was considered of critical importance to be able to analyse the regional disparities in human development.

69. A proposal was advanced that the participants give their opinion on the feasibility of the provisional indicators listed in the section 'Regional disaggregation' of the discussion paper. The comments and the indicators selected by each country should be sent by e-mail to UNECE, who will circulate the results to the other participants.

Concluding session

70. After a summary of the topics discussed during the three days of the workshop, the participants' feedback on their expectations and reactions was requested. The delegations expressed their appreciation for the work conducted throughout the workshop and the importance of the topic addressed. The meeting

was considered as a good occasion for a progress in national statistics and an exchange of experiences with other countries. The opportunity of identifying the areas of improvement and developing methodological aspects of surveys was considered with favour. UNDP/RBEC mentioned the work planned on a Human Development Report for the region, where the statistical annex would be based on the standard set proposed for the NHDRs. The country delegations agreed on the global feasibility of the proposed standard set of indicators. The actual implementation of the corresponding statistical tools may take a couple of years, depending on the countries' statistical capacity.

Evaluation

71. An evaluation questionnaire was returned by 22 out of 23 participants to the workshop. 18 experts evaluate the contents, manner of presentation and organisation of the meeting as 'good' or 'excellent', 4 experts as 'fairly good'. The duration of the workshop is considered 'adequate' by 19 experts, 'too short' by 3. As far as the structure of the workshop is concerned, most of the participants agree that the timing of the sessions was 'about right', with the exception of the session 'Income & Poverty' which the majority thought should have requested more time. Six of the 22 experts believe that the sessions 'Principles in Selecting Indicators' and 'Key Economic Indicators' should have needed more time, too. With regard to the 'Civil and Political Rights' session, 4 participants state that it should have taken more time, 10 that the time was 'about right' and 8 that it should have taken less time. The usefulness of the workshop for the definition of a standard statistical set of indicators is rated by the majority as 'good' or 'excellent'. 9 questionnaires include comments or suggestions on other topics that could have been included in the workshop. These refer in particular to environmental and tourism indicators. The need for future workshops to develop methodological matters, classifications and techniques for the calculation of indices is also mentioned.

Annex 1 – List of participants

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Annex 2 – Agenda

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Moderators/Speakers</u>
Monday, 9 September	9.00 – 9.30	Registration	
	9.30 – 10.00	Opening: welcome, purpose and expected results of the workshop	NSI of Bulgaria UNECE Statistical Division
	10.00 – 10.15	Purpose of the standard set of statistical indicators for NHDRs	Opening Remarks: Mr. Chapron
	10.15 – 10.45	Coffee Break	
	10.45 – 11.15	Purpose of the standard set of statistical indicators for NHDRs (contd.)	General Discussion
	11.15 – 12.00	Principles in selecting indicators	Opening remarks: Mr. Scott General Discussion
	12.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
	14.00 – 15.30	Income & Poverty	Opening remarks: Mr. Scott General Discussion
	15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break	
	16.00 – 17.30	Employment	Opening remarks: Mr. Chapron General Discussion Discussion in Sub-groups
Tuesday, 10 September	9.00 – 10.00	Key Economic Indicators	Opening remarks General Discussion
	10.00 – 11.00	Demographic Background	Opening remarks: Mrs. Ekonomi (Albania) General Discussion
	11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break	
	11.30 – 12.30	Health	Opening remarks: Ms. Denkova (Bulgaria) General Discussion
	12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
	14.00 – 15.00	Education	Opening remarks General Discussion
	15.00 – 16.00	Nutrition	Opening remarks General Discussion
	16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break	
	16.30 – 17.40	Civil and Political Rights	Opening Remarks: Mr. Chapron General Discussion Discussion in Sub-groups

Date	Time	Activity	Moderators/Speakers
Wednesday, 11 September	9.00 – 10.00	Housing and Associated Services	Opening Remarks: Ms. Panduru, Ms. Ionita (Romania) General Discussion
	10.00-11.00	Security (Crime, Armed Conflict)	Opening Remarks General Discussion
	11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break	
	11.30 – 12.40	Social Exclusion/Inclusion	Opening Remarks: Ms. Markovska, Mr. Nolev (FYROM) General Discussion Discussion in Sub-groups
	12.40 – 14.00	Lunch	
	14.00 – 15.30	Geographical Disaggregation	Opening Remarks: Ms. Burzanovic (Yugoslavia) General Discussion
	15.30 – 16.30	Concluding Session	Mr. Chapron, Mr. Scott

Annex 3 – The proposed standard set of statistical indicators

Table 1
Production: Gross domestic product (at constant prices)

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
GDP per capita							
- national currency							
- US\$ purchasing power parity* **							

*US\$ at exchange rates if purchasing power parities not available.

** The year of reference of ppp should be indicated.

Table 2
Inflation, indebtedness and international assistance and aid

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Inflation: % change in consumer prices*							
Budget deficit % of GDP							
Balance of payments deficit as % of GDP							
External public and private debt service % of exports							
Net official aid for countries in transition % of GDP**							

* End year over end year

** As reported by DAC, OECD.

Table 3
Public revenue and expenditure (at constant prices)

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Public revenue							
- per capita (national currency)							
- % of GDP							
Public consumption expenditure							
- per capita (national currency)							
- % of GDP							
Public expenditure on total social objectives*							
- per capita (national currency)							
- % of GDP							
Public expenditure on health							
- per capita (national currency)							
- % of GDP							
Public expenditure on education, per student (nat. currency)							
Public expenditure on social transfers (pensions, unemployment benefits, etc. - per beneficiary (nat. currency)							

*Health, education, religious, cultural and community activities, housing, social security (transfers).

Table 4
Economic activity by sex

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Men							
Economically active as % of population aged 15-64*							
of which (as % of economically active):							
fully employed**							
not fully employed							
sub-total: all employed (including self-employed)							
unemployed **							
Youth (15-24) unemployment rate* **							
Women							
Economically active as % of population aged 15-64*							
of which (as % of economically active):							
fully employed**							
not fully employed							
sub-total: all employed (including self-employed)							
unemployed **							
Youth (15-24) unemployment rate* **							
Women's equality in employment:							
- female administrators and managers***							
- female professional and technical workers***							
- seats in parliament held by women (% of all seats)							

*As defined by ILO, including discouraged workers

** ILO definition (whether registered or not)

*** As % of all administrators and managers, respectively professional and technical workers.

Table 5
Net annual wages and net earnings per month, at constant prices, by sex

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Men							
Average wage							
Average wage in non-agricultural employment							
Average earnings in non wage employment							
Women							
Average wage							
Average wage in non-agricultural employment							
Average earnings in non wage employment							

Table 6
Distribution of net disposable household income *

Per capita or adult equivalent household income (per month)** national currency - illustrative classification	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
	% of households						
-49							
50 - 99							
100 - 149							
150 - 199							
200 - 249							
250 - 299							
300 - 399							
400 - 499							
500 - 749							
750 - 999							
Total							
Median							
Ratio of upper to lower quintile							

* Or consumption expenditure as an indicator of income

**At constant prices

Table 7
Poverty

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Persons in absolute destitution - number*							
Persons in absolute destitution - % of total population*							
Persons in absolute poverty as % of total population **							
Persons in relative poverty (below 60% of national median income) as % of total population							
Average expenditure on food as % of total consumption expenditure							

* Persons in households having insufficient income to purchase required food.

** Persons in households having insufficient income to purchase required food and/or other necessities.

Table 8
Demographic background

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Population							
% ethnic minority population							
% women							
% men							
% urban							
% rural							
% under 15							
% 65 and over							
% refugees and IDPs							
Total fertility rate							
Natural increase per 1,000 population							
Total increase per 1,000 population							
Dependency ratio**							

* For definition, see UN Statistical Commission, Recommendations for the 2000 censuses of population and housing in the ECE region, 1998, para.83, p.21

** Persons aged under 15 plus 65 and over as per cent of age group 15-64.

Table 9
Health services

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Private as % of total expenditure on health							
Per capita private health expenditure (constant prices)							
Average cost of medical consultation as % total household consumption expenditure							
% of births attended by skilled medical staff							
% of children immunised*							
Contraceptive prevalence rate							

*Children of appropriate age immunised against measles, pertussis, diphtheria, polio, tuberculosis.

Table 10
Selected mortality rates by sex

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Men/boys							
Expectation of life at birth, years							
Deaths under 5 per 1000 live births							
Mortality from malignant neoplasm per 100,000 males							
Mortality from cardiovascular conditions in men below 65 per 100,000 males							
Women/girls							
Expectation of life at birth, years							
Deaths under 5 per 1000 live births							
Mortality from malignant neoplasm per 100,000 females							
Mortality from cardiovascular conditions in women below 65 per 100,000 females							
Maternal mortality ratio							

Table 11
Morbidity

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
New cases of vaccine related diseases, per 100,000 population							
- diphtheria							
- tuberculosis							
New cases of other major diseases							
- malaria (where applicable) per 100,000 population							
- HIV/AIDS - female, number							
- HIV/AIDS - male, number							

Table 12
Nutrition

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Average supply (per day/capita) of protein of animal origin							
% of children under 5 with low* weight for height							
% of children under 5 with low* height for age							
% pregnant women with iron deficiency anaemia							
% women exclusively breastfeeding their children at four months of age							

* Two standard deviations below the median in a well-nourished and healthy model population.

Table 13
Security from crime

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. of violent crimes reported per 100,000 persons*							
No. of white collar crimes reported per 100,000 persons**							
% of reported crimes in which the offender is brought to justice							
% who feel secure from crime							
*Homicides, attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping, sexual assault, sexual abuse, major assault, abduction, common assault (cf.UNSD, Draft manual for the development of a system of criminal justice statistics)							
** As defined in the above Manual.							

Table 14
Education - Net enrolment ratios by sex*

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
BOYS							
Pre-primary							
Basic (first eight years)**							
Upper secondary, including vocational and technical							
Tertiary							
GIRLS							
Pre-primary							
Basic (first eight years)**							
Upper secondary, including vocational and technical							
Tertiary							
* Gross ratios if data for net ratios unavailable.							
** Primary and lower secondary							

Table 15
Educational status of persons aged 25 and more by sex

Highest level attained	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Men							
% with completed upper secondary							
% with completed tertiary							
Women							
% with completed upper secondary							
% with completed tertiary							

Table 16
Housing characteristics

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Average sq.m of habitable space per person (or % households with more than one person per room)							
% households with unshared use of toilets and kitchens							
Cost of accommodation, including services, as % of total household expenditure							
Average number of hours per day of electricity							
% population having access to safe drinking water							
NHDR 3							

Table 17
Environmental risk, management and protection

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Budgetary funds allocated to environmental protection and relief, per capita (constant prices)							
Area protected to maintain biological diversity (% of total land)							
Energy use (in standard units) per unit of GDP*							
* Or better, if the data were available: energy from environmentally acceptable sources per unit of GDP or as per cent of total energy.							
NHDR3							

Table 18
Levels of principal air pollutants, kg per capita

Pollutant	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Carbon dioxide (CO ²)							
Suplhur dioxide (SO ²)							
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ²)							
Volatile organic compounds							

Table 19
Social inclusion/exclusion

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
% saying they cannot afford to invite friends for a meal							
% who say they do not know how or cannot manage to apply for assistance							
% who say they do not belong to a club or association or do not participate in public social functions							
Telephones per 100 households							
Personal computers per 100 households							

Table 20
Human Development Index*

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Indicator values						
Adult literacy						
Combined gross enrolment ratio						
Expectation of life at birth						
Per capita GDP (ppp)						
Index values						
Education index						
Expectation of life at birth						
Per capita GDP (ppp)						
Human development index						

* Standardised in terms of its composition in 2000