

Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat WGSSD
Third Meeting of the Working Group

Annotated outline: Chapter 3

“Overview of existing sustainable development indicators”

Julie Hass (Norway), Stephen Hall (UK)
UN, Geneva, 19th – 20th April 2007

Introduction

- **Brief history of existing indicators and influences:**
 - **Rio 1992**
 - **Early pioneers**
 - **UN CSD**
 - **OECD**
 - **Eurostat**
 - **Broad country coverage**

Successes with existing indicators

- Bringing issues together
- Raising awareness
- Supporting policy

Failings of existing indicators

- Too many, cover everything
- Weak for long-term issues
- Do not inform policy sufficiently?
- International comparability?

Status of indicators

- Called “sustainable development” or “sustainability” indicators
- Explicitly included in strategy document
- Support strategy document
- Legal status
- Ministerial authority
- Statistical status
- Stakeholder involvement
- Regularity and form of reporting

Frameworks

- **Explicit**
- **Implicit**
- **Policy objectives**
- **3-4 Pillars**
- **DPSIR**
- **Capital**

Structure of indicator sets

- **Headline indicators**
- **Core indicators**
- **Range of set sizes**
- **Aggregate indices?**

Forms of indicators

- Absolute values
- Percentages
- Growth rates
- Indices
- Per capita
- Per land area
- Monetised
- ‘Short-term’
- ‘Long-term’
- ‘Equity’

Themes, sub-themes and indicators

- Exploration of themes
- Exploration of sub-themes as examples
- List of themes / sub-themes from a hybrid best set
- Selected indicators from hybrid best set?
- List of hybrid best indicators (in Annex?)

What is wrong with the existing hybrid best set?

Different themes or sub-themes

- Eg Climate change
- Emissions
- Sectoral emissions
- CO2 concentration
- Temperature
- Effects of climate change
- Government responses