

## Minutes

### MDG Environment Sub-group Meeting New York, April 1, 2004

#### 1. Attendees

Robert Smith, Statistics Canada (Chair)  
Chikako Takase, UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development  
Eszter Horvath, UNDESA Statistics Division  
Alessandra Alfieri, UNDESA Statistics Division  
Robert Johnston, UNDESA Statistics Division  
Mia Söderland, UNDESA Forum on Forests  
Giovanni Ruta, World Bank  
Linda Ghanimé, UN Development Program

#### 2. Scope of the sub-group work programme

It was agreed that the sub-group's work programme will include all issues related to the preparation of the indicators associated with targets 9 and 10 of the MDGs. Target 11 will be the subject of a separate sub-group led by UN-Habitat.

#### 3. Membership of the sub-group

The following organizations have expressed an interest in participation in the sub-group or are *de facto* members given their roles in furnishing specific Goal 7 indicators:

FAO  
IUCN\*  
IEA\*  
Statistics Canada (invited expert)  
UNEP  
UNFCCC\*  
UN Ozone Secretariat\*  
UNDESA/SD (Environment Statistics and Environment Accounts)  
UNDESA/DSD  
UNICEF\*  
UNDP  
UNDESA Forum on Forests  
WHO\*  
World Bank

\* indicates organizations with which no official contact has yet been made regarding the sub-group.

#### 4. Objectives of the sub-group

Those present at the meeting agreed on the following set of objectives for the sub-group.

- A) Prepare a better integrated, more coherent "meta storyline" for Target 9 for inclusion in the 2004 MDG indicators report. Subsequently, prepare a set of storylines for the 2005 report that are better integrated and more coherent at the meta level,

as well as being better integrated and more coherent between the individual Target 9 and Target 10 indicators and between these indicators and the other MDG indicators sets.

- B) Propose and debate additional and/or modified indicators for Target 9 and Target 10.
- C) Review data sources and data quality for those indicators for which concerns exist, beginning with indicator 29 (reliance upon solid fuels).
- D) Recommend an integrated, systematic framework for the compilation of environmental information to support the development of the MDG environment indicators, bearing in mind the requirements of developing countries for environmental information and their capacity for producing such information. In recommending this framework, attention will be paid to ensuring coherence of our work with that of Paris 21, DevInfo, FAO's FRA and other groups considering the development of information in developing countries.

## **5. Commitments**

Those present at the meeting committed to the following:

- A) Robert Smith will contact those members of the sub-group not present in New York to confirm their participation and identify a contact person for each one.
- B) Mia Söderland will seek input from the various member organizations of the UN Forum on Forests regarding the nature of a more integrated story line for forests.
- C) Eszter Horvath will prepare a better integrated, more coherent Target 9 "meta storyline" for inclusion in the 2004 MDG indicators report.
- D) Chikako Takase will report back to the sub-group on the outcome of MDG Task Group 6 in June and its suggestions for new environment indicators.
- E) Robert Smith and Alessandra Alfieri will draft a discussion paper to outline the possibilities for an integrated environmental information system to serve as a basis for compiling the MDG target 9 and 10 indicators.

## **6. Chairmanship of the sub-group**

Robert Smith noted that he did not believe it appropriate for him to continue as Chair of the sub-group. It would be preferable if one of the organizations involved would volunteer to act as Chair. It was agreed that DESA/SD would contact the agencies responsible for the indicators to determine who could take on the chairmanship of the sub-group. As an interim, Robert Smith and Robert Johnston would serve as co-chairs.

## **7. Mode of operation of the sub-group**

There was insufficient time to discuss the sub-group's preferred mode of operation. Options include face-to-face meetings, teleconferences, video-conferences, e-mail, electronic discussion forums, etc. This is a topic that will have to be considered in the near term under the guidance of the new Chair.

#### **8. Next meeting**

There was no discussion of the sub-group's next meeting. This is also a topic that will have to be considered in the near term under the guidance of the new Chair.