

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND



The General Data Dissemination System

**GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS
AND USERS**



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The point of contact in the IMF for the General Data Dissemination System is:

Chief, Data Dissemination Standards Division
Statistics Department, International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20431, U.S.A.
Tel.: (202) 623-4874 Telefax: (202) 623-6165
E-mail: gdds@imf.org Internet: <http://dsbb.imf.org/gddsindex.htm>

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Foreword

The purpose of this *Guide* is to explain the nature and objectives of the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), to describe its operation, and to provide practical guidance to IMF member countries on participation in the GDDS. The GDDS gives members a basic framework for a broader national statistical development strategy. That is, it covers a set of statistics recognized to be essential for all countries for policymaking and analysis in an environment that increasingly requires relevant, comprehensive, and accurate statistics. The GDDS addresses the full range of issues critical for compiling and disseminating data and making explicit plans for improvement to align national procedures with best practices.

This version of the *Guide*, superseding the version updated in October 2004, has benefited from the suggestions and recommendations of member countries that participate in the GDDS. This version also incorporates the decision taken by the IMF's Executive Board in November 2005 to present the GDDS metadata in the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). The *Guide* is expected to continue to evolve as the GDDS evolves.

Since establishing the GDDS in December 1997, the IMF Statistics Department has worked closely with member countries and with other international organizations on the GDDS. For participating member countries, the GDDS has provided a management tool and a framework to foster sound statistical methodology, professional data compilation, and data dissemination. With other international organizations, such as the World Bank, the department has worked to further develop and implement of the GDDS guidelines. In this regard, it is important to highlight the valuable contribution of the World Bank in articulating the sociodemographic component of the GDDS.

The purpose of the GDDS remains to assist member countries to develop their statistical systems. The GDDS further allows the data-producing agencies to take control of their statistical development programs in a structured manner and to coordinate effectively among producing agencies, users, and the international community. The IMF supports these efforts by providing technical assistance and by catalyzing support from other sources.

As the GDDS continues to change, this *Guide* is especially important for countries that are already participating. Participating countries must update and revise their metadata to describe how their data compilation and dissemination activities are keeping pace with the necessary changes in best statistical practices.

In addition, I urge member countries that are interested in participating in the GDDS, and those actively involved in preparing for participation, to consult the GDDS section of the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) on the Internet at: <http://dsbb.imf.org/gddsindex.htm>. The site contains an extensive body of information on the statistical practices and statistical development plans of countries that participate in the GDDS.

I would like to thank staff of the Data Dissemination Standards Division within the Statistics Department for preparing the manuscript, and of the External Relations Department for copyediting the final manuscript and coordinating the publication of the *Guide*.

Robert W. Edwards
Director
Statistics Department
International Monetary Fund

Abbreviations

BIS	Bank for International Settlements
<i>BPM5</i>	<i>Balance of Payments Manual</i> , fifth edition
CD	Compact disc
c.i.f.	Cost, insurance, and freight
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (UN)
DQAF	Data Quality Assessment Framework
DSBB	Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN)
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
<i>ESA 1995</i>	<i>European System of Accounts 1995</i>
f.o.b.	Free on board
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
<i>GFSM 1986</i>	<i>A Manual on Government Finance Statistics 1986</i>
<i>GFSM 2001</i>	<i>Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001</i>
ICP	International Comparison Program
IIP	International Investment Position
ILO	International Labor Organization
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (UN)
ITRS	International Transactions Reporting System
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
<i>MFSM</i>	<i>Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual</i>
MNSDS	Minimum National Social Data Set, as recommended by the United Nations Statistical Committee
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD/DAC	OECD/Development Assistance Committee
PPI	Producer price index
PPP	Purchasing power parity
ROSC	Report on Observance of Standards and Codes
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
<i>1993 SNA</i>	<i>System of National Accounts 1993</i>
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDF	United Nations Development Framework
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WPI	Wholesale price index

I. Introduction to the General Data Dissemination System

Background

1.1 In the aftermath of the 1994–95 international financial crisis, there was a recognition that the ready availability to the public of comprehensive and timely economic and financial data could facilitate the formulation and implementation of sound macroeconomic policies and investment decisions. These, in turn, could reduce the frequency and moderate the severity of future episodes of unusual turbulence in financial markets.

1.2 Accordingly, in April 1995 the Interim Committee of the IMF’s Board of Governors (since renamed the International Monetary and Financial Committee) requested the IMF’s Executive Board to focus on the development of standards to guide member countries in the provision of economic and financial data to the public. In October 1995, the Interim Committee endorsed the establishment of a two-tier standard, comprising a special standard to guide countries that had, or might seek, access to international capital markets and a general standard to guide all member countries.

1.3 The first tier, named the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), was approved by the IMF’s Executive Board on March 29, 1996. Proposals for the other tier, named the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), were considered by the IMF’s Executive Board in March 1997, and the formal decision to approve the establishment of the GDDS was taken on December 19, 1997. Since then, the following developments have taken place:

- In January 1998, a document entitled *The General Data Dissemination System*, referred to as the “GDDS Document,” was issued. It constitutes the primary reference source on what the GDDS is and how it should be implemented. This document is updated regularly to reflect changes in the GDDS.

- On February 6, 1998, the Managing Director of the IMF invited member countries that had not subscribed to the SDDS to designate a country coordinator who could serve as an interlocutor for IMF staff on all issues relating to the GDDS.
- In June 1998, the preliminary version of this *Guide* was distributed to member countries.
- During 1998–2000, the IMF organized nine regional seminars/workshops that were funded by the Japanese government and served as forums in which the GDDS was discussed and explained to officials representing the statistical agencies of the 131 IMF member countries that attended.
- On March 29, 2000, the IMF’s Executive Board decided to include data on external debt and debt-service schedules, which had hitherto been an encouraged extension of the GDDS, as a core indicator within the external sector data category.
- In May 2000, the IMF launched a GDDS site (<http://dsbb.imf.org>) on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) that informs the public of each GDDS participating member country, its current statistical practices, and its plans for development of the statistical system within the GDDS framework.
- On July 23, 2001, as part of the Fourth Review of the IMF’s Data Standards Initiatives, the Executive Board reviewed the GDDS, including the newly articulated sociodemographic data categories.
- On November 6, 2003, the Executive Board of the IMF approved a further amendment to the GDDS to give explicit recognition to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators¹ and the development of appropriate statistical monitoring systems.

¹See United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), Millennium Indicators Database at <http://millenniumindicators.un.org>.

- On November 2, 2005, the Executive Board² of the IMF approved the further integration of the GDDS into the Fund's Data Quality Program by reformatting countries' metadata according to the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). The Directors agreed that using a common metadata structure will increase both the effectiveness and the efficiency of work on the GDDS, the data ROSC, and statistical technical assistance. The Directors noted the usefulness of the GDDS in effecting statistical reforms as part of poverty reduction strategies. To realize the maximum effect from this feature of the GDDS, they supported encouraging and assisting countries to integrate the GDDS into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and thus take account of statistical reforms more systematically in their PRSP's public expenditure plan.
- Also on November 2, 2005, the Directors broadly endorsed the suggestion that GDDS participants be encouraged to provide additional metadata on oil and gas activities and products under the existing data categories of the GDDS. They noted this initiative would promote public knowledge and understanding of how countries incorporate oil-related market information when compiling macroeconomic indicators.

1.4 The pace of change in the needs of users of statistics in recent years, coupled with uncertainties about the direction, manner, and rate at which these needs will evolve, poses special challenges for the development of statistical systems, especially in situations in which tight resource constraints prevail. Existing international cooperative arrangements, while effective, often focus on specific statistical areas (national accounts and balance of payments, for example) rather than on the overall development of statistical systems.

1.5 As the user community finds its analytic practices being shaped to an ever greater extent by the globalization of the world's economies, those charged with the responsibility for statistical systems must in turn find new and innovative ways to accomplish their mission of serving user needs. It was against this background that the GDDS was established, so as to assist countries in placing the development of their overall

statistical systems in the broader context of emerging trends in the international statistical community and to share their own experience with other interested countries and the international user community.

Nature of the GDDS

1.6 The GDDS is a structured process through which IMF member countries commit voluntarily to improving the quality of the data compiled and disseminated by their statistical systems over the long run to meet the needs of macroeconomic analysis. Member countries that participate in the system determine themselves the priorities they will pursue in a set of statistical development plans that reflect the migration toward full realization of the objectives of the GDDS as well as a recognition of the resource and other constraints that determine the pace of the migration. The IMF supports these efforts by providing technical assistance in areas in which it has expertise and by catalyzing assistance from other sources.

1.7 The GDDS recognizes that participating member countries differ in their stages of statistical development and in their capacity to improve their statistical systems over time. Therefore, reflecting its emphasis on long-run development of statistical systems, the GDDS is *not prescriptive* and provides for flexibility in the pace of implementation within and across countries.

1.8 While the GDDS provides for development of statistical systems in a manner that reflects the realities of participating countries, it does so in a structured way. The system (i) contains objectives that are designed to promote orderly development of statistical systems; (ii) provides tools to diagnose areas of the statistical system that require priority attention; and (iii) supports the formulation and implementation of short- and long-run development plans, with flexibility in adapting them to changing circumstances.

1.9 The GDDS fosters sound statistical practices with respect to both the compilation and the dissemination of economic, financial, and sociodemographic statistics. It identifies data sets that are of particular relevance for economic analysis and for monitoring social and demographic developments, and sets out objectives and recommendations relating to the development, compilation, and dissemination of statistics. Particular attention is paid to the needs of users, which are addressed through guidelines relat-

²See the IMF Executive Board's Sixth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiative (see <http://www.imf.org/external/np/ta/dsbb/list.htm>).

ing to the quality and integrity of the data, and access by the public to the data. The objectives and recommendations of the GDDS in these areas are fully consistent with the United Nation's *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*.³

Objectives of the GDDS

1.10 As a structured process, the GDDS aims to address statistical needs. The increasing integration of economic and financial activity across countries has intensified demand for a wide range of economic and other data to underpin the task of macroeconomic management, which itself has become far more complex over time.

1.11 Accordingly, the GDDS addresses three key areas—the quality of data; development plans for statistical systems; and the dissemination of data. Together, these three priority areas constitute a solid basis on which to formulate long-run policies for statistical development.

- **Quality** is used in the GDDS in two different settings: as a primary goal of the system (referred to as *data quality*) and as a specific dimension of the system (referred to as *quality* and discussed in Chapter 2). The primary objective of the system relates to the first meaning, which is as an attribute of statistical data. The primary goal of the GDDS is to ensure data quality in statistical systems, developed and maintained in ways that permit statistics to be compiled and disseminated in accordance with principles and practices that ensure high standards of excellence. Thus, the system is grounded on the application of sound methodological principles, the adoption of rigorous compilation practices, and the use of procedures that ensure professionalism and objectivity as well as adequate dissemination of statistics. The GDDS is not intended to address cases where timeliness is

of the essence—rather, it focuses on building the capacity to disseminate quality statistics, which is an appropriate long-run goal for all statistical systems. Moreover, the attainment of this goal should ensure that, in the future, data that must be used in cases where timeliness is the main priority will be far more useful than would otherwise be the case. It is in this broad context of data quality that the Statistics Department of the IMF has developed the DQAF. Information on the DQAF can be found on the Data Quality Reference Site: <http://dsbb.imf.org>.

- **Development plans** in the GDDS focus on viewing the statistical system in its entirety. In this way, the task of establishing priorities is simplified, and resource allocation becomes more efficient. The development plans in the GDDS cover (i) a diagnosis of the current situation and the formulation of a strategic vision of future directions; (ii) the elaboration of a detailed action plan that identifies all the resources that are required to achieve the desired objectives; and (iii) the tracking of progress under these plans.
- **Dissemination of data** is the ultimate objective of any statistical system. Accordingly, the GDDS attaches special importance to the procedures used to disseminate data. A major area of emphasis is the choice of appropriate and impartial methods of dissemination.

Role of the GDDS

1.12 The role of the GDDS is to facilitate the development of statistical systems of IMF member countries. One way in which it fulfills this role is by providing a framework for channeling technical assistance resources in an optimal fashion and in a way that complements initiatives taken at the national level. By combining in a focused way the resources and technical knowledge of the international statistical community with those available at the domestic level, the pace of statistical development can be accelerated, and priorities appropriately identified and modified as needed.

1.13 Another way in which the GDDS facilitates the development of statistical systems is through the dissemination on the DSBB of information (metadata) on the statistical practices and development plans of participating countries. Such information, which would be difficult for users to obtain through other means,

³The *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* can be accessed on the Internet at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/goodprac/bpabout.asp>; the document is reproduced in Appendix I of this *Guide*. The United Nations' Statistics Division (UNSD) has also established a website (<http://esa.un.org/unsd/goodprac/bpabout.asp>) on good practices in official statistics. The site provides reference material on the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*. It elaborates on the essential elements behind each of these principles and provides examples of policies and practices followed by various countries for implementing the various elements of the *Principles* (including hypertext links to the relevant statistical agency websites).

enables countries that are contemplating changes in their statistical systems to learn from the experiences that other countries in similar circumstances have already documented. From the perspective of the user community, the DSBB provides a valuable body of information regarding the state of statistical development in member countries and the plans that have been adopted for future improvements. The GDDS also allows closer communication between users and

compilers of statistics. In many countries, GDDS metadata provide the only source of contact information for users to give feedback on statistics.

1.14 The GDDS also promotes closer contact and coordination among the various agencies engaged in statistical activities in a participating country. In addition, GDDS metadata stimulate closer contact of statistical compilers across countries.

2. Overview of the GDDS

2.1 This chapter introduces the GDDS, *as set out in the GDDS Document*. The section outlines the four dimensions of the system—data, quality, integrity, and access by the public. It discusses data quality, a primary goal of the GDDS, reviews data compilation and dissemination in the GDDS, and summarizes the key operational features of the system, including the role of the country coordinator.

The GDDS Document

2.2 On February 6, 1998, the Managing Director of the IMF invited member countries that had not subscribed to the SDDS to designate a country coordinator who could serve as an interlocutor for IMF staff on all issues relating to the GDDS. Shortly thereafter, member countries received a document, entitled *The General Data Dissemination System*, which represents the GDDS as approved by the IMF’s Executive Board. This document, referred to as the *GDDS Document*, was subsequently updated to reflect decisions taken by the Executive Board on March 29, 2000, with respect to data on external debt, the fourth review carried out by the Board on July 23, 2001, the fifth review on November 6, 2003, and the sixth review on November 2, 2005. The document is posted on the DSBB and constitutes the primary reference source on what the GDDS is and how it should be implemented.

2.3 The *GDDS Document* sets out objectives for data compilation and dissemination that relate to the following four properties (“dimensions”) of statistical systems, which are also summarized in Box 2.1:

- The first dimension covers the economic, financial, and sociodemographic *data* that the System recommends be produced and disseminated by member countries. It is a basic tenet of the GDDS that dissemination of such data is essential to the formulation of macroeconomic policies and to the

effectiveness and transparency of economic management. This dimension deals with the coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of data.

- *Quality* of the data constitutes the second dimension of the GDDS. This dimension covers information that is available to help users assess the quality of the data covered by the system. Specifically, the GDDS calls for (i) dissemination of documentation on methodology and data sources, and (ii) dissemination of component detail, reconciliations with related data, and statistical frameworks.
- Since it is essential that the user community has confidence in the data produced by statistical systems, the third dimension covers the *integrity* of the data. The objectivity and professionalism of the agency producing the statistics, as manifested in the transparency of its practices and procedures, are key determinants of user confidence. Within this dimension, the system identifies four key elements: (i) dissemination of the terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced; (ii) identification of internal government access to data before their release; (iii) identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases; and (iv) provision of information about revisions and advance notice of major changes in methodology.
- The nature of official statistics as a public good presupposes their dissemination to users in an accessible and equitable manner, and for this reason the fourth dimension of the GDDS is *access* by the public. Two elements of access receive special attention in the GDDS:
 - (i) dissemination of advance-release calendars, and
 - (ii) simultaneous release to all interested parties.

Participation in the GDDS

2.4 Participation in the GDDS by IMF member countries is *voluntary*. It requires that a country undertake three actions relative to the system, and

Box 2.1. The Four Dimensions of the GDDS

1. **The Data—Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness.** Dissemination of reliable, comprehensive, and timely economic, financial, and sociodemographic data is essential to the transparency of macroeconomic performance and policy.

The GDDS therefore recommends dissemination of data as described in Table 3.1.

2. **Quality.** Data quality must have a high priority. Data users must be provided with information to assess quality and quality improvements. The GDDS recommends:

- Dissemination of documentation on methodology and sources used in preparing statistics.
- Dissemination of component detail, reconciliations with related data, and statistical frameworks that support statistical cross-checks and provide assurance of reasonableness.

3. **Integrity.** To fulfill the purpose of providing the public with information, official statistics must have the confidence of their users. In turn, confidence in the statistics ultimately

becomes a matter of confidence in the objectivity and professionalism of the agency producing the statistics. Transparency of practices and procedures are key factors in creating this confidence. The GDDS therefore recommends:

- Dissemination of the terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, including those relating to the confidentiality of individually identifiable information.
- Identification of internal government access to data before release.
- Identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases.
- Provision of information about revisions and advance notice of major changes in methodology.

4. **Access by the public.** Dissemination of official statistics is an essential feature of statistics as a public good. Ready and similar access by the public are principal requirements. The GDDS recommends:

- Dissemination of advance-release calendars.
- Simultaneous release to all interested parties.

participation depends on completion of these actions. These actions are:

- Commitment to using the GDDS as a framework for the development of national systems for the compilation and dissemination of economic, financial, and sociodemographic data;
- Designation of a country coordinator to work with IMF staff; and
- Preparation of metadata,¹ to be disseminated by the IMF on the DSBB, on (i) current statistical compilation and dissemination practices and (ii) plans for short- and medium-term improvements in each of the four dimensions of the system.

2.5 Participation in the GDDS is publicly recognized by the IMF through the posting of the member country's metadata on the DSBB.

2.6 Member countries that wish to participate in the GDDS should indicate their intention to participate in writing to the Director of the Statistics Department

¹Preparation of metadata includes the update of metadata as changes and improvements take place. As stated in the objectives of the GDDS (paragraph 1.11), one objective is tracking of progress under the development plans. The regular and timely updates of the metadata will assist in prioritizing the future development needs of the statistical system in its entirety.

of the IMF. This communication should be from a government official who is in a position to commit the member country to the actions required for participation.

The GDDS and Data Quality

2.7 The principal goal of the GDDS is to improve data quality. In the GDDS, the term “quality” appears in two separate contexts. The first is as an attribute of the data, and in that case the term that is used is “data quality.” The second is as a dimension of the system itself, and in this context it is referred to as “quality.”

2.8 When viewed as an attribute of data, quality can have several meanings. For instance, quality might be viewed as a function of how effectively the data measure the stocks, flows, or other concepts in question. In this concept of quality, accuracy of measurement assumes great importance, and it may be possible in some cases to obtain direct estimates of the accuracy of data, such as measures of coverage for census data or sampling error for survey data. Other aspects of data quality might center on the comparability of data series over time or across sectors, and in some

such cases it may be possible to develop quantitative measures of quality.²

2.9 When viewed as a dimension of the GDDS, quality has a single and unambiguous meaning. This second meaning of quality concerns the supporting information that is made available to users regarding the data and the practices in place for their production and dissemination. In this setting, users will find it helpful to have access to documentation on methodology, information regarding quality assurance practices, dissemination policies, and plans for improvement.

2.10 Specifically, the GDDS identifies as an objective the dissemination of documentation on the sources and methods used in preparing statistics and on component detail, statistical frameworks, and comparisons and reconciliations that support statistical cross-checks. Metadata prepared under the system serve as a vehicle to track improvements in quality.

Data Development, Compilation, and Dissemination

2.11 The GDDS is concerned with (i) the development of statistical systems to enable the compilation of comprehensive economic, financial, and sociodemographic data with coverage, periodicity, and timeliness appropriate to the needs of the user community and (ii) the dissemination of these data to the public. The GDDS has as its main goal improvements in the quality of the data covered by the comprehensive statistical frameworks and indicators.

2.12 It is recognized that improvements in timeliness of data compilation and dissemination may often be at the expense of data quality, and therefore the GDDS places priority on improvements in data quality over timeliness. In general, improvements in data quality do not conflict with data dissemination practices that are consistent with the system's objectives with respect to the integrity of the data and access to them by the user community.

²The Statistics Department of the IMF has developed, in consultation with other interested national and international organizations, the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) for specific macroeconomic statistics. The DQAF is described on the Data Quality Reference Site on the DSBB.

2.13 The term “dissemination” is used to refer to all the means by which data are made available to the public, including

- issuing documents, such as news releases, periodicals, and special publications that are not part of a series;
- disseminating statistics electronically—for example, on diskette, tape, compact discs (CDs), or via the Internet;
- providing statistics in hard copy or electronic format in response to direct requests; and
- providing access to statistics through automated telephone enquiry and/or fax systems.

2.14 Each of these means can have a role to play in a data dissemination system that meets the needs of users for timely summary data and indicators, as well as for complete data sets. Statistical development plans should ensure that the means of dissemination are continually adapted both to meet increasingly sophisticated user needs and to take advantage of technological innovations.

Key Operational Features of the GDDS

2.15 A country's participation in the GDDS, as already noted, is voluntary. Member countries that choose to participate in the system may do so at any time and should initiate the process by indicating their intention in a communication to the Director of the Statistics Department of the IMF. Member countries that are considering participation are encouraged to seek information and guidance from IMF staff.

2.16 As noted earlier, participation involves (i) a commitment to use the GDDS as a framework for the development of national statistical systems for the compilation and dissemination of economic, financial, and sociodemographic data; (ii) designation of a country coordinator; and (iii) preparation of metadata, to be disseminated by the IMF, that describe (a) current statistical compilation and dissemination practices and (b) plans for short- and medium-term improvements in these practices.

2.17 Because the structures of statistical systems differ considerably, it would not be appropriate to provide rigid guidelines that all countries should follow regarding the methods and modalities relating to all aspects of participation. As a general

rule, however, the following considerations deserve attention.

- **Commitment to use the GDDS as a framework for statistical development.** This continuing process begins at the commencement of participation. Participating countries will find it helpful to focus on the range of activities that will be required to ensure that the process runs smoothly. To facilitate this process, the GDDS calls for the development of plans for improvements in data compilation and dissemination practices and for the posting of metadata describing these plans on the DSBB.
- **Designation of a country coordinator.** The coordinator serves as a liaison between the member country and the IMF staff on all aspects of participation in, and implementation of, the GDDS.
- **Preparation of metadata on current practices.** The descriptions of current practices and plans would correspond to each of the objectives for the data, quality, access, and integrity dimensions. A number of agencies and units will almost certainly need to be involved in this important initial step of participation in the GDDS. It is therefore requested that a standard format, described in Chapter 4, be used in the preparation of metadata that allows their electronic communication to the IMF.
- **Development of short- and medium-term plans for the development of the statistical system.** In considering participation in the GDDS, a member country should concern itself with the processes through which development plans will be formulated. Ideally, the development of plans should begin with a strategic vision of the evolution of a country's statistical system over the longer run. This vision can form the basis for the elaboration of the medium-term plans. Once formulated, the medium-term plans can be used as the basis for preparing the short-term plans.

The *metadata* to be provided for posting on the DSBB should describe these short- and medium-term plans. Specifically, the metadata should indicate (i) plans for improvement that deal with identified shortcomings in data compilation and dissemination practices; (ii) recent improvements that have been implemented; or (iii) a country's statement that no improvements are deemed necessary. The plans should identify the major shortcomings relative to the objectives set out in the GDDS for each of the four dimensions; the steps by which the shortcomings would be addressed; the resources, including technical assistance, nec-

essary to achieve the improvements; and the time frame during which the improvements would be achieved. In particular, the improvements to be undertaken within the next year and within two to five years should be identified. Where it is believed that recent actions have resolved the basic shortcomings, the metadata should describe the actions taken—for example, introduction of new household income and expenditure surveys for consumer price indices, implementation of the recommendations of previous technical assistance, implementation of the recommendations of the *Balance of Payments Manual*, fifth edition (*BPM5*). In cases where no improvements are deemed necessary, this can simply be noted, but it would be helpful to users if the metadata included a brief statement of the reasons behind this conclusion.

- **Interagency coordination.** Coordination among the concerned agencies and units is a critical element in all aspects of GDDS participation, and a participating country will need to establish effective mechanisms to ensure coordination among those involved in statistical activities. Such coordination is of critical importance for formulating a strategic vision of the country's statistical system, identifying priority areas of action, and ensuring the maximum degree of consistency among data sets.

2.18 In view of the importance of the role played by the country coordinator (see Appendix IV), careful consideration should be given to the selection of the coordinator. While the considerations that will be appropriate in the selection of the coordinator will vary from country to country, it is essential that the coordinator have sufficient time to perform the role effectively, especially in the early stages of the process when a country is familiarizing itself with the GDDS.

2.19 Moreover, the coordinator should be an official of an agency that is well-placed to undertake this role. While it is convenient to associate the role of coordinator with an individual, it is essential to recognize that the objective of naming a coordinator is to ensure that the required coordination functions are performed effectively.

2.20 The emphasis on the role of the coordinator derives from the fact that participation in the GDDS involves a long-term commitment to achieving improvements in data quality, including data dissemination practices. Progress in these areas requires

effective coordination among statistical agencies within the country and with the IMF. This coordinated approach also extends to relations with other multilateral and bilateral providers of technical assistance in statistics.

2.21 A participating country has complete discretion over the choice of the agency and official that will perform the coordination role. In making this decision, each country will need to take into account its individual circumstances and the relationships among the statistical agencies. A basic decision that needs to be made is whether the coordinator is to undertake the substantive work associated with participation in the GDDS or is expected to serve just as a liaison between the country and the IMF. The following considerations may assist in the selection of a coordinator:

- A principal role of the GDDS coordinator is to act as the main interlocutor with IMF staff on all issues relating to participation in, and implementation of, the GDDS. In the early phase of participation, the coordinator may be called upon to ensure effective organization of the country's involvement in the system. The tasks involved in this phase could include facilitating communications with IMF staff.
- As a practical matter, the work of coordination will be most intense when a country has just embarked on participation in the system. Among the key tasks to be performed during this phase are (i) ensuring that officials of all concerned agencies are fully familiar with requirements for the preparation of metadata and other aspects of participation; (ii) informing the IMF staff that the country has reached the point at which it can work intensively on preparation of metadata; (iii) communicating with IMF staff on technical issues; (iv) facilitating the work with IMF staff on preparing metadata; and (v) assisting in the finalization of metadata by, among other things, facilitating communication with and among specialists in the data-producing agencies.

2.22 Once the metadata have been finalized and posted on the DSBB, the coordinator is responsible for notifying IMF staff whenever changes take place so that appropriate updates can be posted. These notifications should include, in particular, information on progress in implementing plans for improvement. The coordinator should also ensure that a thorough review of all metadata and certification of metadata accuracy is undertaken at least once a year.

3. Dimensions of the General Data Dissemination System

3.1 This section introduces the GDDS nomenclature, describes the four dimensions of the system, and describes “good practices” for each dimension.

GDDS Nomenclature

3.2 The GDDS employs the following technical terms.

- **Dimension** refers to one of the four dimensions of the system—data, quality, integrity, and access. Each dimension provides an insight into how effectively a statistical system is achieving its objectives. In the GDDS, the data dimension relates to statistical products, while the other three relate to the conditions under which the products are compiled and disseminated as seen from a user’s perspective. Underlying the concept of dimensions in the GDDS is the identification of practices that are conducive to ensuring that the data produced are of a high standard. For each dimension, two to four such practices are specified (see Box 2.1). Thus, the dimensions serve as vehicles to facilitate the grouping of practices that are especially helpful in promoting data quality, which is the ultimate goal of the GDDS. The particular practices that are associated with each sector were determined with reference to the UN’s *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*.
- **Comprehensive framework**¹ is an integrated statistical approach that provides well-recognized measures of developments in a macroeconomic sector. Each of the comprehensive frameworks has a core framework, and two of them include encouraged extensions. The encouraged extensions should be viewed as less pressing priorities when statistical agencies are faced with tight resource constraints.
- **Core framework** is the principal data set of the comprehensive framework for a macroeconomic

¹There is no comprehensive framework for sociodemographic data.

sector. It reflects a method of organizing data that is considered to be especially useful for economic analysis. Each core framework has distinctive technical features that are relevant to the data requirements of the macroeconomic sector concerned.

- **Data category** refers to data that are considered to be of special importance in their own right. Certain data categories are components of core frameworks, while others exist independently. For the macroeconomic sectors, there are core indicators for each data category and, for most, encouraged categories and/or components. As is the case for the encouraged extensions for the comprehensive frameworks, the encouraged categories should be viewed as less pressing priorities when statistical agencies are faced with tight resource constraints.
- **Core indicator** refers to (i) an indicator for the comprehensive framework; (ii) an additional tracking indicator; or (iii) other indicators relevant to the macroeconomic sector. Each macroeconomic sector has one or more of each of these types of core indicators.
- **Basic component** refers to the data sets that the GDDS recommends be compiled and disseminated for each of the four sociodemographic data categories.

A description follows of the System’s four dimensions—data, quality, integrity, and access.

The Data Dimension

Structure of the Data Dimension

3.3 A hierarchical structure is used in elaborating the data dimension of the GDDS. In the first stage, a distinction is made between the four macroeconomic sectors and the sociodemographic data. Next, the economic and financial data are classified to one of the four macroeconomic sectors (real, fiscal, financial, and external), and the sociodemographic data are broken down into four data categories (population, health, education, and poverty), with basic com-

ponents identified for each category and encouraged extensions specified for some.

3.4 In the next stage, a distinction is made in the data for each macroeconomic sector between *comprehensive frameworks* and *data categories and indicators*. A *core framework* is then specified for each comprehensive framework and, for two of the macroeconomic sectors, an *encouraged extension* to the core framework is also specified.

3.5 Next, *data categories* are specified within each macroeconomic sector and *core indicators* are identified for each—for some of these data categories, *encouraged extensions* are also specified. The GDDS also associates directly with 23 out of 35 MDG indicators, mostly in the sociodemographic sector. In the final stage, the data are viewed from three separate perspectives—*coverage*, *periodicity*, and *timeliness*.

3.6 The specifications for the data dimension of the GDDS, shown in Table 3.1 (at the end of this chapter), are neither requirements nor prescriptions that must be observed to participate in the system. Rather, they are good-practice objectives to be approached over time. A participating country should indicate in the metadata its short- and medium-term plans with respect to implementing these good-practice objectives. In developing these plans, core frameworks and core indicators are recommended as the first priorities. In addition, the encouraged extensions noted in Table 3.1 are recommended as second priorities. Further, Table 3.1 designates certain categories to be disseminated on an “as relevant” basis.

Coverage

3.7 In its coverage of data sets, the GDDS focuses on the data that are considered most important in evaluating performance and policy in four macroeconomic sectors—real, fiscal, financial, and external—as well as complementary sociodemographic data that shed light on economic development and structural change. The GDDS addresses the development and dissemination of a full range of data by (i) presenting objectives for the development and dissemination of comprehensive frameworks in each of the four macroeconomic sectors and (ii) recommending the development and dissemination of indicators for these four sectors and of basic components in the area of sociodemographic data, with periodicity and

timeliness appropriate to the circumstances of each participating country.

3.8 While, for the majority of participating countries, emphasis should first be placed on producing good-quality data in the *core* areas before substantial resources are devoted to developing the *encouraged* areas, some countries may wish to place a higher priority on developing certain encouraged areas where these are of particular importance for analysis or policymaking.

3.9 Section A of Table 3.1 presents the broad objectives for long-term development of the *comprehensive frameworks* for each macroeconomic sector and the recommended periodicity and timeliness for compilation and dissemination of relatively complete sets of information. For each framework, the objective is to achieve the widest coverage possible, using an appropriate statistical framework (sometimes referred to as an “analytical framework”) and classification scheme.

3.10 Section A of Table 3.1 provides illustrations of the aggregates and balances that might be developed within the comprehensive frameworks, but the underlying objective is the development of complete data sets rather than specific indicators. Strong emphasis is placed on the use of international guidelines in specific areas of macroeconomic statistics. A listing of these guidelines is provided in Appendix II.

3.11 In addition, Section A of Table 3.1 presents a set of objectives for *national accounts* (real sector), *central government operations* (fiscal sector), the *depository corporations survey* (financial sector), and *balance of payments* (external sector). In the fiscal sector, extensions of coverage are encouraged to include *general government or public sector operations* and, for balance of payments, extensions are encouraged to include the *international investment position* (IIP). There is no comprehensive framework for *sociodemographic data* because of the great diversity of areas covered.

3.12 Section B of Table 3.1 specifies the *data categories* for each of the four macroeconomic sectors and identifies the following *core indicators* for each sector: (i) *indicators for the comprehensive frameworks*—nominal and real GDP for national accounts, central government aggregates for central government operations, broad money and credit aggregates

for the depository corporations survey, and balance of payments aggregates for the balance of payments; (ii) *additional indicators* that permit tracking of the core frameworks for each comprehensive framework; and (iii) *other indicators* relevant to the sector, which will often be in the form of a price variable, such as interest rates and exchange rates. For certain data categories, additional aggregates and/or components are encouraged.

3.13 Section C of Table 3.1 presents the four *sociodemographic* data categories. Basic components are specified for each category, and each category also has encouraged extensions. Related indicators of MDGs are also specified for each data category.

3.14 While most of the data called for by the GDDS are produced by official national agencies, the system provides for the inclusion of some data categories that are produced by private organizations (at least in some countries) where such data are the subject of official redissemination. The inclusion of privately compiled data is warranted in the interest of obtaining a more complete picture of the economy and more consistent coverage across countries. However, including such data requires some adaptation in the responsibilities that the official (disseminating) agency has with respect to some elements of access by the public, integrity, and data quality.

Periodicity

3.15 Periodicity refers to the frequency of compilation of the data. The periodicity recommended by the GDDS for a particular data set is determined by several factors, including the needs of analysis and the ease of observation or compilation. Although these factors are not the same for specific data sets across countries, in practice there is rather widespread agreement about good practice regarding the highest frequency of compilation for the comprehensive frameworks and many of the indicators in the GDDS.

3.16 In recognition of the longer period required to compile and disseminate complete sets of data, the periodicity recommended for comprehensive frameworks is in many cases longer than that recommended for indicators. In a number of cases, the periodicity for comprehensive frameworks and indicators is the same, but different timeliness is specified.

3.17 Periodicity is usually expressed in terms of divisions of the calendar. For flow data, data compiled at roughly 30-day intervals, for example, usually represent a calendar month. Stock data are compiled as of a point of time, often the end of the week, month, quarter, or year.

3.18 The recommendations for periodicity that are shown in Table 3.1 for flow data are expressed in terms of the longest interval to be represented by a single data observation and, for stock data, in terms of the longest interval between observations. The periodicity recommended for the comprehensive frameworks is annual except in the case of the depository corporations survey where existing good practice for a wide range of countries is monthly periodicity.

3.19 For data categories and indicators, periodicities are recommended to reflect existing good practice across countries. For national accounts aggregates, central government debt and for balance of payments, annual periodicity is recommended, but quarterly periodicity is encouraged.

3.20 There may be some points of interpretation with respect to periodicity. For example, although a quarter is usually viewed as three months, data covering successive intervals of 13 weeks would be considered quarterly. Annual data may be for calendar years or fiscal years, with varying beginning dates.

Timeliness

3.21 Timeliness refers to the lapse of time between the end of a reference period (or a reference date) and dissemination of the data. It reflects many factors, including some that are related to institutional arrangements, such as the preparation of accompanying commentary and printing.

3.22 In recognition of the diversity of countries covered by the system, the objectives for timeliness that are presented in Table 3.1 are set out in terms of ranges. The short end of the timeliness range corresponds generally to the SDDS timeliness requirements for a given data set while the long end of the range reflects good practice across a broad group of countries.

3.23 The short end of the range also reflects current best practices, and these are appropriate targets for countries that wish to use the GDDS as a stepping

stone to subscription to the SDDS, but these timeliness criteria may not be appropriate for all countries particularly in the near term.

3.24 In all cases, the principle of the system is that major improvements in timeliness should not be attempted if other aspects of data quality will be significantly compromised. Rather, incremental improvements in timeliness over time, consistent with maintaining and improving other aspects of data quality, should be the objective.

3.25 There may be occasions on which, for certain data sets, timeliness targets may be difficult to meet. For data that are based on the accounting records of government and enterprises, the month or quarter in which the fiscal or financial year is closed may present special difficulties. As a result, the data for those periods may not be available as quickly as for the other periods. Differences in the numbers of days (and business days) in the various months and the incidence of holidays (which differ from year to year in many countries) are among the other factors that may also affect timeliness. Continuing the discussion of the data dimension, the following defines comprehensive frameworks for each macroeconomic sector.

Specifications for Comprehensive Frameworks

Real sector—national accounts

3.26 The comprehensive framework for the real sector comprises the core framework of *National Accounts*. The objective is the compilation and dissemination of data that cover the widest possible scope of economic activity. Current practices as well as plans for expanding coverage should be presented in the metadata. For example, if certain areas of production (for example, military output, mineral production) are not included in existing estimates, this practice should be indicated and plans to improve coverage should be developed and disseminated. If informal sector production is significant, the present estimation techniques should be described and any plans for improving these techniques noted.

3.27 The use of internationally agreed guidelines for the development of national accounts is recommended. The two most commonly used international guidelines for national accounts are the *System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)* and the *Euro-*

pean System of Accounts 1995 (ESA 1995).² For the development of quarterly national accounts, countries should also use the IMF's *Quarterly National Accounts Manual*.³ It is recognized that each country must design its own path for national accounts development, based on its economic and institutional structure, analytical and policy needs, and human and financial resources.

3.28 Complete sets of national accounts, such as those described in the *1993 SNA*, are currently compiled by only a few countries. The complete set of accounts includes not only major aggregates for the total economy (GDP, Gross National Income, Gross Disposable Income, Saving, and Net Lending/Net Borrowing) but also full transaction accounts for institutional sectors and balance sheets for the total economy and institutional sectors. For many countries, such complete accounts exceed current analytical and policy requirements and/or cannot be compiled with available resources.

3.29 The GDDS, therefore, does not recommend that countries develop full sets of national accounts; it recommends, rather, that countries determine their specific medium-term needs for national accounts and develop realistic plans for implementing those parts of the complete set of accounts that are appropriate.

3.30 For many countries at the early stages of national accounts development, priority might be assigned in the medium term to developing major aggregates for the total economy and improving their quality. Longer-term objectives might include the development of accounts for those sectors that are particularly important. Countries in more advanced stages of national accounts development and with more complex data requirements might place the medium-term priority on the development of sectoral accounts and balance sheets.

²Commission of the European Communities–Eurostat, International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations, and World Bank, *System of National Accounts 1993* (Brussels/Luxembourg, New York, Paris, and Washington, 1993); and Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities), *European System of Accounts: ESA 1995* (Brussels/Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1996).

³Adrian Bloem, Robert J. Dippelsman, and Nils O. Maehle, *Quarterly National Account Manual: Concepts, Data Sources, and Compilation* (Washington: International Monetary Fund, 2001).

3.31 The GDDS recommends that annual data on the core framework of national accounts be compiled and disseminated with a timeliness of 10 to 14 months.

Fiscal sector—central government operations

3.32 The comprehensive framework for the fiscal sector comprises a core framework for *Central Government Operations* and an encouraged extension relating to *General Government or Public Sector Operations*.

3.33 The GDDS focus for the core framework of central government operations is on the production and dissemination of comprehensive data on transactions and on debt, emphasizing (i) coverage of all central government units; (ii) use of an appropriate analytical framework; and (iii) development of a full range of detailed classifications.

3.34 Separate comprehensive framework tables should be prepared for central government transactions and for central government debt. All units of central government should be included. These units consist of (i) all ministries, agencies, and other units whose transactions are covered by the central government budget; (ii) all units with their own resources or direct sources of financing (extrabudgetary units) whose magnitude is significant relative to the size of the budget; and (iii) social security funds operating at the national level.

3.35 The identification of central government units may be based on definitions of the government sector provided in the *1993 SNA, A Manual on Government Finance Statistics (GFSM 1986)*, or the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001)*.⁴ The general government sector may be subsectored by treating social security funds as a separate subsector or by consolidating social security funds at the level of government at which they operate. For fiscal analysis, the latter subsectoring is usually preferred, particularly where social security funds have surpluses or are in deficit. The metadata for the comprehensive frameworks should describe the coverage of the widest measures currently disseminated and plans to expand this coverage if necessary.

3.36 The GDDS recommends the use of an appropriate analytical framework to define and present central

government transactions *data* but does not prescribe a particular framework. Any fully identified national definitions of aggregates of revenue and expenditure (expense) and balancing items, such as current account and overall deficit, or operating surplus and net lending/borrowing, may be used. The framework and definitions provided in either the *GFSM 1986* or the *GFSM 2001* are recommended.

3.37 If a different analytical framework is used, it would be useful to indicate in the metadata how major aggregates and balancing items differ from those presented in those manuals. Further, plans for improving the analytical framework may be based on the recommendations of those manuals. These plans should be described in the metadata.

3.38 The data disseminated should include detailed classifications of the major aggregates in the analytical framework. Specifically recommended are breakdowns of (i) tax and nontax revenue; (ii) expenditure by function (i.e., by purpose); (iii) expenditure by economic type, with a separate identification of the major components of current and capital expenditure; and (iv) financing. Countries implementing the *GFSM 2001* should provide breakdowns of revenue, expense, net acquisition of nonfinancial assets, net acquisition of financial assets, and net incurrence of liabilities.

3.39 Financing data should, wherever possible, distinguish domestic from external financing on a residency basis—domestic financing data should distinguish between financing from the banking system and from other sources. Data on financing should be supplemented, as relevant, with breakdowns by financial instrument and/or by currency of denomination.

3.40 Classification by residency is analytically useful and promotes consistency of fiscal and balance of payments data. In countries where government financing operations include the issuing of securities, a residency breakdown may be difficult to compile. In these cases, the primary breakdown of financing may be by currency of denomination or type of instrument, but efforts should still be made to develop a residency breakdown. The metadata should describe current classifications that are produced and disseminated and plans to improve these classifications.

3.41 Data for *central government debt* should be comprehensive and should include the liabilities of

⁴International Monetary Fund, *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001* (Washington, 2001).

all institutional units that are part of central government. All liabilities in the form of securities, loans, and deposits should be included. Debt of other units that is guaranteed by the central government should also be compiled and disseminated when the amounts involved are significant. The GDDS recommends that countries provide a breakdown of debt by foreign and domestic components according to residence. Other breakdowns recommended by the GDDS are identification of debt by type of holder or type of instrument.

3.42 Classification and definition of debt according to the guidelines of the *GFSM1986* and *GFSM 2001, External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users*⁵ (for external debt), or regional guidelines are encouraged; the use of such guidelines or plans to use them should be noted in the metadata.

3.43 Data for *general government or public sector operations* is an encouraged extension of the comprehensive framework for the fiscal sector, particularly for countries where state (in countries with a federal structure) and local levels of government and/or public enterprise operations are important for fiscal analysis. In the long run, the GDDS encourages all countries to develop appropriate and comprehensive measures of general government, but for countries where central government data are deficient in terms of coverage, analytical framework, or quality, the priority should normally be placed on improving the data for the central government.

3.44 The general government covers all governmental units (including social security systems) whether operating at the central level, state/province/region level, or local level. The public sector may be defined in a variety of ways. It may include the general government sector plus nonfinancial corporations (the nonfinancial public sector) or it may also include certain public financial institutions (for example, development banks). The nonfinancial public sector is the preferable coverage. In countries where the public sector (however defined) is the main focus of analysis and policy, public sector operations should be the focus of this encouraged extension; in other countries general government may be more appropriate.

⁵International Monetary Fund and others, *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users* (Washington, 2003).

3.45 The analytical framework and classifications for general government data should be the same as for central government, although it is recognized that data for state (in federal systems) and local governments may not be available in the same degree of detail as for central government. Data for public enterprises should include overall borrowing and details of financing.

3.46 The GDDS recommends dissemination of annual data on central government operations and general government or public sector operations, with a timeliness of six to nine months.

Financial sector—depository corporations survey

3.47 The comprehensive framework for the financial sector is the core framework relating to the *Depository Corporations Survey*. The objective for this core framework is the compilation and dissemination of comprehensive data emphasizing (i) coverage of all depository corporations (banking and other deposit-taking institutions); (ii) use of an appropriate analytical framework; and (iii) development of classifications of external assets and liabilities, domestic credit by sector, and components of money (liquidity) and nonmonetary liabilities.

3.48 The appropriate coverage for the GDDS is that group of financial institutions whose liabilities include the money measure(s) most frequently used for monetary analysis. Depository corporations are defined in the *1993 SNA* and in the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual (MFSM)*⁶ to include all financial institutions that incur liabilities in the form of deposits and/or close substitutes for deposits where these deposits or deposit substitutes are included in national measures of broad money. The coverage is, therefore, built around not only a group of institutions but also a country-specific measure of money. This coverage comprises the central bank and all other depository corporations.

3.49 The broad money measure normally includes transferable deposits; time, saving, and fixed-term deposits; participations in money market mutual funds; and short-term securities, such as negotiable certificates of deposit, that have characteristics similar to deposits.

⁶International Monetary Fund, *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual* (Washington, 2000).

3.50 In countries where several money measures are compiled, the GDDS coverage should include the institutions covered by the broadest measure. In such cases, it would also be useful to describe in the metadata whether other financial institutions exist that incur liabilities in the form of nontransferable deposits or close substitutes for them. Countries that use liquidity measures that include liabilities (for example, government treasury bills, corporate commercial paper) of nonfinancial sectors may describe such measures and the institutional coverage in their metadata.

3.51 The GDDS recommends that the statistical framework contained in the *MFSM* be used for the depository corporations survey. Stock data (outstanding assets and liabilities) should be disseminated, but transaction data may also be disseminated. The analytical framework should distinguish between external and domestic positions on the basis of the residency criteria as defined in the *1993 SNA* and *BPM5*.

3.52 Gross data on claims on and liabilities to non-residents should be disseminated. Domestic credit should be classified according to the debtor sector and, ideally, should separately identify claims on government (central, state, and local, as relevant), claims on public nonfinancial corporations, and claims on the private sector. The disseminated data on money measures should include breakdowns by type of monetary instrument, and data on nonmonetary liabilities (for example, long-term securities) should also be disseminated.

3.53 The depository corporations survey should be compiled on a monthly basis because this frequency reflects current good practice across a broad range of countries, and should be disseminated within two or three months of the end of the reference month.

External sector—balance of payments

3.54 The comprehensive framework for the external sector comprises a core framework relating to *balance of payments* and an encouraged extension for the *international investment position* (IIP). The objective of the core framework is the compilation and dissemination of comprehensive data on the main aggregates and balancing items of the balance of payments, including, for example, imports and exports of goods and services, trade balance, income and transfers, current account balance, reserves and

other financial transactions, and overall balance, with detailed components as relevant.

3.55 Compilation of data according to the *BPM5* is recommended.

3.56 The broad objective for compilation and dissemination of balance of payments data is to produce all the standard components of the *BPM5* that are relevant to a country's circumstances. Current, capital, and financial transactions should be distinguished. Components recommended for dissemination within the current account include (i) imports and exports of goods and services; (ii) income transactions—that is, income receipts and payments, both with respect to compensation of employees and investment income, with the latter including income from direct investment, portfolio investment, and other investment; and (iii) receipts and payments with respect to current transfers.

3.57 The capital account should include capital transfers, as relevant, and the financial account should separately identify transactions with respect to direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, other investment, and reserves.

3.58 Additional breakdowns of debt securities and loans, within portfolio investment and other investment, respectively, by currency of issue and by original maturity (short-term versus medium- and long-term using classifications by instrument), would be highly desirable for an overall view of external debt.

3.59 The metadata for the balance of payments should describe present data compilation and dissemination practices and plans to implement the analytical framework and classifications of the *BPM5*. In countries where the *BPM5* is not used, the metadata should describe the present methodology and plans to move toward conformity with the *BPM5*.

3.60 The GDDS encourages extensions of external sector data with respect to the IIP, which is increasingly recognized as a useful framework in which to develop an integrated picture of a country's stock of external financial assets and liabilities.⁷ The System encourages work toward compiling component detail

⁷International Monetary Fund, *International Investment Position: A Guide to Data Sources* (Washington, 2002); available via the Internet at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/iip/guide/iipguide.pdf>.

according to the *BPM5*—direct investment; portfolio investment, including a breakdown into equity and debt; financial derivatives;⁸ other investment; and reserves—and disseminating components of the framework as appropriate and feasible.

3.61 Data for the balance of payments core framework, and for the IIP, should be disseminated on an annual basis and within six to nine months of the end of the reference year (fiscal or calendar year). Continuing the discussion on the data dimension, the following paragraphs define data categories and indicators for each macroeconomic sector.

Specifications for Data Categories and Indicators

Real sector

National accounts aggregates

3.62 The data category corresponding to the comprehensive statistical framework for the real sector is *national accounts aggregates*. The core indicators for national accounts aggregates are GDP at nominal and real (price-adjusted) levels. The GDDS also encourages the production and dissemination of indicators on gross national income, capital formation, and saving. The system recommends that indicators for national accounts aggregates be produced on an annual basis and disseminated within six to nine months of the end of the calendar or fiscal year, as relevant. The compilation and dissemination of quarterly national accounts aggregates are encouraged.

3.63 The GDDS does not recommend the specific components of the national accounts that should be compiled and disseminated but encourages breakdowns of GDP by major expenditure category, by productive sector (industry), or both. The breakdowns into component items should be those relevant for the country concerned.

3.64 Classification of national accounts aggregates according to the *1993 SNA* (or a regional counterpart) is encouraged. The compilation of quarterly GDP estimates is also encouraged. However, if a country

⁸The inclusion of financial derivatives in the list of breakdowns stems from the publication in 2000 of the financial derivatives supplement to the *BPM5*: International Monetary Fund, *Financial Derivatives, A Supplement to the Fifth Edition (1993) of the Balance of Payments Manual* (Washington, 2000).

with resource constraints and significant weaknesses in its annual national accounts has not yet improved the quality (scope, coverage, and methodology) of its annual national accounts, it would not be advisable for it to develop quarterly estimates until it has implemented a plan for improving its annual national accounts. In this case, priority should be given to developing a program for updating the base or benchmark year of national accounts and implementing the most current international standards.

Production index/indices

3.65 The data category that is intended to track productive activity on a more frequent basis is a *production index* or, if more appropriate, several production indices. The index (and any components of it) or selection of indices that is relevant will depend on a country's economic structure—industrial production in some countries, commodity production (for example, petroleum) in other countries, or agricultural production in still others.

3.66 The index or selection of indices that is chosen should be the one used within the country as a useful indicator. For instance, it would not be advisable for a mainly agricultural country with resource limitations and shortcomings in its national accounts to invest its scarce resources in developing a manufacturing production index until it improved the quality of its agricultural indicators and, hence, the quality of its national accounts.

3.67 The GDDS does not recommend the dissemination of retail or wholesale sales indices as substitutes for production indices because sales indices may not track GDP developments, owing to the impact of inventory buildups or drawdowns. However, if sales indicators are considered important for analysis, the metadata for the production index/indices may note this.

3.68 The GDDS recommends a monthly measure for the manufacturing or industrial index. The periodicity of other production indices is specified as “as relevant” to a country's structure and production cycles. For instance, in some countries, such as those where seasonal crop production is important, production may not be well represented by a monthly index. The recommended timeliness of dissemination is 6 to 12 weeks from the end of the reference period for all indices.

Price indices

3.69 The GDDS recommends that a *consumer price index* (CPI) be compiled on a monthly basis and disseminated within one to two months of the end of the reference month. The System encourages the compilation and dissemination of a *producer price index* (PPI) with the same periodicity and timeliness as consumer price indices.

3.70 The use of the international guidelines contained in the *Consumer Price Index Manual* and the *Producer Price Index Manual*, or the use of regional guidelines, is encouraged.⁹

Consumer price index

3.71 The CPI index, sometimes also referred to as a retail price index, indicates the part of the variation over time in a household expenditure aggregate that can be attributed to price movements. The expenditure aggregate comprises expenditures on goods and services that households acquire, pay for, or use for purposes of consumption. The CPI is typically measured by a Laspeyres index of the prices of a fixed set of goods and services items, often referred to as a “fixed basket,” whose weights are the item shares in the expenditure aggregate from a given, generally annual, historical period.

3.72 Countries may prepare several indices, differing, for example, with respect to geographic coverage, reference population, and item coverage. For the GDDS, the metadata should describe the characteristics of the index most widely used in the country but may also note other existing CPIs.

3.73 The GDDS does not recommend the dissemination of any component, or subindex, detail. However, the major items of the United Nations Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP),¹⁰ which is also recommended in the *1993 SNA*, provide a guide to the types of consumption expendi-

ture aggregates that conform with international guidelines.

Producer price index

3.74 The PPI measures that part of the variation over time in an enterprise output aggregate that can be attributed to the price movements of the goods and services produced. The greater the extent to which the output aggregate includes all production in the economy valued at the prices received by producers, the more closely the PPI approximates the coverage and valuation of an economy’s output price index.

3.75 A wholesale price index (WPI) is generally understood to be that part of the variation over time in the value of transactions through interenterprise or wholesale markets that can be attributed to the price movements of the goods and services bought or sold. The greater the extent to which transactions through wholesale markets constitute all consumption by producers at purchasers’ prices of noncapital goods and services in an economy, the more closely a WPI can be said to approximate the coverage and valuation of a price index for intermediate consumption.

3.76 Indices for productive activities thus may differ across countries—for example, with respect to the nature and degree of coverage of the economy and the valuation used. Like the CPI, the PPI and WPI are generally compiled using a Laspeyres index formula with a fixed set of items (or “basket”) and a corresponding set of weights from a (generally annual) historical period. The GDDS encourages the compilation and dissemination of the PPI but allows for wholesale and other production price indicators as appropriate to the country’s economic structure and statistical requirements.

3.77 The GDDS does not recommend any component, or subindex, detail. However, countries would obviously find it analytically useful to disseminate subindex detail that parallels the breakdowns in the production indices described above. PPIs are commonly used as deflators for compiling national accounts estimates at constant prices (real terms). Taking into account resource constraints, countries are encouraged to compile PPIs to improve the quality of their national accounts estimates. However, the PPI is commonly restricted to manufacturing industries. For predominantly agricultural economies, this index should not have priority.

⁹International Labor Organization, International Monetary Fund, and others, *Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice* (Geneva: ILO, 2004)—available via the Internet at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/guides/cpi/index.htm>; and International Labor Organization, International Monetary Fund, and others, *Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice* (Washington: IMF, 2004)—available via the Internet at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/teppi/index.htm>.

¹⁰*Classifications of Expenditure According to Purpose* (New York, United Nations, 1999). United Nations classification can be accessed through the UN website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp>.

Purchasing power parity

3.78 The GDDS encourages the provision of detailed price data for the compilation of purchasing power parities (PPPs) in the context of the International Comparison Program (ICP). PPPs compare price levels between different countries or geographical areas for a given accounting period. PPPs are generally used to eliminate the effect of prices in different currency units when comparing the levels of GDP or income between two countries or areas. The price relatives in bilateral PPPs comprise ratios of the local currency prices of identical goods and services between the two countries or areas.

3.79 Using PPPs, the World Bank calculates poverty indicators included in the MDGs, such as the poverty line, the proportion of the population living on less than US\$1 a day, and the poverty gap ratio. These indicators are described in the sections of the *Guide* devoted to sociodemographic data.

Labor market

3.80 The GDDS recommends the compilation and dissemination of employment, unemployment, and wages/earnings indicators on an “as relevant” basis. It is recognized that labor market data may be most relevant for industrial countries. Nevertheless, some labor market measures are considered important for almost all countries.

3.81 The data on the labor market should be disseminated on an annual basis and within six to nine months of the end of the year. These goals for periodicity and timeliness are recommended after consultation with the Bureau of Statistics of the International Labor Office (ILO). When the three components are based on different basic data, they may well be compiled and therefore disseminated with differing periodicity and timeliness. The components should be described separately in the metadata (i.e., one Table 3.1, Section B for each).

3.82 The GDDS does not recommend specific definitions of labor market indicators or component breakdowns. However, the recommendations of the ILO provide concepts and definitions of the labor force and, within that framework, provide definitions and classifications of employment and unemployment.¹¹

¹¹International Labor Organization, *Current International Recommendations on Labour Statistics* (Geneva, 1985). See also ILO, *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment* (Geneva, 1990).

The recommendations of the ILO also contain proposed concepts, definitions, and classifications for an integrated approach to wage statistics. Use of the ILO’s concepts, definitions, and classifications is encouraged. Reference may also be made to the 1993 *SNA*, which is consistent with the ILO definitions.

Employment

3.83 Some countries compile several measures of employment, which may be based on sample surveys of households or individuals, on establishment surveys, or on social insurance records. For the GDDS, the measure identified should be that most widely used in the country.

3.84 The GDDS recommends employment data on an “as relevant” basis. This approach is likely to be of use where, in view of the nature of the economy, there is less than complete coverage of the population by the underlying surveys or administrative records (for example, the basic data are limited to the non-agricultural population). The MDG indicators include the share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector; therefore, the GDDS recommends the collection of employment data by gender.

Unemployment

3.85 Some countries prepare several measures of unemployment—for example, based on sample surveys of households or individuals, social insurance records, or employment office statistics. For the GDDS, the measure identified should be that most widely used in the country. In addition, either the number of unemployed or the unemployed as a percentage of the labor force may be identified.

3.86 The GDDS recommends the compilation and dissemination of unemployment data on an “as relevant” basis. In many countries, the labor market is characterized less by a dichotomy of employment/unemployment than by a continuum, whereby at one extreme people are fully employed while at the other extreme they are not employed at all. Much of the economically active population falls between these extremes. They may depend, for example, on subsistence agriculture, which may be highly seasonal, or on occasional sales of food or other home-produced goods.

3.87 In such situations, unemployment defined on the basis of practices used in industrial countries may not be entirely meaningful. Therefore, a participating

country may substitute a more relevant measure of unemployment, using a concept of underemployment or referring only to the portion of the labor force (for example, in manufacturing) in which unemployment has particular significance.

Wages/earnings

3.88 In the context of labor statistics, wage data comprise direct wages and salaries for time worked or work done. By contrast, earnings data (in cash and in kind) are broader, covering in addition remuneration for time not worked, bonuses, gratuities, and housing and family allowances paid by the employer to the employee. The series identified for the GDDS may be average earnings or time rates of wages (preferably accompanied by consistent data on hours worked). The scope of the series could differ from country to country, and the one identified should be the series most widely used within the country.

3.89 The GDDS recommends the compilation and dissemination of wages/earnings data on an “as relevant” basis. This will be the case where the survey or the administrative records cover less than the full labor force (for example, covering only the nonagricultural population or wage earners in manufacturing).

Encouraged extension

3.90 In line with the MDG indicators, the GDDS encourages the disaggregation of all labor market indicators by age, gender, employment status, occupation, and industry as appropriate.

Fiscal sector

Central government aggregates

3.91 For the fiscal sector, the data category corresponding to the comprehensive framework is *central government aggregates*. The data should be compiled on a quarterly basis and disseminated within one quarter of the end of the reference quarter. The data should cover at least the budgetary accounts. Ideally, the data should also include as wide a range of central government units as feasible—that is, social security and extrabudgetary units and accounts—to track adequately the movements in the whole of central government.

3.92 The GDDS therefore recommends that participating countries establish full coverage of budgetary accounts as a short-term goal. Extensions of cover-

age to other important units of the central government should be a medium- to long-term goal, and plans for such extensions should be indicated in the metadata.

3.93 Following *GFSM 1986*, the GDDS recommends as indicators *revenue, expenditure, a balance, and financing with breakdowns*. Countries following the recommendations of the *GFSM 2001* should use revenue, expense, net acquisition of nonfinancial assets, and financing with breakdowns. The balance (surplus/deficit or net lending/borrowing) that is identified for the purposes of the GDDS should be the concept in use in the country. The determinants of the balance will normally include revenues and expenditures and exclude all transactions that increase or decrease central government liabilities.

3.94 Aggregate financing data should be disseminated, and the classification with respect to domestic and foreign components may parallel that described under the comprehensive framework for central government operations; that is, wherever possible, domestic and external financing transactions, determined by residency, should be presented. Domestic financing should be divided between that provided by the banking system and that provided by other domestic sources. Financing transactions may be presented by type of instrument, currency of issue, or other relevant characteristics.

3.95 Classification and definition of the surplus/deficit-determining items according to either the *GFSM 1986* or the *GFSM 2001* is encouraged, and those manuals or a regional guideline may be used as a point of reference in preparing metadata.

3.96 Dissemination of *interest payments*, as part of expenditure, is encouraged, particularly in heavily indebted countries.

Central government debt

3.97 The GDDS recommends the compilation of annual data on *central government debt*, to be disseminated within one to two quarters of the end of the reference fiscal year. These data should reflect the comprehensive debt liabilities of the central government and should include liabilities in the form of securities, loans, and deposits. *Government guaranteed debt* is an encouraged extension. A note in the metadata should describe any liabilities of central government units that are excluded and/or special characteristics of debt instruments.

3.98 The GDDS recommends that central government debt data be disaggregated as relevant to a country's circumstances. Breakdowns by maturity are strongly recommended. Where possible, debt should be classified as short-, medium-, and long-term according to remaining (residual) maturity, but original maturity may be used if data by remaining maturity are not available. Where feasible, a breakdown of debt by foreign and domestic components according to residence should be provided; this will normally be possible for debt in the form of loans. A number of other breakdowns are acceptable, including those by currency of issue or by instrument.

3.99 Classification and definition of debt according to the guidelines of the *GFSM, External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users* (for external debt), or regional guidelines is encouraged. The use of such guidelines, or plans to use them, should be noted in the metadata.

Financial sector

Broad money and credit aggregates

3.100 The data category corresponding to the comprehensive framework for the financial sector—the depository corporations survey—is *broad money and credit aggregates*. While the coverage of the financial sector for money and credit aggregates will differ in composition across countries, the ideal coverage is that recommended in the *MFSM*. Narrower institutional coverage, such as only those institutions that have liabilities in the form of narrow money (M1), should be noted in the metadata.

3.101 The GDDS recommends that indicators of broad money and credit aggregates include:

- money aggregates (narrow money or M1 if used in the country, or the main broad money aggregates—M2 and M3—that are used in the country);
- total domestic credit (ideally broken down by government or nonfinancial public sector and by private sector); and
- the foreign position of the depository corporations sector, which may be presented as gross claims on liabilities to nonresidents, or as the net foreign position.

3.102 The GDDS recommends that data on broad money and credit aggregates be compiled on a

monthly basis and disseminated within one to three months of the end of the reference month.

Central bank aggregates

3.103 The GDDS recommends that data on *central bank aggregates* be compiled on a monthly basis and disseminated within one to two months of the end of the reference month. The only indicator specifically recommended is the monetary base. There is a range of definitions of the monetary base; the most relevant country-specific concept should be used. It is recommended that the guidelines contained in the *MFSM* be used to compile central bank aggregates.

Interest rates

3.104 The GDDS recommends that interest rates on *short-term and long-term government securities* be disseminated. The most representative rates will vary across countries—a three- or six-month treasury bill rate and a ten-year government bond rate are common examples of representative rates. Under certain circumstances, such as continuous fiscal surpluses, there may be no issuance of government securities. Under other circumstances, such as conditions of high inflation, there may be no issuance of long-term government securities. These facts should be noted on the metadata.

3.105 The GDDS also recommends dissemination of a *policy variable rate* such as a central bank lending or discount rate. The role of such a rate should be described in the metadata, or the metadata may indicate that interest rates are not used in monetary policy formulation.

3.106 The GDDS encourages the dissemination of *money market or interbank market rates and deposit and lending rates*. Where there are benchmark deposit and lending rates, these single rates may be disseminated. In other cases, a range of deposit and lending rates should be disseminated.

3.107 The GDDS recommends that interest rates should be available on a monthly basis. Since interest rate data are widely available from private sources, and the dissemination by official producers is not time-sensitive, there is no timeliness recommendation for the dissemination of interest rates.

Stock market

3.108 The GDDS calls for the dissemination of stock market data, in the form of a *share price index*,

in countries where a stock market exists. These should be disseminated on a monthly basis. The system recognizes that share price indices are widely available from private sources, and so the dissemination by official producers is not time-sensitive—there is, therefore, no recommended timeliness for dissemination of these indices. The GDDS nonetheless recommends that official agencies redisseminate information on share price indices.

External sector

Balance of payments aggregates

3.109 The data category for the external sector that corresponds to the comprehensive statistical framework is *balance of payments aggregates*.

3.110 The GDDS recommends compilation and dissemination of core indicators relating to

- (i) imports and exports of goods and services;
- (ii) the current account balance;
- (iii) reserves; and
- (iv) the overall balance.

3.111 Classification of balance of payments components according to the *BPM5* is encouraged.

3.112 The GDDS recommends balance of payments indicators be compiled on an annual basis and disseminated within six months of the end of the reference year. The system encourages the production and dissemination of quarterly balance of payments indicators.

External debt and debt-service schedules

3.113 The GDDS recommends the compilation and dissemination of quarterly data on outstanding external debt, covering *public and publicly guaranteed external debt*, broken down by maturity, with a timeliness of one to two quarters after the end of the reference quarter.

3.114 The GDDS also recommends compilation and dissemination twice a year of the associated *debt-service schedule*, with a timeliness of within three to six months after the end of the reference period, showing interest and amortization payments for the coming four quarters and two semesters. The twice-yearly periodicity means that countries would have to disseminate the debt-service schedule every second quarter, rather than for two consecutive quarters.

3.115 In addition, the GDDS encourages the compilation and dissemination of data on *private external debt not publicly guaranteed and the associated debt service schedule*. Periodicity for these data should be annual with a timeliness of six to nine months after the end of the reference year.

3.116 It is recommended that data on external debt and debt service schedules be compiled according to the guidelines of *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users*, or regional guidelines.

International reserves

3.117 International reserves serve as a tracking category, providing a more frequent and timely indicator of external sector developments than the balance of payments aggregates. The GDDS recommends that data on international reserves be compiled on a monthly basis and disseminated within one to four weeks after the end of the reference month.

3.118 The GDDS recommends dissemination of data, expressed in U.S. dollars, on gross official reserves, defined according to the guidelines in the *BPM5*. The dissemination of data on reserve-related liabilities is encouraged. Reserve-related liabilities usually include short-term liabilities of the monetary authorities and use of IMF credit and loans, but country-specific measures may be disseminated.

Merchandise trade

3.119 Data on merchandise trade serve as a tracking category, providing a more frequent and timely indicator of developments in the current account of the balance of payments. The GDDS recommends that data for merchandise trade be compiled on a monthly basis and disseminated within 8 to 12 weeks after the end of the reference month.

3.120 The GDDS recommends that data on *total imports* and *total exports* be disseminated within the indicated timeliness; if dissemination of breakdowns of *imports and exports by major commodity* with a slightly longer time lag is encouraged. The metadata should indicate whether imports and exports are recorded at c.i.f. or f.o.b. valuations. In countries where disseminated data for total imports and total exports exclude certain items (for example, trade with certain trading partners or certain classes of commodities), the excluded items should be noted in the metadata. Classification according to *Interna-*

*tional Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions*¹² is encouraged.

Exchange rates

3.121 The GDDS recommends that spot exchange rates be available to the public on a daily basis. If these are readily available in the media or through on-line systems, public redissemination by official agencies may be limited to monthly, or preferably weekly, end-period and period-average rates.

Sociodemographic data

3.122 The GDDS includes four categories of sociodemographic data—population, education, health, and poverty. Section C of Table 3.1 summarizes the basic components that are recommended to be compiled and disseminated for each category. These do not represent the full range of statistics that are relevant for setting or monitoring social policies, nor do they reflect the full range of data-gathering activities in which official agencies may be engaged. The GDDS does not, for example, include categories for housing, criminal justice, or scientific and cultural activities. Nor does it include environmental statistics at the present time.

3.123 While the present recommendations for the sociodemographic data are subject to future elaboration and amendment, the included categories and basic components represent important areas of statistical activity, and the information produced is of great importance to the operation of governments, to the activities of nongovernmental and international organizations, and to civil society in general.

3.124 The sociodemographic component of the GDDS is concerned with the compilation and dissemination of a broad range of information within each data category, rather than a specific set of indicators. Some indicators are derived from various sets of data in order to measure a specific phenomenon. For example, GDP per capita requires an estimate of GDP and total population. GDP is derived from a comprehensive system of national accounts, and current population estimates require a complete set of demographic information, including births, deaths, and net migration. Thus, a single indicator depends on a large infrastructure of statistical information.

¹²United Nations, *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions* (New York, 1998).

3.125 This same infrastructure can be used to produce other important indicators, such as life expectancy at birth, the total fertility rate, and infant and child mortality rates. The GDDS is more concerned with this infrastructure than with the production of individual indicators. While it is likely that most statistical agencies will compile and disseminate many special purpose indicators, such as GDP per capita, their ability to do so depends on having accurate and timely estimates of the underlying data.

3.126 The GDDS makes no specific recommendations concerning which social or demographic indicators should be compiled or disseminated by participating countries. Countries should construct indicators to meet their own national needs based on good statistical practices. Many countries have also committed to monitoring and achieving the MDGs—a set of targets and indicators commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development. The complete list of indicators is presented in Appendix III. MDG indicators related to each of the four sociodemographic sectors are identified in Section C of Table 3.1.

3.127 Some countries have also identified indicators to monitor national poverty reduction efforts (in the course of preparing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers—PRSPs—with the IMF and World Bank) and development policies. Availability of MDG and PRSP indicators, including their periodicity and timeliness, should be noted in the metadata. In addition, some international organizations request regular reporting of specialized data within their area of responsibility. Plans to upgrade statistical systems and outputs to include MDG and PRSP indicators or to meet international reporting requirements may be noted in the metadata under plans for improvement.

3.128 The basic components for the sociodemographic data that are listed in Section C of Table 3.1 include information on inputs of resources (financial as well as human) into the social area, insofar as it may provide a useful link to public expenditure policies. This feature is particularly appropriate for the GDDS in that it is meant to provide a comprehensive framework spanning a broad range of interrelated policy areas, both in the social and economic spheres.

3.129 The organization of the GDDS for macroeconomic and financial statistics is based on the concept

of comprehensive frameworks, such as the national accounts, that provide well-recognized economic and financial measures. No equivalent comprehensive frameworks exist for sociodemographic data, but guidelines do exist for compilation, standard classification systems, and examples of “best practice” that are frequently cited and widely used by statisticians to organize the collection and presentation of social and demographic statistics. Appendix II provides a selected list of references.

3.130 The four data categories for the sociodemographic data and their basic components are (i) population, (ii) education, (iii) health, and (iv) poverty.

Population

3.131 Demographic statistics are concerned with describing the size, composition, and location of the population. Data are usually obtained from a complete enumeration of the population (which may include nonresidents living abroad, resident aliens, or refugees, as defined by law or statistical practice), supplemented in years between censuses by information on births, deaths, and migration collected through registries of vital statistics or through the use of surveys and from information derived from other administrative records.

3.132 Most countries will find it useful to compile data on population size disaggregated by age, gender, and location; the number of births (by gender), deaths (by age and gender), and inward and outward migration (by age and gender). Analysts often need population estimates at subnational levels. Derived indicators that are of great importance in analyzing demographic trends and anticipating future population change include age-specific mortality rates and the total fertility rate.

3.133 Censuses often produce additional information. For example, data on housing stocks, self-reported education and employment status, and access to water and sanitation may also be recorded. Such data can be used to supplement and cross-check information from other sources.

Education

3.134 Education statistics are generally produced and disseminated by the agencies that oversee public education services, including those that accredit education facilities, and train or license teachers, as well as schools, colleges and universities that pro-

vide education. Responsibility for data collection and reporting may be centralized in one agency or scattered among many.

3.135 In practice, data are obtained primarily from administrative reporting systems of the education ministry and national surveys, but statistical reports also may be compiled and disseminated by another agency, such as the national statistical office. The metadata should record the work of the agencies responsible for the primary production of education statistics and their first public release. The internal process of collecting administrative data is not of concern to the GDDS, except insofar as it affects the coverage, quality, or integrity of the resulting statistics.

3.136 In Section C of Table 3.1, data are organized in three subcategories: inputs, which measure the physical and financial resources available to the education system; process, which records the flow of students through the system; and outcomes, which measure attainment and learning achievement.

3.137 The education sector comprises all levels of the formal education system: primary, secondary, and tertiary, along with preprimary and vocational training if possible. The use of the International Standard Classification of Education is recommended for international reporting of data. Disaggregation by age, gender, grade or level of education, and type of educational program, along with the disaggregation of data by subnational or regional units, as appropriate, is encouraged. If adult literacy and nonformal training programs are significant, data on these activities should also be reported, along with measures of literacy and numeracy in the population.

3.138 In nearly all countries the state is the predominant supplier of education, and published statistics may record only the activities of public education programs. But in many countries private, religious, or military schools also play an important role. As far as possible, data should be collected from such entities and included in statistical reports.

Health

3.139 *Health statistics are generally produced by the agencies that oversee public health services, including those that accredit health facilities and train and license health workers, as well as those that provide primary health care. Responsibility for data collec-*

tion and reporting may be centralized in one agency or scattered among many. The primary sources of health statistics are administrative systems, including hospital records, and national health surveys. Like education statistics, health statistics are organized in three subcategories in Section C of Table 3.1: inputs, process, and outcomes. Process measures are further divided into preventative and curative. These are analytically useful, but they may not reflect the actual structure of reporting used in a country.

3.140 Inputs include both the financial resources used by the public health system and the number and capacity of facilities and the personnel employed in providing services. A complete system of health accounts would also record private expenditures, but in practice these data are difficult to obtain. However, the number and capacity of private facilities and the number of trained personnel in private practice should be available. Information on personal behaviors that affect health status, such as the use of contraceptives or the consumption of cigarettes and alcohol, may be obtained from surveys or estimated indirectly from aggregate consumption data.

3.141 Process or service delivery measures should record the type of service provided and characteristics of the population served. Among the most important categories of preventative services provided are immunizations, mother and child health outpatient care, and reproductive health services. Other services, such as sewerage, solid waste management, water supply, and sanitary protection of the food supply, may not be considered part of the formal health care system, but all have important effects on public health. Information on the scale and scope of these services, including measures of accessibility, are important for diagnosing sources of illness and identifying unmet needs. Curative services are those whose purpose is to treat specific diseases.

3.142 Reporting systems should track inpatient admission rates and outpatient visits to health providers. It is also useful to monitor the nonhealth aspects of service delivery—for example, waiting time for service, quality of facilities, and client perceptions of the quality of service.

3.143 Outcomes record the incidence of disease and causes of death. Disaggregation by age, gender, and location, and the calculation of age-specific mortality rates by cause is encouraged. Data on contagious

diseases, which can be used to identify and isolate outbreaks and direct treatment programs, should be compiled with higher frequency and greater timeliness than routine administrative statistics. Measures to assess the burden of disease, which capture the lifetime consequences of disease on productivity and quality of life, are currently under development by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Poverty

3.144 Poverty is a complex phenomenon and cannot be measured along a single dimension. “Money-metric” methods, based on the income or consumption of households or individuals, are commonly used to establish a “poverty line” and measure the number of poor and the depth of poverty. However, many statistics discussed in other categories, such as educational attainment, health status, and employment status, are useful for diagnosing poverty, especially when they are collected at a sufficiently disaggregated level.

3.145 Because poverty is fundamentally an affliction of individuals and a reflection of the unequal distribution of wealth, income, education, health, and access to public and private resources, the measurement of poverty requires micro-level data. These data are commonly produced through household surveys.

3.146 Consumption is a better measure of welfare than income. Consumption by individuals, accompanied by information on the characteristics of the household and of individual household members, is the preferred basis for assessing money-metric poverty. Because real income and therefore consumption may vary according to the time of the year and price levels, it is important to adjust for seasonal effects and regional price differences when compiling income and expenditure data.

3.147 A poverty line provides a standard way of classifying the population as poor and nonpoor. It is usually based on an estimate of the minimum level of income or consumption needed to sustain a person at a minimally acceptable level. While a poverty line may be based in part on objective standards, such as the cost of a minimum calorie budget, poverty lines are generally not comparable across countries because of differences in the cost of living and cultural perceptions of poverty.

3.148 The MDG-recommended poverty line—the proportion of the population living on less than US\$1

a day—and the poverty gap ratio are calculated by the World Bank, using PPPs. They therefore do not need to be covered in this section. However, if countries use US\$1 a day as their national poverty line, the methodology and related metadata should be noted. Information on availability of income or consumption distribution should be noted, along with periodicity and timeliness.

3.149 Household income and expenditure surveys should collect information on the size and structure of the household, household assets, sources of income, and types of consumption expenditures. They may also record characteristics of individual household members. The more detailed the data collection and the closer it comes to measuring the resources and expenditures of individuals, the more useful it will be for identifying the poor, diagnosing the causes of poverty, and designing programs to eradicate it. However, household surveys are costly to administer, and large, complex data sets are likewise costly to analyze.

3.150 Access measures, which record the availability of important public services and use of these services, may be derived from household surveys or from the administrative records of service providers. They are most useful when recorded on a sufficiently small scale to provide some indication of the distribution and use of services. Mapping and geographic information systems, which record the proximity of people to service facilities, have proven to be a useful means of recording access information.

Quality Dimension of the Disseminated Data

3.151 The quality dimension, including development of plans for improving data quality, is closely associated with the data dimension in the GDDS. The quality dimension of the GDDS is especially important, given that the primary goal of the system is improvements in data quality over time.

3.152 The assessment of quality is addressed in the GDDS in two ways. First, the metadata for comprehensive frameworks are intended to provide detailed information on definitions, classifications, sources of data, compilation methods, and use of international guidelines. While the GDDS does not require a specific evaluation of data quality in the metadata, the information called for will allow users to draw

conclusions about aspects of data quality. Second, for data categories and indicators, the quality dimension contains the following two proxies for a specific evaluation.

(i) Dissemination of documentation on methodology and data sources used in preparing statistics

3.153 The availability of documentation on methodology and data sources underlying statistics is key to users' awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the data. The documentation may take several forms, including summary notes accompanying release of the data, separate publications, or papers available on request from the producers. Countries participating in the GDDS are encouraged to include and highlight statements and declarations about important features of quality. These may indicate the kinds of errors to which the data are subject, sources of noncomparability over time, measures of coverage for census, and data or sampling error for survey data.¹³

3.154 Participating countries should provide metadata that identify the documentation and the means of accessing it, as well as plans for compiling and disseminating statements on methodology and sources where these do not yet exist.

(ii) Dissemination of component detail, reconciliations with related data, and statistical frameworks that support statistical cross-checks and provide assurance of reasonableness

3.155 To support and encourage the assessment of data quality by users, the GDDS recommends the dissemination of data on the components of underlying aggregate series, dissemination within a statistical framework, and/or dissemination of comparisons and reconciliations with related data.

3.156 Dissemination of component detail should, of course, be at a level that does not conflict with other desirable characteristics such as statistical reliability and the confidentiality of individually identifiable information. (Component detail, although used in this context to facilitate cross-checks, is also useful in its own right for in-depth analysis and research.)

¹³The size of past revisions, which is often in the list of aspects of quality, is included as a component element of the integrity dimension, drawing on its role as an indicator of the transparency of conditions under which data are produced.

3.157 With a sufficient amount of published detail below the aggregate (or indicator) level, especially in combination with documentation, a user is in a better position to judge the reasonableness of the data. For example, published detail allows a user to compare rates of change for components of time series, calculate deviations from past trend for components of time series, and calculate percentage composition.

3.158 Comparisons and reconciliations may be of several different kinds, and some may cut across statistical frameworks, such as exports and imports as part of the national accounts and as part of the balance of payments. For instance, it may happen that imports and exports of goods declared in foreign currency are valued in the national accounts using exchange rates that are not calculated in the same way as the exchange rates used in compiling balance of payments statistics. A comparison of the two sets of data would make this difference explicit.

3.159 Another example of comparisons and reconciliations across comprehensive frameworks relates to the residency criterion in the balance of payments and in the depository corporations survey. In the case of countries with significant numbers of nationals working abroad, it is sometimes difficult to draw the line, on the basis of the *BPM5*'s one-year rule, between temporary and long-term/permanent emigrants, the latter being nonresident while the former continue to be resident.

3.160 The issue may be even more difficult when the host government authorizes permanent or long-term emigrants to have accounts in domestic banks with the same status as resident accounts. In such a situation, the depository corporations survey and the balance of payments can be inconsistent with each other, in particular with respect to the international position of the banking sector, if the two data sets do not adopt the same treatment. However, the balance of payments statistics for this component are typically drawn from the depository corporations survey.

3.161 Comparisons and reconciliations may also cover data from different sources within the same country. For instance, unemployment data come from population censuses and household surveys, while employment data are often available from economic censuses and enterprise surveys. In general, both sets of statistics do not provide the same estimates for employment for various reasons. In such cases, rec-

onciliations can help users to assess the accuracy of the two sets of data.

3.162 For the GDDS metadata, participating members should describe the component detail, the framework, and the comparisons and reconciliations that are disseminated. Wherever such comparisons and reconciliations do take place, the system recommends that they be made available to the public. The metadata should therefore mention whether comparisons and reconciliations are made available to the public.

Dimensions of Integrity of the Disseminated Data and Access by the Public

3.163 A flow of comprehensive, reliable, accessible, and timely statistics is indispensable to informed policymaking, and the wide availability of statistics to the general public, including investors, helps provide discipline by supporting informed public debate and market assessment. These roles for statistics lead to certain basic principles for the official statistics function within a country, which are described in the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* (see Appendix I). These basic principles are reflected directly in the integrity and access dimensions of the GDDS.

3.164 These dimensions have been embodied in a manner that gives due consideration to the state of data compilation and data dissemination and to the uses of data across the broad range of countries to which the system applies. It is recognized that many countries are at an early stage of applying these principles. The focus of the integrity and access dimensions in the GDDS, therefore, is on developing policies and practices that are in line with the objectives of readily accessible data. The metadata for integrity and access will therefore include, for each official agency that compiles and disseminates data covered by the System, statements that cover existing policies and practices as well as plans to incorporate the specific elements in the future.

Integrity Dimension

3.165 To fulfill the purpose of providing the public with information, official statistics must have the confidence of their users. In turn, confidence in the

statistics ultimately becomes a matter of confidence in the objectivity and professionalism of the agency producing the statistics. Transparency of its practices and procedures is a key factor in creating this confidence.

3.166 Accordingly, the integrity dimension of the GDDS includes four practices that indicate the transparency of the producing agency's practices and procedures. Three of them refer to administrative practices and procedures; the fourth deals with revisions and changes in methodology.

(i) *Dissemination of the terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, including those relating to the confidentiality of individually identifiable information*

3.167 While the recommended practice, embodied in the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* (UNSD, 1994), is indirect, it is nevertheless instrumental in fostering confidence in the objectivity and professionalism with which official statistics are prepared.

3.168 The terms and conditions under which statistical agencies operate may take various forms, including statistical laws, charters, and codes of conduct. In many countries, these may not be in place or may be out of date. Accordingly, a first step toward the objective would be to put such laws, charters, and codes in place. The terms and conditions incorporated in them may refer to matters such as the relationship of the statistical unit to a larger department or ministry of which it is part. For example, they may distinguish between matters on which the statistical unit is subordinate to an outside authority (for example, on budgetary and personnel matters) and those on which it is independent (for example, in statistical methodology and decisions on the publication of statistics).

3.169 The terms and conditions may also refer to a requirement that the statistical unit publish data it has collected as a safeguard against possible pressure to keep some findings from the public; the qualifications and terms of reference of the chief statistician/director; and the review of statistical programs by an independent group of experts. All of these may be viewed as safeguarding the professionalism and objectivity of the producing agency, but, of course, they do not guarantee this.

3.170 Another key aspect of the terms and conditions under which statistical agencies operate refers to procedures and processes relating to the confidentiality of individual responses from persons, businesses, and organizations to official inquiries. These procedures and processes may cover topics ranging from computer security to restrictions on interagency disclosure.

3.171 Dissemination of information about terms and conditions may take a variety of forms. For example, the annual report of a statistical agency may include a section on steps taken to ensure the confidentiality of individual responses, and this section may refer to the legal obligations of the agency's employees with respect to confidentiality, security of computer systems and agency buildings, and statistical procedures for disclosure avoidance. Other publications and Internet sites may describe the basis for an agency's data collection and dissemination activities and its practices, as in the examples below:

- [Name of agency] collects, processes, and disseminates information on [country's] demographic, social, and economic development. In addition it produces data on the country's physical environment and natural resources. [Name of agency] was created by presidential decree, and its sphere of duties is set forth in the Law on Statistical Information, which also provides it with the technical and administrative autonomy needed to carry out its functions.
- [Name of agency] is administratively subordinate to [name of ministry] but operates according to strictly professional considerations with respect to the data it produces and disseminates.
- [Name of agency] has at its disposal many data about individuals and companies. These data are never released to other parties or government agencies. [Name of agency] never publishes or discloses data combinations from which individual data can be derived.

3.172 Survey forms and transmittal letters may carry statements or quote relevant legislation or codes referring to confidentiality of responses and assurances that the responses will be used only for statistical purposes and will not be divulged to others, including regulatory and tax agencies.

3.173 Compilers may find it convenient to use logos and other insignia to remind users of the terms under which their statistics are produced. For example, the

official series in one country might consist of those prepared according to the prescriptions of the statistical law and might be designated. Releases prepared by another country's government statistical service, according to its code of practice, might be marked with its banner and logo.

3.174 For the GDDS metadata, participating countries should summarize the terms and conditions applicable for each agency that produces data covered by the system and note where the laws, charters, codes, etc., are available to the public. The terms and conditions may vary across data categories, especially in countries with decentralized statistical systems.

3.175 The dissemination of information on terms and conditions, as just described, is applicable to official statistics. If a private organization that is producing any data covered by the GDDS does not disseminate such information, participating countries are encouraged to foster openness about the conditions under which key data are prepared and released. Countries could, if they wished, provide relevant information about the terms and conditions under which the private data described in the metadata are produced, with an appropriate note about the source of the information. For example, the entry could note, as appropriate, the organization's non-profit status, its nonpartisan approach, or its university affiliation, etc.

(ii) *Identification of internal government access to data before release*

3.176 In the interest of protection from undue influence on the data before their release, the GDDS recommends compiling a listing of persons or officials holding designated positions within the government, but outside the agency producing the data, who have prerelease access to the data and the dissemination of the schedule according to which they receive access. The recommended practice is intended to provide for any necessary prerelease access within government that the government deems appropriate, while giving full transparency to those practices.

3.177 Country practices differ in this regard. Some countries maintain strict embargoes on the availability of data even within the government prior to their release, while in others such procedures would be viewed as unduly restrictive and detrimental to fast

and effective government reaction. Thus, rather than recommending a specific and uniform set of practices, emphasis in the GDDS is placed on the means by which the necessary degree of transparency can be assured.

3.178 Such identification of prerelease access—that is, statements of “who knows what and when”—may take a variety of forms. The identification may, for example, be included in brief notices to the public and/or in annual reports of the producer of statistics. A brief notice could be along the following lines:

Data from [*name of agency*] are available to all users simultaneously with limited exceptions. The exceptions are on a need-to-know basis; those with prerelease access receive advance copies of news releases (or related materials) no earlier than 48 hours before the release date and time. The exceptions are:

Head of Government
Governor of the Central Bank
Minister of Finance

In addition, other ministers, policy advisers, and, on a need-to-know basis, a limited number of ministerial and central bank staff may be briefed on a confidential basis [*specify*] hour(s) in advance on the day of release.

3.179 This example highlights the fact that the focus is on undue—potentially political—influence or policy advocacy. The approach is not meant to include in the listing statisticians and other employees of the producing agency, who of necessity often see data at early stages or in fragments.

(iii) *Identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases*

3.180 Ministerial commentary is not necessarily expected to maintain the same degree of objectivity or freedom from political judgment as would be expected of good practice for a producer of official statistics. Therefore, the practice that is proposed in the GDDS is to identify such commentary so that its source will be transparent to the public.

3.181 The identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical release may take several forms. One common form is for the minister (or

other policy or political official) to issue a statement that is clearly separate from the statistical release—the ministerial statement under the minister’s letterhead and the statistical agency material under its letterhead or logo.

3.182 Alternatively, the statistical agency’s material may be included, but presented separately, in a release that contains both ministerial commentary and data. The agency’s material may include data, explanatory text (for example, of an unusual event affecting the data), and objective analysis; the identification as agency material may be made in various ways, including the use of source lines in tables and of the producer’s logos or other insignia.

3.183 Participating countries should describe in the metadata the procedures applicable for each agency and note any varying practices that may apply to individual data sets.

(iv) Provision of information about revisions and advance notice of major changes in methodology

3.184 Although users are interested in revisions of official statistics from several points of view, the emphasis in the GDDS is on practices related to revisions that enhance the transparency of compilers’ practices. The practices called for in the system are meant to give compilers of official statistics several ways of providing information about revisions and thus to strike a balance between users’ concerns about revisions and the resource cost to compilers of providing the information.

3.185 Relevant information about revisions stemming from changes in the underlying data may include statements about the policy followed and data about the size of past revisions. Revisions are also made to incorporate improvements or other changes dealing with any of the several aspects of statistical methodology—statistical frameworks; concepts, definitions, and classifications; accounting conventions, source data; and compilation procedures. A revision may make reference to any or all of these, as appropriate.

3.186 For example, there may be a policy about how often new concepts, definitions, and classifications are incorporated for each data set—for example, only at five-year intervals. With respect to the incorporation of additional source data, the policy may be

with respect to the period over which new sources are introduced—for example, a continuing basis (revising monthly data until an annual, more comprehensive survey becomes available) or a policy of making no routine revisions. Data on the size of past revisions may refer to estimates such as dispersion and bias.

3.187 Such information may be summarized in news releases, for example, and may be presented more fully in comprehensive reports or separate periodic evaluations. Revision practices about specific comprehensive frameworks and data categories should be described in Tables A (Section V “Compilation Practices”) and B (Section I, “Data Characteristics,” under “coverage”) respectively, in Chapter 4. This element under Data Integrity (Table C in Chapter 4) should describe the agency’s general policy with regard to revisions of the data that it compiles and disseminates.

3.188 The advance notice of changes in methodology should deal with major changes as defined above—for example, change in base year, major expansions of sample size, introduction of alternative data sources, introduction of new weighting schemes for indices, introduction or change in the methods of seasonal adjustment, and reclassification of transactions or industries.

3.189 The notices may take a variety of forms, ranging from short statements in news releases to presentations and papers in public forums. Participating countries are encouraged, as well, to provide easy access to information about methodological changes when they occur (for example, by telephone, fax, or Internet contact able to answer questions about revisions).

3.190 For the metadata, each data-disseminating agency should describe its revision policy for each data category and, where relevant, indicate for each data category the size of past revisions (at least for major aggregates), or other relevant information about revisions (such as the sources of revision and/or components that show the largest revisions). The procedures, if any, for providing advance notice of major changes in methodology should be described. The metadata should also describe, where appropriate, plans for implementing the recommendations of the GDDS with regard to data revisions and advance notice of changes in methodology.

Dimension of Access by the Public

3.191 Dissemination of official statistics is an essential feature of statistics as a public good. Ready accessibility and equal access are principal requirements for the public, including market participants.

3.192 The access dimension of the GDDS is based on two practices—dissemination of advance release calendars and simultaneous release to all parties—that facilitate ready and equal access. In characterizing access, “timely” is often added to “ready and equal” to form a triad of desired attributes.

3.193 The lapse of time between a reference date (or close of a reference period) and the dissemination of the data is captured in the “timeliness” element of the data dimension, which encompasses both the time needed for statistical processing (or compilation) and the time needed to prepare for dissemination (for example, printing). Accordingly, the following two practices recommended for access assume that the timeliness objectives are in place.

(i) Dissemination of advance-release calendars

3.194 Advance-release calendars highlight sound management and transparency of statistical compilation and provide data users with information needed to take a more active, organized approach to their work. Data users are strongly in favor of advance-release calendars—financial market analysts and commercial resellers who work with data from a broad range of countries find them a particularly important tool in planning their activities. In recent years, a growing number of national statistical offices have issued advance-release calendars—in several countries, these calendars are mandated by codes of conduct, policy directives, or agency administrative manuals.

3.195 The GDDS recognizes that many participating countries will not have had experience with advance-release calendars. Scarcity of resources available to statistical agencies and shortcomings in survey and other data collection mechanisms may make it difficult to identify precise release dates in advance. In addition, for countries that are not participating in international financial markets or that do not have well-developed local financial markets, the needs of data users may not be highly time-sensitive. The GDDS therefore recommends the following with regard to advance-release calendars:

- For comprehensive frameworks and indicators for which annual periodicity is recommended, a specification of dates no later than which the data will be released. The specification of no-later-than dates could be based on the prior years’ results.
- For other data sets, ranges of dates, such as three to five days, during which data are expected to be released.

3.196 The calendars should cover the year ahead and be disseminated in the disseminating agency’s highest-frequency publication, in press releases, and via electronic media, if available. Participants are encouraged to identify an office or person who could provide the latest information about the likely date of release, including release of data for which periodicity and timeliness are irregular and newly disseminated data.

3.197 Release calendars can carry a cautionary note that the dates indicated are “expected,” “targets,” etc. Participants are encouraged to post their advance-release calendars on the IMF’s DSBB together with notes describing events, such as a computer failure, that make it impossible to meet the release dates previously indicated. This serves to reduce the likelihood that pressure to meet release dates will have negative effects on other aspects of data quality.

(ii) Simultaneous release to all interested parties

3.198 The GDDS recommends that data be released to all interested parties at the same time. This is not intended to refer to access by government ministries and agencies; such prerelease access is governed by conditions set out in the description of integrity above.

3.199 For media and commercial data vendors, simultaneous release may be interpreted as including access, under embargo conditions, to all on equal terms. The embargo conditions that are actually imposed may vary in strictness with the value of the data to users, including the financial markets, and the competitiveness of the news media and other data distributors, as well as other factors. In more relaxed settings, data may be provided to all accredited media representatives who request early access on condition that they neither use the data for gain nor transmit their stories/analyses until after general release to the public.

3.200 The act of release is meant to refer to the first availability of the data to the public. It may center on one dissemination format—for example, a press release or Internet posting providing summary data. As soon as practicable, other formats (for example, diskettes and access to electronic databases) should be made available, as should accompanying detail and/or explanations in other formats.

3.201 The definition of “simultaneous” must be determined by the situation; in some countries, simultaneous release is being defined with increasing strictness for high-profile data. For the GDDS, the objective with regard to simultaneous release may be met by providing at least one publicly identified and accessible location where data are available to all on an equal basis at the time of first release.

3.202 Countries are encouraged to make releases in as many formats as possible, especially electronic formats if available, consistent with the extent of public interest in the data. Electronic formats greatly increase the number of parties and geographic locations to which simultaneous access can be provided.

3.203 Participating countries should describe in the GDDS metadata the procedures of each data-disseminating agency that ensure simultaneous release; variations among data categories should be noted. These procedures may vary according to the sensitivity and other characteristics of the data. For example, the procedures for high-profile data may be stricter than for others, and data that require extensive technical explanation may involve the availability at the time of release of technical staff of the producing agency to answer questions.

Table 3.1. Data Dimension of the GDDS
A. Comprehensive Frameworks—Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors

Core Framework		Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
Framework	Coverage, classification, and analytical framework			
Real Sector				
National accounts	Producing and disseminating the full range of national accounts aggregates and balancing items in nominal and real terms, yielding Gross Domestic Product, Gross National Income, Gross Disposable Income, Consumption, Saving, Capital Formation, and Net Lending/ Net Borrowing. Producing and disseminating sectoral accounts and national and sectoral balance sheets, as relevant.		Annual	10–14 months
Fiscal sector				
Central government operations	Producing and disseminating comprehensive data on transactions and debt, emphasizing (i) coverage of all central government units; (ii) use of appropriate analytical framework; and (iii) development of a full range of detailed classifications (tax and nontax revenue, current and capital expenditure, domestic and foreign financing) with breakdowns (debt holder, instrument, currency), as relevant. ¹	General government or public sector operations data are encouraged where subnational levels of government or public enterprise operations are of analytical or policy importance	Annual	6–9 months
Financial sector				
Depository corporations survey	Producing and disseminating comprehensive data emphasizing (i) coverage of all depository corporations (banking and other deposit-taking institutions); (ii) use of an appropriate analytical framework; and (iii) development of classifications of external assets and liabilities, domestic credit by sector, and components of money (liquidity) and nonmonetary liabilities.		Monthly	2–3 months
External sector				
Balance of payments	Producing and disseminating comprehensive data on the main aggregates and balances of the balance of payments, including, for example, imports and exports of goods and services, trade balance, income and current transfers, current account balance, reserves and other financial transactions, and overall balance, with detailed components, as relevant.	International Investment Position (IIP)	Annual	6–9 months

Table 3.1 (continued)

B. Data Categories and Core Indicators—Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors

Data Categories	Core Indicators	Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
Real sector				
National accounts aggregates	GDP (nominal and real)	Gross national income, capital formation, saving	Annual (quarterly encouraged)	6–9 months
Production index/indices	Manufacturing or industrial indices Primary commodity, agricultural, or other indices, as relevant		Monthly As relevant	6–12 weeks for all indices
Price indices	Consumer price index	Producer price index	Monthly	1–2 months
Labor market indicators	Employment, unemployment, wages/earnings, as relevant	Disaggregation by age, gender, employment status, occupation, and industry as appropriate	Annual ²	6–9 months
Fiscal sector				
Central government aggregates	Revenue, expenditure, balance, and financing with breakdowns (debt holder, instrument, currency), as relevant ³	Interest payments	Quarterly	1 quarter
Central government debt	Domestic debt and foreign debt, as relevant, with appropriate breakdowns (currency, maturity, debt holder, instrument), as relevant	Government-guaranteed debt	Annual (quarterly encouraged)	1–2 quarters
Financial sector				
Broad money and credit aggregates	Net external position, domestic credit, broad or narrow money		Monthly	1–3 months
Central bank aggregates	Monetary base		Monthly	1–2 months
Interest rates	Short- and long-term government security rates, policy variable rate	Money market or interbank rates and a range of deposit and lending rates	Monthly ⁴	
Stock market		Share price index, as relevant	Monthly ⁴	

¹For countries following the recommendations of the IMF's *Government Statistics Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001)*, classifications should refer to revenue, expense, net acquisition of nonfinancial assets, net acquisition of financial assets, and net incurrence of liabilities.

²Periodicity and timeliness for labor market indicators are recommended after consultation with the Bureau of Statistics of the International Labor Organization.

³For countries following the recommendations of the IMF's *GFSM 2001*, aggregates should refer to revenue, expense, net acquisition of nonfinancial assets, net acquisition of financial assets, and net incurrence of liabilities.

⁴Dissemination as part of a high-frequency (for example, monthly) publication.

Table 3.1 (continued)

B. Data Categories and Core Indicators—Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors (concluded)

Data Categories	Core Indicators	Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
External Sector				
Balance of payments aggregates	Imports and exports of goods and services, current account balance, reserves, overall balance		Annual (quarterly encouraged)	6 months
External debt and debt-service schedule	Public and publicly guaranteed external debt, broken down by maturity		Quarterly	1–2 quarters
	Public and publicly guaranteed external debt-service schedule		Twice yearly with data for 4 quarters and 2 semesters ahead	3–6 months
		Private external debt not publicly guaranteed, and debt-service schedule	Annual	6–9 months
International reserves	Gross official reserves expressed in U.S. dollars	Reserve-related liabilities	Monthly	1–4 weeks
Merchandise trade	Total exports and total imports	Major commodity breakdowns with longer time lapse	Monthly	8–12 weeks
Exchange rates	Spot rates		Daily	

Table 3.1 (continued)
C. Sociodemographic Data

Data Categories	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ⁵	Periodicity	Timeliness
Population	Population characteristics: Size and composition of the population, derived from census, surveys, or vital registration system	Disaggregation of population and vital statistics data by age, gender, and region, as appropriate		Annual (census every 10 years)	3–6 months for annual updates; 9–12 months for census
	Dynamics of growth: Vital statistics: births, deaths, and migration	Reporting of mortality rates, crude birth rate, fertility rate, and life expectancy	13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate		
Education	Inputs: Measures of current financial, human, and physical resources available to public and private (if significant) educational institutions, recorded by level of education or type of program	Disaggregation of data by region is recommended for all data categories. Characteristics of teaching staff, including training, experience, and terms of employment (full or part time). Expenditures by households on education (including fees and other expenses for public or private education).		Annual	6–12 months following beginning of school year
	Process: Measures of student progress through school, such as enrollments, dropouts, and repetitions, recorded by level of education and gender of students	Calculation of net enrollment rates (by grade and gender)	6. Net enrollment ratio in primary education 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education		
	Outcomes: Educational attainment measured by progress through school, graduations, and completions by level; literacy	Disaggregation by age and gender. Graduation and completion rates. Scores on standardized achievement exams	8. Literacy rate of 15–24 year olds 10. Ratio of literate women to men 15–24 years old		
Health	Inputs: Measures of current financial, human, and physical resources available to public and private (if significant) health system, including public expenditures on health services; capacity of health care facilities by location and type of facility; and the number of trained personnel by location and certification	Private (household) expenditures on health services. Disaggregation of data by region.		Annual (outbreaks of contagious diseases should be reported at higher frequency and with greater timeliness)	3–6 months following end of reference period

⁵As documented (and numbered) in the Millennium Indicators Database of the United Nations Statistical Division (see Appendix I).

Table 3.1 (continued)
C. Sociodemographic Data (continued)

Data Categories	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ⁵	Periodicity	Timeliness
	<p>Process (service delivery): Measures describing the number of clients served and type of care provided by public and private care providers, including inpatient, outpatient, and preventive care; population served by public health services such as immunizations, sanitation services, and improved water supply</p>	<p>Measures of the responsiveness of the health system to nonhealth aspects of service delivery. Disaggregation of data by region.</p>	<p>15. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel 19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course 30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural 31. Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation</p>		
	<p>Outcomes: Statistics on mortality and morbidity, including mortality by cause and the incidence of disease by age, gender, region, and other patient characteristics</p>		<p>4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age 16. Maternal mortality ratio 18. HIV prevalence among 15- to 24-year-old pregnant women 20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS 21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis</p>		

Table 3.1 (concluded)
C. Sociodemographic Data (concluded)

Data Categories	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ⁵	Periodicity	Timeliness
Poverty	<p>Income poverty: Number and proportion of people or households with less than minimum standard of income or consumption; valuation of minimum consumption bundle</p>	<p>Measures of the distribution of household or per capita income or consumption, and incidence of low consumption</p>	<p>1. Proportion of population below US\$1 (PPP) per day 2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty) 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption</p>	3–5 years	6–12 months following the survey
	<p>Other poverty measures: Measures of deprivation or insecurity used to identify the population living in poverty, such as evidence of malnutrition, endemic diseases, educational achievement, and lack of access to basic services</p>	<p>Separate poverty estimates for urban and rural populations or for major regions, states, or provinces. Disaggregation of data by region.</p>			

4. Metadata and the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board

Introduction

4.1 Metadata, in English, for countries participating in the GDDS are posted on the DSBB, which is maintained by the IMF as a service to the membership. The DSBB provides wide and easy access to detailed descriptions of country practices and facilitates tracking of the improvements that participating countries make in each of the four dimensions of the GDDS.

4.2 IMF staff are available to assist participating countries in preparing and finalizing the metadata, either through e-mail correspondence, through staff visits to groups of countries or, in some cases, to individual countries. Countries are also urged to look to the metadata that are already posted on the DSBB to guide them in the early preparation of their own metadata.

4.3 Management of metadata by participating countries is an ongoing exercise to ensure its accuracy. Whenever statistical practices change, or a plan for improvement is implemented or modified, this information should be provided as soon as possible to the IMF's Data Dissemination Standards Division for posting on the DSBB. Moreover, to ensure the credibility of the information shown on the DSBB, participating countries should thoroughly review and, where necessary, revise the metadata at least once a year.

4.4 A set of three tables has been developed to assist in the preparation of metadata.¹ Two of the tables relate to the data and quality dimensions of the System while the third focuses on the access and integrity dimensions. These tables correspond to Sections A to C of Table 3.1, "Data Dimension of the GDDS," but provide more detail. The first table (Table A) relates to comprehensive frameworks, the second (Table B) to data categories and indicators, and the third (Table C) to integrity and access by the public.

¹The DSBB also contains two summary tables that draw on the metadata provided by participating countries.

The purpose of these tables is to ensure that there is some uniformity in the approaches taken to the preparation of metadata across and within countries.

4.5 To integrate and streamline the IMF data standards initiative with the surveillance and technical assistance work of the IMF Statistics Department, the IMF Executive Board has endorsed the presentation of GDDS countries' metadata in the format of the DQAF (Data Quality Assessment Framework). The DQAF encompasses several dimensions, elements, and indicators, providing a systematic structure for presenting metadata (see Table D). The DQAF is used in the Statistics Department's work on the data module of the Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC), and in technical assistance.

Table A: Comprehensive Frameworks

4.6 Metadata should be developed for the four core frameworks (see Table 3.1, Section A) covered by the GDDS. In the case of central government operations—the core framework for the fiscal sector—separate metadata should be prepared for transactions and for debt since the underlying bases for these data sets often differ markedly.

4.7 There is provision at the beginning of Table A for the identification of the country to which the metadata relate, the sector concerned, the relevant core framework, and information on the contact person. For each core framework, the metadata should cover the following seven topics: (i) analytical framework, concepts, definitions, and classifications; (ii) scope of the data; (iii) accounting conventions; (iv) nature of the basic data sources; (v) compilation practices; (vi) other aspects; and (vii) plans for improvement.

4.8 Participating countries may choose to provide separate metadata for the encouraged extensions

(relating to general government or public sector operations and the IIP) or to integrate these metadata with those for the corresponding core framework.

Table B: Data Categories, Core Indicators, Basic Concepts, and Sociodemographic Data

4.9 Metadata relating to core indicators (see Table 3.1, Section B) should be prepared in accordance with the formats suggested in Table B. The information requested in Table B relates to the following four topics: (i) data characteristics (coverage, periodicity, and timeliness); (ii) quality (documentation of methodology and data to support cross-checks and provide an assurance of reasonableness); (iii) plans for improvement, including needs for technical and other assistance; and (iv) dissemination formats. For each topic, the table provides suggestions on the types of information that are considered useful for inclusion in the metadata.

4.10 Countries may choose either to prepare separate metadata for the encouraged extensions or to integrate them with the metadata for the respective core indicator.

4.11 For the sociodemographic sectors, identified in Section C of Table 3.1, countries are encouraged to include in their metadata the MDG indicators (see Appendix III), as well as the indicators used to monitor progress on national poverty reduction strategies.

Table C: Integrity of the Disseminated Data and Access by the Public

4.12 Table C was designed specifically for the preparation of metadata for the integrity and access dimensions of the GDDS. It is requested that a separate table be prepared for each agency disseminating data covered by the system. In most cases, it is expected that separate tables will be required for the central bank, the ministry of finance, and the national statistical office. There may, however, be other—sometimes many—agencies disseminating the data.

4.13 In highly decentralized systems, it is recommended to combine the metadata, if appropriate, in instances where several agencies disseminate

data under the same GDDS category (for example, where a ministry of higher education and ministry of technical education each disseminate data on education).

4.14 It is not recommended that Table C be prepared for agencies that produce certain data in the course of their regular functions but do not disseminate such data to the public. For example, customs offices are normally required to tabulate summaries of merchandise trade statistics. These statistics may then be transmitted, depending on responsibility, to the national statistical office for dissemination and for inclusion in the national accounts, or to the central bank for dissemination and for inclusion in the balance of payments. In such situations, it is not necessary for the customs office to complete Table C, since dissemination of merchandise trade data would be covered by either the national statistical office or the central bank.

4.15 The table focuses on the following topics: (i) data produced and disseminated (by comprehensive framework and by data category); (ii) data integrity (terms and conditions under which data are produced and disseminated, identification of internal government access to data before release, identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases, and provision of information about revisions and advance notice of major changes in methodology); and (iii) access to data by the public (simultaneous release to the public and advance-release calendars).

Table D: Data Quality Assessment Framework Presentation

4.16 On the DSBB, the GDDS metadata will continue to be available in the current presentation formats familiar to DSBB users. However, as the underlying metadata will be structured according to the DQAF, another view of the metadata, based on the cascading structure of the DQAF, will also be provided on the DSBB. The DQAF is used in the Statistics Department's work on the data module of the Report on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC), and on technical assistance. Presenting the GDDS metadata in the DQAF structure will enhance the usefulness of the metadata. In addition, information gathered in the Statistics Department's work on data ROSC and technical assistance can be used

to prepare or update participating countries' GDDS metadata.

4.17 New participating countries will be expected to use the DQAF structure to prepare metadata for GDDS purposes. Current participating countries will be expected to use the DQAF structure to update

metadata for GDDS purposes in due course. Procedures for preparing the GDDS metadata in the DQAF format are available from STA's Data Dissemination Standards Division at STADD@IMF.org. A *Metadata Compilation Guide* assisting countries in compiling metadata in the DQAF format will be available toward the end of 2007.

< COUNTRY >

Table A. Comprehensive Frameworks

< Sector >

CORE FRAMEWORK:

National Descriptor (if different, please indicate):

ENCOURAGED EXTENSION(S) (as applicable):

National Descriptor (if different, please indicate):

National Methodological Publication (as applicable, including information on how it may be obtained):

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

DATE METADATA UPDATED:

I. Analytical Framework, Concepts, Definitions, and Classifications

Describe the analytic framework used, identifying the main components that are published; the classification systems used; and any disparity (for example, in scope or procedure) between data of different periodicity. If an international (or regional) statistical guideline is used, state in which respects the guideline is followed and in which respects national modifications are made. Major modifications should be particularly noted.

Analytical Framework, Concepts, and Definitions:

Classification System:

II. Scope of the Data

Identify the coverage of institutional units, transactions, and geographic areas about which data are disseminated. Note any major departures from international guidelines (for example, national accounts exclude units engaged in informal activities, central government excludes social security funds). Identify periodicity and timeliness of the data.

Unit Coverage:

Transaction Coverage:

Geographic Coverage:

Unrecorded Activity (as relevant):

Periodicity:

Identify the frequency of compilation and dissemination of the data (for example, monthly, quarterly, annual).

Timeliness:

Identify the lapse of time between the end of a reference period (or a reference date) and the dissemination of the data.

III. Accounting Conventions

The time of recording (cash, accrual, or other (specify)), valuation methods, and other accounting conventions should be specified.

IV. Nature of the Basic Data Sources

For the main components disseminated, indicate whether data are compiled from administrative records, surveys, censuses, or combinations of these. Briefly describe the means of data collection; where sampling is used, the sampling methods should be briefly described.

V. Compilation Practices

Describe any adjustments made to the basic data sources (censuses, surveys, or administrative records). Include, as appropriate, a description of procedures for estimating missing values, grossing-up samples, consolidating data, cross-checking data sources, and reconciling alternative estimates. For price-adjusted measures, describe the general approach used. Specific practices with regard to revision of the data, including reasons for revisions and information on the size of past revisions, should be described.

VI. Other Aspects

Briefly describe any other aspects considered important, such as seasonal adjustment, base years, reference years, and disclosure control procedures.

VII. Plans for Improvement

Describe short-term (in the next year) and medium-term (2–5 years) plans for making improvements in the comprehensive framework and note any improvements that have been implemented in the past two years. Technical or other assistance needs that may be required for implementing these plans should also be noted, if applicable. If it has been determined that there are no shortcomings that need to be addressed, this determination should be explicitly stated.

Recent Improvements:

Short-Term Plan:

Medium-Term Plan:

Technical Assistance/Financing Needs/Other Prerequisites

Short-Term:

Medium-Term:

< COUNTRY >

**Table B. Data Categories, Core Indicators and Basic Concepts,
and Sociodemographic Data**

< Sector >

DATA CATEGORY:

National Descriptor (if different, please indicate):

CORE INDICATORS:

ENCOURAGED EXTENSION(S) (as applicable):

Country-Specific Indicator (if different, please indicate):

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

DATE METADATA UPDATED:

I. Data Characteristics

Coverage

Briefly describe the key characteristics of the data; i.e., the features of which a user must be aware to use the data appropriately. These include the unit of measure, scope (for example, geographic, institutional, product), statistical characteristics (for example, seasonal adjustment, index number base year), basic data source, and accounting conventions, and data revision policy.

Periodicity:

Identify the frequency of compilation and dissemination of the data (for example, monthly, quarterly, annual).

Timeliness:

Identify the lapse of time between the end of a reference period (or a reference date) and the dissemination of the data.

II. Quality

Documentation of Methodology

Identify any publicly available statement of methodology that describes how the data are compiled and the sources of data.

Data to Support Cross-Checks and Provide an Assurance of Reasonableness

Describe the kind and extent of detail of published data, the statistical frameworks (including accounting identities and statistical relationships), and the comparisons and reconciliations that are available to assist users in assessing the quality of the data.

III. Plans for Improvement

Describe short-term (in the next year) and medium-term (2–5 years) plans for making improvements in the data category and note any improvements that have been implemented in the past two years. Technical or other assistance needs that may be required for implementing these plans should also be noted, if applicable. If it has been determined that there are no shortcomings that need to be addressed, this determination should be explicitly stated.

Recent Improvements:

Short-Term Plan:

Medium-Term Plan:

Technical Assistance/Financing Needs/Other Prerequisites

Short-Term:

Medium-Term:

IV. Dissemination Formats

Indicate the title and language(s) of publication. Identify an appropriate contact person, if different from contact listed on first page.

Hard Copy

News Release

Publication

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annual

Other

Electronic

Internet

Other Online

CD-ROM

Diskette

Other (specify)

None

< COUNTRY >

Table C. Data Integrity and Access by the Public

< Agency >

This table should be prepared, as appropriate, for each agency disseminating data covered by the GDDS.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

DATE METADATA UPDATED:

I. Data Produced and Disseminated

a. Comprehensive Frameworks:

The agency is responsible for compilation and dissemination of comprehensive frameworks in the following areas (check boxes as appropriate):

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. National Accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Depository Corporations Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Central Government Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Balance of Payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |

b. Data Categories, Core Indicators, and Basic Concepts:

The agency is responsible for compilation and dissemination of the following data categories, core indicators, and basic concepts (check boxes as appropriate):

Real sector

- National accounts aggregates
- Production index/indices
- Price indices
- Labor market indicators

Financial sector

- Broad money and credit aggregates
- Central bank aggregates
- Interest rates
- Stock market

Fiscal sector

- Central government aggregates
- Central government debt

External sector

- Balance of payments aggregates
- External debt and debt service
- International reserves
- Merchandise trade
- Exchange rates

Sociodemographic Data

- Population
- Health
- Education
- Poverty

II. Data Integrity

a. Terms and Conditions Under Which Data Are Compiled and Disseminated

Identify any applicable statistical laws, charters, or codes of conduct; procedures and processes related to the confidentiality of individual responses; and whether the laws, charters, codes, etc., are available to the public.

b. Identification of Internal Government Access to Data Before Release

List persons or officials holding designated positions within the government, but outside the agency producing the data, who have prerelease access to the data and the schedule according to which they receive access.

c. Identification of Ministerial Commentary on the Occasion of Statistical Releases

Describe the general procedures applicable and note any different practices that may apply to individual data categories.

d. Provision of Information About Revisions and Advance Notice of Major Changes in Methodology

Describe existing policy about revisions and procedures for providing advance notice of major changes in methodology. Describe any plans for changing these policies and procedures.

III. Access to Data by the Public

III. Access to Data by the Public

a. Simultaneous Release to the Public

Please describe the procedures that ensure simultaneous release; variations among data categories should be noted.

b. Advance-Release Calendars

Identify whether advance-release calendars are publicly available. If so, describe where they are disseminated, for what period (for example, one quarter, one year); how often they are updated; and how well the actual release dates match the calendar.

IV. Plans for Improvement

Describe short-term (in the next year) and medium-term (2–5 years) plans for making improvements in practices with respect to the integrity and access dimensions of the GDDS and any planned improvements of an institutional or legislative nature by the agency. Note any improvements that have been implemented in the past two years. Technical or other assistance needs that may be required for implementing these plans should also be noted, if applicable. If it has been determined that there are no shortcomings that need to be addressed, this determination should be explicitly stated.

Recent Improvements:

Short-Term Plan:

Medium-Term Plan:

Technical Assistance/Financing Needs/Other Prerequisites

Short-Term:

Medium-Term:

**Table D. Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)
Generic Framework**

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
0. Prerequisites of quality	<p>0.1 Legal and institutional environment—<i>The environment is supportive of statistics.</i></p> <p>0.2 Resources—<i>Resources are commensurate with needs of statistical programs.</i></p> <p>0.3 Relevance—<i>Statistics cover relevant information on the subject field.</i></p> <p>0.4 Other quality management—<i>Quality is a cornerstone of statistical work.</i></p>	<p>0.1.1 The responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating the statistics is clearly specified.</p> <p>0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data-producing agencies are adequate.</p> <p>0.1.3 Individual reporters' data are to be kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.</p> <p>0.1.4 Statistical reporting is ensured through legal mandate and/or measures to encourage response.</p> <p>0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing are commensurate with statistical programs.</p> <p>0.2.2 Measures to ensure efficient use of resources are implemented.</p> <p>0.3.1 The relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.</p> <p>0.4.1 Processes are in place to focus on quality.</p> <p>0.4.2 Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the statistical program.</p> <p>0.4.3 Processes are in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.</p>
<p>I. Assurances of integrity</p> <p><i>The principle of objectivity in the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics is firmly adhered to.</i></p>	<p>1.1 Professionalism—<i>Statistical policies and practices are guided by professional principles.</i></p> <p>1.2 Transparency—<i>Statistical policies and practices are transparent.</i></p> <p>1.3 Ethical standards—<i>Policies and practices are guided by ethical standards.</i></p>	<p>1.1.1 Statistics are produced on an impartial basis.</p> <p>1.1.2 Choices of sources and statistical techniques as well as decisions about dissemination are informed solely by statistical considerations.</p> <p>1.1.3 The appropriate statistical entity is entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.</p> <p>1.2.1 The terms and conditions under which statistics are collected, processed, and disseminated are available to the public.</p> <p>1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release is publicly identified.</p> <p>1.2.3 Products of statistical agencies/units are clearly identified as such.</p> <p>1.2.4 Advance notice is given of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.</p> <p>1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior are in place and are well known to the staff.</p>

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
<p>2. Methodological soundness</p> <p><i>The methodological basis for the statistics follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i></p>	<p>2.1 Concepts and definitions—<i>Concepts and definitions used are in accord with internationally accepted statistical frameworks.</i></p> <p>2.2 Scope—<i>The scope is in accord with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i></p> <p>2.3 Classification/ sectorization—<i>Classification and sectorization systems are in accord with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i></p> <p>2.4 Basis for recording—<i>Flows and stocks are valued and recorded according to internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i></p>	<p>2.1.1 The overall structure in terms of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</p> <p>2.2.1 The scope is broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</p> <p>2.3.1 Classification/sectorization systems used are broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</p> <p>2.4.1 Market prices are used to value flows and stocks.</p> <p>2.4.2 Recording is done on an accrual basis.</p> <p>2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures are broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</p>
<p>3. Accuracy and reliability</p> <p><i>Source data and statistical techniques are sound and statistical outputs sufficiently portray reality.</i></p>	<p>3.1 Source data—<i>Source data available provide an adequate basis to compile statistics.</i></p> <p>3.2 Assessment of source data—<i>Source data are regularly assessed.</i></p> <p>3.3 Statistical techniques—<i>Statistical techniques employed conform to sound statistical procedures.</i></p> <p>3.4 Assessment and validation of intermediate data and statistical outputs—<i>Intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated.</i></p> <p>3.5 Revision studies—<i>Revisions, as a gauge of reliability, are tracked and mined for the information they may provide.</i></p>	<p>3.1.1 Source data are obtained from comprehensive data collection programs that take into account country-specific conditions.</p> <p>3.1.2 Source data reasonably approximate the definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required.</p> <p>3.1.3 Source data are timely.</p> <p>3.2.1 Source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records—are routinely assessed, e.g., for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error; the results of the assessments are monitored and made available to guide statistical processes.</p> <p>3.3.1 Data compilation employs sound statistical techniques to deal with data sources.</p> <p>3.3.2 Other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis) employ sound statistical techniques.</p> <p>3.4.1 Intermediate results are validated against other information where applicable.</p> <p>3.4.2 Statistical discrepancies in intermediate data are assessed and investigated.</p> <p>3.4.3 Statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators or problems in statistical outputs are investigated.</p> <p>3.5.1 Studies and analyses of revisions are carried out routinely and used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).</p>

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
<p>4. Serviceability</p> <p><i>Statistics, with adequate periodicity and timeliness, are consistent and follow a predictable revisions policy.</i></p>	<p>4.1 Periodicity and timeliness—<i>Periodicity and timeliness follow internationally accepted dissemination standards.</i></p> <p>4.2 Consistency—<i>Statistics are consistent within the data set, over time, and with major data sets.</i></p> <p>4.3 Revision policy and practice—<i>Data revisions follow a regular and publicized procedure.</i></p>	<p>4.1.1 Periodicity follows dissemination standards.</p> <p>4.1.2 Timeliness follows dissemination standards.</p> <p>4.2.1 Statistics are consistent within the data set.</p> <p>4.2.2 Statistics are consistent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.</p> <p>4.2.3 Statistics are consistent or reconcilable with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.</p> <p>4.3.1 Revisions follow a regular and transparent schedule.</p> <p>4.3.2 Preliminary and/or revised data are clearly identified.</p> <p>4.3.3 Studies and analyses of revisions are made public (see also 3.5.1).</p>
<p>5. Accessibility</p> <p><i>Data and metadata are easily available and assistance to users is adequate.</i></p>	<p>5.1 Data accessibility—<i>Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable manner, forms of dissemination are adequate, and statistics are made available on an impartial basis.</i></p> <p>5.2 Metadata accessibility—<i>Up-to-date and pertinent metadata are made available.</i></p> <p>5.3 Assistance to users—<i>Prompt and knowledgeable support service is available.</i></p>	<p>5.1.1 Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts).</p> <p>5.1.2 Dissemination media and format are adequate.</p> <p>5.1.3 Statistics are released on a preannounced schedule.</p> <p>5.1.4 Statistics are made available to all users at the same time.</p> <p>5.1.5 Statistics not routinely disseminated are made available upon request.</p> <p>5.2.1 Documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques is available, and differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices are annotated.</p> <p>5.2.2 Levels of detail are adapted to the needs of the intended audience.</p> <p>5.3.1 Contact points for each subject field are publicized.</p> <p>5.3.2 Catalogs of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges, are widely available.</p>

Appendix I. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics¹

The Statistical Commission

1. *Bearing in mind* that official statistical information is an essential basis for development in the economic, demographic, social, and environmental fields and for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of the world,

2. *Bearing in mind* that the essential trust of the public in official statistical information depends to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles, which are the basis of any democratic society, which seeks to understand itself and to respect the rights of its members,

3. *Bearing in mind* that the quality of official statistics, and thus the quality of the information available to the Government, the economy, and public depends largely on the cooperation of citizens, enterprises, and other respondents in providing appropriate and reliable data needed for necessary statistical compilations and on the cooperation between users and producers of statistics to meet users' needs,

4. *Recalling* the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations active in statistics to establish standards and concepts to allow comparisons among countries,

5. *Recalling also* the International Statistical Institute Declaration of Professional Ethics,

6. *Having expressed* the opinion that resolution C (47), adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on April 15, 1992, is of universal significance,

7. *Noting that*, at its eighth session, held at Bangkok in November 1993, the Working Group of Statistical Experts, assigned by the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to examine the Fundamental Principles, had agreed in principle to the ECE version and had emphasized that those principles were applicable to all nations,

8. *Noting also that*, at its eighth session held in Addis Ababa in March 1994, the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demography considered that the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are of universal significance,

9. *Adopts* the present principles of official statistics:

(i) Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of democratic society, serving the government, the economy, and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social, and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.

(ii) To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional consideration, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage, and presentation of statistical data.

(iii) To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods, and procedures of the statistics.

(iv) The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

¹Reproduced from United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Special Session of the Statistical Commission*, E/1994/29 (New York, April 11–15, 1994).

(v) Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs, and the burden on respondents.

(vi) Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

(vii) The laws, regulations, and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

(viii) Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

(ix) The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications, and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

(x) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

Appendix II. International Guidelines for Selected Data Categories

National Accounts

System of National Accounts 1993 (New York: a publication of the Commission of the European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations, and the World Bank, 1993). The text can be found on the following UN website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>.

Quarterly National Accounts Manual: Concepts, Data Sources, and Compilation (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2001). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qna/2000/textbook/index.htm>.

European System of Accounts 1995 (Luxembourg: Eurostat, 1996).

Update to the System of National Accounts 1993: New Standards for Financial Derivatives (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2001). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/sna/2001/eng/update/updsna.pdf>.

Summary of discussions on the National Accounts Discussion Forum can be accessed through the following IMF website: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/na/interest/index.htm>. The outcome of the discussions may eventually lead to various modifications of the *1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA)*.

Labor Market

Current International Recommendations on Labor Statistics, as updated (Geneva: International Labor Organization (ILO), 1985).

Hussmanns, R., Mehran, F., Verma V. *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unem-*

ployment, and Underemployment: An ILO Manual on Concepts and Methods (Geneva: ILO, 1990).

ILO recommendations can be accessed at the ILO website: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/recdisp1.htm>.

Price Indices

Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice 2004 (in collaboration with Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE, and World Bank), available on the following webpage: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/guides/cpi/index.htm>.

Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice 2004 (in collaboration with Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE, and World Bank), available on the following webpage: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/teppi/index.htm>.

Classification of Expenditure According to Purpose (New York: United Nations, 1999). United Nations classifications can be accessed through the UN website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp>.

General and Central Government Operations

Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2001). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/index.htm>.

Central Government Debt

External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2003). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/eds/Eng/Guide/index.htm>.

Monetary and Financial Statistics

Financial Soundness Indicators: Compilation Guide (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2006). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fsi/guide/2006/index.htm>.

Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2000). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/mfs/manual/index.htm>.

Monetary and Financial Statistics: Compilation Guide (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2007, forthcoming). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/cgmfs/eng/index.htm>.

Balance of Payments and International Investment Position

Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 1993). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bopman/bopman.pdf>.

Balance of Payments Compilation Guide (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 1995). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bopcg/1995/bopcg.pdf>.

Balance of Payments Textbook (Washington D.C.: IMF, 1996). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/boptex/boptex.pdf>.

Financial Derivatives: A Supplement to the Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition, 1993 (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2000). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fd/2000/index.htm>.

International Investment Position, 2002. The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/iip/iip.htm>.

Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, 2002, is available on the OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/45/2404428.pdf>. It is also available on the following website of the

United Nations: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?class=trade>.

International Reserves

International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Guidelines for a Data Template (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2001). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddsguide/>.

External Debt

External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users (also called *Debt Guide*) (Washington, D.C.: IMF, 2003). The text can be found on the IMF's website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/eds/Eng/Guide/index.htm>.

Merchandise Trade

International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, Series M, No. 52, Rev. 2 (New York: United Nations, 1998).

Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, 2002, is available on the OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/45/2404428.pdf>. It is also available on the following website of the United Nations: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?class=trade>.

Population

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census, Revision 1 (New York: United Nations, 1997).

Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (New York: United Nations, 1998).

Indicators of Sustainable Development: Framework and Methodologies (New York: United Nations, 2004). It is also available on the following website of the United Nations: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/indisd/english/english.htm>.

Education

International Standard Classification of Education—ISCED 1997 (Paris: UNESCO, 1997).

UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Statistical Tables (and metadata) website (<http://portal.unesco.org/uis/ev.php>).

Methodology Used in the 1994 Estimation and Projection of Adult Literacy (Paris: UNESCO, 1995).

Indicators of Sustainable Development: Framework and Methodologies (New York: United Nations, 2001).

UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Millennium Development Goals website (<http://portal.unesco.org/uis/ev.php>).

UNSD, *Millennium Indicators Database* (http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp).

World Bank, Millennium Development Goals website (<http://www.developmentgoals.org/>).

Health

OECD, Health Statistics Publications and Documents website (includes manuals, sources and methods): <http://www.oecd.org/topicstatsportal>.

Indicators of Sustainable Development: Framework and Methodologies (New York: United Nations, 1996).

Monitoring Reproductive Health: Selecting a Short List of National and Global Indicators (Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO), 1997). It is also available on the following website: http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/hrp_97_26/index.htm.

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) (Geneva: World Health Organization, 1993).

UNAIDS, Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals website (<http://www.unaids.org/en/in+focus/monitoringevaluation/monitoring+the+millennium+development+goals+.asp>).

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *End Decade Database* (<http://www.childinfo.org/eddb/index.htm>).

UNSD, *Millennium Indicators Database* (http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp).

WHO, Millennium Development Goals website (<http://www.who.int/mdg/en/>).

World Bank, Millennium Development Goals website (<http://www.developmentgoals.org/>).

Poverty

Ravallion, Martin, *Poverty Lines in Theory and Practice*, Vol. 1. Living Standards Measurement Survey Working Paper (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 1999).

Coudouel, J. Hentschel, and Q. Wodon, *Well-Being Measurement and Analysis in PRSP Sourcebook* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2001).

Lipton, M., *Defining and Measuring Poverty: Conceptual Issues* (New York: UNDP, 1996).

Shorr, Irwin J., *How to Weigh and Measure Children: Assessing the Nutritional Status of Young Children in Household Surveys*, National Household Survey Capability Programme (New York: United Nations, 1986).

UNSD, *Millennium Indicators Database* (http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp).

World Bank, Millennium Development Goals website (<http://www.developmentgoals.org/>).

World Bank, Data on Poverty website (<http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/data/index.htm>).

Other

“Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,” United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Special Session of the Statistical Commission, E/1994/29* (New York, April 11–15, 1994).

Appendix III. List of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators

Indicator	Included in GDDS	Sector	Responsible International Agency
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger			
<i>Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day</i>			
1.	Proportion of population below US\$1 (PPP) per day ¹	√*	Poverty World Bank
2.	Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)	√*	Poverty World Bank
3.	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	√	Poverty World Bank
<i>Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</i>			
4.	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	√	Health UNICEF – WHO
5.	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption		FAO
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education			
<i>Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</i>			
6.	Net enrollment ratio in primary education	√	Education UNESCO
7.	Proportion of pupils starting grade I who reach grade 5 ²	√	Education UNESCO
8.	Literacy rate of 15- to 24-year-olds	√	Education UNESCO
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women			
<i>Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015</i>			
9.	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education	√	Education UNESCO
10.	Ratio of literate women to men of 15- to 24-year-olds	√	Education UNESCO
11.	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	√	Real ILO
12.	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament		IPU

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality				
Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate				
13.	Under-five mortality rate	√	Population	UNICEF – WHO
14.	Infant mortality rate	√	Population	UNICEF – WHO
15.	Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles	√	Health	UNICEF – WHO
Goal 5. Improve maternal health				
Target 6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio				
16.	Maternal mortality ratio	√	Health	UNICEF – WHO
17.	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	√	Health	UNICEF – WHO
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases				
Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS				
18.	HIV prevalence among 15- to 24-year-old pregnant women	√	Health	UNAIDS – UNICEF – WHO
19.	Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate ³	√	Health	UNAIDS, – UNICEF – UN Population Division – WHO
19a.	Condom use at last high-risk sex	√	Health	
19b.	Percentage of population aged 15–24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS ⁴	√	Health	
20.	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of nonorphans aged 10–14	√	Health	UNICEF – UNAIDS
Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases				
21.	Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	√	Health	WHO
22.	Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures ⁵	√	Health	UNICEF – WHO
23.	Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	√	Health	WHO
24.	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under DOTS (internationally recommended TB control strategy)	√	Health	WHO
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability				
Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources				
25.	Proportion of land area covered by forest			FAO
26.	Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area			UNEP – IUCN

27.	Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)			IEA – World Bank
28.	Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) (UNFCCC, UNSD) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) (UNEP-Ozone Secretariat)			UNFCCC, UNSD and UNEP-Ozone Secretariat
29.	Proportion of population using solid fuels			WHO
Target 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation				
30.	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	√	Health	UNICEF – WHO
31.	Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural	√	Health	UNICEF – WHO
Target 11. By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers				
32.	Proportion of households with access to secure tenure			UN-HABITAT
Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development				
Indicators for targets 12–15 are given below in a combined list.				
Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction—both nationally and internationally				
Target 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes tariff and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for HIPC (heavily indebted poor countries), and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction				
Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)				
Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States (SIDS) ODA				
33.	Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/ Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors' gross national income (GNI)			OECD
34.	Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)			OECD
35.	Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied			OECD
36.	ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs			OECD
37.	ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs			OECD
Market access				
38.	Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and from LDCs, admitted free of duties			UNCTAD –WTO –World Bank

39.	Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries			UNCTAD, WTO, World Bank
40.	Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP			OECD
41.	Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity			WTO, OECD
Debt sustainability				
42.	Total number of countries that have reached their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)			IMF – World Bank
43.	Debt relief committed under HIPC Initiative, US\$			IMF – World Bank
44.	Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services			IMF – World Bank
Target 16. <i>In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</i>				
45.	Unemployment rate of 15- to 24-year-olds, each sex and total ⁶	√	Real	ILO
Target 17. <i>In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries</i>				
46.	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis			WHO
Target 18. <i>In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</i>				
47.	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population			ITU
48.	Personal computers in use per 100 population (ITU) and Internet users per 100 population			ITU

*As explained in footnote (1) below, for monitoring poverty at the country level, national poverty line, instead of \$1 (PPP) a day poverty line, should be used to calculate the poverty headcount ratio and the poverty gap ratio. PPP = purchasing power parity.

Footnotes:

¹For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available. The recommended indicator for this purpose is “Poverty headcount ratio (percentage of population below the national poverty line).”

²An alternative indicator under development is “Primary completion rate.”

³Among contraceptive methods, only condoms are effective in preventing HIV transmission. Because the condom use rate is only measured among women in union, it is supplemented by an indicator on condom use in high-risk situations (indicator 19a) and an indicator on HIV/AIDS knowledge (indicator 19b). The indicator “contraceptive prevalence rate” is also useful in tracking progress in other health, gender, and poverty goals.

⁴This indicator is defined as the percentage of population aged 15–24 who correctly identify the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), who reject the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission, and who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV. However, since there are currently not a sufficient number of surveys to be able to calculate the indicator as defined above, UNICEF, in collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO, produced two proxy indicators that represent two components of the actual indicator. They are the following: (i) Percentage of women and men 15–24 who know that a person can protect herself from HIV infection by “consistent use of condom”; and (ii) percentage of women and men 15–24 who know a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV. Data for this year’s report are only available on women.

⁵Prevention to be measured by the percentage of children under five sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets; treatment to be measured by percentage of children under five who are appropriately treated.

⁶An improved measure of the target is under development by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for future years.

Appendix IV. Role of National GDDS Coordinators

1. By participating in the GDDS, the country accepts the use of the GDDS as a framework for improving its statistical system. The national statistical agencies are expected to use the GDDS as their management tool to set a strategy for improvement of the statistics, identify strengths and weaknesses of the current system, develop plans for improvement, set priorities for improvement, and allocate appropriate resources to do so. An effective national GDDS coordinator plays a critical role in promoting the GDDS as a pivotal tool in a national statistical system.

2. This appendix describes the role and responsibilities of the GDDS coordinator and the tasks he/she is expected to accomplish on a regular basis.

Communication with the IMF

3. *Main contact person.* The coordinator is the main contact person for all issues related to the GDDS. Thus, for any GDDS-related issues, the IMF staff will normally communicate directly with the coordinator, who will then be responsible for coordinating the national response. With regard to specific metadata issues, the IMF staff may communicate with officials in the relevant agencies, but the coordinator will always be informed of these communications.

4. *Authority.* The coordinator must have sufficient authority to obtain the cooperation of all national agencies involved in the compilation and dissemination of the data categories covered by the GDDS. In some cases, the official coordinator is a relatively senior staff member, and he/she delegates day-to-day operational work to his/her staff. The coordination among statistical agencies may also take place through a GDDS committee that meets regularly (and at least once a year in connection with the annual review of metadata). Such a committee has proven to

be an effective forum to enhance collaboration across statistical agencies.

Annual Metadata Confirmation

5. *Frequency of confirmation.* To ensure the accuracy of metadata, participants are required to confirm the accuracy of all the metadata posted on the DSBB as necessary and on at least an annual basis. This confirmation is considered equivalent to “self-monitoring” of the accuracy of the elements of the participants’ metadata. The coordinator should also provide the IMF with information on progress made in the implementation of the plans for improvements. The IMF staff will send to the coordinator every year a reminder about the annual updates. Thus, at least once a year, the Coordinator has to forward the current metadata to the relevant contact persons for each data category and component posted on the DSBB and ask them to confirm the currentness and correctness of the information and to provide any updates if necessary.

6. *Time of confirmation.* The coordinator must then send a written confirmation to the IMF¹ that the metadata are accurate. The coordinator should send the annual confirmation to the IMF within the first month after the anniversary date (the date metadata were published on the DSBB for the first time).

7. *Metadata update.* If the metadata need to be updated, the coordinator will provide the IMF with the proposed revisions as soon as possible (recommended) or attach the proposed revisions to the annual confirmation. The IMF staff will review the proposed

¹Confirmation to be sent to the Data Dissemination Standards Division of the IMF’s Statistics Department; see address given in box on page ii of this *Guide*.

revisions and, if there are no issues to be raised, will post them on the DSBB. The date on which the correctness of the metadata were last confirmed by the participant will also be posted on the DSBB.

8. *Improvements to metadata.* At any time, the IMF staff may take the initiative of contacting the coordinator to suggest or request improvements to the metadata, particularly when the GDDS has been updated. The coordinator should then communicate with the relevant national agencies to provide requested improvements or determine if they agree

with the IMF's proposed changes. Once the GDDS coordinator and the IMF staff have agreed on a new text for the metadata, it will be posted on the DSBB.

9. *Metadata changes between annual confirmations.* There may be situations where a participant makes changes to its practices that affect the accuracy of the metadata posted on the DSBB during the course of a calendar year. In such situations, the participant should inform the IMF's staff of these changes, and they will work together to amend the affected metadata expeditiously.

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The General Data Dissemination System
GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS AND USERS

