



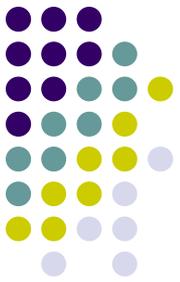
The National Voluntary Presentations of the Annual Ministerial Review ECOSOC

Presentation by

Neil Pierre

Chief, Policy Coordination Branch, OESC/DESA

10 October 2013



Outline of Presentation

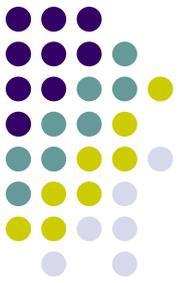
- **Background**
- **The NVP Framework**
- **Structure of NVP Report**
- **The Review Framework**
- **Results of NVP Reviews**
- **Recommendations**



Background

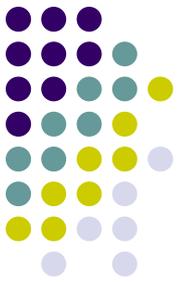
General Assembly Resolution 61/16 (20 November 2006)

8. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council should hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews as part of its high-level segment, and also decides that such reviews should be conducted by means of a cross-sectoral approach focusing on thematic issues common to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, review progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of those conferences and summits and their follow-up processes and assess its impact on the achievement of the goals and targets of the conferences and summits, and in this regard:



Background

- (a) Recommends that such reviews provide an opportunity for countries to make voluntary national presentations;
- (b) Requests the Council to urge the functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies and follow-up mechanisms, as appropriate, to contribute, in accordance with their mandates and taking into account their specificity, to the assessment;
- (c) Recommends that the Council establish a multi-year programme of work For the ministerial-level substantive reviews;
- (d) Invites the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute within their respective mandates to the consideration by the Council.



Background

Each volunteering country to present an assessment of progress towards the achievement of the IADGs, including the MDGs, and in particular :

- The main successes
- Most urgent challenges faced by developing and developed countries
- What has been done to address the constraints identified
- How the international community can best plan its support to achieve the IADGs, including the MDGs

Volunteering Developed countries present on the basis of their commitments to all Goals, but with an emphasis on Goal 8



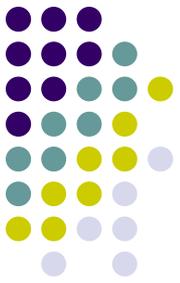
The NVP Framework

- Technical guidelines prepared by UNDESA
- National Workshops recommended for developing countries
- Identification of up to 3 Reviewers
- Submission of national report for issuance by the Secretariat
- Presentation and discussion at ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review
- A total of 54 countries have presented: 2007-2013



Structure of NVP Report

- Each NVP should have a clearly specified and complete outline
- Countries should ensure that the NVPs align with standard review practice
- The outline of each presentation should include what is being reported and the assistance sought
- First part of report should describe overall national development situation and identify areas of progress or lack of it
- Second part of report should address progress with respect to the particular AMR theme being reviewed
- Third part to identify special country challenges and measures required for overcoming them



The Review Framework

Study prepared in November 2011

Main objectives to:

- Determine extent to which reporting indicators have some minimum level of standardization to enable adequate comparability of experiences and lessons
- Assess degree to which reports conform to technical guidelines prepared by UNDESA
- Propose recommendations to strengthen the NVP process and the feedback to policy design and implementation at the country level while preserving their voluntary nature.



The Review Framework

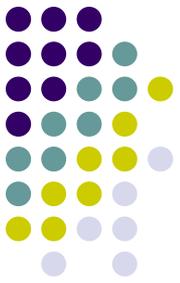
NVPs from 2007 to 2010 were reviewed on the basis of the following three issues:

- A review of report **outlines**
- A review of report content
- Determination of whether the indicators used in each case reflect recognition of a sufficient distinction between issues of well-being and development that are common to all countries and issues that are specific to the culture and the priorities of the reporting country.



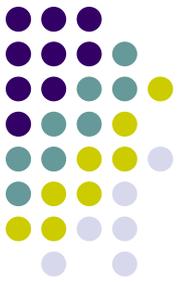
Results of NVP Reviews

- Countries provided valuable information on all the topics addressed in their reports, but overall, the reports for 2007-2010 did not consistently present information in the structured manner implied by the UNDESA guidelines.
- The practice to have a clearly specified and complete outline, an introduction, and a conclusion was not followed by all countries
- Countries generally adopted their own approaches to using or supplying data
- Most countries submitting NVPs indicated a severe shortage of data on generally agreed indicators, especially updated information on the indicators used to monitor progress on the specific targets



Results of NVP Reviews

- In many cases, the data supplied are not internationally comparable and cannot be used to present intertemporal evidence in a harmonized manner
- Data on the idiosyncratic factors, including those driving the so-called ‘informal sector’, were not covered.

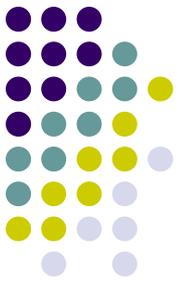


Recommendations

1. Introduce Analytical Framework and Measurement based on 3 sets of Evidence

Countries should be encouraged to provide intertemporal data on:

- **Core human development indicators**
 - National income (PPPUS\$)
 - Mean years of schooling
 - Life expectancy at birth
- **Headline HDI**
 - The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index
 - The Gender Inequality Index
 - The Multidimensional Human Poverty Index
- **Complementary and Idiosyncratic Indicators**
 - Use well-established complementary indicators and add idiosyncratic data to complete the picture of the context in which the year's theme is presented.



Recommendations

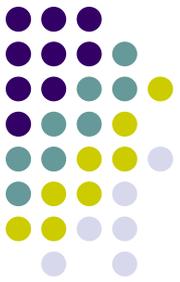
2. Capacity-building for Implementation of Analytical Framework and Measurement

Build capacity for improved data of all three types mentioned, along with the capacity to analyse data and relate relevant factors

- Capacity in the national statistical systems
- Capacity of experts in academia and civil society representatives
- Capacity of analysts and policymakers in the relevant line ministries
- Capacity of officials/experts in the UN Country Teams

Hold regular stakeholder consultations and hearings, 'data exhibition and fairs' between the National Statistical System, and:

- Communities
- Business associations, focusing on the benefits to firms in terms of informed decision making
- Ministries of government, focused on their administrative data



Recommendations

2. Capacity-building for Implementation of Analytical Framework and Measurement (*continuation*)

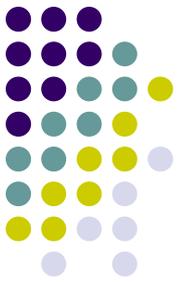
- International “data festivals”, targeting end users to exhibit data with the emphasis on usefulness to the end user, to provide a forum for awareness, feedback and motivation of the data collection effort
- Recruitment of partners from among influential business associations and NGOs to lead bi-annual data drives and co-sponsor the annual data festival
- Regular administrative and statistical data collection training exercises with the national statistical system. These should emphasize the gains from digitization
- The UNCT should act as a primary global asset and partner with the national statistical system to promote the need for good data
- The UNCT should support and facilitate the development of structured national, civil society, and community plans to meet the data needs of MDG monitoring and NVP process
- The UNDAF provides an ideal framework in which to apply this principle, provided that the UNCTs are also suitably strengthened.



Recommendations

3. The Role of Reviewers and Follow-up

- Each Reviewer should complete a standard report template indicating their opinion on the checklist above
- The voluntary nature of the review process should be retained, inclusive of the selection of the reviewers.
- Opinions of the Reviewers should be published on the AMR webpage
- Establish a follow-up mechanism to continue to address progress in achieving the MDGs, enable report-back and provide required support
- A standard report template (form) should be devised for periodic follow-up and monitoring exercise conducted at regular intervals
- The report template should cover the same issues addressed by the Reviewers, but with more detail

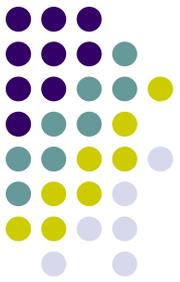


Recommendations

4. Role of the Secretariat (UNDESA)

To accompany its broad guidelines, UNDESA should:

- Include the main targets and indicators that characterise progress on the theme chosen for the year
- Request completion of a standard data request template to accompany the NVPs. Explanatory instructions should also be provided to clarify each item in the request form
- Supply relevant declarations and agreements along with the explanatory instructions accompanying the data request form
- Engage UN system and UNCT



Thank You