ANNEX I

Metadata sheets on selected indicators

| INDICATOR 1 | Status of ratification of the 18 international human rights treaties and optional protocols |

Definition

The indicator refers to the expression by the State of its consent to be bound by a human rights treaty under international law. A "State party" to a treaty is a State that has expressed its consent, by an act of ratification, accession or succession, and where the treaty has entered into force (or a State about to become a party after formal reception by the United Nations Secretariat of the State's decision to be a party). A "signatory" to a treaty is a State that provided a preliminary endorsement of the instrument and its intent to examine the treaty domestically and consider ratifying it. "No action" means that a State did not express its consent.

Rationale

When a State ratifies one of the international human rights treaties, it assumes a legal obligation to implement the rights recognized in that treaty. Through ratification, States undertake to put in place domestic measures and legislation compatible with their treaty obligations. The State also commits to submitting regular reports on how the rights are being implemented to the monitoring committee set up under that treaty. Most of the committees can, under certain conditions, receive petitions from individuals who claim that their rights under the treaties have been violated. The State party must have recognized the competence of the committee to consider such complaints from individuals either by becoming a party to an optional protocol or by making a declaration to that effect under a specific article of the treaty. This indicator is a *structural indicator* in the OHCHR methodology for human rights indicators (HRI/MC/2008/3).

Method of computation

A value of 1 is assigned to a "State party" (or a State about to become a party after formal reception by the United Nations Secretariat of the State's decision to be a party) and 0 otherwise. The provisions under the treaty determine the moment of its entry into force.

Data collection and source

The indicator is produced by OHCHR based on data obtained from and regularly updated by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which has the mission to, inter alia, register and publish treaties, and to perform the depositary functions of the Secretary-General (http://untreaty.un.org/ola/).

Periodicity

The indicator is updated by OHCHR every six months.

Disaggregation

Not applicable.

Comments and limitations

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) recognizes civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. In transforming the provisions of the Declaration into legally binding obligations, the United Nations adopted in 1966 the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1965; the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1966; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1984; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Second Optional Protocol

to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, in 1989; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1999; the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in 2000; the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2002; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2006; the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2008; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in 2011.

A State that has signed a treaty has not expressed its consent to be bound by it. Signature is a means of authentication and expresses the willingness of the signatory State to continue the treaty-making process. The signature qualifies the signatory State to proceed to ratification, acceptance or approval. It also creates an obligation to refrain, in good faith, from acts that would defeat the object and the purpose of the treaty (see Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969).

The indicator provides information on the acceptance by a State of international human rights standards and its intention or commitment to undertake steps to realize human rights in conformity with the provisions of the relevant instruments (*structural indicator*). It does not, however, capture actual implementation (*process indicator*) or its results (*outcome indicator*).

The indicator does not reflect possible "reservations" entered by a State on a treaty. State parties can enter "reservations" on a treaty. A reservation is a declaration made by a State by which it purports to exclude or alter the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State. A reservation enables a State to accept a multilateral treaty as a whole by giving it the possibility not to apply certain provisions with which it does not want to comply. Reservations can be made when the treaty is signed, ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to. Although an "ideal" indicator on the status of international human rights treaties should include different weights for different reservations, establishing objective criteria to obtain a weighting scheme may be technically difficult. Reservations should not be incompatible with the object and the purpose of the treaty (see Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties).

The Human Rights Council also adopted the human rights voluntary goals (resolution 9/12) to promote the realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One goal is the universal ratification of the core international human rights instruments and dedication of all efforts towards the realization of the international human rights obligations of States.

INDICATOR 2	Time frame and coverage of national policy on sexual and reproductive health

[e.g., table on the right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health]

Definition

The indicator refers to the date of adoption or the period for which the national policy statement on sexual and reproductive health has been put into effect. The indicator also captures the population coverage or the geographic or administrative scope of the policy statement, such as in countries where there is a division of responsibilities between the national Government and the subnational / local governments.

Rationale

A national policy statement on a subject is an instrument that is expected to outline a Government's objectives, policy framework, strategy and/or a concrete plan of action to address issues under that subject. While providing an indication of the Government's commitment to addressing the subject concerned, it may also provide relevant benchmarks for holding the Government

accountable for its acts of commission or omission. Moreover, a policy statement is a means of translating the human rights obligations of a State party into an implementable programme of action that helps in the realization of the human rights. The indicator is a *structural indicator* that captures the "commitment" of a State to implementing its human rights obligations in respect of the "sexual and reproductive health" attribute of the right to health.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed separately for the time frame or period of application and the coverage or the geographic or administrative scope of the policy. The time frame is the date of adoption (e.g., 1 January 2012) of the policy statement by a country or the period during which the policy should be implemented (e.g., 1 January 2012 – 1 January 2016). Coverage is computed as a proportion of subnational administrative units or population covered under the national policy.

Data collection and source

The main source of data is national and subnational administrative records.

Periodicity

The indicator database can be normally reviewed and accessed continually.

Disaggregation

While disaggregation of information on the indicator is not conceptually feasible, a national policy may focus on specific areas, regions or population groups, in which case it may be desirable to highlight it.

Comments and limitations

The indicator provides information on a State's commitment to taking steps, outlining its policy framework and programme of action, to realize human rights in conformity with the provisions of relevant human rights standards on sexual and reproductive health. It does not, however, capture actual implementation or its results.

For many countries, the national policy on sexual and reproductive health may not be a separate policy document, but rather part of a general policy statement on health or a human rights action plan. Accordingly, a judgement call may have to be made on the extent to which sexual and reproductive health issues and the relevant human rights standards on reproductive health are reflected in the national policy on health or the human rights action plan.

In its general comment No. 14 (2000) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health (art. 12), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights elaborates on the need to develop a comprehensive national public health strategy and plan of action to address the health concerns of the population, including reproductive health. It underlines that such a strategy should be devised inter alia on the basis of a participatory and transparent process, and include indicators and benchmarks relevant to monitoring the right to health. The Committee points out that "reproductive health means that women and men have the freedom to decide if and when to reproduce and the right to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice as well as the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will, for example, enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth." Similarly, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, points out that access to health care, including reproductive health, is a basic right under the Convention.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to health: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, arts. 10 (2) and 12; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e) (iv); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 28 and 43 (1) (e); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 12 and 14 (2) (b); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 25.

INDICATOR 3	Date of entry into force and coverage of the right to education in the constitution or other form of superior law

[e.g., table on the right to education]

Definition	The indicator refers to the date on which provisions of the constitution or other superior laws relating to the right to education became enforceable. The indicator also captures their geographic or population coverage, such as in countries where there is a division of legal competencies between the national Government and the subnational or local governments. "Constitution or other form of superior law" refers to the system of fundamental laws that prescribes the functions and limits of government action and against which other supportive legislation is assessed for its validity. The reference to the "right to education" follows primarily the formulation used in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its elaboration in general comment No. 13 (1999) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The right to education is also developed in other core international human rights treaties, such as in articles 23, 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Rationale	Inclusion of the right to education in the constitution or other form of superior law reflects a certain acceptance of this right by a State and gives an indication, notably at the national level, of a State's commitment to protecting and implementing this right. When the State has enshrined a right in its constitution or other form of superior law, it also assumes a legal obligation to ensure that other legislation (national and subnational) is in conformity with and not contradictory to the right. The indicator is a *structural indicator* that captures the "commitment" of a State to implementing its human rights obligations in respect of the right to education.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed separately for the date of entry into force and the coverage or administrative scope of the law. The date of entry into force is the date on which the law or provision became enforceable. Coverage is computed as a proportion of subnational administrative units or population covered under the law. Information on the date of entry into force should be provided with a direct and accurate link to the relevant provisions.

Data collection and source

The main source of data on the indicator is the State's legal records.

Periodicity	The indicator data can be normally reviewed and accessed continually.
Disaggregation	Disaggregation of information is not applicable to this indicator, however provisions under the constitution or other superior law may refer particularly to the protection of the right to education for certain groups (e.g., minorities, indigenous people, children with disabilities, migrants or girls), in which case it may be desirable to highlight it.

Comments and limitations

This indicator provides information on the extent to which a State protects the right to education in its constitution or superior laws, demonstrating its acceptance of international human rights standards and its intention or commitment to legally protect this right. It does not, however, capture the extent to which this legal protection is implemented and upheld at other levels of the legal system, nor how broadly or narrowly the right is applied, or the degree to which it can be enforced and by whom. This indicator does not capture actual implementation or its results.

This indicator could be difficult to assess if the right to education is not explicitly articulated in the constitution or superior laws. Moreover, provision for the right to education in the constitution does not necessarily mean that the right is being protected by law (for example, further judicial interpretations may have rendered the constitutional protection meaningless). Likewise, a lack of

constitutional protection may lead one to believe that there is no recognition of the right when this may not be the case. For example, in some countries few rights are written into the constitution or superior laws and it is left to the judiciary to interpret the rights as being implied. In this instance, a mere reading of provisions may yield an inaccurate conclusion on the enforcement and coverage of the right concerned. A correct reading, in such cases, requires a detailed analysis of relevant jurisprudence/case law or administrative decisions.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to education and this indicator: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 26; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, arts. 13 and 14; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e) (v); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 30 and 43 (1) (a)−(c); Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 23, 28 and 29; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 10 and 14 (2) (d); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 24.

INDICATOR 4	Time frame and coverage of the *plan of action* adopted by State party to implement the principle of compulsory primary education free of charge for all

[e.g., table on the right to education]

Definition

The indicator refers to the time frame the State has set out in its plan of action for the implementation of universal, free and compulsory primary education. The indicator will also capture the spatial or the population coverage of the plan of action, such as in countries where there is a division of responsibilities between the national Government and the subnational governments.

Rationale

A plan of action aimed at securing the implementation of the right to compulsory primary education, free of charge, is required from all State parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 14). Article 14 further provides that this plan of action must include a time frame, specified as a reasonable number of years, within which compulsory primary education free of charge for all will be implemented. The plan of action sets out how the State intends to secure and realize compulsory primary education free of charge for all. Providing data on the time frame set out in this plan of action provides a benchmark against which the State can be assessed. It also helps to highlight if the State is setting unrealistic or, on the contrary, lax time frames. The indicator is a *structural indicator* that captures the "commitment" of a State to implementing its human rights obligations in respect of the "universal primary education" attribute of the right to education.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed separately for the implementation time frame and the coverage of the plan of action. The time frame is the number of days/months or years specified in the plan of action as being the period required to implement compulsory primary education free of charge for all. Coverage is computed as a proportion of subnational administrative units or population covered under the national policy statement.

Data collection and source

The main source of data is the plan of action which State parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights present to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Periodicity

The indicator data can be reviewed and accessed continually.

Disaggregation

While disaggregation is not conceptually feasible, the plan of action may focus on specific areas, geographical regions or population groups, in which case it may be desirable to highlight that.

Comments and limitations

The indicator provides information on a State's commitment to taking steps to ensure compulsory primary education free of charge for all by outlining its intentions in a plan of action. It does not, however, capture actual implementation of this plan of action or its results.

The indicator does not address the substantive coverage of the plan of action, in particular what aspects of the implementation of the principle of compulsory primary education free of charge for all are addressed in the plan of action. It will not assess whether the plan "cover[s] all of the actions which are necessary in order to secure each of the requisite component parts of the right and must be sufficiently detailed so as to ensure the comprehensive realization of the right", as set out in the Committee's general comment No. 11 (1999) on plans of action for primary education.

Article 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights specifies that the plan of action must be worked out and adopted within two years of the State becoming a party to the Covenant.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to education: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 26; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, arts. 13 and 14; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e) (v); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 30 and 43 (1) (a)–(c); Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 23, 28 and 29; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 10 and 14 (2) (d); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 24.

| INDICATOR 5 | Type of accreditation of national human rights institution by the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions |

Definition

The indicator refers to the type of accreditation that NHRIs receive in accordance with the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions.

An NHRI is an independent administrative body set up by a State to promote and protect human rights. Compliance with the Paris Principles, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 (resolution 48/134), is the basis for NHRI accreditation. The process is conducted through a peer review by the International Coordinating Committee's Sub-Committee on Accreditation. There are three types of accreditation:

A: compliant with Paris Principles

B: observer status – not fully compliant with the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination

C: not compliant with the Paris Principles

Accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee entails a determination of whether the NHRI is compliant, both in law and in practice, with the Paris Principles, the principal source of the normative standards for NHRIs, as well as with the General Observations developed by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation. Other international standards may also be taken into account by the Sub-Committee, including the provisions related to the establishment of national mechanisms in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture as well as in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Likewise, the Sub-Committee looks at any NHRI-related recommendation from the international human rights mechanisms, notably the treaty bodies, the universal periodic review (UPR) and the special procedures. The effectiveness and level of engagement with international human rights systems are also considered (see http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/default.aspx, accessed 2 July 2012).

Rationale

The creation and fostering of an NHRI indicates a State's commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights set out in international human rights instruments. The Paris Principles vest NHRIs with a broad mandate, competence and power to investigate, report on the national human rights situation, and publicize human rights through information and education. While NHRIs are essentially State-funded, they are to maintain independence and pluralism. When vested with quasi-judicial competence, NHRIs handle complaints and assist victims in taking their cases to courts, making them an essential component of the national human rights protection system. These fundamental functions of NHRIs and their increasing participation in the international human rights forums make them important actors in the improvement of the human rights situation. In addition, the better its accreditation classification, the more the NHRI is shown to be credible, legitimate, relevant and effective in promoting human rights nationally.

This indicator can be considered as a *structural or process* indicator. While the setting-up of an NHRI captures a "commitment" of a State to implementing its human rights obligations (*structural* indicator), its status of accreditation, which has to be reviewed periodically, will provide an indication of its continual efforts to set up independent watchdogs, key elements of a strong national human rights protection system (*process* indicator).

Method of computation

The indicator is computed as the NHRI accreditation classification, namely A, B or C.

Data collection and source

The main source of data on the indicator is the administrative records of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation. A global directory of NHRI status accreditation is available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHRI/Pages/NHRIMain.aspx (accessed 28 June 2012).

Periodicity

The global directory of NHRI status accreditation is updated every six months, after the Sub-Committee on Accreditation submits its report. This information can be accessed at any time.

Disaggregation

While disaggregation of information is not applicable, it may be desirable to highlight the type of NHRI, whether ombudsman, human rights commission, advisory body, research-based institute, etc.

Comments and limitations

In his reports to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/13/44) and to the General Assembly (A/65/340), the Secretary-General highlighted the value of the overall human rights work by NHRIs and stated that: "National human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles are key elements of a strong and effective national human rights protection system. They can help ensure the compliance of national laws and practices with international human rights norms; support Governments to ensure their implementation; monitor and address at the national level core human rights concerns such as torture, arbitrary detention, human trafficking and human rights of migrants; support the work of human rights defenders; and contribute to eradicate all forms of discrimination" (A/HRC/13/44, para. 108). He also encouraged cooperation and constructive relationships between NHRIs and Government, parliaments, civil society and other national institutions with a role to promote and protect human rights in his 2010 report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/16/76).

The important and constructive role of NHRIs has also been acknowledged in different United Nations instruments and resolutions, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, and General Assembly resolutions 63/172 and 64/161. In addition, the creation and strengthening of NHRIs have also been encouraged. For example, in 1993 the General Assembly in its resolution 48/134 affirmed the priority that should be "accorded to the development of appropriate arrangements at the national level to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards" while in 2008 in its resolution 63/169 it encouraged States "to consider the creation or the strengthening of independent and autonomous Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions". The Human

Rights Council, in its resolution 5/1, also called for the effective participation of NHRIs in its institution-building package.

The indicator on NHRIs also acquires importance in the light of the human rights voluntary goals set by the Council (resolution 9/12) to promote the realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One goal is the establishment of NHRIs guided by the Paris Principles and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action with appropriate funding to fulfil their mandates.

United Nations human rights treaty bodies have also recognized the crucial role that NHRIs represent in the effective implementation of treaty obligations and encouraged their creation (e.g., Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, general recommendation No. 17 (1993); Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment No. 10 (1998); and Committee on the Rights of the Child, general comment No. 2 (2002)). A compilation of various NHRI-related recommendations and concluding observations from the international human rights mechanisms in the United Nations is available at: http://uhri.ohchr.org/.

The International Coordinating Committee is an international association of NHRIs which promotes and strengthens NHRIs to be in accordance with the Paris Principles, and provides leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights (art. 5 of its Statute). Decisions on the classification of an NHRI are based on the documents it submits, such as: (a) copy of legislation or other instrument by which it is established and empowered in its official or published format (e.g., statute, constitutional provisions and/or presidential decree); (b) outline of the organizational structure including details of staff and annual budget; (c) copy of recent published annual report; and (d) detailed statement showing how it complies with the Paris Principles. NHRIs that hold A or B status are reviewed every five years. Civil society organizations may also provide information to OHCHR on any accreditation matter.

NHRI accreditation shows that the Government supports human rights work in the country. However, the effectiveness of NHRIs should also be measured according to their ability to gain public trust and the quality of their human rights work. In this context, it would be worthwhile to look into the responses of the NHRI to the recommendations of the International Coordinating Committee. Likewise, the inputs from the NHRI while engaging with the international human rights mechanisms (e.g., submissions to the Human Rights Council, including UPR, and to the treaty bodies) represent a valuable source of information on how NHRIs carry out their mandate with reference to international human rights instruments.

This indicator also includes countries without NHRIs and countries whose NHRIs have not sought such accreditation.

INDICATOR 6	Number of communications (individual cases) transmitted by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the proportion of these responded to effectively by the Government (clarified or closed)

[e.g., table on the right to life]

Definition
The indicator refers to the proportion of individual cases transmitted by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances during the reference period, for which the clarification provided by the Government, based on its investigations and information, clearly establishes the whereabouts of the disappeared person according to the Working Group.

Rationale
Enforced disappearance violates or constitutes a grave threat to the right to life. The indicator captures to an extent the effort required of a State to respect and protect the right to life, in conformity with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and

its elaboration in general comment No. 6 (1982) of the Human Rights Committee, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as well as the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Any act of enforced disappearance places the persons subjected to it outside the protection of the law and inflicts severe suffering on them and their families. This indicator also reflects to a certain extent the effort of the State to guarantee the rights to a fair trial, liberty and security of person and not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The indicator is a *process indicator* related to the "disappearance of individuals" attribute of the right to life that reflects the willingness and some of the steps required by a State in meeting its obligation to realize the right.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed as the ratio of the number of individual cases of enforced disappearance clarified by the Government to the total number of cases transmitted by the Working Group, under normal and urgent action procedures, during the reference period.

Cases of enforced disappearance reported to the Working Group, when considered admissible, are transmitted for clarification to the Government(s) concerned. Any clarification on the fate and whereabouts of disappeared persons by the Government(s) is transmitted to the source that reported the case to the Working Group. If the source does not respond within six months of the transmission of the Government's reply, or if it contests the Government's response on grounds that are considered unreasonable by the Working Group, the case is considered clarified and listed in the statistical summary of the Working Group's annual report accordingly. If the source contests the Government's information on reasonable grounds, the Government is so informed and invited to comment.

Data collection and source

The main source of data is the administrative records of the Working Group and its reports to the Human Rights Council.

Periodicity

The indicator is published annually in the report of the Working Group to the Human Rights Council.

Disaggregation

In order to be fully meaningful, the data on the indicator should be disaggregated by sex, age, date and place of enforced disappearance, indigenous and pregnancy status of the person reported as having disappeared, if applicable. The data should also be available by type of communication (urgent action or standard procedure), source of clarification (government or non-governmental sources), and status of person at date of clarification (at liberty, in detention or dead). However, the availability of disaggregated data will depend on the quality of the information reported to the Working Group.

Comments and limitations

The indicator provides information only on the initial steps taken by a State in addressing its obligation to respect and protect the rights to life, to a fair trial, liberty and security of person and not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Enforced disappearance of a family member, especially the main breadwinner, violates the right to a family and various economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to education. Women and children are also particularly vulnerable to enforced disappearance, both directly and indirectly. When women become victims of enforced disappearance, they become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence. They also bear serious economic hardship, which usually accompanies a disappearance. A child's human rights are violated when a parent is lost due to enforced disappearance.

The basic source of information for this indicator is events-based data on human rights violations.

Such data may underestimate (or sometimes, though rarely, even overestimate) the incidence of enforced disappearance, if used in a casual manner to draw generalized conclusions for the country as a whole. Moreover, in most instances, the number of cases reported to the Working Group would depend on the awareness, access to information, motivation of the relatives of the disappeared person, political situation and level of organization of the civil society organizations representing the families, in the country concerned.

The Working Group deals only with clearly identified individual cases. Information reported to it should contain a minimum of elements, such as the identity of the disappeared person; the date on which the disappearance occurred (at least the month and year); the place of arrest or abduction, or where the disappeared person was last seen; the forces (State or State-supported) believed to be responsible for the disappearance; the steps taken to search for the disappeared person. Cases are accepted only with the explicit consent of the disappeared person's family and when the source is clearly identifiable (family or civil society organization representing the family). Also, the Working Group does not deal with situations of international armed conflict.

According to the Working Group and as defined in the preamble to the Declaration, enforced disappearances occur when persons are arrested, detained or abducted against their will or otherwise deprived of their liberty by officials of different branches or levels of Government or by organized groups or private individuals acting on behalf of, or with the support, direct or indirect, consent or acquiescence of the Government, followed by a refusal to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the persons concerned or a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty, which places such persons outside the protection of the law. When "committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack", enforced disappearance is defined as a crime against humanity in article 7 (1) (i) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

In transmitting cases of disappearance, the Working Group deals exclusively with Governments, basing itself on the principle that they must assume responsibility for any human rights violation on their territory. Thus, it does not admit cases of enforced disappearance that have been attributed to irregular or insurgent movements fighting the Government on its own territory. Nevertheless, the Working Group considers that information on all disappearances (attributable to the Government or not) is relevant when properly evaluating the situation in a particular country.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to life and this indicator: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 3; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 6; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 12 (1) and (2) (a); International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 2 and 12; Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 6; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, art. 9; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 10; International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, art. 1 (2).

Further information on how to report a case is available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/DisappearancesIndex.aspx (accessed 2 July 2012).

| INDICATOR 7 | Proximproportion of received complaints on the *right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment* investigated or adjudicated by the national human rights institution, human rights ombudsperson and other mechanisms, and the proportion responded to effectively by the Government in the reporting period |

[e.g., table on the right not be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment]

Definition

The indicator refers to the proportion of received individual complaints on the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment that were investigated or adjudicated by the national human rights institution, human rights ombudsperson and/or other officially recognized independent mechanisms during the reporting period. Where the mechanism transmits complaints to the Government, or communicates in respect of the complaints, the indicator includes the proportion of such transmissions or communications that have received an effective response from the Government. Useful guidance on what ought to be included in a complaint can be found on the OHCHR website, notably in the model complaint form for communications to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Where there is a communication with a Government, the indicator will require a judgement call on what constitutes an "effective" response. While an official denial without supporting evidence or investigation of the alleged facts will not meet the criterion of effectiveness, the precise application of the criterion may vary from case to case. The effectiveness of the response is best assessed by the national human rights institution, human rights ombudsperson or other mechanism in a transparent manner and may involve considerations like timeliness and completeness of the response, its adequacy in responding to specific questions or suggestions for action, as well as the effectiveness of action initiated by the Government, which may include investigation, release or changes in the treatment of a detained or imprisoned person, payment of compensation, amendment of legislation, etc.

Rationale

The indicator captures to an extent the effort required of States to respect, protect and fulfil the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in conformity with article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the provisions of the Convention against Torture and the provisions of other international laws. State parties must ensure that individuals have access to effective remedies to vindicate their right. They should make appropriate reparation, take interim measures as necessary, as well as measures to prevent a recurrence of violations of the right, and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice (Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 31 (2004)). It is a *process indicator* that reflects the willingness of States to take steps towards the realization of the right.

Method of computation

The number of complaints is calculated as the sum of individual complaints on the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment received by all relevant independent bodies at national level. The proportion investigated or adjudicated is calculated as the ratio of the number of complaints investigated or adjudicated to the total number of complaints received during the reporting period. The proportion effectively responded to by the Government is calculated as the ratio of the number of complaints to which the Government responded effectively to the total number of complaints communicated to the Government during the reference period.

Data collection and source

The main sources of data are administrative records maintained by the national human rights institution, human rights ombudsperson and other mechanisms.

Periodicity	The information is normally compiled and published annually.
Disaggregation	To enable detection of the pattern of abuse against particular groups or in particular areas, the indicator should be disaggregated by the characteristics of the alleged victim (sex, age, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, sexual orientation, place of residence, region, profession, whether or not detained at the time of the alleged abuse).
	Similarly, the indicator should be disaggregated according to whether the abuse is alleged to have been committed by a State agent, with the complicity/tolerance/ acquiescence of a State agent, or by a private individual or individuals. To assess the effectiveness of investigation and adjudication procedures overall, data related to this indicator should also be disaggregated by the end result of the procedure.

Comments and limitations

The basic source of information for this indicator comes *from events-based data on human rights violations*. Such data may underestimate (or sometimes, though rarely, even overestimate) the incidence of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, if used in a casual manner to draw generalized conclusions for the country as a whole. Moreover, in most instances, the number of cases reported to independent bodies depends on the awareness, access to information, motivation and perseverance of the alleged or potential victim, his or her family and friends, or civil society organizations in the country concerned.

The Human Rights Committee, in its general comment No. 20 (1992), states that "the right to lodge complaints against maltreatment prohibited by article 7 must be recognized in the domestic law. Complaints must be investigated promptly and impartially by competent authorities so as to make the remedy effective. The reports of States parties should provide specific information on the remedies available to victims of maltreatment and the procedure that complainants must follow, and statistics on the number of complaints and how they have been dealt with" (para. 14).

Examples of provisions relevant to the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 5; Convention against Torture, arts. 1 to 16; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (b); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 10 and 11; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 2 and 16; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 15; and Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 37 and 39.

Model questionnaires for complaints are available on the OHCHR website at http://www2. ohchr.org/english/bodies/question.htm (accessed 2 July 2012).

INDICATOR 8	Percentage of crimes reported to the police (victimization survey)

[e.g., table on the right to a fair trial]

Definition
The indicator is calculated as the percentage of persons who report being the victim of a particular crime in the past five years and who reported the last particular crime/event to the police.

Rationale
The indicator captures to a certain extent the effort required of States to respect, protect and fulfil the right to a fair trial, in conformity with articles 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and their elaboration in general comment No. 13 (1984). The indicator is a good summary measure of the level of awareness, and perceived effectiveness and desirability, of the available legal remedies, and the level of public trust in the police force and criminal justice system overall. As such, it reflects, in part, the public perception of the willingness of a State to realize the right to a fair trial and take the steps required to this end. It is a *process indicator* related to the "access and equality before the courts and tribunals" attribute of the right to a fair trial, the "security from crime and abuse by law enforcement officials" attribute of the right to liberty and security of person, and the "community and domestic violence" attribute of the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Method of computation
The indicator is computed as the percentage of persons who, in a population-based victimization survey, reported that they had been the victim of a particular crime in the past five years and who said that they had reported the last particular crime/event to the police.

As police reporting rates vary significantly for different criminal offences, the indicator should be disaggregated by type of crime to be clear as to its contents. One standard aggregate indicator that may be used, however, is the overall reporting rate to the police for the five types of crime: "theft from a car", "theft of a bicycle", "burglary", "attempted burglary", and "theft of personal property" (see http://english.wodc.nl/onderzoeksdatabase/icvs-2005-survey.aspx, accessed 2 July 2012).

Data collection and source
The main sources of data are national population-based survey results, particularly crime victimization surveys.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) *Manual on Victimization Surveys* provides guidance on the conduct of crime victimization surveys, including question wording for police-reporting rates and methods of data analysis and presentation.

Periodicity
As the indicator is based on survey data, periodicity will vary depending on time between surveys. For **victimization** surveys, this period is generally between one and five years.

Disaggregation
Where the sample size is sufficiently large and structured so as to provide statistically representative results by subgroup, the indicator should be disaggregated by sex, age, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, sexual orientation, place of residence, region, administrative unit, and rural/urban, and according to type of crime.

Comments and limitations
The indicator does not provide information on process aspects of the fairness of criminal trials per se. Reporting of crime victimization is influenced by perceptions of police effectiveness and ultimate likelihood of the perpetrator being identified and brought to justice, as well as many other factors, including the perceived seriousness of the offence, insurance requirements, fear of reprisals or secondary victimization.

Survey results may be unreliable where the sample size is too small or incorrectly designed for the target population, where insensitive or inconsistent questioning methodology is used, or where surveys of the entire population are used to draw conclusions for particularly vulnerable groups. Such groups are less likely to respond to surveys, so specifically targeted surveys with special sampling methodologies are required for each vulnerable group.

Examples of references of relevance to the right to a fair trial: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, arts. 10 and 11; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, arts. 14 and 15; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (a); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, art. 2; Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 12 (2), 37 (d) and 40; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 16 (5)–(9) and 18; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 13.

INDICATOR 9	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

[e.g., table on the right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health]

Definition
The indicator refers to the proportion of childbirths attended by skilled health personnel trained to give necessary supervision, care and counsel to women during pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period; to conduct deliveries on their own; and to care for newborns.

Rationale
The health and the well-being of the woman and the child during and after delivery greatly depend on their access to obstetric services, the quality of these services and the actual circumstances of the delivery. All of these are influenced by the State's health policies, the public provision of health services and the regulation of private health care. Indeed, the availability of professional and skilled health personnel with adequate equipment to assist in childbirth is essential for reducing mortality—maternal as well as of the child—during and after delivery. The indicator captures efforts by the State to promote and provide professional and skilled health personnel to attend to the medical needs of pregnancy and birth. It is a *process indicator* related to the "sexual and reproductive health" attribute of the right to health.

Method of computation
The indicator is computed as the ratio of births attended by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives) to the total number of deliveries.

Data collection and source
The main sources of data are administrative records maintained by local authorities, registration systems for population data, records of health ministries and household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) compile country data series based on these sources. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also provides country data series through the implementation of its Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

Periodicity
In general, the indicator based on administrative records is available annually and the indicator based on household surveys every three to five years.

Disaggregation
Disaggregation of the indicator by age (at least for women under the age of 18), economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, marital and family status, place of residence, region and rural/urban, is useful in assessing disparities in the availability of health services.

Comments and limitations

Skilled health personnel include only those who are properly trained and who have appropriate equipment and drugs. Traditional birth attendants, even if they have received short training, are not included.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in its general recommendation No. 24 (1999), requests States to report on the supply of "free services where necessary to ensure safe pregnancies, childbirth and post-partum periods for women. Many women are at risk of death or disability from pregnancy-related causes because they lack the funds to obtain or access the necessary services, which include antenatal, maternity and postnatal services. The Committee notes that it is the duty of States parties to ensure women's right to safe motherhood and emergency obstetric services and they should allocate to these services the maximum extent of available resources." The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its general comment No. 5 (1994) on persons with disabilities, states that "women with disabilities also have the right to protection and support in relation to motherhood and pregnancy."

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to health: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, arts. 10 (2) and 12; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e) (iv); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 28 and 43 (1) (e); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 12 and 14 (2) (b); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 25.

This is a Millennium Development Goal indicator.

INDICATOR 10	Proportion of the targeted population covered under public nutrition supplement programmes

[e.g., table on the right to adequate food]

Definition

The indicator refers to the proportion of the targeted population (e.g., children, pregnant women, aged persons) below a minimum level of daily dietary consumption who are covered under public nutrition supplement programmes (e.g., community-based growth promotion programmes, essential nutrients action programmes, infant and young child feeding strategy, vitamin A policy, etc.) aimed at providing essential vitamins, addressing vitamin deficiency and providing micronutrients that enhance the nutritional value of food, during the specified period.

The average energy requirement is the amount of food energy needed to balance energy expenditure in order to maintain body weight, body composition and a level of necessary and desirable physical activity consistent with long-term good health. This includes the energy needed for the optimal growth and development of children, for tissue deposition during pregnancy, and for the secretion of milk during lactation consistent with the good health of mother and child. The recommended level of dietary energy intake for a population group is the mean energy requirement of the healthy, well-nourished individuals who constitute that group.

Rationale

In its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights observes that while the problems of hunger and malnutrition are often particularly acute in developing countries, malnutrition, undernutrition and other problems which relate to the right to adequate food, also exist in some of the most economically developed countries. Fundamentally, the roots of the problem of hunger and malnutrition are not lack of food but lack of *access* to available and adequate food, inter alia because of poverty, by large segments of the world's population. Therefore, it requires State parties to design and provide nutrition supplement programmes for those who cannot afford or do not have access to nutritional food. Article 12 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women also stipulates that States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the postnatal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

The indicator captures efforts by the State in promoting and providing nutrition supplement programmes and ensuring that vulnerable or undernourished population groups are adequately covered by such programmes. It is a *process indicator* related to the "nutrition" attribute of the right to adequate food. It is also relevant to the right to health (see "proportion of children covered under public nutrition supplement programmes", a process indicator under the "child mortality and health care" attribute).

Method of computation

The indicator is computed as the ratio of the targeted population actually covered by the nutrition supplement programmes to the total targeted population.

Data collection and source

The main sources of data are national administrative records and household surveys on food consumption.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides country data series on the proportion of the population below a minimum level of daily dietary consumption.

Periodicity

In general, the indicator based on administrative records is available annually and the indicator based on household surveys every three to five years.

Disaggregation

The indicator should be disaggregated by sex, age, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, and type of programme. Disaggregation by place of residence (region and rural/urban) is useful in assessing disparities in the nutritional intake across different regions.

Comments and limitations

WHO cites nutrition as one of the important components affecting health, well-being and even economic development. Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity. Healthy children learn better. People with adequate nutrition are more productive and can create opportunities for gradually breaking the cycles of poverty and hunger.

The population is particularly vulnerable to diseases and health deterioration if not regularly provided with adequate nutrition intake and essential vitamins. State policies towards guaranteeing the well-being of the population shall include nutrition supplement policies, especially for undernourished and specific population groups.

The indicator provides information on steps that may have to be taken by a State in meeting its obligation to implement the right to adequate food and the right to the highest attainable standard of health of its population, specifically vulnerable, undernourished population groups. The indicator is a good measure of the process necessary to support the realization of the right to adequate food, yet it may not reflect the content and quality of nutrition supplement programmes and actual implementation of such programmes to ensure full enjoyment of this right. The indicator focuses on the undernourished population and does not reflect increasing cases of overnutrition resulting in obesity in some countries. In this case, a separate indicator to address food intake that is in excess of maximum dietary energy requirements would be desirable.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to food: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 11; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 2, 12 (2) and 14 (2) (h);

Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 27 (3); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 28 (1).

| INDICATOR 11 | Ratio of pupils to teaching staff in primary and secondary, public and private, education institutions |

[e.g., table on the right to education]

Definition

The ratio of pupils to teaching staff or the pupil-teacher ratio is the average number of pupils per teacher at a specific level of education in a given school year, based on headcounts of both pupils and teachers. Teachers or teaching staff include the number of persons employed full time or part time in an official capacity to guide and direct the learning experience of pupils, irrespective of their qualifications or the delivery mechanism, i.e., face to face and/or at a distance. This excludes educational personnel who have no active teaching duties (e.g., heads or principals who do not teach) and persons who work occasionally or in a voluntary capacity.

Rationale

The ratio of pupils to teaching staff is an important indicator of the resources that a country devotes to education. To a limited extent, the indicator can also be interpreted as reflecting a qualitative aspect of a country's education infrastructure. Teachers are the most important resource in an educational environment, particularly at the primary and secondary levels. The pupil-teacher ratio provides a measure of pupils' access to teachers, and thus reflects an important element of the provision that the State may have to make to meet its obligations on the realization of the right to education This indicator is a *process indicator* related to the "curricula and educational resources" attribute of the right to education.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed by dividing the number of full-time equivalent pupils at a given level of education by the number of full-time equivalent "teachers" at that level and in similar types of institutions, in a given school year. Some data collection methods include counts of all teaching staff and, since all teaching staff include staff with administrative duties and both full- and part-time teachers, comparability may be affected as the proportion of part-time teachers may vary from one country to another.

Data collection and source

The main source of data at the country level is administrative records on school enrolments and staff maintained by the relevant public agencies.

The Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) compiles and provides national information on the pupil-teacher ratio for both primary and secondary education, based on data reported by national education ministries or national statistical agencies. The information is gathered through yearly questionnaires and is made available by the Institute two years after the reference year.

While information on this indicator is not currently collated on a disaggregated basis for public and private schools at the international level, it should generally be available at the national level and could be useful to report in instances where there may be significant differences in the quality of public and private education in primary and secondary schools.

Periodicity

For most countries the pupil-teacher ratio is available annually.

Disaggregation

It may be useful to disaggregate the data for teaching staff and pupils by sex, age, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, national or social origin, migrant, and disability. Beyond the disaggregation referred to in the indicator itself (primary/secondary, public/private), further disaggregation may be necessary, for instance by

region or area. A break-up for rural and urban areas is useful in assessing possible disparities across different regions.

Comments and limitations

Because of the difficulty of constructing direct measures of the quality of the education being imparted, this indicator is also used as a proxy for assessing education quality, on the assumption that a lower ratio of pupils to teaching staff means better access by pupils to teaching resources. A lower ratio would generally imply that a teacher can potentially pay more attention to individual pupils, which may, in the long run, result in a better performance of pupils. There may be situations where such a conclusion may not be true due to accountability issues and ineffective use of teaching resources. However, a very high ratio of pupils to teaching staff certainly suggests insufficient professional support for learning, particularly for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"Teaching staff" refers to professional personnel directly involved in teaching pupils. The classification includes classroom teachers; special education teachers; and other teachers who work with pupils as a whole class in a classroom, in small groups in a resource room, or one-to-one inside or outside a regular classroom. Teaching staff also include heads of departments whose duties include some amount of teaching, but it does not include non-professional personnel who support teachers in providing instruction to pupils, such as teachers' aides and other paraprofessional personnel.

The concept of the ratio of pupils to teaching staff is different from that of class size. Although one country may have a lower ratio of pupils to teaching staff than another, this does not necessarily mean that classes are smaller in the first country or that pupils there receive more teaching inputs. The relationship between the ratio of pupils to teaching staff and average class size is influenced by factors like differences between countries in the length of the school year, the annual number of hours for which a pupil attends class, the annual time teachers are expected to spend teaching, the grouping of pupils within classes, and the practices related to team learning.

This indicator does not take into account differences in teachers' qualifications, pedagogical training, experiences and status, teaching materials and variations in classroom conditions, factors which could affect the quality of teaching/learning.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to education and this indicator: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 26; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, arts. 13 and 14; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e) (v); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 30 and 43 (1) (a)–(c); Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 23, 28 and 29; and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 10 and 14 (2) (d).

INDICATOR 12	Homicides (intentional and non-intentional), rate per 100,000 population

[e.g., table on the right to life]

Definition	This indicator refers to police-recorded cases of intentional and non-intentional homicide per 100,000 population in one year. Intentional homicide is defined as death deliberately inflicted on a person by another person, including infanticide. Non-intentional homicide is defined as death not deliberately inflicted on a person by another person, including manslaughter and causing death by dangerous driving, but excluding non-criminally culpable road traffic deaths.
Rationale	Perpetrators of alleged homicides shall be adequately identified, judged and sentenced in accordance with national and international criminal and human rights legal standards.

The indicator captures to a certain extent the results of the efforts required of a State to respect and protect the right to life, in conformity with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its elaboration in general comment No. 6 (1982) of the Human Rights Committee. States should take measures to prevent and punish deprivation of life by criminal acts. The indicator can be interpreted as reflecting the State party's efforts to take preventive measures against homicides (intentional and non-intentional). By reducing the number of homicides, the State is, to a certain extent, taking reasonable steps to prevent or respond to death by criminal assault and negligence. This indicator is an *outcome indicator* related to the "arbitrary deprivation of life" attribute of the right to life.

Method of computation

The indicator is calculated as the total number of homicides (intentional and non-intentional) divided by the total population and multiplied by 100,000 (homicide rate = (count/population) * 100,000).

Data collection and source

The main data collection mechanism and source are national administrative records, especially records of law enforcement agencies (police, domestic security forces, courts and prison services). Data on intentional homicide are collected through the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and also by UNODC in its annually updated "homicide statistics" database (see www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/homicide.html, accessed 2 July 2012).

Data on homicides can also come from public health sources, such as those provided by WHO (see www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/estimates_country/en/index html and www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/data-and-evidence/databases/european-health-for-all-database-hfa-db2, both accessed 2 July 2012).

Periodicity

The indicator based on administrative records is generally available annually. The indicator based on UNODC surveys is generally available annually or biennially.

Disaggregation

To fully reflect any disparities in the reduction of homicides (intentional and non-intentional), disaggregation by type of crime, sex, age, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, sexual orientation, marital and family status, place of residence (region and rural/urban) of convicted and sentenced person, and the type of sentencing is conceptually desirable. In practice, most countries provide data disaggregated by type of crime, sex, age and region.

Comments and limitations

Homicides in national administrative records and recorded by law enforcement agencies (e.g., police, courts, prisons) may underestimate the incidence of homicide, if used casually to draw generalized conclusions for the country as a whole. Official crime statistics in general may not be accurate. For example, some crimes are not detected or known by anyone or, if known, may not be reported to the police. Some crimes, though reported, are not recorded by the police. Even crimes that are recorded may be classified or processed erroneously at different stages.

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to life: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 3; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 6; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 12 (2) (a); International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 2 and 12; Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 6; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, art. 9; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 10.

| INDICATOR 13 | Reported cases of forced evictions in the reporting period |

[e.g., table on the right to adequate housing]

Definition

This indicator refers to the number of reported individual cases of forced eviction during the reference period. "Forced eviction" is defined as "the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of and access to appropriate forms of legal or other protection" (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment No. 7 (1997)).

Rationale

The Committee has observed that all persons should possess a degree of security of tenure which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats. It has argued that forced evictions are incompatible with the requirements of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (general comment No. 7 (1997)). Moreover, given the interdependence of all human rights, forced evictions frequently violate other human rights. While manifestly breaching the rights enshrined in the Covenant, the practice of forced evictions may also result in violations of civil and political rights, such as the right to life, the right to security of the person, the right to non-interference with privacy, family and home, and the right to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions. The indicator is an *outcome indicator* related to the "security of tenure" attribute of the right to adequate housing.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed as the number of all reported cases of forced eviction in a specific period of time.

Data collection and source

The main data source for this indicator is records maintained by NHRIs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), administrative records of courts and other judicial bodies, and in certain instances records of administrative agencies responsible for or monitoring rehabilitation.

Periodicity

Information on the indicator should be available periodically. It is often reported annually by mechanisms monitoring security of tenure.

Disaggregation

To be meaningful, the information on this indicator should be disaggregated by sex, age (at least for children or young people under the age of 18), economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, sexual orientation, marital and family status, place of residence (rural/urban).

Comments and limitations

The indicator can be one good summary measure of the realization of certain essential elements of the right to adequate housing. Yet, like all indicators that are based on *events-based data on human rights violations* and depend on multiple information sources, the indicator may not be fully reliable. It may underestimate (or sometimes, though rarely, even overestimate) the incidence of forced evictions, if used casually to draw generalized conclusions for the country as a whole. Moreover, in most instances, the number of cases reported would depend on the awareness, access to information, motivation and perseverance of civil society organizations and the media in following the relevant events.

Forced evictions occur in both urban and rural areas. Beautification and renewal, preparation for mega events (such as major sports events) and other "public interests" are often used to justify forced evictions in urban areas. In rural and remote areas, forced evictions could take place because of large-scale development projects (infrastructure, dams and roads), mining, extractive and other industrial activities or land grabs.

When a forced eviction takes place, violations of a wide range of human rights may also occur

because of *(i) the absence of justification/legality for the eviction* and *(ii) the way the eviction is carried out*. Not all evictions are prohibited under human rights law. In some cases, for example when evictions are carried out to protect residents living in derelict buildings or disaster-prone areas, they may be unavoidable and even protective of human rights. Yet, even in such situations, the evictions should be carried out in line with relevant international standards.

An eviction may be ruled legal under national law but still considered illegal under international law. This could happen when national laws are not in line with international laws and do not meet international standards. Some basic principles that need to be met are: (i) valid justification for the project and no other alternatives to the eviction; (ii) consultation and participation of affected people and communities; (iii) adequate notification, due process, effective and legal recourse; (iv) prohibition of actions resulting in homelessness or deterioration of the housing and living conditions; and (v) provision of adequate relocation and/or adequate compensation before evictions are carried out.

Women, children, youth, older persons, indigenous people, ethnic and other minorities, and other vulnerable individuals and groups all suffer disproportionately from the practice of forced eviction. Women in all groups are especially vulnerable given the extent of statutory and other forms of discrimination which often apply in relation to property rights (including homeownership) or rights of access to property or accommodation, and their particular vulnerability to violence and sexual abuse when they are rendered homeless. The non-discrimination provisions of articles 2 (2) and 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights impose an additional obligation upon Governments to ensure that, where evictions do occur, appropriate measures are taken to ensure that no form of discrimination is involved.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing has drawn up basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement (A/HRC/4/18, annex I). Some institutions, such as the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have also adopted guidelines on relocation and/or resettlement with a view to limiting the scale of forced evictions and the human suffering associated with it.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also recognizes legal security of tenure under its general comment No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing: "Notwithstanding the type of tenure, all persons should possess a degree of security of tenure which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats".

The following have references relevant to the indicator: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 11; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, art. 14; Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 27; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, art. 43; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 28.

| INDICATOR 14 | Conviction rates for indigent defendants provided with legal representation as a proportion of conviction rates for defendants with lawyers of their own choice |

[e.g., table on the right to fair trial]

Definition   The indicator measures the ratio of the conviction rate of defendants who were provided with free legal representation to that of defendants who had legal counsel of their own choice for the same crime in the reporting period. Although a separate indicator could be used for the two conviction rates, a ratio of the two is more useful.

Rationale	Article 14 (3) (d) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that defendants should have legal assistance assigned to them, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment if they do not have sufficient means to pay for it. The Human Rights Committee, in its general comment No. 32 (2007), states that "counsel provided by the competent authorities on the basis of this provision must be effective in the representation of the accused". Furthermore, blatant incompetence by assigned counsel may entail the responsibility of the State. The indicator is an *outcome indicator* that relates to the "access to and equality before the courts" attribute of the right to a fair trial. As such, it measures the extent to which equality is achieved in practice.

Method of computation

The indicator is calculated as the ratio of the conviction rate of defendants provided with legal representation to that of defendants with a lawyer of their own choice for the same crime in the reporting period. The conviction rate is defined as the percentage of persons brought before the courts who are convicted. It is essential that this indicator should be calculated for the two groups of defendants for the *same crime*, as conviction rates can vary significantly by crime, depending on the nature of the offence and the difficulties in obtaining evidence. Key crimes that should be included are intentional homicide, robbery and burglary.

Ideally, the indicator should be calculated on a cohort basis, that is, the conviction rate percentage calculated for each group (indigent and own lawyer) should correspond to the *same persons* brought before the courts and then convicted or acquitted. However, in practice, obtaining these data can be difficult and an overall average can be used. For example, total (indigent) persons convicted by the courts for intentional homicide in one year as a percentage of total (indigent) persons brought before the courts for intentional homicide in one year (where the two groups of persons are not necessarily the same owing to, for instance, the length of the trial process.

Data collection and source

The main sources of data are court records and reports of the office of the prosecutor at the national or subnational level.

Periodicity	The data, if compiled, should be available annually.
Disaggregation	The indicator should be disaggregated by type of crime (e.g., homicide, rape, assault, robbery), stage of proceedings (first hearing or appeal), and by region or administrative unit. It should also be disaggregated by the characteristics of the defendant, in particular by sex, age (at least for children or young people under the age of 18), economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, sexual orientation, place of residence (rural/urban).

Comments and limitations

The indicator is a good measure of the relative competence and effectiveness of assigned lawyers, and thus of the effective implementation of the right to a fair trial regardless of the defendant's economic status. However, particularly in regions or States with a small number of cases, the indicator should not be over-analysed; each case must be assessed on its own merits. This indicator may also be used jointly with an indicator on the nature and average length of the actual sentences received by indigent defendants with free legal representation and defendants with lawyers of their own choice.

Examples of references relevant to the right to a fair trial: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, arts. 10 and 11; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, arts. 14 and 15; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (a); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, art. 2; Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 12 (2), 37 (d) and 40; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 16 (5)–(9) and 18; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 13.

| INDICATOR 15 | Infant mortality rate |

[e.g., tables on the right to food, the right to life and the right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health]

Definition
The indicator refers to infants dying before reaching the age of one year per 1000 live births during the specified period.

Rationale
As a measure of child survival, the infant mortality rate is a key socioeconomic statistic for many human rights, including the right to life, the right to health and the right to adequate food. This indicator can be influenced by a wide range of economic, social, political and environmental determinants. As a consequence, it will be particularly important in monitoring the results of State parties' actions in fulfilling their obligations to create favourable and necessary conditions in which infant mortality rates are minimized. The indicator is an *outcome indicator* for the right to life, the right to health and the right to adequate food.

Method of computation
The indicator is computed as the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 live births in that year. The number of deaths is divided by the number of births and the result is multiplied by 1000.

Data collection and source
The main sources of data at the country level are national administrative records, including the vital statistic registration systems and records of statistical agencies, sample surveys, population censuses and household surveys, such as Demographic and Health Surveys.

WHO compiles aggregate country data series based on administrative and survey data. UNICEF also provides country data series in its Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys.

Periodicity
In general, the indicator based on administrative records is available annually and the indicator based on household surveys every three to five years.

Disaggregation
The indicator should be disaggregated by cause of death, sex, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, national or social origin, migrant, and disability. In addition, disaggregation by place of residence (region and rural/urban) is essential in assessing disparities in the infant mortality pattern across different regions.

Comments and limitations
The infant mortality rate is considered to be a more robust estimate than the under-five mortality rate if the information is drawn from vital statistics registration covering at least 90 per cent of vital events in the population. For household surveys, infant mortality estimates are obtained directly (Demographic and Health Surveys) or indirectly (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys). When estimated indirectly, the under-one mortality estimates must be consistent with the under-five mortality estimates.

Girls have a survival advantage over boys during the first year of life, largely based on biological differences. This is especially so during the first month of life when perinatal conditions are most likely to be the cause or a contributing cause of death. While infant mortality is generally higher for boys than for girls, in some countries girls' biological advantage is outweighed by gender-based discrimination. However, under-five mortality better captures the effect of gender discrimination than infant mortality, as nutrition and medical interventions are more important after age one.

In its general comment No. 14 (2000) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights interprets that "'the provision for the reduction of the stillbirth rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child' (art. 12 (2) (a)) may be understood as requiring measures to improve child and maternal health, sexual and reproductive health services, including access to family planning, pre- and postnatal

care, emergency obstetric services and access to information, as well as to resources necessary to act on that information."

In its general comment No. 6 (1982) on the right to life, the Human Rights Committee noted that the right to life has been too often narrowly interpreted. The expression "inherent right to life" cannot properly be understood in a restrictive manner, and the protection of this right requires States to adopt positive measures. In this connection, the Committee considered that it would be desirable for State parties to take all possible measures to reduce infant mortality and to increase life expectancy, especially measures to eliminate malnutrition and epidemics.

Administrative and household survey data may underestimate infant mortality. It is also important that the main causes of mortality should be carefully investigated to ascertain the extent to which poor health-care services, poor health conditions of infants and health problems of their mothers and/or some other extraneous reasons that are difficult to anticipate caused the death so that policy measures may be suitably formulated to address the problem.

Examples of references relevant to this indicator: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, arts. 3 and 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, arts. 10 and 12; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 6; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, arts. 2, 12 and 14; Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 6, 24 and 27; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, arts. 9, 28 and 43; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, arts. 10, 25 and 28.

This is a Millennium Development Goal indicator.

INDICATOR 16	Number of homeless persons per 100,000 population

[e.g., table on the right to adequate housing]

Definition	This indicator refers to the number of homeless persons per 100,000 population for the reporting period.

According to the United Nations Statistical Division, there are two broad categories of homelessness:

(a) Primary homelessness (or rooflessness). This category includes persons living on the streets or without shelter or living quarters;

(b) Secondary homelessness. This category may include persons with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation (including dwellings, shelters or other living quarters) and those usually resident in long-term "transitional" shelters or similar arrangements for the homeless. This category also includes persons living in private dwellings but reporting "no usual address" on their census form. (See *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, Revision 2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07. XVII.8).

Rationale	Homelessness is often a symptom and cause of poverty and social exclusion. It is prima facie a violation of article 11 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. Homelessness can also lead to other human rights violations, arising from the homeless person's consequent vulnerability and lack of security of person. For example, as the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights notes, in its general comment No. 7 (1997), women face "particular vulnerability to acts of violence and sexual abuse when they are rendered homeless". Persons who are rendered homeless are often unable to exercise their rights to vote and to access basic services. The indicator captures to a

certain extent the degree to which the State has maintained affordable housing and, thus, made housing accessible. It is an *outcome indicator* related to the "housing affordability" attribute of the right to adequate housing.

Method of computation

The indicator is computed as the total number of homeless persons to the total population multiplied by 100,000.

Data collection and source

The main source of data for this indicator is administrative records of the State (registers) and homeless services (e.g., transitional shelters, health and social security agencies). Data can also be gathered from population censuses and household surveys at the national and subnational levels.

Periodicity

In general, data from administrative records are available annually. Population censuses are often conducted every five to ten years, while household surveys are usually conducted every three to five years.

Disaggregation

The indicator should be disaggregated by sex, age, economic and social situation, ethnicity, minority, indigenous, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, migrant, disability, sexual orientation, marital and family status. In addition, disaggregation of the indicator by place of residence (region and rural/urban) is useful in assessing disparities in access to housing.

Comments and limitations

Homelessness is often a root cause and an effect of complex social and economic problems. Homelessness can be caused by diverse and multifaceted factors, including a lack of affordable housing, speculation in housing and land for investment purposes, privatization of civic services, ethnic and armed conflict, and rapid ill-planned urbanization. It is also linked to landlessness in some settings, and there is a growing tendency to criminalize the homeless and increasing violence towards them (see E/CN.4/2005/48).

The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, in its general comment No. 4 (1991), specifies that States have the obligation to effectively monitor the situation with respect to housing, "'provide detailed information about those groups within [...] society that are vulnerable and disadvantaged with regard to housing.' They include, in particular, homeless persons and families, those inadequately housed and without ready access to basic amenities, those living in 'illegal' settlements, those subject to forced evictions and low-income groups".

The lack of secure tenure and forced evictions are conditions that could lead to homelessness. The Committee's general comment No. 7 (1997) provides that "evictions should not result in individuals being rendered homeless or vulnerable to the violation of other human rights".

There are several definitions of homelessness, ranging from a narrow one that covers only rooflessness and houselessness to a broader one that classifies persons who are homeless according to their living or "home" situation. The Special Rapporteur to adequate housing recommends a broader definition of homelessness, since a narrow definition is inadequate and does not recognize that an element of social exclusion is part of the experience of the homeless (see E/CN.4/2005/48).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics identifies three categories of homelessness: "primary" homelessness refers to people without conventional accommodation; "secondary" homelessness refers to those moving frequently from one form of temporary shelter to another; and "tertiary" homelessness refers to people who live medium to long term in boarding houses. An additional category is constituted by people in housing situations close to the minimum standards (e.g., in caravans) (A/HRC/4/18/Add.2).

The European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) developed a typology of homelessness and housing exclusion called ETHOS. Its definition covers four categories: *rooflessness*; *houselessness*; *insecure housing*; *and inadequate housing*. Thus, people living in insecure accommodation (e.g., temporarily with family/friends, illegal occupation of land, no legal (sub)tenancy), or under threat of eviction and violence, in temporary/non-conventional structures in unfit housing or in extreme overcrowding are also included in the definition. (See www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=484, accessed 2 July 2012).

Eurostat also proposed a working definition of housing deprivation (including homelessness) comprising primary and secondary homelessness. Secondary homelessness includes persons living in non-temporary arrangements of shelter provided by a public body or NGO, without a tenancy agreement for lack of a home of their own (e.g., dormitory, room or studio in a communal facility, hotel or guest house, accommodation temporarily provided by friends or relatives). (See http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-CC-04-008/EN/KS-CC-04-008-EN.PDF, accessed 2 July 2012).

Examples of provisions relevant to the right to adequate housing: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 11 (1); International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, art. 5 (e) (iii); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, art. 14 (2) (h); Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 27 (3); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, art. 43 (1); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 28 (1) and (2) (d).

ANNEX II

Databases of United Nations and other international organizations on human rights issues and population groups

International organization or programme and its statistical database	Main population group and examples of related human rights
WomenWatch, United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/statistics_and_indicators_60.htm)	Women
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Statistics and Monitoring (www.unicef.org/statistics) Childinfo (www.childinfo.org)	Children
United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (DESA), Ageing Data and Statistics (http://social.un.org/index/Ageing/DataonOlderPersons.aspx)	Older persons
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Statistics and Operational Data (www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4d6.html)	Refugees
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) (www.unicri.it) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis) International Crime Victims Survey (http://rechten.uvt.nl/icvs) United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (www.uncjin.org/Statistics/WCTS/wcts) Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE I and II) (http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/space)	Rights to life, physical and moral integrity, liberty and security of person, and rights in the administration of justice
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) PARLINE Database on National Parliaments (www.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp) Women in National Parliaments (www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world)	Right to participate in public affairs
United Nations Population Division/DESA (www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm) United Nations Population Fund (www.unfpa.org/public/datafordevelopment/statistics)	Rights related to name, identity, nationality and to be registered
International Labour Organization (ILO), Department of Statistics (www.ilo.org/stat) LABORSTA Internet (http://laborsta.ilo.org) ILO Statistics and Databases (www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases)	Rights to work, to just and favourable conditions of work, and social security; trade union rights

Additional databases of United Nations and other international organizations

Organization	Database
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) (http://unstats.un.org)	United Nations Data (http://data.un.org)
	DISTAT, United Nations Disability Statistics Database (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability)
	Millennium Development Goals Indicators (http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg)
	Environment Statistics (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment)
	Other Statistical Products and Databases (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products)
World Bank (http://data.worldbank.org)	World Development Indicators (http://data.worldbank.org/indicator)
	Living Standards Measurement Survey, Education Statistics (EdStats), Gender Statistics (GenderStats) (http://econ.worldbank.org)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (www.undp.org)	Statistics in Human Development Reports (http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (www.oecd.org)	OECD Statistics Portal, including social statistics, environment, tax and aid (development) statistics (www.oecd.org [statistics])
Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu)	Eurostat Statistics Database (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (www.unece.org)	UNECE Statistical Database (http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (www.unescap.org)	ESCAP Statistics (www.unescap.org/stat)
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (www.eclac.cl)	Statistical information (CEPALSTAT) (www.eclac.cl/estadisticas/default.asp?idioma=IN)
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (http://new.uneca.org)	ECA Statistics (http://new.uneca.org/acs)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (www.escwa.un.org)	ESCWA Statistics Division (www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sd)

GLOSSARY

Benchmark   A predetermined value of an indicator against which progress can be measured. Benchmarks can provide the floor value for an indicator or be a target (aspirational) value. Benchmarks can be based on normative or empirical considerations. For human rights indicators, benchmarks can be derived from:

- International and national norms (e.g., obligation to adopt a plan of action for the progressive realization of compulsory primary education, stipulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 14);

- Targets set by States and policies at country level (e.g., national goals, Millennium Development Goals, indicator-benchmark-scoping-assessment (IBSA) procedure);

- Benchmarks derived from comparisons of indicator values over time, territories or for different population groups; and

- Recommendations from the United Nations and other organizations (e.g., World Health Organization's guidelines on child immunization, International Labour Organization's guidelines and standards on decent work).

Bias (see also error)   A systematic error in data collection that results in measured values deviating from their true value by a consistent magnitude and in a consistent direction, either higher or lower than the true value. It arises when the characteristics of the population covered in a sampling frame used for data collection differs from those of the target population. Unlike random error, which on average balances out, bias systematically distorts the representativeness of the results. Possible sources of bias are:

- Deliberate selection (e.g., enumerator intentionally avoids visiting isolated households);

- Errors in defining the population to be surveyed (e.g., telephone survey which excludes the poorest, who are less likely to own a telephone; incomplete population registers);

- Non-response (inability, absence, refusal); and

- Human fallacy (e.g., use of leading questions affecting the sample response).

Census operations   In principle, a complete enumeration of all members of the population of a country or any other territory, unlike statistical surveys, where only selected members of the population are surveyed. Countries usually conduct censuses of population, housing, agriculture and industrial establishments. A population census is usually conducted at 10-year interval because of the complexity and cost of the operation. It provides basic baseline data on the key characteristics of the population and on variables that do not change rapidly.

Confidence interval

An estimated range of sample data on a variable which contains the true value of that variable. Usually reported as a 95 per cent range of values within which we would expect the true value of the variable for the entire population in 95 times out of 100. The size of the confidence interval gives some idea about how certain we are about the true value of the variable—a narrower confidence interval implies more certainty. Increasing the sample size makes the confidence interval more meaningful. Confidence intervals of statistics based on sample data are normally provided by the producers of the survey.

Data   Characteristics or information, quantitative or qualitative, collected through observation. Aggregation or compilation of data results in the production of statistics and indicators.

Error (see also bias)

> The difference between the observed or estimated value of an indicator and its "true" value. Errors may be random or systematic. Systematic errors are called "biases". Random or sampling error can be thought of as "the difference between a sample and the population from which the sample is derived" and balances out on average. Sample surveys are nearly always affected by sampling error. As the sample size increases, the sampling error decreases. The total error between the estimated value of an indicator and its true value is a combination of sampling error and bias. The fact that error is common in working with statistics does not mean that statistical indicators are not useful. With resources and appropriate methodologies near "perfect" estimates of true population values can be estimated. When comparing indicators across territories or over time, we must interpret differences in observed values with caution—they could be the result of such error.

Gini coefficient

> A common measure of the distribution of a country's wealth, income or private/household consumption, ranging from 0 to 1 or 0 to 100, where 1 or 100 denotes complete inequality and 0 denotes complete equality.

Indicator

> Information that indicates a state or level of an object, event or activity. It provides an indication of prevailing circumstances at a given place and a given point in time. Often based on some form of quantification (e.g., proportion of children immunized) or qualitative categorization (e.g., a treaty ratified/not ratified). In the context of this work, an indicator can be considered as a **human rights indicator** if it can be related to human rights norms and standards, addresses and reflects human rights principles and concerns, and is used to assess and monitor the promotion and implementation of human rights.

Indicator reliability (see also indicator validity)

> The consistency in the value of a variable/indicator reported by different data producers when using the same method and data source.

Indicator validity

> The soundness of a variable/indicator in measuring what it seeks to measure. If someone who weighs 200 pounds steps on a scale 10 times and gets readings of 15, 250, 95, 140, etc., the scale is not reliable. If the scale consistently reads "150", then it is reliable, but not valid. If it reads "200" each time, then the measurement is both reliable and valid.

Metadata

> Data that describe the characteristic details of an indicator. They usually include information on the definition, rationale, method of computation, data collection and source, disaggregation, periodicity, comments and limitations of that indicator.

Performance indicators

> In the context of results-based management (RBM) of development intervention, a country programme or any other project carried out by an organization, performance indicators refer to quantitative or qualitative variables that allow the verification of changes resulting from the intervention or show results relative to what was intended or planned.

Proportion

> A ratio where the denominator is a quantity that represents the given population group and the numerator is only a subset of that population group. For example, the proportion of farmers availing of extension services is calculated as the number of farmers availing of extension services divided by the total number of farmers. Furthermore, if the proportion is multiplied by 100, it becomes a percentage.

Proxy indicators (or indirect indicators)

Refer to the subject of interest in an indirect way. For example, using statistics on the proportion of women in parliaments to assess women's participation in public affairs. There are several reasons for working with proxy indicators: the subject of interest cannot be measured directly or it can but it is a sensitive issue such as income or safe sex and it may not be cost-effective to collect information on the actual indicator. A good proxy indicator has to weigh the reliability of the information and the efforts/resources needed to obtain the data.

Qualitative indicator

In the context of this work, indicators expressed as a narrative, in categories or classes, and based on information on objects, facts or events that are, in principle, directly observable and verifiable (objective) or on information that is a perception, opinion, assessment or judgement (subjective). For example: status of ratification of an international human rights treaty (binary indicator: ratified or not ratified) and the classification of accreditation of national human rights institutions by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions (A: compliant with the Paris Principles; B: not fully compliant with the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination; and C: not compliant with the Paris Principles).

Quantiles

Points selected at regular intervals in a set of ordered data that divide them into "n" equal-sized subsets. Quantiles are data values that mark the boundaries between those subsets. For example, if "n" is 5 or 10, the set of ordered data is divided into 5 (**quintiles**) and 10 (**deciles**) subsets, respectively. If "n" is 2, the set of data is divided into 2 subsets, the data values that mark the boundary between the subsets is the **median**. For instance, if the median household income of a population is $500, it means that 50 per cent of households earn less than $500 and 50 per cent earn more than $500.

Quantitative indicator

In the context of this work, indicators expressed in a numerical form, using categories or classes that are assigned numeric values, and based on information on objects, facts or events that are, in principle, directly observable and verifiable (objective) or on information that is a perception, opinion, assessment or judgement (subjective). For example: the maternal mortality ratio and the proportion of people who felt unsafe. The latter refers to people aged 18 years and over who felt unsafe when alone in at least one of the following situations: at home during the day or at night, when walking in their neighbourhood or taking public transport after dark. It includes people who were never alone in at least one of these situations because they thought it was unsafe.

Rate (see also ratio)

Change in the value or quantity of a variable, generally per unit of time or with reference to a population unit. For example, change in the value of a variable or indicator compared to its value in an earlier time interval (prison population growth rate over a year). Similarly, the crime rate is the number of crimes committed (or reported) in an area to the population of that area, usually expressed per 100,000 persons per year.

Ratio

The relationship between two quantities measured in the same unit, so that the resulting number has no unit. For example, the ratio of girls to boys in primary schools, computed as the number of girls in primary schools divided by the number of boys in primary schools. Any change over time in the value of a ratio needs careful examination. It may be owing to changes either in the numerator or in the denominator or both. In addition, in this case it may be necessary to also know the ratio of girls to boys of primary school age in the population to assess access or discrimination faced by girls. **An index (number)** is a ratio used for calculating the relative variation of the value of a number to its baseline value. The ratio is generally multiplied by 100 and the value 100 assigned to the index base. Indices can be used to measure the variation over time between one variable or several variables (**composite index**). One example is the consumer price index, which measures price changes experienced by consumers in maintaining a constant basket of goods and services over time.

Statistical (or sample) survey

Is used to collect direct quantitative and qualitative information on population subsets. In contrast to a census, where all members of the population are surveyed, a statistical or sample survey collects data from a fraction of the population under study, with the objective of drawing inferences on the entire population. In this respect, sample surveys are cost-effective means of collecting information in situations where complete enumeration is impracticable or data from administrative sources are not available.