

Measuring the Development and Well-being of Societies

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In 2015, the world will forge a consensus on a new set of development goals and associated indicators which will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs have heavily influenced the data collection practices in the development countries as new data are sought to monitor the progress of the MDGs. With the MDGs due to expire in 2015, the world is waiting eagerly for a new set of development goals and the monitoring framework. How should the statistical community react to this challenge? What indicators should be proposed? This paper reviews the current work by national statistical offices in measuring development within the national context, especially in the area of national wellbeing. Examples from China and Singapore will be used. National efforts are very diverse and reflect national priorities. It is important that the new global framework should build on national practices. This paper hopes to provide some discussion points as we look forward to more intense debate as 2015 draws near.

Key Words: