



Global Reports: An Overview of their Evolution

An ODS Staff Paper

Office of Development Studies
United Nations Development Programme
New York

- March 2004 -

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Methodological Note	1
Structure of the Paper	2
Acknowledgements	3
I- The Pre-1940s Era.....	4
II- The Post-1940s Era.....	5
III- Global Reports Sponsored by Civil Society Organizations.....	15
Conclusion.....	17
References: Global Reports by Multilateral Organizations Included in this Survey	18
References: Select Global Reports by Non-Governmental Organizations and Independent Commissions	21
References: Other Sources	22

Note: The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of UNDP. Please send comments and suggestions on this report to the corresponding author hana.haller@undp.org or to ods@undp.org

Introduction

This paper examines the evolution of the publication of global reports by international organizations and by civil society entities. Global reports are defined as studies that present and analyze issues of global concern and reach. These are issues, such as the control of communicable diseases, which affect virtually all countries and large segments of the population, or at least, countries and people in several of the world's geographic regions.

The paper was originally prepared as a background document for *Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization* edited by Kaul, Conceição, Le Goulven, and Mendoza (2003). The objective was to provide supporting analysis to the chapter by Conceição (2003) in that volume.

Several important findings emerge from this survey. First, the pace of publication of global reports accelerated in the 1990s (see page 9). Second, the scope of topics covered by the reports has widened. Besides reports that address *inter-national* (or between-country) issues and at-the-border issues (e.g. international peace or trade), there is a growing number of reports dealing with behind-the-border issues, such as the translation of economic growth into improved well-being of people (human development) on a country-by-country basis; human rights; the status of women; good governance and economic policy reforms.¹ Globalization and the growing interdependence among countries clearly reflect in the increasing number and the widening issue-range of the global reports.

Third, the nature of the reports themselves has changed over time. Initially most reports focused on presenting data. Over time, reports have expanded their range to not only provide, but also to analyze data, and to present arguments, alternatives, and solutions to the issues they address. Moreover, Global Reports are increasingly issued as stand-alone documents that are not part of an on-going series.

Interestingly, non-state organizations, such as civil society organizations and business organizations, are also increasingly contributing global studies, complementing - - sometimes, challenging -- those prepared under the aegis of inter-governmental agencies. An example of this would be the proliferation in the '90's of reports that monitor how governments addressed certain social issues such as poverty, gender, corruption and human rights.

Methodological Note

As indicated, this study includes global reports that have been prepared and issued by, or on behalf of, multilateral organizations. It also includes our analysis of reports by global civil society organizations. These organizations issue a large volume of official

¹ The trend in the issues covered is noticeable in particular when examining more closely the topics addressed in the major recurrent reports. For example, the topics of the World Banks' *World Development Reports* have included issues such as health (1993), the role of the state (1997), and knowledge (1998). The focus areas of the *Human Development Report* have concerned topics such as new dimensions of human security (1994), gender (1995) and human rights (2000).

documents and reports each year that also have worldwide coverage. For example, they may report on what governments or other actors have done to implement certain resolutions, say, on achieving basic education for all. These documents and reports are also interesting from the viewpoint of global issues, or global public good concerns. However, they are often a listing of initiatives taken rather than studies of the issue itself. This makes them different from the reports selected for review here in that they concentrate on an issue as such (climate stability, communicable diseases, international trade, cross-border drug trafficking).

A further difference between the global reports that are of interest here and other documents and reports is that the latter are often prepared primarily for internal purposes, usually to support a discussion on a particular item in a particular forum. By contrast, the former tend to address the outside world, not just delegates or other participants and observers of the negotiation processes. They are also frequently published by, or in conjunction with, outside publishers rather than by the concerned organization.

Many times official documents and reports are a collection of individual governmental or organizational views, assessments and activity accounts, flowing from countries to concerned multilateral organizations, whereas global reports tend to flow from the organization into the larger world and back to the country level. No doubt, many are also considered in their policy implications by inter-governmental bodies. But that is not their only purpose, nor frequently, their primary one.

Besides the global reports published by multilateral organizations and civil society, individual governments and scholars also write and publish global studies, as can be seen in the rapidly proliferating literature on globalization. Yet, these latter studies tend to be perceived as being more targeted and less global in their perspective than the former.

An effort has been made to identify as many of the qualifying reports as possible. Nevertheless, some relevant publications will perhaps have been overlooked inadvertently. Therefore, this report is considered a work in progress. Future updates will be prepared to include reports that may have been missed and will list newly published ones.²

Structure of the Paper

This paper is organized in three parts. Part I briefly considers the record of global reporting before the 1940s. Part II looks at the trend in global reporting since the 1940s. The third section briefly discusses global reporting initiatives by civil society organizations that have been incorporated into this report.

² It would, therefore, be greatly appreciated, if readers, who are aware of reports not shown in table 1 below, would send information on such titles by email to ods@undp.org.

Acknowledgements

This report is based on the inputs provided by Mirjam Shnupf and Vikas Nath. Hana Haller prepared this version of the report, which is an update of the first version that was issued in December 2002.

Thanks are also due to Michael Renner, Jakob Skoet, Marion Cheatle, Charles Gore, Aili Piano, Robert Johnston, and Anne Williem Bijleveld for their comments and suggestions on earlier versions of this report.

I- The Pre-1940s Era

By the 1920s, the League of Nations had already produced a number of reports on global issues. Among key global concerns at that time were health, peace and security, international finance and trade,³ as illustrated by the following list of annual and serial publications of the League:

- Annual Epidemiological Records, from 1922 to 1938 (Health);
- International Health Year Book, from 1924 to 1932 (Health);
- Armaments Year Book, from 1924 to 1939/40 (Disarmament);
- Statistical Yearbook of the Trade in Arms, Ammunition and Implements of War, from 1924 to 1938 (Disarmament);
- Memoranda on Production and Trade, from 1926 to 1945 (Trade and Finance);
- Money and Banking, from 1913 to 1944 (Trade and Finance);
- Review of World Trade, Balance of Payments and International Trade Statistics, from 1910 to 1945 (Trade and Finance);
- Statistical Yearbook of the League of Nations, from 1926 to 1942/44;
- World Economic Survey, from 1931/32 to 1942/44; and
- Reports of the Mandatory Powers to the League, several years in the inter-war period.

A further notable global report at the time was *Ten Years of World Cooperation* (League of Nations, Geneva, 1930). It covers not only the state of affairs with respect to key global issues that were at the center of international policy attention at the time (viz. health, peace and security, international finance and trade), but also topics such as international justice, international transit and communications, social and humanitarian activities, and scientific cooperation.

League of Nations reports were made readily available to the public. In 1932, for example, the Assembly of the League of Nations emphasized its support for the fullest possible exposure of the records of League meetings, and the swift dissemination of publications to the press (League of Nations 1933, p119). By then, 116 journalists from 35 different countries were permanently accredited to the organization. This number increased to as much as 400 when the League's Assembly and Council were in session. (League of Nations 1933, p120)⁴

³ For example, the annual international trade statistics covered 65 countries, which at the time accounted for 95 percent of the total world trade (League of Nations 1933, p54).

⁴ By comparison, there were 250 journalists permanently accredited to the United Nations Office in Geneva in 2000, approximately the same number as at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. During important events, such as international conferences, the number of accredited journalists can increase up to 1,500. (GNIR 2000)

II- The Post-1940s Era

Table 1 lists all the reports considered for analysis in this survey, including both pre- and post 1940s reports.⁵ Reports noted with an asterisk were re-issued at a later date. Table 1 also indicates the main issue addressed in the reports listed as well as the organization that *at present* sponsors their preparation.

Table 1 shows the frequency of publication of a particular report. Over time far more one-time reports were issued at the end of the 1990s than in previous decades, and this trend continued into the 2000s. In addition Table 1 indicates whether a report simply presents statistics and data, or goes beyond. A distinction is made between reports whose primary purpose is to provide statistics, and reports that seek to interpret data, present opinions, or propose action. From this table it can be seen that most of the reports in the 1960s to 1970s time frame presented data, and that this trend changed over time until most of the new reports issued in the 1990s to 2000 went beyond data presentation.

To facilitate the interpretation of Table 1, consider the evolution of newly issued reports from 1940 to 1999 shown in Figure 1. Each column indicates the number of new reports issued over the decade. Only the first edition is counted, corresponding to the first year in which the report became available, even if it was re-issued later⁶. Since the 1940s through the 1980s there were less than 10 new reports issued in each decade with the exception of the 1970's that had 12 reports and the 1980's that had exactly 10. The 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s registered only a few new reports (six, seven and six respectively). In the 1990s the number of new global reports increased dramatically to 44.

If we consider the cumulative number of new reports in each decade, then by 1999 we can see that 84 global reports were issued since the 1940s. While the steady stream of new reports from the 1940s to 1990 was important, a little over 50 percent of the cumulative total is due to new reports issued during the 1990s.

Figure 1 clearly illustrates the initially rising strength of multilateralism immediately after World War II, and its subsequent decline in the second half of the 1950s⁷ and during the '60s, reflecting the growing intensity of the Cold War and the widening East-West divide. Global issues certainly existed and became more apparent at that time (for example, the problem of environmental pollution). But given the rivalry among nations and political blocks during this period, the political climate and preparedness to address these issues was limited, depressing the number of global public reports, sometimes even leading to their temporary discontinuation.

⁵ The information on pre-1940s reports is intended to be more illustrative than exhaustive. The main focus of the analysis here clearly is on the post-1940s period.

⁶ More than the specific report itself, our interest is in tracing the emergence of an issue as currently reported. Thus, when we see today that a global report is published, say, by UNESCO on, for example, education, it is sometimes possible to trace to several years earlier the first time that the issue was subjected to reporting by UNESCO.

⁷ Note that all of the reports included in the table, and considered in the graph as belonging the decade 1950-1959, were actually issued between 1950 and 1955.

Table 1- Database of Global Reports

Title	Sponsoring Organization ^(a)	Year of Publication	Frequency of Publication ^(b)	Data Presentation Only ^(c)
Postal Statistics	UPU	1875	A	•
Monthly Bulletin of Statistics ¹	UNSD	1917	M	•
World Health Statistics Annual	WHO	1922	A	•
Weekly Epidemiological Record	WHO	1925	W	•
Statistical Yearbook	UNSD	1927	A	•
BIS Annual Report ^{#,2}	BIS	1930	A	
Industrial Statistics Yearbook ³	UNIDO	1938	A	•
World Economic and Social Survey ⁴	UN	1945	A	
International Court of Justice Yearbook [#]	ICJ	1947	A	•
State of the Food and Agriculture	FAO	1947	A	
Direction of Trade Statistics	IMF	1948	A since '48, Q & M since '67	•
International Financial Statistics	IMF	1948	A since '48, Q & M since '67	•
Demographics Yearbook	UN	1949	A	•
Global Forest Resource Assessment	FAO	1950	D	•
International Trade Statistics Yearbook	UN	1950	A	•
WMO Annual Report [#]	WMO	1951	A	
IAEA Annual Report [#]	IAEA	1951	A	
Report on the World Social Situation	UN	1952	IR	
World Survey of Education	UNESCO	1955	T	•
The Military Balance	IISS	1958	A	
Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements	INCB	1961	A	
Annual Report of Amnesty International [#]	AI	1962	A	
World Health Statistics Annual*	WHO	1962	A	•
International Narcotics Control Board Report [#]	INCB	1962	A	
Strategic Survey	IISS	1966	A	
SIPRI Yearbook	SIPRI	1969	A	
Government Finance Statistics Yearbook	IMF	1970	A	•
Global Development Finance	WB	1970	A	
Balance of Payments Statistics	IMF	1972	A	•
ITU Yearbook of Statistics	ITU	1973	A	•
World Culture Report	UNESCO	1975	1	
United Nations Disarmament Yearbook	UN	1976	A	•
Civil Aviation Statistics of the World	ICAO	1976	A	•
Freedom in the World	Freedom House	1978	A	•
World Development Report	WB	1978	A	
The Global Competitiveness Report	WEF	1979	A	
The State of World's Population	UNFPA	1979	A	
The World Health Report	WHO	1979	A	
World Economic Outlook	IMF	1980	A from '80-'84, 2A onwards	
Global Financial Stability Report ⁵	IMF	1980	Q	
The State of the World's Children	UNICEF	1980	A	
Trade and Development Report	UNCTAD	1981	A	
The Least Developed Countries Report	UNCTAD	1983	A until '99, B after '00	
State of the World	World Watch Institute	1984	A	

World Urbanization Prospects	UN	1984	B	•
World Resources	World Resources Institute with UNEP, UNDP and World Bank as partners	1986	B	
Environmental Data Report	UNEP	1987	B	•
World Population Monitoring	UN	1989	B from '89-'95, A '95 onwards	
World Investment Report ⁶	UNCTAD	1990	A	
Global Economic Prospects	WB	1990/1	A	
Climate Change	IPCC	1990/1	IR	
Human Rights Watch World Report	Human Rights Watch	1990	A	
Human Development Report	UNDP	1990	A	
World Education Report*	UNESCO	1991	B	
World's Women Trend and Statistics	UN	1991	IR	
Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment & Development ⁷	Fridtjof Nansen Institute	1992	A	
Vital Signs	World Watch Institute	1992	A	
The World Environment	UNEP	1992	D	
World of Civil Aviation	ICAO	1992	A	
World Disasters Report	Red Cross Red Crescent	1993	A	
World Telecommunication Indicators	ITU	1993	A	•
The State of the World's Refugees	UNHCR	1993	A	
The Progress of Nations	UNICEF	1993	A	
International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics*	UNIDO	1994	A	•
World in Transition	German Advisory Council on Global Changes	1994	A	
World Science Report ⁸	UNESCO	1994	B	
World Telecommunication Development Report	ITU	1994	A	
World Employment Report	ILO	1995	IR	
International Trade Statistics	WTO	1995	A	•
The State of World's Forests	FAO	1995	B	
Transparency International Annual Report [#]	Transparency International	1995	A	
Global Biodiversity Assessment	UNEP	1995	IR	
Resource Requirements for Population and Reproductive Health Programmes: Country Profiles for Population Assistance	UNFPA	1995	2 reports, B after 2003	•
The World Health Report *	WHO	1995	A	
Global Report on Human Settlements	UNCHS	1996	2	
World Development Indicators	WB	1996	A	•
Social Watch Annual Report	Social Watch	1996	A	
Conversion Survey	BICC	1996	A	
Climate Change and Human Health	WHO, WMO, UNEP	1996	1	
World Health Report – Global Tuberculosis Report	WHO	1996	A	

State of World Fisheries & Aquaculture	FAO	1996	B	
World Drug Report	UNDCP	1997	2	
Report on Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic	UNAIDS/WHO	1997	A	
Global Environment Outlook	UNEP	1997	3	
Challenges to the Network: Telecommunications & the Internet	ITU	1997	2	
World Communication and Information Report ⁹	UNESCO	1997	1	
World Culture Report*	UNESCO	1998	IR	
The World's Water	Pacific Institute	1998	B	
AIDS Epidemic Update	UNAIDS	1998	A	
Poverty Report: Overcoming Human Poverty	UNDP	1998	3	
World Social Science Report ¹⁰	UNESCO	1999	B	
Infectious Disease Report	WHO	1999	IR	
The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)	FAO	1999	A	
10/90 Report of Health Research [#]	GFHR	1999	A	
Global Report on Crime and Justice	UNODCCP	1999	1	
Global Illicit Drug Trends	UNDCP	1999	A	•
Climate Change and Human Health ¹¹	WHO	2000	1	
World Energy Assessment	UNDP UNDESA World Energy Council	2000	1	
World Peace Index	World Peace Forum	2000	A	
International Trade Statistics	WTO	2000	A	•
Migration Report	UN/IOM	2000	2	
The Progress of the World's Women	UNIFEM	2000	B	
Small Arms Survey	Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva	2001	A	
Global Information Technology Report	WEF	2001	A	
Global Corruption Report	Transparency International	2001	A	
Report on the Commission on Macroeconomics & Health	WHO	2001	1	
World Public Sector Report: Globalization & the State	UNDESA/ DPADM	2001	B	
Global Civil Society	Centre for Civil Society & LSE	2001	1	
State of the World's Cities	UN-HABITAT	2001	1	
Statistical Yearbook: Refugees, Asylum- seekers and Other Persons of Concern- Trends in Displacement	UNHCR	2001	1	
E-Commerce and Development Report	UNCTAD	2001	A	
World Report on Violence and Health	WHO	2002	1	
Living With Risk	ISDR, Gov't of Japan, WMO & Asian Reduction Center	2002	1	
Young People and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis	UNAIDS	2002	1	
Children on the Brink 2002	UNAIDS	2002	1	

HIV/AIDS, human resources & sustainable development	UNAIDS	2002	1	
State of the World's Vaccines and Immunization Report	WHO	2002	1	
Global Financial Stability Report ¹²	IMF	2002	Q	
Water for People-Water for Life- The United Nations World Water Development Report	UNESCO	2003	1	
Global Population and Water	UNFPA	2003	1	
Human Security Now: Final Reports of the Commission on Human Security	Commission on Human Security	2003	1	
Country Profiles for Population & Reproductive Health ¹³	UNFPA	2003	1	
Reducing Disaster Risk	UDP – BCPR	2004	1	

- (a) Organization that sponsored the latest version of the report (and which may not have existed at the time the report was first issued).
- (b) Frequency of Publication is indicated as A= Annually, B= Biennially, M= Monthly, W=Weekly, Q= Quarterly, D=1 every decade, T= every three years, 2A= Twice Annually, IR=Irregularly published and expecting other publications, 1= 1 Report published, 2= 2 reports published
- (c) This column indicates which reports only present data and do not interpret data, propose action, present options, or directly advance new concepts.

* Re-issuance.

These reports complement information on the activities of the organization with a substantive analysis of the issues that fall into the organization's mandate. Thus, the reports are more than just annual activity reports, which are not considered as qualifying for inclusion in this list of global reports.

1- The *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* was published by the UNSD since 1921 and previously from 1917 by the UK Board of Trade.

2- Since 1913 the League of Nations had been publishing some of the financial information of substantive interest to BIS, such as government balance sheets.

3- The *Industrial Statistics Yearbook* was replaced by the *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics* in 1995.

4- *World Economic and Social Survey* was published as *World Economic Report* between 1945-1954 and was published as *World Economic Survey* between 1955-1993.

5- This report replaced, in 2002, the annual *International Capital Markets Report* (published since 1980) and the quarterly *Emerging Market Financing Report* (published since 2000).

6-UNCTAD's WIR report was started by the old TNC's Unit (Transnational Corporation Unit) at the UN in New York.

7-The *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment & Development* was known as the *Green Globe Yearbook* from 1992-1997.

8- Issues similar to the ones covered in this report were addressed earlier in UNESCO's periodical *Impact of Science on Society*, which was published from 1948 to 1992.

9-UNESCO published the *World Information Report 1997-1998* and the *World Communication Report* and in 1998-99 decided to publish one report combining the two publications

10- This report complements the discussion in the periodical *International Social Science Journal*, which UNESCO has been publishing since 1949.

11-This WHO Report expanded on the book *Climate Change and Human Health* published in 1996 by the WHO, WMO, and UNEP.

12-Replaces *International Capital Market Reports* published annually since 1980 and *Emerging Market Financing* published quarterly since 2000.

13- Follow up to the 1995 Resource Requirements for Population and Reproductive Health Programmes: Programme Country Profiles for Population Assistance.

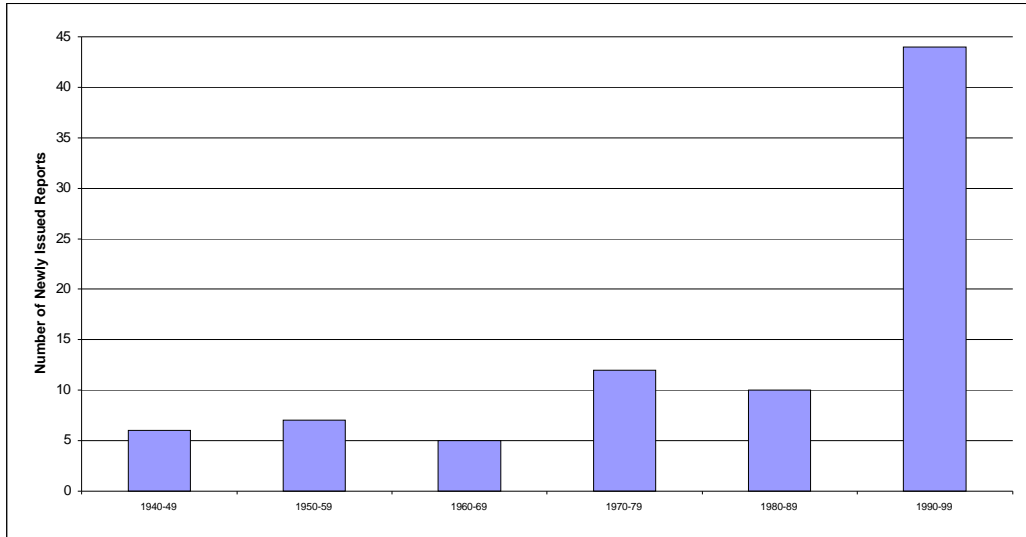


Figure 1- Reports Addressing Global Concerns, 1940-1999

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

Figure 2 contains reports included in the analysis in which there was discontinuity, change in format, or sponsoring organization. The horizontal axis indicates the year in which the first report was published, and the vertical axis the year in which the report re-emerged, with the reports often published systematically thereafter. For example, the *World Health Statistics Annual*, which was first published in 1922 by the League of Nations as the *Annual Epidemiological Report* (as indicated by the vertical line from the point where the report is in the chart to the horizontal axis), was reissued again in 1962 (as shown by the horizontal line from the point to the vertical axis).

Figure 2 shows that global reports on several issues were again published years after they were first subject to global reporting. Reports on world health statistics and on the world social situation appeared again in the 1960s. In the early 1980s global reports on population and the world economic outlook reemerged. But it was in the 1990s that many issues first addressed years earlier again appeared, namely on education and culture (UNESCO), and on health (WHO; the *World Health Report*, which had first appeared in 1979, reappeared as an annual report in 1995).

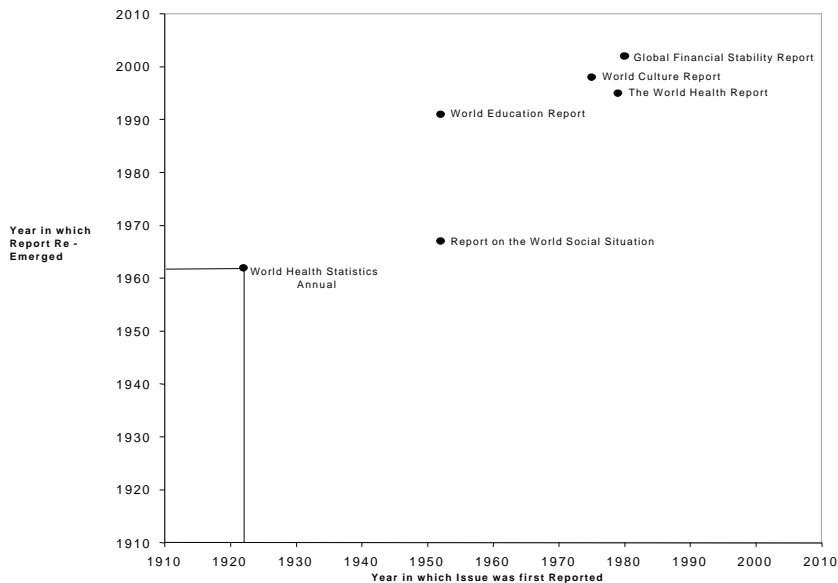


Figure 2- Reports that Experienced Discontinuities: Year in which Reports First Appeared and Year in which Reports were Re-issued

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

Clearly, some global concerns were not new to the 1990s; they had existed for many years. But in some instances it was only in more recent decades that the international community began to focus on them more systematically and decisively. Thus, the fact that the 1990s were an extraordinary period in terms of global reporting is not only borne out by the number of new reports issued, but also by the fact that the same message is conveyed when one takes into account reports that resumed publication during this time.

Figure 3 presents the evolution of all new and re-issued reports in a given decade. Not surprisingly, the same trend depicted in Figure 1 can be seen, with a relatively low number of reports until the 1990s, when the number of reports issued increased dramatically.

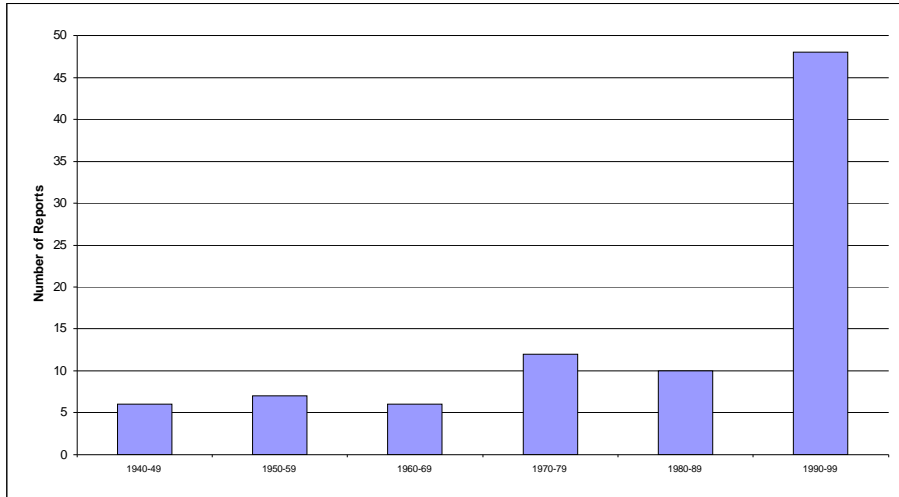


Figure 3- Reports Addressing Global Concerns, 1940-1999 (including re-issuances)

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

To complement the information in figures 1 and 3, the following two figures present the cumulative number of reports. Since once a report has been published it becomes available as a permanent source of data and knowledge, it is relevant to look at the cumulative number of reports. Figure 4 considers only newly issued reports, while Figure 5 includes all reports, including re-issued ones. The earlier picture is reconfirmed: while there has been a steady increase since 1940, the 1990s represent a trend-breaking decade in which the pace in the production of global reports accelerated.

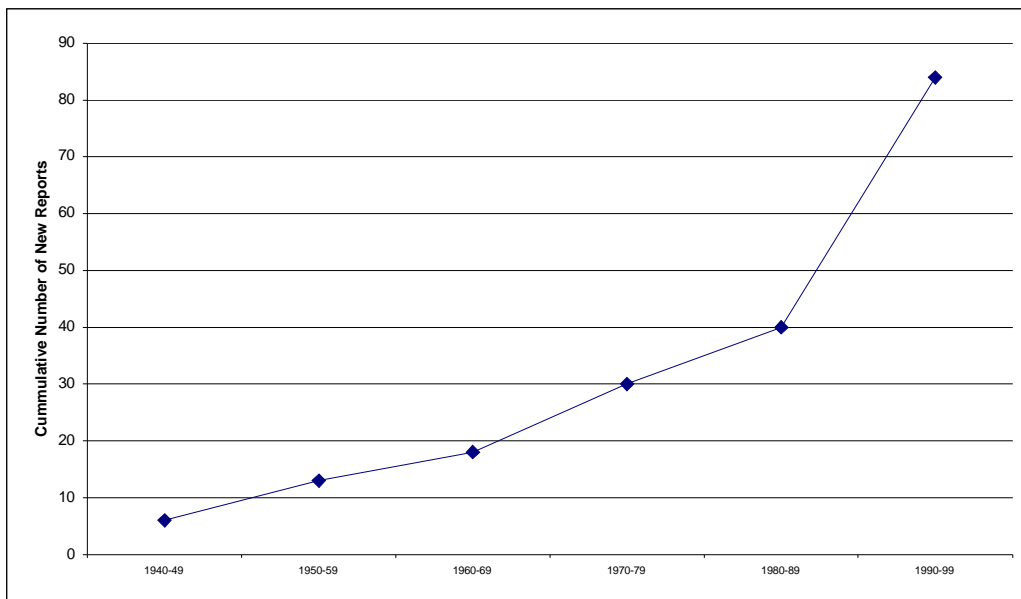


Figure 4- Cumulative Number of New Reports Addressing Global Concerns, 1940-1999

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

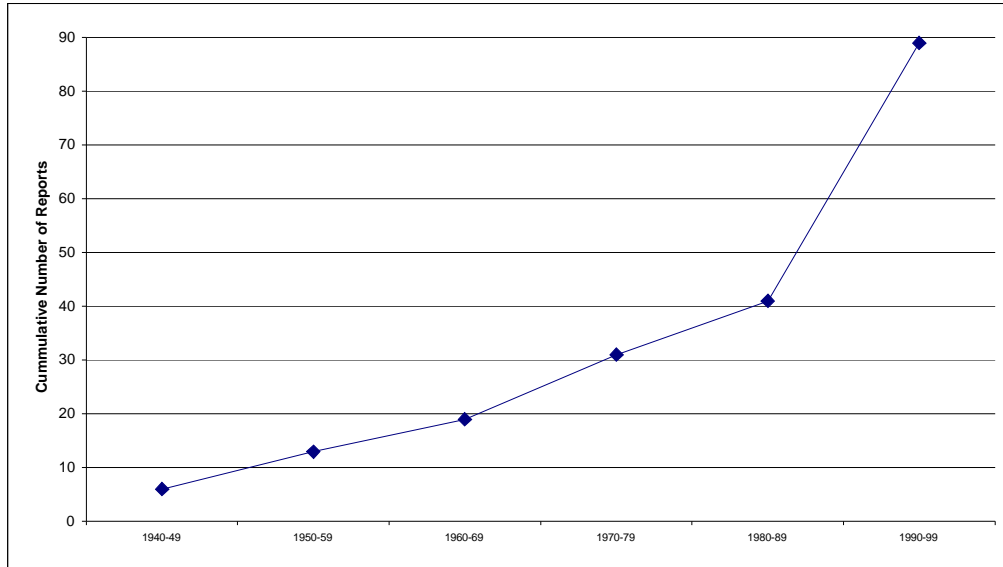


Figure 5- Cumulative Number of Reports Addressing Global Concerns (including re-issuances), 1940-1999

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

The analysis can be extended up to 2003. But since we are only beginning the first decade of the 21st century, the analysis must necessarily be calculated on average terms, determining the frequency of issuance of new global reports in a shorter period (say, how many new reports were issued on a two-year average). Figure 6 illustrates, for each decade from 1950 to 1999 the average number of new reports published every two years. Figure 7 shows all reports (including re-issuances) published every two years. The 1940-1949 decade was truncated to start in 1945, since in the first half of the decade there were no new reports issued.

The results suggest that immediately after WW II there was a high intensity in the issuance of global reports, since in the following decades the average number of newly issued reports fell from an average of 2.4 every two years (in 1945-1949) to between 1 and 2.4 every two years from 1950 to 1989. In the 1990s, however, there were on average 8.8 new global reports issued every two years, while the total number of reports published on average every two years (including re-issuances) from 1990 through 1999 is 9.6. The trend that emerged in the 1990s accelerated considerably in the first years of the 21st century with an average of 18.7 new reports every two years. However, given the limited number of years since 2000, it is not safe to read much into the values after 1999.

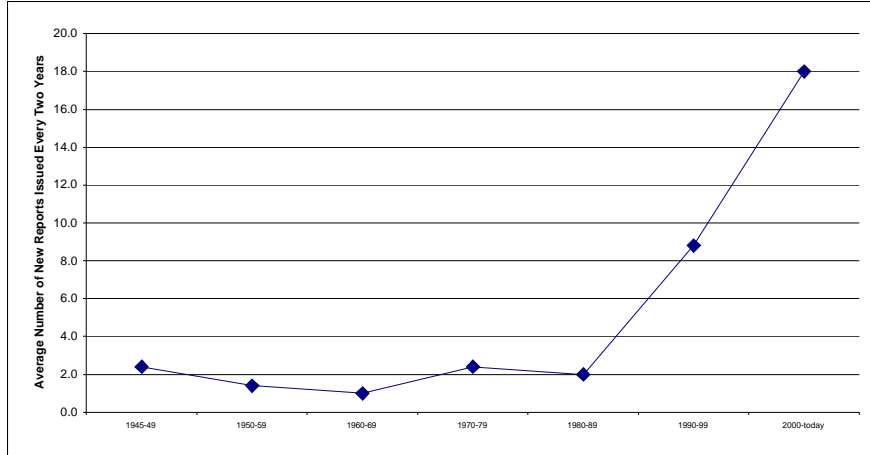


Figure 6- Average Number of New Reports Issued Every Two Years

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

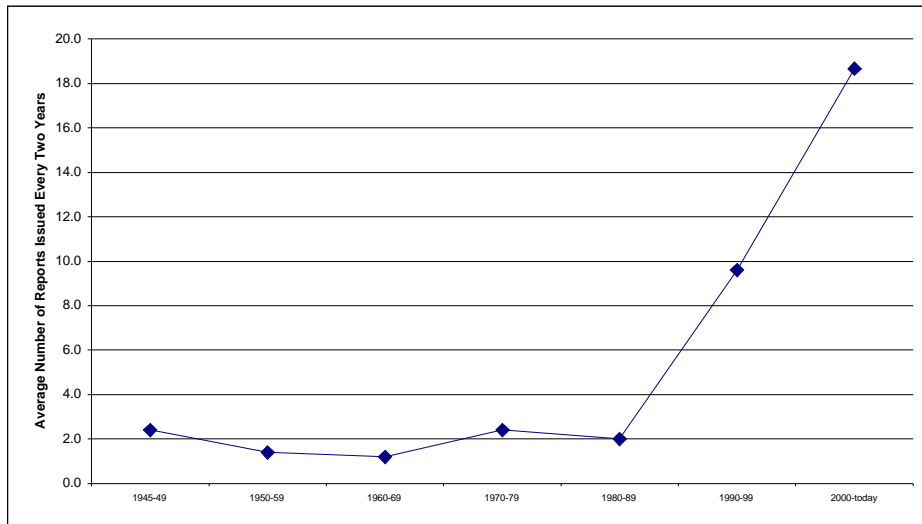


Figure 7- Average Number of Reports Issued Every Two Years (including re-issuances)

Source: ODS survey completed 1 March 2004 (Table 1).

III- Global Reports Sponsored by Civil Society Organizations

This Global Reports paper includes reports issued by civil society. The term civil society includes organizations between the family and the state with the exception of private businesses, which are excluded since the assumption is made that they exist to make profit, while civil society organizations exist to defend or advance common interests. NGO's, labor unions, and business associations are included in the term civil society. (Edwards & Zadek 2003)

Organizations in civil society have supported and undertaken the preparation of global reports, often putting on the international agenda issues that were previously neglected or had a low profile. For example, the *Annual Report* of Amnesty International (1962-to present) has given human rights issues great visibility around the world, as has the *World Report*, issued by Human Rights Watch (1990-to present). Transparency International (1995-to present), with the publication of the corruption perception index in its *Annual Report*, has placed the challenge of eliminating corruption squarely on the international agenda. Non-governmental organizations have also brought new perspectives to traditional fields of global reporting. The *World Competitiveness Report*, published by the World Economic Forum (1979-to present), has, through economic comparisons across countries, helped focus political attention on the concept of country competitiveness, measured by a combination of economic and social indicators.

Equally, civil society has been highly influential in the environmental area. The World Watch Institute publishes two important global reports (*State of the World*, 1984-to present; and *Vital Signs*, 1992-to present) that discuss environmental stress in the broader context of sustainable development. Another important example is *World Resources* (1986-to present), published by the World Resources Institute, which assesses annually the way in which the world uses and manages its natural resources.

Civil society can also raise awareness of specific, but neglected, issues. For example, the Global Forum for Health Research annually publishes the *10/90 Report on Health Research* (1999-to present), which has drawn international attention to the dramatic inequality in research efforts addressing diseases that cause the greatest global health burdens. Still in the area of health, an independent commission constituted under the auspices of the World Health Organization, the Commission for Macroeconomics and Health, undertook, among other things, a systematic assessment of the costs and potential benefits of health interventions addressing diseases of the poor (see, CMH 2001).

In the area of peace and security, the *Yearbook* of SIPRI (the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) and the annual *Conversion Surveys* of BICC (the Bonn International Center on Conversion) have, among other studies, become well-recognized standard reference publications of a global nature.

Furthermore, mention should be made of reports such as the *Social Watch Report* (developed by Social Watch since 1996) and the *Global Civil Society Yearbook* (Anheier, Glasius and Kaldor, 2001, 2002, 2003), published for the first time in 2001 as a result of a joint project by the Centre for Civil Society and the Centre for the Study of Global

Governance of the London School of Economics. The *Social Watch Report* in particular throws the spotlight on governments and provides civil-society assessments of how well those governments are living up to the various commitments they have made at international conferences.

This short overview, which by no means includes all global reports issued by civil society, shows that the practice of global reporting extends beyond multilateral and inter-governmental organizations and, as such, an effort has been made to include them in this first update of the Global Reports. The findings of this report show that the overall trend in the sharp increases that took place in the 1990's remains unchanged.

Conclusion

Just as globalization has undergone many phases, so too have many of today's global reports experienced change. And as the range of globalization covers ever more issues, so the breadth of global reports continues to grow. Also, the increasing number of actors engaged in cross-border activities, generate an expansion of data and analyses aimed at having global reach and adopting a transnational perspective. Global reports have been spurred by globalization. At the same time, they are indicators of advances in various dimensions of the globalization process.

Many, if not all, of the themes addressed by the global reports examined here qualify as global public goods, i.e. goods in the global public domain, potentially affecting all countries and people. Because they constitute shared, common concerns, they have been taken up for study by research teams of multilateral organizations and actors in global civil society.

While this paper has tried to shed some light on the evolution of global reports over time, there are many issues that need further study and analyses. No doubt, added efforts are required to make the present data more complete. A further interesting aspect would be to examine how the approaches that particular reports have taken to issues have changed over time. Also it may be helpful to examine which reports have stood out and helped transform and advance the debate and understanding of global concerns in invaluable ways.

Another dimension to explore concerns the dissemination of the reports. For example: How well known or respected are global reports? How many of these reports are readily available to the public? Is there a growing trend towards pricing and selling these reports?⁸ And if so, how should we interpret this trend? Does it reflect financial constraints of the organizations concerned? Or, is in today's globalizing world information on global trends so indispensable that a growing number of state and non-state participants are willing to pay for it? And if this is the case, how is global equity impacted by this trend towards pricing global reports and related data sets?

⁸ To illustrate, in 2003 the IMF's *World Economic Outlook* sold for US\$ 49; the World Bank's *World Development Report* for US\$ 26; UNDP's *Human Development Report* for US\$ 22.95; UNCTAD's *Trade and Development Report* for US\$ 39 (developed countries) and US\$ 19 (developing countries); World Watch Institute's *State of the World* for \$16.95, and Freedom House's *Freedom in the World* for \$29.95.

References: Global Reports by Multilateral Organizations Included in this Survey

- BIS (Bank for International Settlements). 1930- . (annual since 1930). *Annual Report*. Basle: BIS.
- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). 1947- . (annual since 1963). *The State of Food and Agriculture*. Rome: FAO.
- _____. 1950- . (every 10 years). *Global Forest Resources Assessment*. Rome: FAO.
- _____. 1995- . (biennial) *The State of the World's Forests*. Rome: FAO.
- _____. 1996- (biennial) *The State of the World Fisheries & Aquaculture*. Rome: FAO
- _____. 1999- . (annual). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*. Rome: FAO.
- IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). 1951- . (annual). *Annual Report*. Vienna: IAEA.
- ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). 1976- . (annual). *Civil Aviation Statistics of the World: ICAO Statistical Yearbook*. Montreal: ICAO.
- _____. 1992- . (annual). *The World of Civil Aviation*. Montreal: ICAO.
- ICJ. (International Court of Justice). 1947- . (annual). *International Court of Justice Yearbook*. The Hague: ICJ.
- ILO (International Labour Organization). 1995-96, 96-97, 98-99. 2001. *World Employment Report*. Geneva: ILO.
- IMF (International Monetary Fund). 1948- . (annually since 1948, quarterly and monthly since 1967). *International Financial Statistics*. Washington DC: IMF.
- _____. 1948- . (annually since 1948, quarterly and monthly since 1967). *Direction of Trade Statistics*. Washington DC: IMF.
- _____. 1980- . (annual from 1980 to 1984, usually twice a year) *World Economic Outlook*. Washington DC: IMF.
- _____. 1970- . (annual). *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*. Washington DC: IMF.
- _____. 1972- . (annual). *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook*. Washington DC: IMF.
- _____. 2002 March - (quarterly). *Global Financial Stability Report: Market Developments and Issues*. (replaces *International Capital Market Reports* published annually since 1980 and the *Emerging Market Financing* published quarterly since 2000). Washington DC: IMF.
- INCB (International Narcotics Control Board). 1961- . (annual). *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1962 - . (annual). *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board*. New York: UN.
- IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). 1990, 1995, and 2001. *IPCC Climate Change Assessment Reports*. Geneva: IPCC.
- ITU (International Telecommunication Union). 1973-. (annual). *Yearbook of Statistics (published as Yearbook of Common Carrier Telecommunication Statistics Yearbook)*. Geneva: ITU.
- _____. 1993- . (annual). *World Telecommunications Indicators*. Geneva: ITU.
- _____. 1994- . (annual) *World Telecommunication Development Report*. Geneva: ITU.
- _____. 1997 & 1999. *Challenges to the Network*. Geneva: ITU

- UN (United Nations). 1949- . (annual). *Demographics Yearbook*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1950- . (annual). *International Trade Statistics Yearbook (published as Yearbook of International Trade Statistics from 1950-1983)*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1952- . (Irregular – 15 reports since publication). *Report on the World Social Situation*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1976- . (annual). *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1984- . (biennial). *World Urbanization Prospects (published as Prospects of World Urbanization in 1984/85 and 1988)*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1989- (annual). *World Population Monitoring (published as World Population Trends and Policies. Issued every two years between 1989-1995 and annually since 1996)*. New York: UN.
- _____. 1991, 1995 and 2000. *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. New York: UN.
- _____. 1945- . (annual). *World Economic and Social Survey (published as World economic report between 1945-1954, and published as World Economic Survey between 1955-1993)*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. New York.
- _____ and IOM (International Organization for Migration). 2000 and 2003. *World Migration Report*. New York: IOM and UN.
- UNAIDS (United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS). 1997– (annual). *Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic*. Geneva: UNAIDS.
- _____. 1998 – (annual). *AIDS Epidemic Update*. Geneva: UNAIDS.
- _____. 2002. *HIV/AIDS, human resources & sustainable development*. Geneva: UNAIDS.
- _____. 2002. *Children on the Brink 2002*. Geneva: UNAIDS, USAID, & UNICEF.
- _____. 2002. *Young People and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis*. Geneva: UNAIDS,
- UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development). 1981- (annual) . *Trade and Development Report*. Geneva and New York: UN
- _____. 1983- . (annual until 1999 and biennial as of 2000). *The Least Developed Countries Report*. Geneva and New York: UN.
- _____. 1990- . (annual). *World Investment Report*. Geneva and New York: UN
- _____. 2001 – (annual). *E-Commerce and Development Report*. New York and Geneva: UN.
- UNDESA (UN Economic and Social Development) Department for Public Administration and Development Management. 2001- (biennial). *World Public Sector Report*. New York: UN
- UNDCP (United Nations International Drug Control Programme). 1997 and 2000. *World Drug Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- _____. 1999 - . (annual) *Global Illicit Drug Trends*. New York: UN.
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 1990- . (annual). *Human Development Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- _____. 1998, 1999, 2000. *UNDP Poverty Report: Overcoming Human Poverty*. New York: UNDP.
- _____, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and World Energy Council. 1999. *World Energy Assessment*. New York: UNDP.
- UNDP - Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. 2004. *Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development*. New York: UNDP BCPR.
- UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme). 1987- (biennial). *Environmental Data Report*.

- _____. 1995. V.H. Heywood and R.T. Watson. *Global Biodiversity Assessment*.
- _____. 1997, 1999, 2002 *Global Environment Outlook*. Published by Oxford University Press in 1997, and by Earthscan in 1999 and 2002.
- _____. 1982 and 1992. *The World Environment*. New York: Chapman and Hall.
- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). 1975, 1998. *World Culture Report*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1991- . (biennial). *World Education Report*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1955- (every three years) *World Survey of Education*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1994- . (biennial) *World Science Report*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1997. *World Information Report 1997/1998*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1998. *World Communication Report 1998*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1999. *World Communication and Information Report 1999-2000*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 1999- (biennial). *World Social Science Report*. Paris: UNESCO.
- _____. 2003. *Water for People-Water for Life-The United Nations World Water Development Report*. Paris: UNESCO.
- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund). 1979. (annual). *State of the World's Population*. New York: UNFPA.
- _____. 1995 – (two reports up to 2000, and biennial after 2003.). *Resource Requirements for Populations and Reproductive Health Programmes*. New York: UNFPA
- _____. 2003. *Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health*. New York: UNFPA
- _____. 2003 *Global Population and Water*. New York: UNFPA
- UN-HABITAT (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements). 1996 and 2001. *Global Report on Human Settlements*. Published by Oxford University Press, New York in 1996 and Earthscan Publications in 2001.
- _____. 2001. *State of the World's Cities*. New York: UN-HABITAT
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). 1993 – (annual). *The State of the World's Refugees*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- _____. 2001. *Statistical Yearbook 2001: Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Other Persons of Concern - Trends in Displacement, Protection and Solutions*. Geneva: UNHCR.
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). 1980- . (annual). *The State of the World's Children*. New York: UNICEF.
- _____. 1993- . (annual). *The Progress of Nations*. New York: UNICEF.
- UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). 1930 -. *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics*. (published as *Industrial Statistics Yearbook from 1930 to 1994*). Vienna: UNIDO.
- UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women). 2000- . (biennial). *Progress of the World's Women*. New York: UN.
- UNODCCP (United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention). 1999. *Global Report on Crime and Justice*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- UNSD (United Nations Statistics Division). 1927 – (annual). *Statistical Yearbook*.
- _____. 1917- (monthly) *The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*. (Was published by the UK Board of Trade from 1917 – 1921)
- UPU (Universal Postal Union). 1875- . (annual). *Postal Statistics*. Berne: UPU.

- WHO (World Health Organization). 1922- . (annually since 1962). *World Health Statistics Annual*. Geneva: WHO.
- _____. 1925-. (weekly). *Weekly Epidemiological Record*. Geneva: WHO.
- _____. 1979- . (annual since 1995). *World Health Report*. Geneva: WHO.
- _____. 1996- . (annual). *Global Tuberculosis Control*. Geneva: WHO.
- _____. 1999, 2000 and 2002. *Infectious Diseases Report*. Geneva: WHO.
- _____. 2000. *Climate Change and Human Health*. Geneva: WHO
- _____. 2002. *State of the World's Vaccines and Immunization Report*. Geneva: WHO.
- _____. 2002. *World Report on Violence and Health*. Geneva: WHO.
- WMO (World Meteorological Organization). 1951- . (annual). *Annual Report*. Geneva: WMO.
- World Bank. 1970- . (annual). *Global Development Finance (published as World Debt Tables from 1970-1996)*. Washington DC.
- _____. 1978- . (annual). *World Development Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- _____. 1991- . (annual). *Global Economic Prospect*. Washington DC.
- _____. 1997- . (annual). *World Development Indicators (published as the statistical appendix of the World Development Report until 1996)*. Washington DC.
- WTO (World Trade Organization). 2000- . (annual). *International Trade Statistics. (published as International Trade: Trends and Statistics by GATT between 1952 to 1995, and as a part of WTO Annual Report between 1996-1999)* Geneva: WTO.

References: Select Global Reports by Non-Governmental Organizations and Independent Commissions

- AI (Amnesty International). 1962- (annual). *Annual Report*. London: AI.
- Anheier, Helmut K., Marlies Glasius and Mary Kaldor (Eds.). 2001-annual). *Global Civil Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- BICC (the Bonn International Center on Conversion). 1996- (annual). *Conversion Survey*. Baden-Baden: NOMOS Verlagsgesellschaft.
- CMH (Commission on Macroeconomics and Health). 2001. *Macroeconomics and Health: Investing in Health for Economic Development. Report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Committee for the Culture of Peace, World Peace Forum. 2000- (annual). *World Peace Index*. Seoul: World Peace Forum.
- CHS (Commission on Human Security). 2003. *Final Report of the Commission on Human Security*. New York: CHS.
- Freedom House. 1978 – (annual). *Freedom in the World*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Fridtjof Nansen Institute. 1992- (Annual). *Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development*. London: Earthscan.
- Global Forum for Health Research. 1999- (annual). *The 10/90 Report on Health Research*. Geneva: GFHR.
- Graduate Institute of International Studies Geneva. 2001- (annual). *Small Arms Survey*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Human Rights Watch. 1990- (annual). *Human Rights Watch World Report*. New York: HRW.
- IISS (International Institute for Strategic Studies).1996 – (annual) *Strategic Survey*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- _____. 1958 – (annual) *The Military Balance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pacific Institute. 1998- (biennial) *The World's Water*. Washington, D.C.:Island Press.
- Red Cross Red Crescent.1993 – (Annual) *World Disasters Report*. London: Eurospan.
- SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute). 1969- (annual). *SIPRI Yearbook*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Social Watch. 1996- (annual). *Social Watch Report*. Montevideo: Social Watch/ITeM.
- Transparency International. 1995- (annual). *Annual Report*. Berlin: TI.
- _____. 2001 – (annual). *Global Corruption Report*. London:Profile Books.
- UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction), Government of Japan, WMO (World Meteorological Organization), and the Asian Reduction Center. 2002. *Living with Risk*. Geneva: ISDR
- WBGU (German Advisory Council on Global Changes). 1993 – (annual) *World in Transition*. London: Earthscan.
- World Economic Forum. 1979- (annual). *The Global Competitiveness Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- _____. 2001- (annual) *Global Information Technology Report*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- WHO (World Health Organization), WMO (World Meteorological Organization), and UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). 1996. *Climate Change and Human Health*. Geneva: WHO
- World Resources Institute (often in conjunction with partners that have included UNEP, UNDP, and the World Bank). 1986- (annual) . *World Resources*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- World Watch Institute. 1984- (annual) . *State of the World*. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company.
- _____. 1992- (annual). *Vital Signs*. London: Earthscan Publications.

References: Other Sources

- Conceição, Pedro. 2003. “Assessing the Provision Status of Global Public Goods.” In Inge Kaul, Pedro Conceição, Katell Le Goulven and Ronald U. Mendoza (eds). *Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Michael Edwards & Simon Zadek. 2003.“ Governing the Provision of Global Public Goods: The Role and Legitimacy of Nonstate Actors.” In Inge Kaul, Pedro Conceição, Katell Le Goulven and Ronald U. Mendoza (eds). *Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- GNIR (Geneva New International Report). 2000. "Mass Media as a UN Partner: Geneva Perspective." [<http://www.genevanews.com/gnir/html/Archives/200004/P2Petrovski.html>]
- Kaul, Inge, Pedro Conceição, Katell Le Goulven and Ronald U. Mendoza (eds). 2003. *Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press.

League of Nations. Serial publications (listing all the publications of the League of Nations).

_____. 1930. *Ten Years of World Cooperation*. Secretariat Publication. Geneva: League of Nations.

_____. 1933. *Essential Facts about the League of Nations*. Information Section. Geneva: League of Nations.