



Beyond GDP

A Compass of Progress for
People and Planet

ISI Academy Webinar on “The UN’s
Beyond GDP Agenda – Impact on
Official Statistics”

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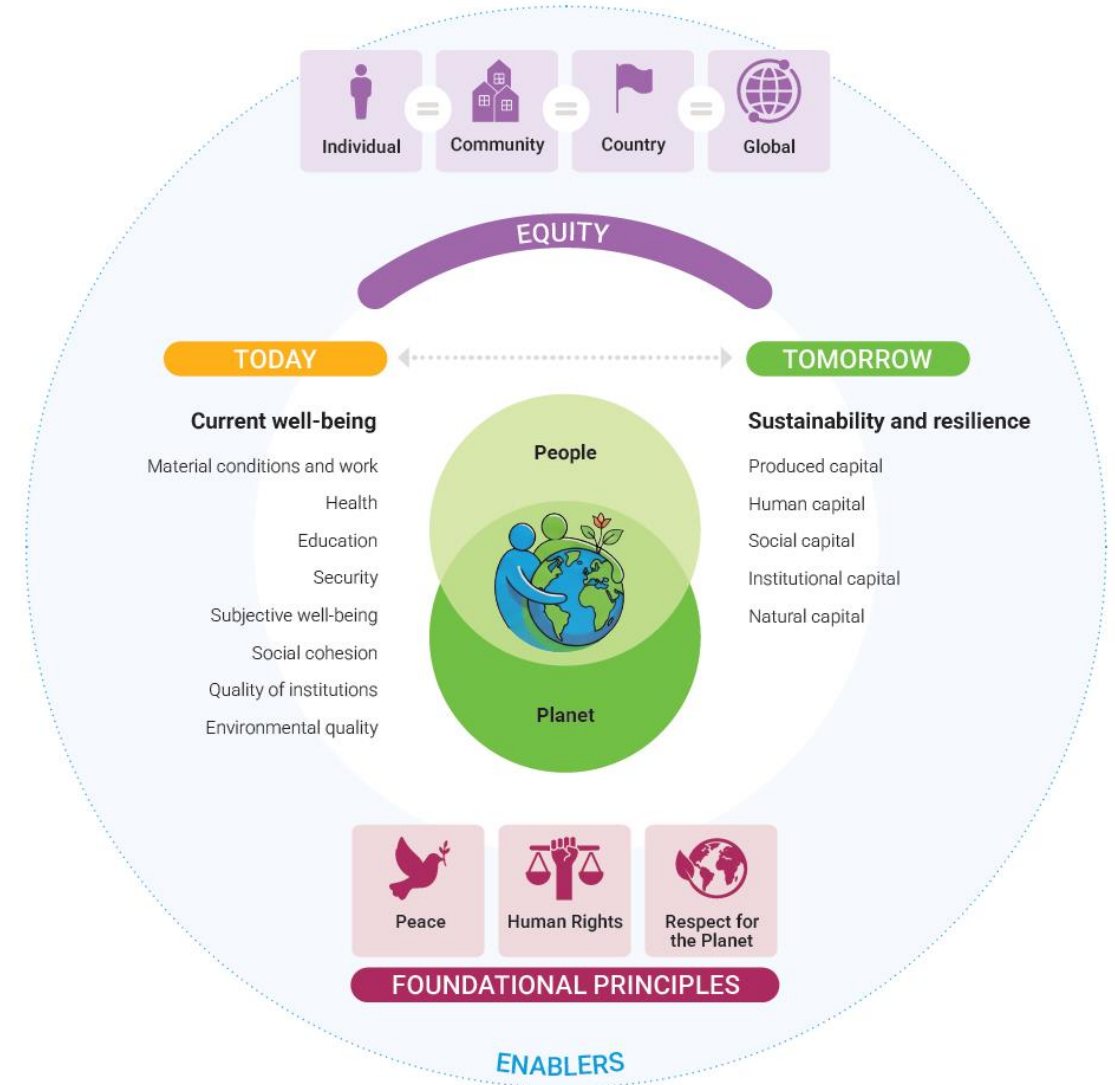
➤ Looking Beyond GDP from 7 May 2026

Member States have long been asking for measures of progress that go beyond GDP

- ▶ 2030 Agenda, SDG 17.19, 2015
- ▶ Our Common Agenda, 2021
- ▶ SG's Policy Brief, 2023
- ▶ Pact for the Future, 2024

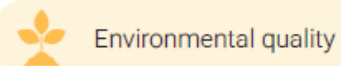
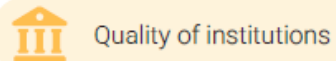
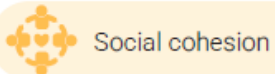
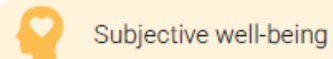
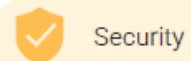
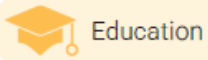
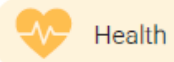
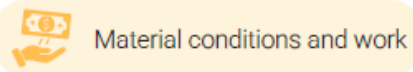
Launch of the [Counting What Counts](#) report and dashboard, 7 May 2026

- ▶ A compass of progress for people and planet
- ▶ **How do we take it forward?**

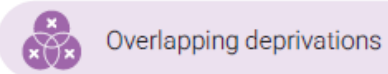
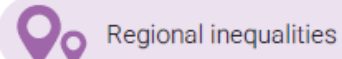
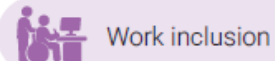
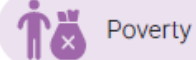
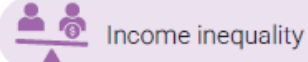
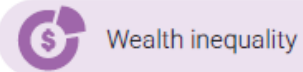


➤ Proposed dashboard

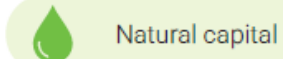
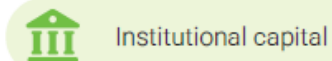
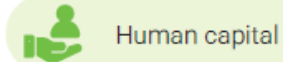
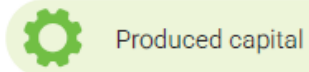
CURRENT WELLBEING



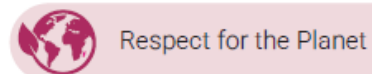
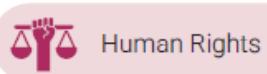
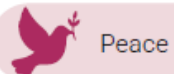
EQUITY & INCLUSION



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

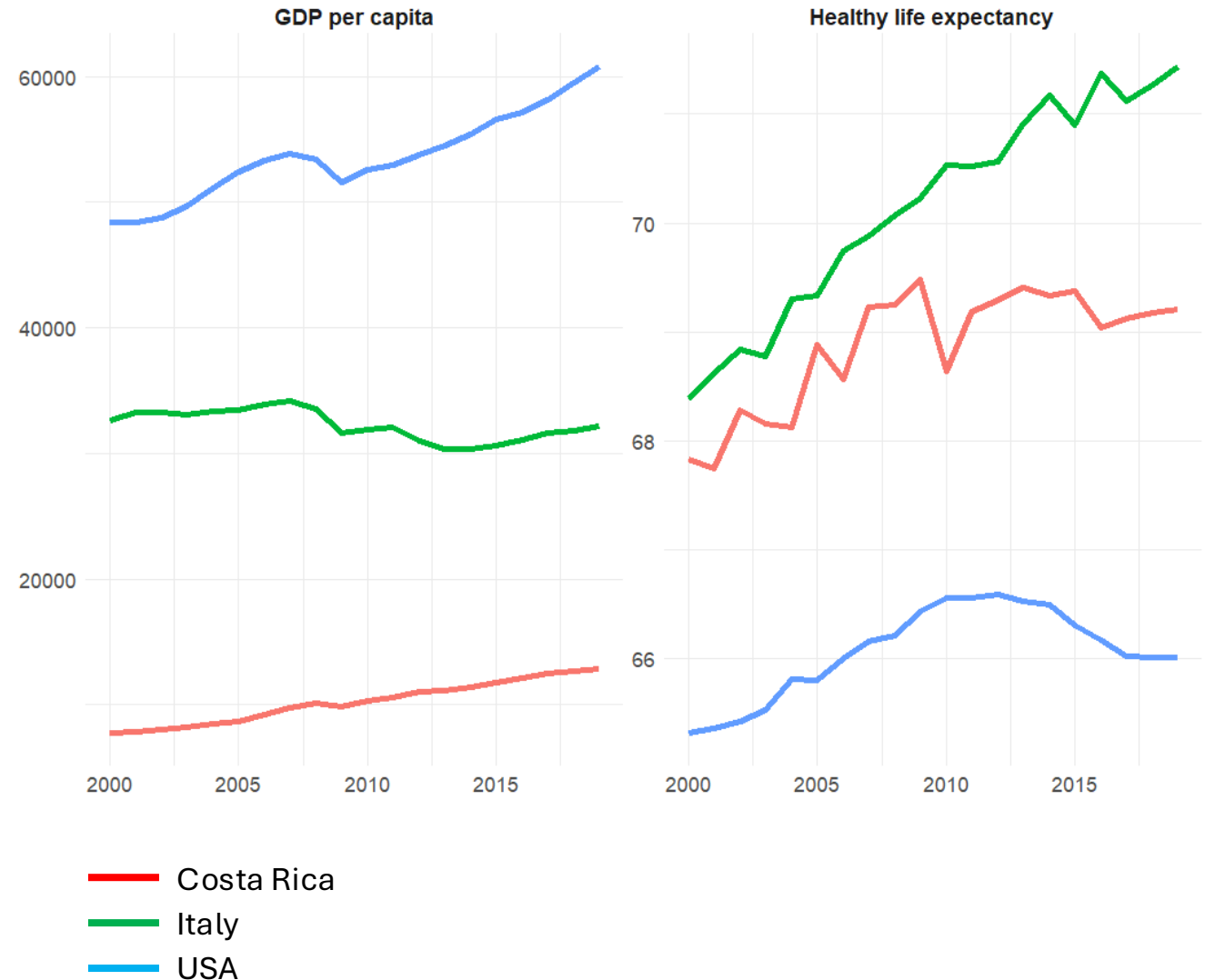


FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES



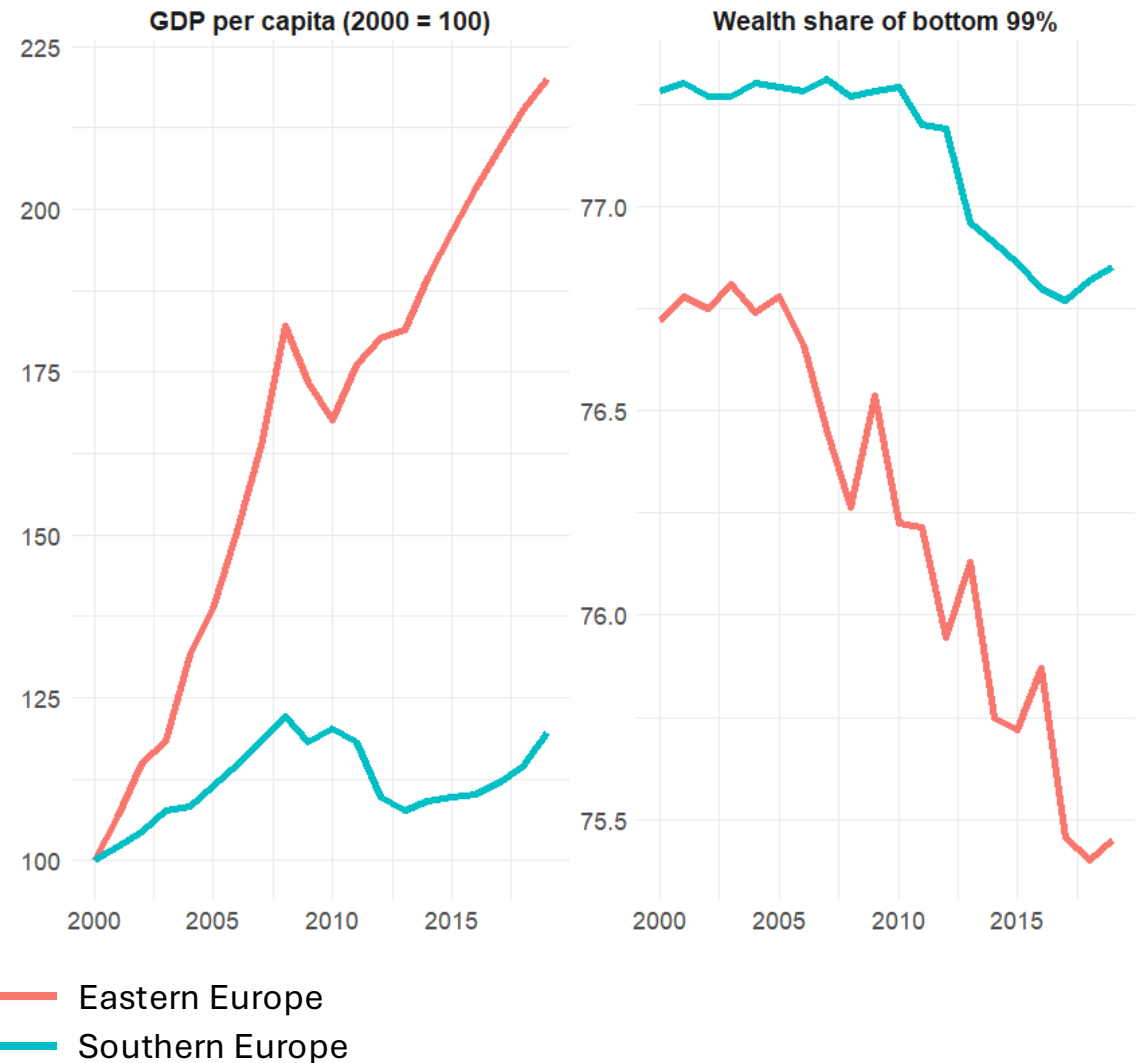
➤ Current Well-being

- ▶ Higher GDP does not automatically translate into better health outcomes (and vice versa)
- ▶ With $< \frac{1}{4}$ of U.S. GDP per capita, Costa Rica achieves higher healthy life expectancy
- ▶ In Italy healthy life expectancy has continued to improve despite economic slowdown



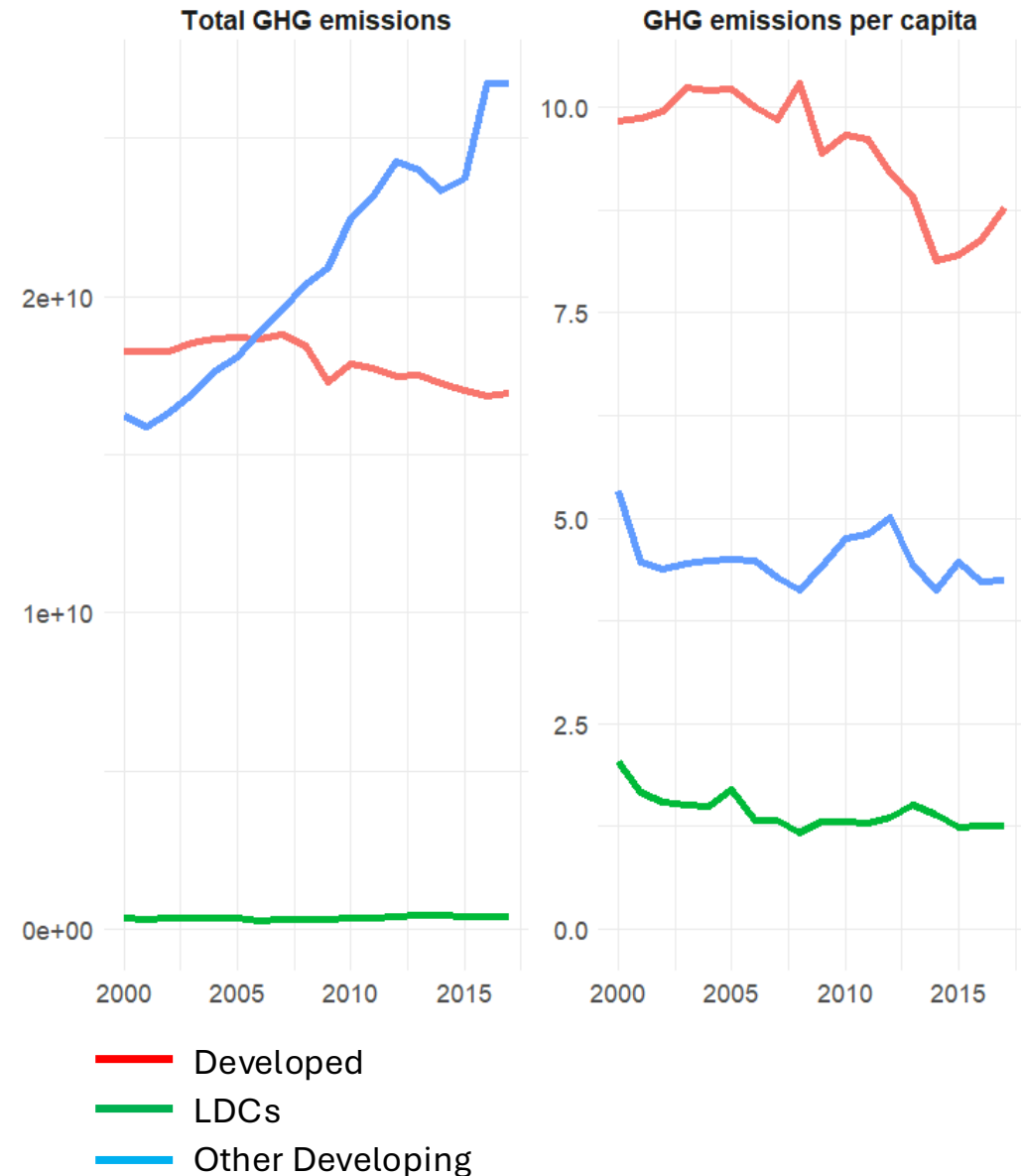
➤ Equity & Inclusion

- ▶ Economic growth does not automatically translate into more equal or inclusive societies
- ▶ In Eastern Europe, faster GDP per capita growth than in Southern Europe has coincided with a sharper decline in the wealth share of the bottom 99%



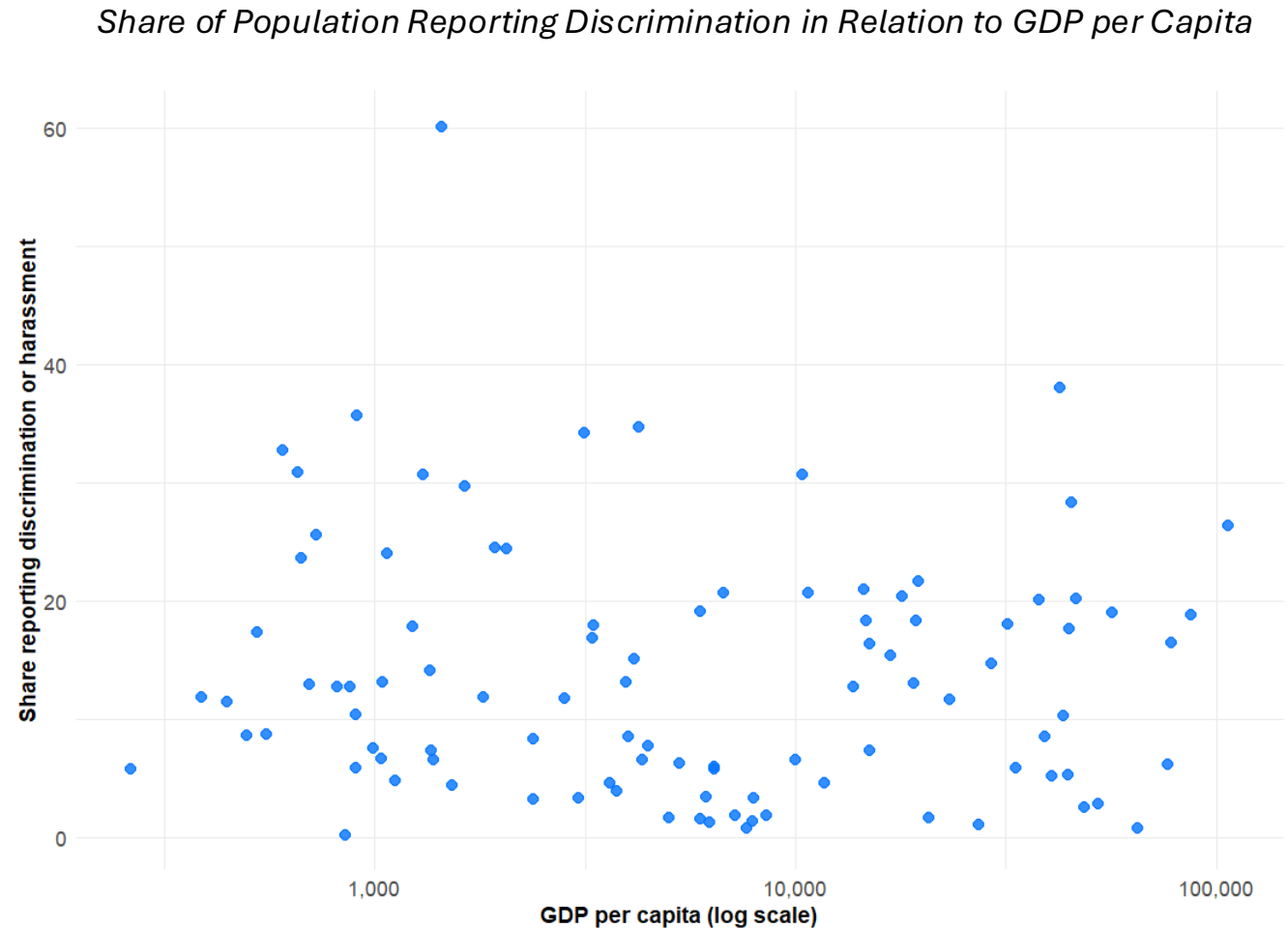
➤ Sustainability & Resilience

- ▶ Per capita emissions have stabilized, but global emissions keep rising due to population and economic growth
- ▶ Many climate-vulnerable countries (incl. LDCs) emit far less per capita than developed nations



► Foundational Principles

- Higher GDP is not systematically associated with lower levels of discrimination
- Foundational principles are essential for sustainable and inclusive development

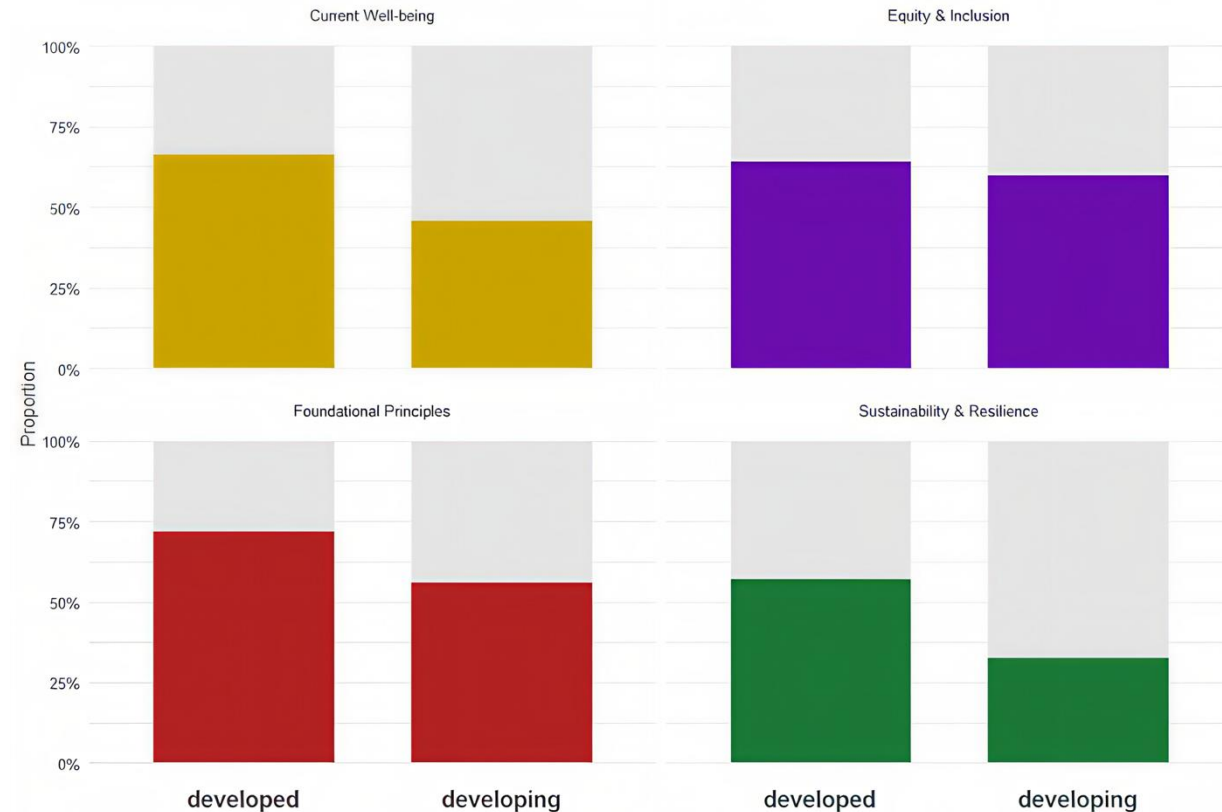


➤ Data Gaps

Significant data gaps limit the ability to measure progress comprehensively

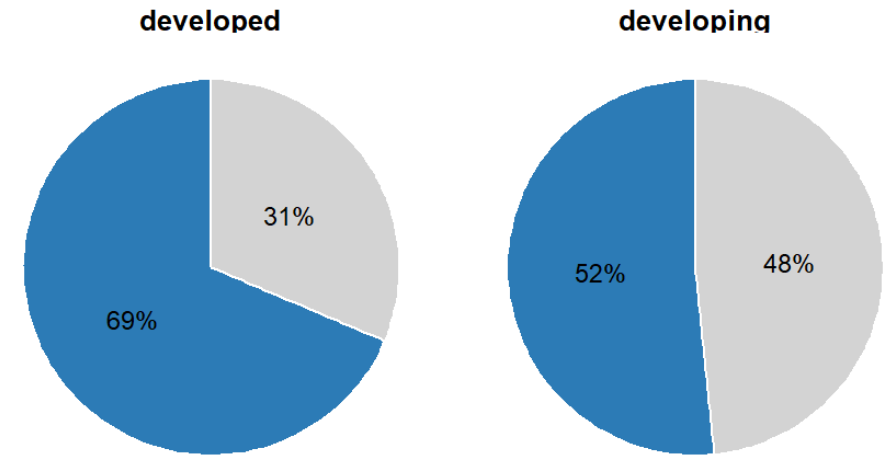
- 1) Coverage is lowest for **Sustainability & Resilience** with only about 1 in 3 developing countries covered by data available in international sources
- 2) Gaps between developed and developing countries are marked also for data on **Current well-being**

Percentage of dashboard indicators by section with at least one data point publicly available, on average

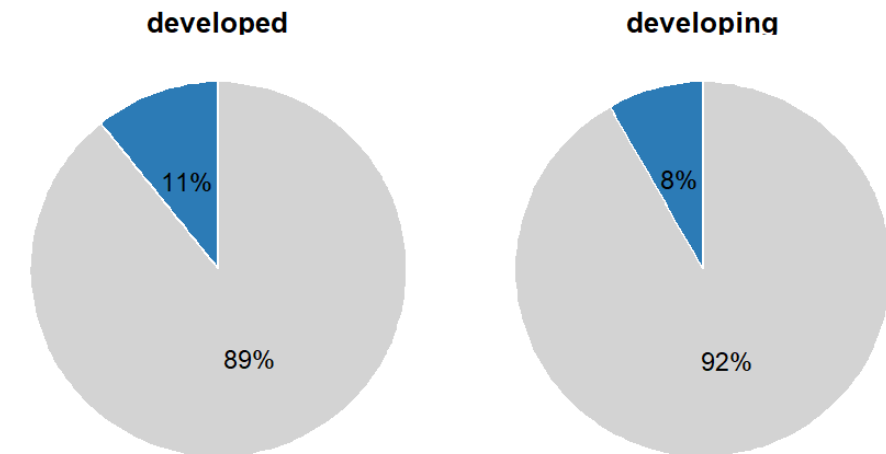


➤ Areas for Further Development

- ▶ Even where data exists, it is not always timely enough to compete with GDP.
- ▶ Delays in reporting and weak statistical capacity reduce the ability to monitor real-time progress.
- ▶ Strengthening national statistical systems is essential for implementing the Beyond GDP agenda.



Average % of series with at least one data point available



Average % of series with at least 10 data points available and latest datapoint at least 2024

➤ Agenda for Everyone

Governments

- Establish and regularly publish country-owned dashboards. Invest in national statistical systems.
- Embed new data in policy, planning, budgeting, and accountability.
- Promote national progress and international cooperation.

International Organizations

- Annual Beyond GDP global progress report.
- Support national capacity with the Beyond GDP agenda.
- Integrate new data in international decisions and advance research.

International statistical community

- Periodically refine the dashboard, develop methods and guidance.
- Fast-track frontier areas where measurement remains weakest.
- Led by the UN Statistical Commission.

Civil society, academia, private sector, and media

- Help shape how progress is understood and applied.
- Drive innovation in measurement.
- Help to influence opinion and support wider adoption.

➤ International Statistical Community under the UN Statistical Commission

- ▶ Fast-track the **development of emerging statistical methods** to maturity
- ▶ Establish an **inter-agency and expert group** on the measurement of well-being and progress to regularly assess, validate and refine the proposed dashboard
- ▶ Establish a joint mechanism to **develop wealth-accounting** guidelines, and deliver a global implementation roadmap
- ▶ Identify a suitable process or partner to develop a methodology for quantifying and tracking **cross-country spillovers** (positive and negative)
- ▶ Explore systemic changes to **statistical accounting** so it better measures the well-being of people and planet
- ▶ Engage in **multidisciplinary collaboration** with governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector and the media

➤ First General Assembly Feedback

- ▶ **Progress is multidimensional:** economic, social and environmental; It is about resilience, equity, and well-being, and places people and planet at the core.
- ▶ A **broader transition** toward inclusive development approaches is needed integrating Beyond GDP within the 2030 Agenda and other global initiatives.
- ▶ GDP remains an important economic measure, but **we need to reflect complex development realities** that income alone cannot capture, such as persistent inequalities, structural challenges, external shocks, climate vulnerabilities, and insecurity in developing economies.
- ▶ We need **increased investment in national statistical systems**, including for data collection, compilation and use.
- ▶ The **UN Statistical Commission** will play a critical role in refining the dashboard, coordinating capacity development, and addressing data gaps.
- ▶ **What we measure shapes** what we prioritize and deliver; **youth engagement** ensures younger generations are reflected in the recommendations.

➤ Next Steps

Intergovernmental process ➔ opportunity to set global norms and build this commitment.
Co-facilitated by Guyana and Spain

Piloting ➔ Country-level piloting and testing led by the United Nations **UNCTAD** will work on this with UNDP, feeding back to DESA and Executive Office of the Secretary-General (support by UN Peace and Development Fund)

Global Alliance on Beyond GDP ➔ Co-led by Spain, Uruguay, and Senegal, with OECD, **UNCTAD**, and SEGIB to integrate multidimensional measures of progress into development finance and public policymaking

Share knowledge and tools on Beyond GDP ➔ a mechanism to be established by **UNCTAD** and UNDP for capacity support encouraging national testing of indicators and data sources, and advancing data innovation

Thank you

