

# GLOBALSTAT

## Methodology and Approach of a Multisource Open Database on Developments in a Globalised World

### Technical Report

by Gaby Umbach

(with contributions of Raffaele Ventura, Igor Tkalec, Caterina Francesca Guidi,  
Laura Bartolini, Luca Mancini)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>GlobalStat: Thematic Introduction</b> .....                                   | 2  |
| The Phenomenon of Globalisation.....   | 2  |
| The Sustainable Development Paradigm .....                                       | 4  |
| <b>GlobalStat: Structural Approach</b> .....                                     | 6  |
| <b>GlobalStat: Methodological Guide</b> .....                                    | 8  |
| United Nations Membership & Country Classification by Geographical Regions ..... | 8  |
| Groups and Aggregations .....  | 9  |
| GlobalStat's Aggregation Rules.....  | 16 |
| <b>Annex I – UN Membership and Country Classification by Continents</b> .....    | 19 |
| <b>Annex II – Groups' composition and membership timelines</b> .....             | 38 |

## *GlobalStat*: Thematic Introduction

*GlobalStat* links globalisation to sustainable and human development and analyses it as a phenomenon that goes beyond global economic integration. This broad perspective on globalisation reflects its impact on most different aspects of personal, societal, social, cultural, political, economic and environmental spheres of human lives and interactions. It also highlights the dense linkages between these different areas.

## The Phenomenon of Globalisation

During the 1970s and 1980s, the concepts of 'economic and financial interdependence', 'global interdependence', 'internationalisation', 'liberalisation', 'universalisation' and 'westernisation'<sup>1</sup> were widely used to refer to "growth in the interaction and interdependence between populations in different countries"<sup>2</sup>.

Since the early 1980s, when "notions of the global appeared roughly simultaneously and independently in several academic fields"<sup>3</sup>, phenomena such as 'globality', 'globalism' and/or 'globalisation' moved to the centre of research across disciplines and theoretical schools, resulting in various conceptualisations. Rooting in this conceptual cacophony, still today "ideas of globalisation tend to remain elusive"<sup>4</sup>, if not confusing. The observed lack of clarity precluded an overarching definitional consensus on what globalisation is meant to be. Moreover, efforts to define the phenomenon still overwhelmingly "reflect [...] a specific historical context, a given theoretical perspective, certain normative commitments and particular political interests"<sup>5</sup>.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s<sup>6</sup>, the argument of "hyper-globalization"<sup>7</sup> claimed the "emergence of a single global market"<sup>8</sup> transcending and integrating the world's major economic regions. While the "neoclassical approach to globalisation assumes the realisation of a global competitive marketplace"<sup>9</sup> as inevitable, the neo-Marxist perspective instead argues "the victory of structural forces of capitalism over the potential mediatory power of states"<sup>10</sup>, caused by globalisation.

Some academics based their analysis of globalisation on "the types of flows and perceptual connections that occur in spatially extensive networks"<sup>11</sup>, identifying four principal dimensions of 'globalism' according to the kind of network involved: the economic and financial; the military or strategic; the environmental; and the socio-cultural. Others, among them most prominently J. Stiglitz, characterised globalisation as "the closer integration of the countries and peoples of the world which has been brought about by the enormous reduc-

---

<sup>1</sup> Scholte, J. A. (2000): *Globalization, a critical introduction*, New York, p. 44f.; Das, D. K. (2009): *Two Faces of Globalization: Munificent and Malevolent*, Cheltenham, p. 20; for the original definitions see Keohane, R. O./Nye, J. S. (1977): *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition*, Boston.

<sup>2</sup> Das, D. K. (2009), p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> Scholte, J. A. (2002): *What Is Globalization? The Definitional Issue – Again*. CSGR Working Paper No. 109/02, p. 5; see also Scholte, J. A. (2008): *Defining Globalisation*, in: *The World Economy*, pp. 1471-1502, p. 1472.

<sup>4</sup> Scholte, J. A. (2008), p. 1473.

<sup>5</sup> Giddens, A. (1996): *Essential Matter: Globalization Excerpts from a Keynote Address at the UNRISD Conference on Globalization and Citizenship*.

<sup>6</sup> See Berry, C. (2008): *International political economy, the globalisation debate and the analysis of globalisation discourse*. CSGR Working Paper 247/08, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Held, D./McGrew, A./Goldblatt, D./Perraton, J. (1999): *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture*, Stanford.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> Berry, C. (2008), p. 5; see also Ohmae, K. (1995): *The end of the nation state: the rise of regional economies*, London.

<sup>10</sup> Berry, C. (2008), p. 8.

<sup>11</sup> Keohane, R. O./Nye, J. S. (2001): *Power and Interdependence*, 3rd edition, New York/London, p. 231ff.

tion of costs of transportation and communication, and the breaking down of artificial barriers to the flows of goods, services, capital, knowledge, and (to a lesser extent) people across borders"<sup>12</sup>. However, other economists more strongly underlined the economic dimension of globalisation, measured by international trade volumes, foreign direct investments, portfolio and bank movements and technological diffusion as the key feature of globalisation.<sup>13</sup>

The debate on globalisation also embraces the notion of 'spatiality'. This perspective essentially sees globalisation as geographical change, qualified by a "time-space compression"<sup>14</sup> and the "stretching" of social relations that were once hindered by both territory and distance<sup>15</sup>. Here, globalisation is described "as the spread of transplanetary – and in recent times more particularly supraterritorial – connections between people"<sup>16</sup> and countries. Globalisation is hence a reconfiguration of social space that allows people and societies to live in their local, regional and national territories, creating trans-border spaces within a single world unit<sup>17</sup>. As such, globalisation involves a "widening, intensifying, speeding up and growing impact of world-wide interconnectedness"<sup>18</sup>, that can be found in every sphere of human activity.<sup>19</sup>

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, evolving economic and financial crises and increasing (economic, political, ecological and social) imbalances between advanced and developing countries provoked a shift in the debate. It assumed the disappearance of the predominant globalisation model already before the 2008 global financial crisis.<sup>20</sup> Contributions to globalisation theory that take up these shifts underline the unequal distribution of the benefits of globalisation among regions and countries of the world.<sup>21</sup> They particularly analyse how "inequality grounded in [historically determined] social structures"<sup>22</sup> can be influenced by or merge into "new forms of inequality generated by capitalist dynamics"<sup>23</sup>.

So, instead of increasing human well-being and reducing inequality through the effects of globalisation across countries, the differences between advanced and developing countries are viewed to still be considerable and particularly visible in areas such as equal participation in wealth, global justice and equity. This line of debate highlights that "globalisation today is not working for many of the world's poor [...]. To some, there is an easy answer: abandon globalisation. That is [yet] neither feasible nor desirable [...]. The problem is [however] not with globalisation, but [with] how it has been managed"<sup>24</sup>. Consequently, rethinking and reshaping globalisation to enhance equity as well as participation and to improve global governance structures supportive to overall human development and well-being is identified as an essential feature of the sustainable future of globalisation processes.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Stiglitz, J. (2002): *Globalization and its Discontents*, New York, p.9.

<sup>13</sup> See Bhagwati, J. (2004): *In Defense of Globalization*, Oxford, p.3.

<sup>14</sup> Harvey, D. (1989): *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*, Oxford, p. 238.

<sup>15</sup> Held, D./McGrew, A./Goldblatt, D./Perraton, J. (1999), p. 15.

<sup>16</sup> Scholte, J. A. (2002), p. 15.

<sup>17</sup> See Das, D. K. (2011): *Conceptual Globalism and Globalisation: An Initiation*. CSGR Working Paper 275/11, p. 19.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*.

<sup>19</sup> See Held, D./McGrew, A. (2007): *Globalization Theory: Approaches and Controversies*, Cambridge.

<sup>20</sup> See Rodrik, D. (2011a): *The Globalization Paradox: democracy and the future of the world economy*, New York.

<sup>21</sup> See Stiglitz, J. (2002), p. 214 and 252; World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (2004). *A Fair Globalisation: Creating Opportunities for All*, Geneva, p. x; Rodrik, D. (2011a), p. xvii and 138-139.

<sup>22</sup> Rehbein, B. (2011): *Globalization and Inequality in Emerging Societies*, London, p. 270.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*.

<sup>24</sup> Stiglitz, J. (2002), p. 214.

<sup>25</sup> See Stiglitz, J. (2006): *Making Globalization Work, the next steps to global justice*, London.

## The Sustainable Development Paradigm

Ever since its baptism, the idea of sustainable development became a very popular, yet also highly differentiated paradigm both theoretically and in view of its operationalisation<sup>26</sup>. Being a prominent topic of reform debates after the 1970s economic, financial and oil crises, it initially most strongly reflected economic concerns about resource management and resource depletion. Institutionally, it was introduced into the global political debate by the [1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm](#). Thereafter, it was prominently placed on the international agenda by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. The Commission's final report, the so-called [Brundtland Report](#)<sup>27</sup>, forms the key reference point for the debate on sustainable development. It defined sustainable development broadly as the development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs"<sup>28</sup>. By doing so, it stressed the interrelation between economic growth, environmental sustainability and resource preservation and introduced the idea of inter-generational equity into the premises of economic activities. The Brundtland Report laid the ground for both the [1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro](#) that adopted a global action plan on environmental sustainability (the so-called [Agenda 21](#)) and the [2000 United Nations Millennium Summit](#) that established eight explicit development goals (the so-called [Millennium Development Goals](#) that formed the basis for the current [Sustainable Development Goals](#)), one of which was the integration of the sustainable development concept into national policies and programmes ([Target 7.A](#)).

The conceptual core of sustainable development is formed by its two key components: 'sustainability' and 'development'. Defining 'development' has always been a contentious issue since the term refers to "a web of key concepts [...] such as poverty, production, the notion of the state, or equality"<sup>29</sup>. Its definitions have not been fixed over time, but rather followed the political and ideological competition of different systems of thought and action across countries and regions<sup>30</sup>: During the 1970s both neoclassical and neo-Marxist economists "shared the view that development [was] something centred on a process of transformation in the productive sphere"<sup>31</sup>. From the 1980s onwards, however, "development has come to mean poverty reduction, provision of basic needs"<sup>32</sup>, health improvements, human development, and, from a procedural point of view, a "multifaceted, nonlinear, adaptive and ongoing process"<sup>33</sup>.

'Sustainability', on the other hand, has become one of the buzz words of present day policy-making and governance. In its conceptual origins it was characterised by the "combination of three [independent] dimensions, [...] namely, the environmental (ecological), economic

<sup>26</sup> See Castro, C. (2004): Sustainable Development: Mainstream and Critical Perspectives, in: *Organization & Environment*, 17(2), pp. 195-225. For a general orientation on key development steps see Umbach, G. (2021): [Key Developments in the Governance of the Sustainable Development Goals](#), TRIGGER project, European University Institute, Florence.

<sup>27</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development (1987): [Our Common Future](#), ("Brundtland Report"), Document A/42/427.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16.

<sup>29</sup> Sachs, W. (1992): Introduction, in: Sachs, W. (ed.) (1992): *The development dictionary: a guide to knowledge as power*, London, pp. 1-5, p. 4.

<sup>30</sup> See *ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> Chang, H. J. (2010): Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: How development has disappeared from today's 'development' discourse, in: Khan, S. R./Christiansen, J. (eds.): *Towards New Developmentalism: Market as Means rather than Master*. Abingdon, pp. 47-58, p. 47f.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>33</sup> Espinoza, A./Walker, J. (2011): *A Complexity Approach to Sustainability: Theory and Application*, London, p. 199.

and social dimensions”<sup>34</sup>. As mentioned above, initially, sustainability assumptions more strongly focused on (environmental) issues of resource depletion as a constraint to economic growth. The concept of ‘weak sustainability’ reflects this early binary attention on the economy and the environment that originated in an extension of neoclassical growth models “to account for non-renewable natural resources as a factor of production”<sup>35</sup>.

Since the beginning of the new millennium, however, the need for a more integrated perspective on sustainability has been recognised. A broader conceptualisation was deemed necessary to reflect the interrelatedness of social, economic, ecologic, political, cultural, ethical and technological factors. Moreover, the relevance of an institutional component for a comprehensive sustainability framework came to the fore.<sup>36</sup> Linked to this conceptual broadening, the idea of ‘strong sustainability’ proposed a more critical analysis on natural resources’ availability and substitutability. It claims the existence of critical thresholds for the consumption of natural resources to avoid resource depletion and/or exhaustion. The ‘strong sustainability’ approach prescribes preserving “many different environmental items”<sup>37</sup>, or at least maintaining critical levels necessary to “keep reasonable levels of environmental resilience, i.e. the capacity of eco-systems to regenerate and return to equilibrium after shocks”<sup>38</sup>. In this understanding, “sustainability refers, in a broad sense, to the notion of the durability and stability of dynamic processes in the long run”<sup>39</sup>. It highlights the interconnection of co-existing natural and human systems over time. Conceptually, it not only embraces a multidimensional policy perspective on priorities. It also brings the temporal dimension of inter-generational (“guarantee that the choice freedom of future generations is not compromised by myopic decisions of the preceding generations”<sup>40</sup>) and the social dimension of intra-generational (“meant to guarantee equal opportunities to all”<sup>41</sup>) equity to the core of political decisions. In this multifaceted integrated perspective, sustainability is yet also viewed to be a tricky mission to accomplish.

Based on the complexity of its two key components, the concept of sustainable development is surrounded by a vibrant debate about its own inherent definitional ambiguity. Understanding sustainable development in the broad sense of a multidimensional, integrated perspective that embraces both intra- and inter-generational considerations, a variety of policy areas are affected by and affect the concept, and globalisation in turn. Given that “the well-being of future generations compared to ours will depend on what resources we pass on to them, future well-being will depend upon the magnitude of the stocks of exhaustible resources that we leave to the next generations. It will depend also on how well we maintain the quantity and quality of all the other renewable natural resources that are necessary for life”<sup>42</sup>.

<sup>34</sup> Lehtonen, M. (2004): The environmental–social interface of sustainable development: capabilities, social capital, institutions, *Ecological Economics* 49 (2004), p. 199–214, p. 200.

<sup>35</sup> Neumayer, E. (2010): Weak Versus Strong Sustainability: Exploring the Limits of two Opposing Paradigms, Chaltenham, p. 1.; Stiglitz, J./Sen, A./Fitoussi J.-P. (2009a): Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, p. 236.

<sup>36</sup> See Banuri, T./Najam, A. (2002): Civic Entrepreneurship. A Civil Society Perspective on Sustainable Development, Islamabad; Banuri, T./Hyden, G./Banuri, T./Juma, C./Rivera, M. (1994): Sustainable human development: from concept to operation, New York; Najam, A./ Cleveland, C. (2003): Energy and sustainable development at global environmental summits: An evolving agenda, in: *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 5(2), pp. 117-138.

<sup>37</sup> Stiglitz, J./Sen, A./Fitoussi J.-P. (2009a), p. 63.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 236.

<sup>39</sup> Stiglitz, J./Sen, A./Fitoussi J.-P. (2009b): [The Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress Revisited. Reflections and Overview](#), p. 52.

<sup>40</sup> Borghesi & Vercelli, 2008, p. 4.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Stiglitz, J./Sen, A./Fitoussi J.-P. (2009a), p. 61.

Yet, although both the “desirability and necessity of making development sustainable”<sup>43</sup> are increasingly accepted, the measurement of sustainable development poses theoretical and technical challenges to be addressed<sup>44</sup>. Its multidimensionality and divergent views on risks to be faced as well as goals to be achieved complicate the development of a comprehensive and coherent measurement framework for sustainability at national, regional and global level.<sup>45</sup> Moreover, the heterogeneity of interrelated factors, uncertainties about projections and the lack of collective action<sup>46</sup> to define and provide at least a subset of agreed global public goods<sup>47</sup> in the economic, environmental and social domains of sustainability, require careful stock-taking. Therefore, analysis, research and a reliable statistical basis are fundamental to properly approach sustainable development.<sup>48</sup>

## **GlobalStat: Structural Approach**

With these different aspects of globalisation and sustainable development in mind, an informed analysis of both phenomena and their drivers needs to pay attention to the interconnectedness of different areas that are relevant for both processes. *GlobalStat* takes this need as a starting point for collecting, harmonising and presenting data from a broad range of international statistical sources and on a broad range of topics. Accounting for the multidimensional and multilevel nature of the two phenomena hence stands at the heart of *GlobalStat*.

*GlobalStat's* structure is sensitive to most relevant elements of globalisation and sustainable development that have repercussions on the overall performance of the international community, international organisations and institutions, multilateral fora, networks, actors and, in the end, the nation state. With this approach, *GlobalStat* seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the interrelations between human (living) conditions and trends in globalisation to provide the basis for a sustainable view on the latter.

Directing the attention not only to economic and political aspects associated with globalisation, but also to its vital environmental, social and societal aspects, *GlobalStat* adds a broad perspective on globalisation to the public information process. Besides focusing on the economic, environmental, political, social as well as societal performance of nations, its declared ‘beyond GDP approach’ also provides information on the way human beings live, the freedoms they enjoy and the limitations they face. This perspective contributes to the analysis and overall understanding of the globalisation dimensions of political, economic, environmental, social and societal change and challenges for the future. In a nutshell, *GlobalStat* collects, unites and harmonises most important statistical resources on trends in globalisation that add to the understanding of fundamental developments at the national, regional and global level.

<sup>43</sup> Neumayer, E. (2010): *Weak Versus Strong Sustainability: Exploring the Limits of two Opposing Paradigms*, Cheltenham, p. 1.

<sup>44</sup> For sustainability measures such as ‘dashboards’, ‘composite indices’, ‘adjustment of national accounting’, the ‘adjusted net savings’ approach or ‘footprint measurement’ as well as their technical procedures, normative assumptions and implications please see Stiglitz, J./Sen, A./Fitoussi, J.-P. (2009a), p. 233ff.

<sup>45</sup> See Voß, J.-P./Newig, J./Kastens, B./Monstadt, J./Nolting, B. (2008): *Steering for Sustainable Development: a Typology of Problems and Strategies with respect to Ambivalence, Uncertainty and Distributed Power*, in: Newig, J./Voß, J.-P./Monstadt, J. (eds.) (2008): *Governance for Sustainable Development. Coping with ambivalence, uncertainty and distributed power*, London, pp. 1-20, p. 4.

<sup>46</sup> See Olson, M. (1971): *The logic of collective action: public goods and the theory of groups*. London.

<sup>47</sup> See Kaul, I./Conceição, P./Le Goulven, K./Mendoza, R.U. (eds.) (2003): *Providing Global Public Goods. Managing Globalization*. Oxford.

<sup>48</sup> See Voß, J.-P./Newig, J./Kastens, B./Monstadt, J./Nolting, B. (2008), p. 4.

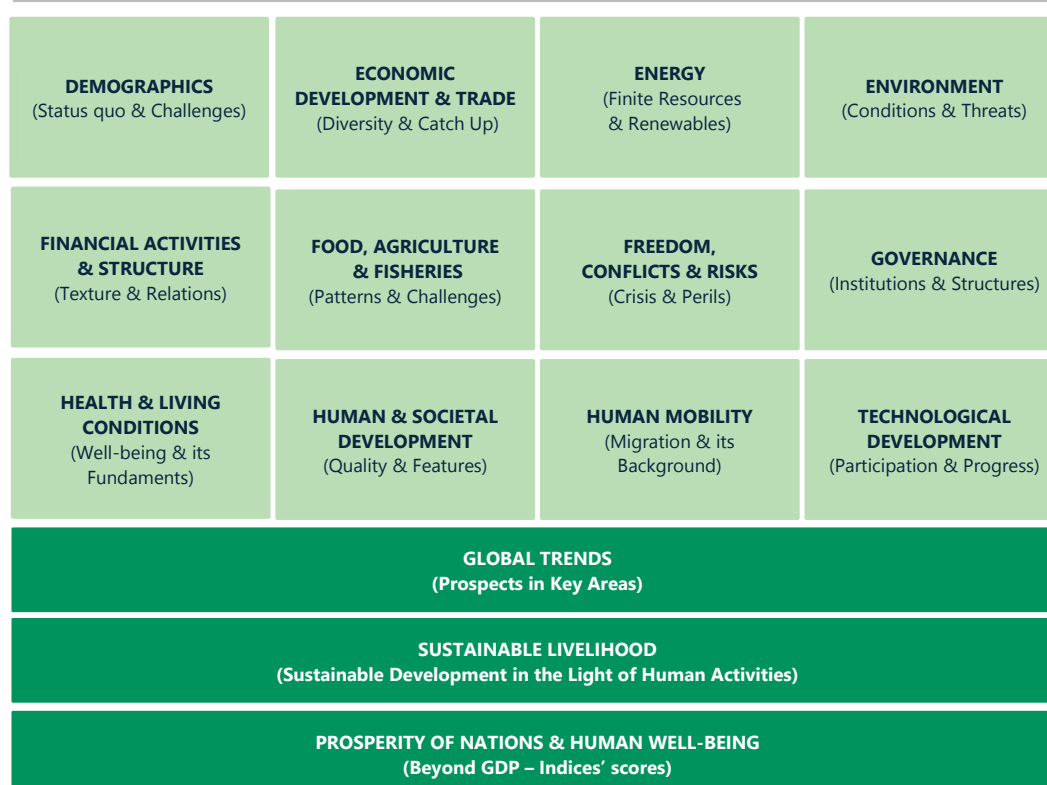


Given that quality of life and human well-being include “the full range of factors that make life worth living, including those that are not traded in markets and not captured by monetary measures”<sup>49</sup> both official statistics and subjective data are considered. In doing so, *GlobalStat* follows the insight that “measuring all these features requires both objective and subjective data”<sup>50</sup>. Moreover, global trends are taken up to highlight potential futures. This is a key facet of *GlobalStat*’s broad perspective on globalisation, as sustainable development, based on its inter-generational component, “poses the challenge of determining whether we can hope to see the current level of well-being at least maintained for future periods or future generations, or whether the most likely scenario is that it will decline. [So, presenting statistical data on globalisation and sustainable development] ... is no longer [only] a question of measuring the present, but of predicting the future”<sup>51</sup>.

*GlobalStat*’s website provides all users with a comprehensive set of data and a facilitated access to data collected by many different sources. The main sources of information are UN level institutions and bodies. Country level data relate to a long period, which begins, wherever possible, in the 1960s and continues to the present day. *GlobalStat* presents the most important categories and indicators of existing databases as well as datasets. Its indicators are disaggregated as far as possible.

Indicators are grouped within 12 thematic areas and three horizontal areas:

## GLOBALSTAT



<sup>49</sup> Stiglitz, J./Sen, A./Fitoussi, J.-P. (2009a), p. 58.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., p. 61.

In view of its content, *GlobalStat* grows over time. Data is constantly amended and updated to keep the information provided up-to-date both in terms of areas covered and latest data available.

Transparency and accountability of *GlobalStat*'s data collection and aggregation methods are essential to make data easy to use, understand and compare. Therefore, the comprehensive methodological guide outlined in the next chapter provides a full explanation of the statistical methodologies applied within *GlobalStat*.

## ***GlobalStat*: Methodological Guide**

### **United Nations Membership & Country Classification by Geographical Regions**

*GlobalStat* provides data on the 193 sovereign nation states that are [recognised members of the United Nations \(UN\)](#). UN membership is based on compliance with the UN Charter (see [Art. 4 UN Charter](#)) and states are admitted to the UN by decision of the UN General Assembly upon the recommendation of the UN Security Council.

To ensure political neutrality, *GlobalStat*'s design is based on this country selection. The designations used by *GlobalStat* and the presentation of data hence follow the internationally agreed UN practice and do not represent the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the database developers concerning the legal status of communities, countries, territories and areas or of their authorities, or in view of the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries. Moreover, the integration of countries into groups or groupings follows established statistical practices and does not involve any assessment of their political or other affiliation by *GlobalStat*.

Given that some official statistical bodies also offer data for state federations that ceased to exist in the 1990s, in some cases, in addition to the 193 UN member states, data for Czechoslovakia, Serbia and Montenegro, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is provided until the date of their dissolution. The underlying motive for this extension is to provide as much data as possible even if this increases the complexity of data tables. This differentiation of data by the original sources results in two ways of displaying data and of calculating aggregates either in a static or a dynamic way ([please see below](#)). The static display of data shows all countries of the data set, from the beginning of the time series onwards, with no former state federations included. The dynamic way of displaying data offers data for former state federations until the date of their dissolution and displays data for their successor states thereafter. The choice of either way of displaying data depends on the type of the data provided by the original sources.

[Annex I](#) provides the full list of all 193 UN member states and four former state federations that form *GlobalStat*'s sample. They are listed in alphabetical order under the continents they belong to. The composition of the continents follows the [UN definition of macro geographical regions](#) that broadly overlaps with the earth's geographic continents. Each country



is grouped under one continent only. Moreover, their respective three-digit ISO 3166-1 numerical code is displayed under 'ID'<sup>52</sup>. This three-digit code is used by the Statistics Division of the United Nation Secretariat for statistical processing purposes and might be useful additional information also for *GlobalStat* users.

## Groups and Aggregations

*GlobalStat* gives an overview on the performance of the earth's macro geographic regions (continents) as defined by the [UN](#) and for various forms of global governance. To this end, *GlobalStat* provides aggregate figures for the world, the five continents, eleven regional cooperation and integration communities as well as international organisations and two development status groups. This portfolio of aggregations does not seek completeness; this means that the list of regional cooperation and integration communities is not exhaustive and that other cases exist and can be calculated by users based on the data provided by *GlobalStat*. The aggregations presented by *GlobalStat* represent a selection of regional and transnational integration patterns with different characteristics. They form important global and regional governance structures that influence the way in which nation states interact within the process of globalisation. Their integration into *GlobalStat* aggregate groups shall provide additional information about the performance of nations within functional contexts of global governance.

### Regional Cooperation, Integration Communities & Intergovernmental Organisations

Regional cooperation and integration communities are key pillars of *GlobalStat's* data aggregation. They constitute central processes by which nation states engage in rules-based regional collaboration to support each other, increase stability, and enhance development levels. They form the regional and/or transnational structural, functional and political patterns of the global governance system and frame interactions between states within and/or between regions. Regional cooperation and/or integration communities hence form central patterns of the organisation of global politics.

Typically, regional and/or transnational cooperation and/or integration take their starting point in economic and trade activities. Thus, political economy aspects form important reference points for their evolution. Apart from deeper cooperation in selected policy areas, regional and/or transnational integration also leads to institution-building and structural change within policy-making that in turn supports further and deeper integration. In this way, regional and/or transnational cooperation and integration also impact globalisation. They not only contribute to an increase in economic activities between states and across world regions. They also facilitate the free movement of goods, capital, persons and/or labour across nation state borders and the development of common standards in the areas of collaboration.

In most cases, regional and/or transnational cooperation and/or integration are treaty- or agreement-based processes that a) involve new structural and procedural forms of the or-

---

<sup>52</sup> International Organization on Standardization (Geneva, online): [Full list of country codes](#).

organisation of contacts between sovereign nation states and that b) evolve in parallel to national political systems. The degree and depth of cooperation and integration vary from community to community. They can be organised through different forms of supranational structures (leading to a deeper state of regional integration) or intergovernmental decision-making (structuring a form of collaboration in which national governments are key actors). In some regional integration communities, nation states opted for a mix of both patterns to share national sovereignty and operate through common institutions. In terms of focus and functions, regional and/or transnational cooperation and integration communities vary substantially and focus on trade integration and support for economic growth in general; enhancement of peace, security and regional stability; public sector development and good governance; and political integration and civil society development.

*GlobalStat's* selection of regional and/or transnational cooperation and integration communities as well as international organisations gives an overview on the variety of different regional integration patterns, aims, objectives and performances around the world. It provides insight into the differentiation and differences of governance structures. In doing so, allows for comparison between different communities and different stages of community-building. As mentioned above, the selection of groups does not provide a finite list of cases and, based on their different and diverse characteristics, comparability of results is naturally limited.

*GlobalStat* provides aggregate data for the following regional and/or transnational cooperation and integration communities as well as international organisations. The full list of member states and the timelines of country membership to each of them is presented in [Annex II](#).

## *African Union*

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was legally transformed into the African Union (AU) on 26 May 2001. The key priorities of the OAU were the promotion of unity and solidarity among African States as a response to the legacies of colonialism and apartheid. The African Union broadened this focus on supporting liberation movements under colonialist regimes and apartheid to the promotion of Africa's development and integration. Among its [main objectives](#) are the defence of territorial integrity and independence, the promotion of peace and stability in the African continent, the promotion of democratic principles, human and peoples' rights as well as the promotion of sustainable development to raise the living standards of African peoples. It comprises [55 members](#) and has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#). It does maintain a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *Andean Community | Common Market of the South | Union of South American Nations | Forum for the Progress and Integration of South America*

The Andean Community (AC) is a customs union comprising the four South American countries, five associated members and one observer country. It was founded by the Cartagena Agreement in 1969. The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) was established with

the Treaty of Asunción on 26 March 1991. It is a Latin American trade organisation that promotes economic cooperation among the countries of South America and aims at tariffs reduction and trade facilitation. It comprises six full and six associate members. The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) is an intergovernmental union integrating the full members of the two previous integration communities (AC and MERCOSUR) plus three additional countries (two of which also belong to CARICOM). UNASUR was established on 23 May 2008. It focuses on deepening regional integration in the fields of energy, education, health, environment, infrastructure, security, democracy as well as economic and social development. Among its priorities are the elimination of economic inequalities and the improvement of living standards. UNASUR comprises twelve member states. The Forum for the Progress and Integration of South America (PROSUR) was established in April 2019. PROSUR members want to relaunch regional integration in Latin America in an institutional framework alternative to the one proposed by UNASUR, which did not cease to operate. In 2024, PROSUR and UNASUR coexist, with the latter being progressively preferred to the former. The Andean Community and UNASUR have received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#), but do not maintain permanent offices at UN Headquarters.

Within *GlobalStat*, the four different regional integration communities are incorporated into one aggregate figure given that UNASUR and PROSUR were founded based on the two other communities. This means that, statistically, the groups that represent UNASUR and PROSUR are the temporal continuation of the timelines for the AC and MERCOSUR. To calculate a longer timeline of aggregate figures for Latin American regional integration, all four communities were hence grouped in one single aggregate to give insight into the quality of regional integration over time. This 'super'-group is created only for technical reasons of aggregate calculation and does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of regional cooperation and integration, communities, countries, territories/areas or of their authorities, as well as in view of the delimitation of their frontiers/boundaries by the database developers.

### *Association of Southeast Asian Nations*

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand. It is an intergovernmental organisation with its main priorities and aims listed in the [ASEAN declaration](#). They include economic growth, social progress and cultural development of a peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations; the promotion of regional peace and stability through justice and the rule of law; assistance and collaboration in matters of common interest (largely in economic, socio-cultural, and scientific-educational as well as administrative-technical fields); and agricultural, industrial and trade cooperation. Particular attention is given to economic development in all domains to raise the living standards of the people within its member states. ASEAN is based on the principles of non-interference, peaceful conflict settlement, and renunciation of use of force. It comprises [ten members](#) and has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#). It does yet not maintain a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *Caribbean Community and Common Market*

The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was established in 1973 as the result of a 15-years long process of regional integration among Caribbean states and territories, which started with the establishment of the British West Indies Federation in 1958 and the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) in 1968. Main aims of CARICOM are the improvement of living and working standards; the promotion and cooperation for sustainable economic and development; the expansion of trade relations with third countries; and the coordination of its member states' foreign and [foreign] economic policies, through the creation of a single common market. It comprises [15 member states and five associate members](#) and has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#). It maintains a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *Central American Integration System*

The Central American Integration System (*Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana/SICA*) was established in 1991 through the Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), known as the [Tegucigalpa Protocol](#). The Protocol amended the [1962 ODECA Charter](#) and formally came into force in 1993. SICA [aims](#) at improving the integration of Central America. It provides an institutional framework for regional intergovernmental integration and foresees the set-up of a common market and a political union among its member states. Internal and regional democratisation is a key priority of the system, as is the establishment of a customs union and an area of free movement of persons, capital and services. SICA's main objectives are the consolidation of democratic institutions; the eradication of extreme poverty; the promotion of sustainable development; and the fight against violence, corruption, terrorism, drugs and arms trafficking. SICA comprises [eight member states](#) and [40 observer countries and organisations](#). It has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#) and maintains a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *European Union*

The European Union (EU) is a supranational regional economic and political integration community that originated in the 1952 [European Coal and Steel Community](#) as well as the [European Economic Community](#), created by the Treaty of Rome in 1957. The 1993 [Maastricht Treaty](#) established the EU as a political union based on three key areas (European Communities; Common Foreign and Security Policy/CFSP; and Justice and Home Affairs/JHA). Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) was launched and European citizenship introduced by the Maastricht Treaty. Treaty changes by the 2009 [Lisbon Treaty](#) constitute the latest step of the EU's constitutional development and its [overall institutional structure](#). The EU focuses on a broad range of policies that can be assessed as a state-like agenda for a regional community characterised by deep transnational integration structures. It applies a mixture of supranational and intergovernmental instruments as well as governance modes and can be regarded as the politically most advanced and deepened version of the existing regional integration communities. It comprises [27 member states](#). In January 2024, [nine countries hold](#)

[accession candidate status and one is a potential accession candidate](#). In 2020, the United Kingdom was the first country to ever leave the EU after 47 years of EU membership and four years of exit negotiations. The EU has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#) and maintains a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *League of Arab States*

The [League of Arab States](#) or Arab League is a regional intergovernmental organisation of countries in Africa and the Middle East, whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking. It was established in 1945 in Cairo, Egypt. Its key aims are to strengthen cooperation between its member states and to coordinate their policies in the fields of education, finance, law, trade, and foreign affairs. Since 2015, also the creation of a joint military force is on the League's agenda. Moreover, common affairs and interests are collectively considered, through joined political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programmes. The Arab League also serves as a forum for conflict settlement within the Arab world given that its founding protocol rules out the use of force to settle disputes between member states. The League currently comprises [22 member states](#) and 4 observer countries. Syria's participation as a full member had been suspended in November 2011. In May 2023, the Council of the League of Arab States restored Syria's membership. The Arab League has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#) and maintains a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a task-specific intergovernmental political and military alliance based on the [1949 North Atlantic Treaty](#). NATO's primary aim is to secure freedom and safeguard security of its members through political and military cooperation and means, such as consultation on defence and security issues or (military or non-military) crisis-management operations. [NATO has 31 member states](#).

## *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) originates in the [Organization for European Economic Cooperation \(OEEC\)](#) established in 1948 to run the US-financed [Marshall Plan](#) for the post-World War II reconstruction of Europe. The OECD itself was founded in 1961 as an international intergovernmental organisation to stimulate economic progress and cooperation. It offers governments a forum for experience-sharing and policy-learning. Among the organisation's key aims are evidence-based analyses and recommendations; the measurement of productivity as well as global trade and investment flows; the setting of international standards; and the identification of future and long-term challenges. It promotes the collection of information and data on a broad range of topics; provides governments with policy analyses for improving economic growth and financial stability; and generally, targets the enhancement of economic and social well-being. OECD activities cover a wide range of policies from agriculture and fisheries, over corruption, chemicals, competition, development, governance, economic policies, education and research, environment, health towards finances, green growth, industry, migration, social security,

taxes and trade. The OECD comprises [38 member countries](#). The OECD has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#) and maintains a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *Organization of American States*

The inter-continental Organization of American States (OAS) was established in 1948 by the [Charter of the OAS](#). The Charter entered into force in December 1951 and witnessed several treaty revisions since the 1960s. The Organization roots in the [International Conference of American States](#) first held in 1889. It focuses on the promotion of solidarity between its member states; the maintenance of peace and justice in the region; the consolidation of democracy; peaceful conflict settlement; the strengthening of collaboration among members; and the promotion of development including the eradication of extreme poverty. Its thematic pillars are democracy, human rights, security and development. The Organization serves as a political, juridical and social regional governmental forum and employs political dialogue, cooperation (such as electoral observation, trade negotiations, natural disaster mitigation and development projects) and legal cooperation (such as on anti-corruption, criminal matters and cyber-crime). It has 35 [member states of the Americas](#) and [71 permanent observers](#). The OAS has received a [standing invitation to participate as observer in the UN](#) and maintains a permanent office at UN Headquarters.

## *Development Status*

The development status of countries forms the other important pillar of data aggregation within *GlobalStat*. As globalisation, in a narrow sense, is largely defined as the increase of interweavement of economies in view of trade, financial transactions, capital flows and technological as well as innovation transfers, it is assessed to heavily impact (positively or negatively) on the development of countries. Hence, presenting data aggregated according to the development status of countries offers interesting insights into the differentiation in development across levels of development.

Dominant criteria defining the development status of countries are economic development (in terms of GDP and GNI per capita) and trade patterns; the degree of industrial and technological development; infrastructural quality; as well as education, health and living standards. Nevertheless, no uniform official definition exists to qualify and/or classify countries according to their development status.

*GlobalStat* provides aggregate data for the two groups 'Least Developed Countries' as well as 'Developed and Developing Countries', as defined below. In [Annex II](#) the full timeline of countries entering and exiting each group is provided.

## *Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*

Within the UN system, '[Least Developed Countries](#)' (LDC) is a [precisely defined group](#) of countries, whose composition changes over time. The establishment of the [category of LDCs](#) was approved by the [UN Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#) and endorsed by the [UN General Assembly](#) in 1971. It stems from previous consultations within UN agencies and was



advocated by the [UN Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#) to target financial support at least developed countries and areas around the world. The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by [ECOSOC's Committee for Development Policy \(CDP\)](#) on the basis of [graduation criteria](#), which have been amended various times since 1971. They include a measure of per capita income (GNI per capita); measures of human development (nutrition, health, school enrolment and literacy); and indicators of economic vulnerability (merchandise export concentration; instability of agriculture production; instability of exports of goods and service; victims of natural disasters).

Currently, the group of LDCs includes [45 countries](#). The [periodic UNCTAD reports](#) on LDCs provide the UN with an instrument to signal the need for targeted support to overcome this group's structural problems. LDCs are granted concessions particularly in the areas of financing, technical assistance and preferential trade concessions.

So far, seven countries have graduated from LDCs status (Botswana in 1994, Cape Verde in 2007, Maldives in 2011, Samoa in January 2014, Equatorial Guinea in 2017, Vanuatu in 2020, and Bhutan in 2023).

### *Developed & developing countries (D&DCs)*

Within the UN system, there is no established convention to define countries and areas as '[developed](#)' or '[developing](#)'. Generally, the UN defines Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United States of America together with most European countries as 'Developed Countries', while the other UN members in Africa, the Americas, in Asia and in Oceania fall under the category of 'Developing Countries'. For some specific statistical purposes, such as international trade statistics, Israel is defined as a 'Developed Country'; the Southern African Customs Union is considered as 'Developed Region'; and the successor states of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are considered as 'Developing Countries'. Countries of Eastern Europe and the [Commonwealth of Independent States](#) are not included under any of the two categories. *GlobalStat* follows the UN practice in view of the application of the terms 'developed' and 'developing' countries that are used for statistical purposes only and do not represent any assessment of the overall level of development of a particular country. *GlobalStat* is aware of the ongoing critical debate about this categorisation of the development status of countries and sides with the UN approach to offer these aggregations exclusively for statistical convenience as users may want to continue referring to these historical and updated groupings if needed and in their specific contexts. The availability of these aggregations does not express a judgement about any country's or area's stage of development by *GlobalStat*.

Concerning aggregate data for 'Developed and Developing Countries' *GlobalStat* adopts a definition *ex negativo*: this means this group includes all countries that are not part of the 'Least Developed Countries' group at any given year.

## GlobalStat's Aggregation Rules

*GlobalStat's* aggregation rules are set to yield estimates for a consistent set of countries from one period to the next and for all indicators. Small differences between sums of sub-group aggregates and overall totals and/or averages may occur because of the approximations used. In addition, compilation errors and data reporting practices of original sources may cause discrepancies in theoretically identical aggregates (for example between world exports and world imports).

Although *GlobalStat's* criteria for calculation (see below) avoid publishing aggregate data which suffer from an excess of underlying missing data at the country level, provided aggregates should always be treated as approximations of unknown totals or average values. Aggregate figures are shown in the website whenever *GlobalStat's* calculation routines offer results. Missing aggregate data due to insufficient underlying original data are not shown and, in such cases, the respective group is not shown in the indicator website.

### A dynamic approach

*GlobalStat* provides aggregates for a total of five continents, the entire world, two development status groups, eleven regional integration communities and international organisations. As outlined in the previous section, continents and development status groups are defined according to UN criteria. The definition of regional integration communities and political entities is taken from the original sources.

Countries' regional classification is usually stable over time. Geographical boundaries are usually static over time, with the relevant exception of secessions and countries succeeding the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which currently belong part to Asia and part to Europe. To keep trace of dissolutions, separations and the formation of newly independent states according to the [UN timeline of states' recognition and admission](#), *GlobalStat* calculates dynamical regional aggregates in cases the original sources offer data in such a format (e.g. it includes Czechoslovakia in Europe until its dissolution in 1993, when Czech Republic and Slovakia stepped in).

Membership to regional communities and organisations is dynamic by definition and changes over time due to admissions and withdrawals of countries from one year to another. Therefore, for any given year, aggregates for regional cooperation and integration communities as well as international organisations reflect the real group composition, considering only those countries that are members in the given years. This approach might make comparability over time delicate, but it guarantees that the composition of each group truthfully represents and measures reality at any point in time.

Due to this dynamic definition, aggregates for entities are not calculated when the indicator is not released on a yearly basis (non-annual indicators). The same applies to continents, but only for the period 1990-2010 when the dissolutions of the four state federations explained above took place.

## Criteria for calculation

Following international statistical practice, *GlobalStat* provides the calculation for aggregates if two conditions are met:

- The indicator is available for more than one half of the members of the group, otherwise the aggregate value is not calculated (and set to missing) (*Condition 1*);
- In case Condition 1 holds, the aggregate value is calculated only if the total population of member countries for which data are available represents at least two-thirds of the total population of the group (*Condition 2*).

Finally, aggregates for Asia and Europe are set to missing in those years in which the USSR (if present in the data set derived from the original source) has non-missing and non-zero values. This choice is made because the geographical borders of the USSR are shared between the two continents, but there is no way of disentangling the USSR's contribution to either continent in terms of the calculated indicator. However, publishing an aggregate value for Europe and Asia which excludes the contribution of the USSR's territories falling inside their continental borders would be distortive. Therefore, a prudential approach is adopted that considers Condition 1 and 2 as not satisfied for Asia and Europe every time the USSR appears with non-missing, non-zero values.

## Methods of calculation

Condition 1 and 2 outlined above must always hold. Moreover, *GlobalStat* applies two types of calculation, according to the type of data available:

- Aggregates of country-level data expressed as absolute values are calculated as sums. Missing values are not imputed.
- Aggregates of country-level data expressed as ratios (rates, proportion, percentages) are calculated as weighted averages of the underlying indicator. Averages are weighted by total population counts or by the value of the denominator of the ratio. Missing values are not imputed. For non-annual series weights are calculated as period averages from the underlying annual values.

## Data Consistency

Differences in the data collection practices and methodologies of the original sources may result in inconsistencies among the data displayed for the various indicators within *GlobalStat*. Therefore, when consulting *GlobalStat*, users should be aware of this 'multi-source' particularities of the database and be cautious when combining and comparing data of different indicators as they potentially vary according to their time series specificities, reporting intervals and data collection practices. Moreover, as *GlobalStat* relies on different official sources, updates and potential revisions over time may eventually introduce data inconsistency in some parts of the database.

When an official data source revises or updates an indicator, *GlobalStat* manages changes in three possible ways:

- First, if revisions and updates of a data series produce minor changes that do not alter the data collection methodology, the metadata section will report these changes over time. An example of these minor changes can be the slight variations in the name of an indicator.
- Second, in case of significant changes in the data collection methods under the same indicator name, the existing data series will be discontinued. A new indicator will be created and amended by a note to the title and the metadata highlighting the respective changes.
- Third, when a data series is discontinued by the original data provider and replaced with a new one under a different name, this change will be reported in the metadata section of both the old, discontinued indicator and the potential newly established one.

## Annex I – UN Membership and Country Classification by Continents

This table shows the [current state of UN membership and country classification](#) by ID (M49 code) and continents as well as the year of independence of *GlobalStat's* country sample in alphabetical order. It includes information on the [year of membership and notes on changes](#) in UN membership and country names. Notes on overseas, dependent and/or special administrative territories and areas have been added by *GlobalStat*.

| ID  | Continent     | Country                         | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| 12  | <b>Africa</b> | <b>Algeria</b>                  | 1962         | 1962      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1962.  |
| 24  | Africa        | <b>Angola</b>                   | 1975         | 1976      | Member of the African Union since 1979.  |
| 204 | Africa        | <b>Benin</b>                    | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.<br><br>In 1974, Dahomey informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Republic of Benin. |
| 72  | Africa        | <b>Botswana</b>                 | 1966         | 1966      | Member of the African Union since 1966.  |
| 854 | Africa        | <b>Burkina Faso</b>             | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.<br><br>In 1984, Upper Volta informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Burkina Faso.  |
| 108 | Africa        | <b>Burundi</b>                  | 1962         | 1962      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 132 | Africa        | <b>Cabo Verde</b>               | 1975         | 1975      | Member of the African Union since 1975.  |
| 120 | Africa        | <b>Cameroon</b>                 | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 140 | Africa        | <b>Central African Republic</b> | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963   |
| 148 | Africa        | <b>Chad</b>                     | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 174 | Africa        | <b>Comoros</b>                  | 1975         | 1975      | Member of the African Union since 1975. Member of the League of Arab States since 1993.  |
| 384 | Africa        | <b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>            | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.<br><br>In 1985, Ivory Coast informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Côte d'Ivoire. |

| ID  | Continent | Country                                 | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------|-----------|--|
| 180 | Africa    | <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b> | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Change of official name in 1997: From Zaire into Democratic Republic of the Congo.<br><br>Zaire joined the United Nations on 20 September 1960. On 17 May 1997, its name was changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.  |
| 262 | Africa    | <b>Djibouti</b>                         | 1977         | 1977      | Member of the African Union since 1977. Member of the League of Arab States since 1977.  |
| 818 | Africa    | <b>Egypt</b>                            | 1922         | 1945      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.<br><br>Egypt and Syria were original Members of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. Following a plebiscite on 21 February 1958, the United Arab Republic was established by a union of Egypt and Syria and continued as a single Member. On 13 October 1961, Syria, having resumed its status as an independent State, resumed its separate membership in the United Nations. On 2 September 1971, the United Arab Republic changed its name to the Arab Republic of Egypt. |
| 226 | Africa    | <b>Equatorial Guinea</b>                | 1968         | 1968      | Member of the African Union since 1968.  |
| 232 | Africa    | <b>Eritrea</b>                          | 1993         | 1993      | Member of the African Union since 1993.  |
| 748 | Africa    | <b>Eswatini</b>                         | 1968         | 1968      | Member of the African Union since 1968.<br><br>The country name was changed to the Kingdom of Eswatini (short form: Eswatini) from the former name of the Kingdom of Swaziland (former short form: Swaziland) on 19 April 2018.  |
| 231 | Africa    | <b>Ethiopia</b>                         | 1941         | 1945      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Official name from 1987 to 1991: People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (data presented for these years refer to 'PDR Ethiopia')   |
| 266 | Africa    | <b>Gabon</b>                            | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 270 | Africa    | <b>Gambia</b>                           | 1965         | 1965      | Member of the African Union since 1965.  |
| 288 | Africa    | <b>Ghana</b>                            | 1957         | 1957      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |



| ID  | Continent | Country              | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| 324 | Africa    | <b>Guinea</b>        | 1958         | 1958      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 624 | Africa    | <b>Guinea-Bissau</b> | 1973         | 1974      | Member of the African Union since 1973.  |
| 404 | Africa    | <b>Kenya</b>         | 1963         | 1963      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 426 | Africa    | <b>Lesotho</b>       | 1966         | 1966      | Member of the African Union since 1966.  |
| 430 | Africa    | <b>Liberia</b>       | 1847         | 1945      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 434 | Africa    | <b>Libya</b>         | 1947         | 1955      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1953. Change of official name in 2011: From Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Libya.<br><br>In 1969, the Kingdom of Libya informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 66/1, the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations formally notified the United Nations of a Declaration by the National Transitional Council of 3 August changing the official name of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to "Libya" and changing Libya's national flag. |
| 450 | Africa    | <b>Madagascar</b>    | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.<br><br>In 1975, Malagasy Republic changed its name to Madagascar.  |
| 454 | Africa    | <b>Malawi</b>        | 1964         | 1964      | Member of the African Union since 1964.  |
| 466 | Africa    | <b>Mali</b>          | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 478 | Africa    | <b>Mauritania</b>    | 1960         | 1961      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1973.  |
| 480 | Africa    | <b>Mauritius</b>     | 1968         | 1968      | Member of the African Union since 1968.  |
| 504 | Africa    | <b>Morocco</b>       | 1956         | 1956      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1958. Member of the African Union since 1963/2017.   |
| 508 | Africa    | <b>Mozambique</b>    | 1975         | 1975      | Member of the African Union since 1975.  |
| 516 | Africa    | <b>Namibia</b>       | 1990         | 1990      | Member of the African Union since 1990.  |
| 562 | Africa    | <b>Niger</b>         | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 566 | Africa    | <b>Nigeria</b>       | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |

| ID  | Continent | Country                            | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| 178 | Africa    | <b>Republic of the Congo</b>       | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.<br><br>In 1970, Congo (Brazzaville) changed its name to the People's Republic of Congo, and on 15 November 1971, to Congo.   |
| 646 | Africa    | <b>Rwanda</b>                      | 1962         | 1962      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 678 | Africa    | <b>São Tome e Príncipe</b>         | 1975         | 1975      | Member of the African Union since 1975.  |
| 686 | Africa    | <b>Senegal</b>                     | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 690 | Africa    | <b>Seychelles</b>                  | 1976         | 1976      | Member of the African Union since 1976.  |
| 694 | Africa    | <b>Sierra Leone</b>                | 1961         | 1961      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 706 | Africa    | <b>Somalia</b>                     | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1974.  |
| 710 | Africa    | <b>South Africa</b>                | 1910         | 1945      | Member of the African Union since 1994.<br><br>In 1961, the Union of South Africa changed its name to South Africa.  |
| 728 | Africa    | <b>South Sudan</b>                 | 2011         | 2011      | Member of the African Union since 2011.<br><br>South Sudan became an independent State on 9 July 2011 and a Member of the United Nations on 14 July 2011.  |
| 729 | Africa    | <b>Sudan</b>                       | 1956         | 1956      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1956.<br><br>Until South Sudan became independent in 2011, data refer to Sudan and South Sudan together as a single country. |
| 768 | Africa    | <b>Togo</b>                        | 1960         | 1960      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 788 | Africa    | <b>Tunisia</b>                     | 1956         | 1956      | Member of the African Union since 1963. Member of the League of Arab States since 1958.  |
| 800 | Africa    | <b>Uganda</b>                      | 1962         | 1962      | Member of the African Union since 1963.  |
| 834 | Africa    | <b>United Republic of Tanzania</b> | 1961         | 1961      | Member of the African Union since 1964.  |

| ID  | Continent       | Country                                     | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------------|---|--------------|-----------|--|
|     |                 |   |              |           | Tanganyika was a Member of the United Nations from 14 December 1961 and Zanzibar was a Member from 16 December 1963. Following the ratification on 26 April 1964 of Articles of Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar continued as a single Member, changing its name to the United Republic of Tanzania on 1 November 1964. |
| 894 | Africa          | <b>Zambia</b>                               | 1964         | 1964      | Member of the African Union since 1964.  |
| 716 | Africa          | <b>Zimbabwe</b>                             | 1980         | 1980      | Member of the African Union since 1980.  |
| 28  | <b>Americas</b> | <b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>                  | 1981         | 1981      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.  |
| 32  | Americas        | <b>Argentina</b>                            | 1816         | 1945      | Member of Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Southern Common Market since 1991.   |
| 44  | Americas        | <b>Bahamas</b>                              | 1973         | 1973      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1983.  |
| 52  | Americas        | <b>Barbados</b>                             | 1966         | 1966      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1973.  |
| 84  | Americas        | <b>Belize</b>                               | 1981         | 1981      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.  |
| 68  | Americas        | <b>Bolivia<br/>(Plurinational State of)</b> | 1825         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Andean Community since 1969.<br><br>On 7 April 2009, Bolivia changed its name to Bolivia (Plurinational State of).   |
| 76  | Americas        | <b>Brazil</b>                               | 1822         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Southern Common Market since 1991.   |
| 124 | Americas        | <b>Canada</b>                               | 1931         | 1945      |  |
| 152 | Americas        | <b>Chile</b>                                | 1810         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Andean Community from 1969 to 1976.  |
| 170 | Americas        | <b>Colombia</b>                             | 1819         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Andean Community since 1969.<br><br>Member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development since 2020.   |

| ID  | Continent | Country                                 | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------|-----------|--|
| 188 | Americas  | <b>Costa Rica</b>                       | 1821         | 1945      | Member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development since 2021.   |
| 192 | Americas  | <b>Cuba</b>                             | 1902         | 1945      |  |
| 212 | Americas  | <b>Dominica</b>                         | 1978         | 1978      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.  |
| 214 | Americas  | <b>Dominican Republic</b>               | 1844         | 1945      |  |
| 218 | Americas  | <b>Ecuador</b>                          | 1822         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Andean Community since 1969.   |
| 222 | Americas  | <b>El Salvador</b>                      | 1821         | 1945      |  |
| 308 | Americas  | <b>Grenada</b>                          | 1974         | 1974      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.  |
| 320 | Americas  | <b>Guatemala</b>                        | 1821         | 1945      |  |
| 328 | Americas  | <b>Guyana</b>                           | 1966         | 1966      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1973. Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008.  |
| 332 | Americas  | <b>Haiti</b>                            | 1804         | 1945      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 2002.  |
| 340 | Americas  | <b>Honduras</b>                         | 1821         | 1945      |  |
| 388 | Americas  | <b>Jamaica</b>                          | 1962         | 1962      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1973.  |
| 484 | Americas  | <b>Mexico</b>                           | 1810         | 1945      |  |
| 558 | Americas  | <b>Nicaragua</b>                        | 1821         | 1945      |  |
| 591 | Americas  | <b>Panama</b>                           | 1903         | 1945      |  |
| 600 | Americas  | <b>Paraguay</b>                         | 1811         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Southern Common Market since 1991.                                       |
| 604 | Americas  | <b>Peru</b>                             | 1821         | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Andean Community since 1969.   |
| 659 | Americas  | <b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>            | 1983         | 1983      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.<br><br>On 16 December 1986, Saint Christopher and Nevis changed its name to Saint Kitts and Nevis. |
| 662 | Americas  | <b>Saint Lucia</b>                      | 1979         | 1979      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.  |
| 670 | Americas  | <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> | 1979         | 1980      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1974.  |

| ID  | Continent   | Country  | Independence                               | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|-------------|--|--|-----------|---|
| 740 | Americas    | <b>Suriname</b>                                  | 1975                                       | 1975      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1995. Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008.   |
| 780 | Americas    | <b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>                       | 1962                                       | 1962      | Member of the Caribbean Community since 1973.   |
| 840 | Americas    | <b>United States of America</b>                  | 1776/1783                                  | 1945      | Within GlobalStat: in general, not including all commonwealth, dependent and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.                                      |
| 858 | Americas    | <b>Uruguay</b>                                   | 1825                                       | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Southern Common Market since 1991.  |
| 862 | Americas    | <b>Venezuela<br/>(Bolivarian Republic of)</b>    | 1811<br>(declared)<br>1845<br>(recognised) | 1945      | Member of the Union of South American Nations since 2008. Member of the Andean Community from 1973 to 2006. Member of the Southern Common Market since 2012.  |
| 4   | <b>Asia</b> | <b>Afghanistan</b>                               | 1919                                       | 1946      |   |
| 51  | Asia        | <b>Armenia</b>                                   | 1991                                       | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 31  | Asia        | <b>Azerbaijan</b>                                | 1991                                       | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 48  | Asia        | <b>Bahrain</b>                                   | 1971                                       | 1971      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1971.   |
| 50  | Asia        | <b>Bangladesh</b>                                | 1971                                       | 1974      |   |
| 64  | Asia        | <b>Bhutan</b>                                    | 1949                                       | 1971      |   |
| 96  | Asia        | <b>Brunei Darussalam</b>                         | 1984                                       | 1984      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1984.  |
| 116 | Asia        | <b>Cambodia</b>                                  | 1953                                       | 1955      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1999.  |
| 156 | Asia        | <b>China</b>                                     | 1949                                       | 1945      | Figures for China represent Mainland China.<br><br>Within GlobalStat: in general, not including all dependent and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source. |
| 196 | Asia        | <b>Cyprus</b>                                    | 1960                                       | 1960      | Member of the European Union since 2004.  |
| 408 | Asia        | <b>Democratic People's<br/>Republic of Korea</b> | 1945                                       | 1991      |   |
| 268 | Asia        | <b>Georgia</b>                                   | 1991                                       | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |

| ID  | Continent | Country                                 | Independence | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------|-----------|---|
| 356 | Asia      | <b>India</b>                            | 1947         | 1945      |   |
| 360 | Asia      | <b>Indonesia</b>                        | 1945         | 1950      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1967.<br><br>By letter of 20 January 1965, Indonesia announced its decision to withdraw from the United Nations "at this stage and under the present circumstances". By telegram of 19 September 1966, it announced its decision "to resume full cooperation with the United Nations and to resume participation in its activities". On 28 September 1966, the General Assembly took note of this decision and the President invited representatives of Indonesia to take seats in the Assembly. |
| 364 | Asia      | <b>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</b>       | 1979         | 1945      | On 5 March 1981, Iran informed the Secretary-General that it had changed its name to Iran (Islamic Republic of).  |
| 368 | Asia      | <b>Iraq</b>                             | 1932         | 1945      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.   |
| 376 | Asia      | <b>Israel</b>                           | 1948         | 1949      |   |
| 392 | Asia      | <b>Japan</b>                            | 1947         | 1956      |   |
| 400 | Asia      | <b>Jordan</b>                           | 1946         | 1955      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.   |
| 398 | Asia      | <b>Kazakhstan</b>                       | 1991         | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 414 | Asia      | <b>Kuwait</b>                           | 1961         | 1963      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1961.   |
| 417 | Asia      | <b>Kyrgyzstan</b>                       | 1991         | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 418 | Asia      | <b>Lao People's Democratic Republic</b> | 1949         | 1955      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1997.<br><br>On 2 December 1975, Laos changed its name to the Lao People's Democratic Republic   |
| 422 | Asia      | <b>Lebanon</b>                          | 1943         | 1945      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.   |
| 458 | Asia      | <b>Malaysia</b>                         | 1957         | 1957      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1967.<br><br>The Federation of Malaya joined the United Nations on 17 September 1957. On 16 September 1963, its name was changed to Malaysia, follow-  |



| ID  | Continent | Country                     | Independence  | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------|---|-----------|--|
|     |           |                             |   |           | ing the admission to the new federation of Singapore, Sabah (North Borneo) and Sarawak. Singapore became an independent State on 9 August 1965 and a Member of the United Nations on 21 September 1965.  |
| 462 | Asia      | <b>Maldives</b>             | 1965  | 1965      |  |
| 496 | Asia      | <b>Mongolia</b>             | 1921  | 1961      |  |
| 104 | Asia      | <b>Myanmar</b>              | 1948  | 1948      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1997.<br><br>On 18 June 1989, the Union of Burma informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to the Union of Myanmar. On 30 March 2011, the Union of Myanmar changed its name to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. |
| 524 | Asia      | <b>Nepal</b>                | 1768  | 1955      |  |
| 512 | Asia      | <b>Oman</b>                 | 1971  | 1971      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1971.  |
| 586 | Asia      | <b>Pakistan</b>             | 1947  | 1947      |  |
| 608 | Asia      | <b>Philippines</b>          | 1898  | 1945      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1967.<br><br>In 1947, the Philippine Republic changed its name to Philippines.  |
| 634 | Asia      | <b>Qatar</b>                | 1971  | 1971      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1971.  |
| 410 | Asia      | <b>Republic of Korea</b>    | 1919<br>(declared)<br>1948<br>(government proclaimed) | 1991      |  |
| 682 | Asia      | <b>Saudi Arabia</b>         | 1932  | 1945      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.  |
| 702 | Asia      | <b>Singapore</b>            | 1965  | 1965      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1967.   |
| 144 | Asia      | <b>Sri Lanka</b>            | 1948  | 1955      | On 19 September 1991, Ceylon informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Sri Lanka.  |
| 760 | Asia      | <b>Syrian Arab Republic</b> | 1936  | 1945      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.  |

| ID  | Continent     | Country                     | Independence   | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|---------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|---|
|     |               |                             | (first declared)<br>1944<br>(newly declared)<br>1946<br>(recognised) |           | Egypt and Syria were original Members of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. Following a plebiscite on 21 February 1958, the United Arab Republic was established by a union of Egypt and Syria and continued as a single Member. On 13 October 1961, Syria, having resumed its status as an independent State, resumed its separate membership in the United Nations. On 2 September 1971, the United Arab Republic changed its name to the Arab Republic of Egypt. |
| 762 | Asia          | <b>Tajikistan</b>           | 1991   | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 764 | Asia          | <b>Thailand</b>             | 1932   | 1946      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1967.<br><br>On 11 May 1949, Siam informed the Secretary-General that it had changed its name to Thailand.   |
| 792 | Asia          | <b>Turkey</b>               | 1923   | 1945      |   |
| 795 | Asia          | <b>Turkmenistan</b>         | 1991   | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 784 | Asia          | <b>United Arab Emirates</b> | 1971   | 1971      | Member of the League of Arab States since 1971.   |
| 860 | Asia          | <b>Uzbekistan</b>           | 1991   | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 704 | Asia          | <b>Viet Nam</b>             | 1945   | 1977      | Member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since 1995.  |
| 887 | Asia          | <b>Yemen</b>                | 1990   | 1947/1967 | Member of the League of Arab States since 1945.<br><br>Yemen was admitted to membership in the United Nations on 30 September 1947 and Democratic Yemen on 14 December 1967. On 22 May 1990, the two countries merged and have since been represented as one Member with the name "Yemen".  |
| 8   | <b>Europe</b> | <b>Albania</b>              | 1912   | 1955      |   |
| 20  | Europe        | <b>Andorra</b>              | 1278   | 1993      | Member of the International Monetary Fund since 2020.   |
| 40  | Europe        | <b>Austria</b>              | 1955   | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 1995.  |
| 112 | Europe        | <b>Belarus</b>              | 1991   | 1945      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics<br><br>On 19 September 1991, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Belarus.   |

| ID  | Continent | Country                       | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| 56  | Europe    | <b>Belgium</b>                | 1830         | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1952.   |
| 70  | Europe    | <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> | 1992         | 1992      | <p>Until 1992 member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.</p> <p>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/46/237</a> of 22 May 1992.</p>                          |
| 100 | Europe    | <b>Bulgaria</b>               | 1908         | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 2007.   |
| 191 | Europe    | <b>Croatia</b>                | 1991         | 1992      | <p>Until 1991 member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Member of the European Union since 2013.</p> <p>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Croatia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/46/238</a> of 22 May 1992.</p> |
| 203 | Europe    | <b>Czech Republic</b>         | 1993         | 1993      | <p>Until 1992 member of Czechoslovakia. Member of the European Union since 2004.</p> <p>On 31 December 1992 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic ceased to exist and the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, as successor States, were admitted as members of the United Nations in 1993.</p>   |

| ID  | Continent | Country               | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| 200 | Europe    | <b>Czechoslovakia</b> | 1918         | 1945      | Member of the United Nations from 1945 to 1992. Succeeded by the Czech Republic and Slovakia.<br>Czechoslovakia was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 10 December 1992, its Permanent Representative informed the Secretary-General that the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic would cease to exist on 31 December 1992 that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, as successor States, would apply for membership in the United Nations. Following the receipt of their application, the Security Council, on 8 January 1993, recommended to the General Assembly that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic be both admitted to United Nations membership. Both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic were thus admitted on 19 January of that year as Member States. |
| 208 | Europe    | <b>Denmark</b>        | 1849         | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1973.<br><br>Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all overseas, dependent and/or special administrative territories and divisions if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.   |
| 233 | Europe    | <b>Estonia</b>        | 1991         | 1991      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Member of the European Union since 2004.   |
| 246 | Europe    | <b>Finland</b>        | 1917         | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 1995.<br><br>Member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2023.<br><br>Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all autonomous and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.  |
| 250 | Europe    | <b>France</b>         | 1789/92      | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1952.   |

| ID  | Continent | Country              | Independence                      | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|
|     |           |                      |                                   |           | Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all overseas, dependent and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.  |
| 276 | Europe    | <b>Germany</b>       | 1949<br><br>1990<br>(unification) | 1973      | Member of the European Union since 1952 (Federal Republic), 1990 (Democratic Republic).<br><br>The Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic were admitted to membership in the United Nations on 18 September 1973. Through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany, effective from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. |
| 300 | Europe    | <b>Greece</b>        | 1830                              | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1981.  |
| 348 | Europe    | <b>Hungary</b>       | 1918                              | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 2004.  |
| 352 | Europe    | <b>Iceland</b>       | 1944                              | 1946      |   |
| 372 | Europe    | <b>Ireland</b>       | 1921                              | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 1973.  |
| 380 | Europe    | <b>Italy</b>         | 1861                              | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 1952.  |
| 428 | Europe    | <b>Latvia</b>        | 1990                              | 1991      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Member of the European Union since 2004.  |
| 438 | Europe    | <b>Liechtenstein</b> | 1806                              | 1990      | Date of independence: 1806. Member of the United Nations since 1990.  |
| 440 | Europe    | <b>Lithuania</b>     | 1990                              | 1991      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Member of the European Union since 2004.  |
| 442 | Europe    | <b>Luxembourg</b>    | 1839                              | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1952.  |
| 470 | Europe    | <b>Malta</b>         | 1964                              | 1964      | Member of the European Union since 2004.  |
| 492 | Europe    | <b>Monaco</b>        | 1489                              | 1993      |   |
| 499 | Europe    | <b>Montenegro</b>    | 2006                              | 2006      | Until 1992 member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From 1993 to 2003 part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From 2003 to 2006 part of Serbia and Montenegro.<br><br>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26  |

| ID  | Continent | Country                | Independence | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
|     |           |                        |              |           | June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Montenegro held a 21 May 2006 referendum and declared itself independent from Serbia on 3 June. On 28 June 2006 it was accepted as a United Nations Member State by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/60/264</a> .  |
| 528 | Europe    | <b>Netherlands</b>     | 1581/1648    | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1952.<br>Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all overseas, dependent and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.   |
| 807 | Europe    | <b>North Macedonia</b> | 1991         | 1993      | Until 1991 member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.<br><br>Member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2020.<br><br>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. By resolution <a href="#">A/RES/47/225</a> of 8 April 1993, the General Assembly decided to admit as a Member of the United Nations the State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name.<br><br>After the entry into force of the Prespa Agreement between The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece on 14 February 2019, the |



| ID  | Continent | Country                      | Independence      | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|
|     |           |                              |                   |           | UN announced the official change of name from "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to "Republic of North Macedonia".   |
| 578 | Europe    | <b>Norway</b>                | 1905              | 1945      | Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.   |
| 616 | Europe    | <b>Poland</b>                | 1918              | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 2004.  |
| 620 | Europe    | <b>Portugal</b>              | 1143              | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 1986.  |
| 498 | Europe    | <b>Republic of Moldova</b>   | 1991              | 1992      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.   |
| 642 | Europe    | <b>Romania</b>               | 1878              | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 2007.  |
| 643 | Europe    | <b>Russian Federation</b>    | 1991              | 1945/1991 | Until 1991: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Member of the United Nations since 1945 (until 1991 as Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; from 1991 onwards as Russian Federation).  |
| 674 | Europe    | <b>San Marino</b>            | 12th century/1815 | 1992      |   |
| 688 | Europe    | <b>Serbia</b>                | 2006              | 2000      | <p>Until 1992 member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From 1993 to 2003 part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From 2003 to 2006 part of Serbia and Montenegro.</p> <p>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In a letter dated 3 June 2006, the President of the Republic of Serbia informed the Secretary-General that the membership of Serbia and Montenegro was being continued by the Republic of Serbia, following Montenegro's declaration of independence.</p> |
| 891 | Europe    | <b>Serbia and Montenegro</b> | 2003              | 2003-2006 | Dissolution: 2006.  |

| ID  | Continent | Country   | Independence | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------|-----------|---|
|     |           |   |              |           | <p>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/55/12</a> of 1 November 2000.</p>  |
| 703 | Europe    | <b>Slovakia</b>                                 | 1993         | 1993      | <p>Until 1992 member of Czechoslovakia. Member of the European Union since 2004.</p> <p>On 31 December 1992 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic ceased to exist and the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, as successor States, were admitted as members of the United Nations in 1993.</p>  |
| 705 | Europe    | <b>Slovenia</b>                                 | 1991         | 1992      | <p>Until 1991 member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Member of the European Union since 2004.</p>  |
| 890 | Europe    | <b>Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia</b> | 1945         | 1945      | <p>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Slovenia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/46/236</a> of 22 May 1992. 1945. Dissolution: 1992.</p> <p>The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the</p> |

| ID  | Continent | Country   | Independence | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------|-----------|---|
|     |           |   |              |           | <p>establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/46/237</a> of 22 May 1992.</p> <p>The Republic of Croatia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/46/238</a> of 22 May 1992.</p>   |
| 890 | Europe    | <b>Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia</b> | 1945         | 1945      | <p>The Republic of Slovenia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/46/236</a> of 22 May 1992. By resolution <a href="#">A/RES/47/225</a> of 8 April 1993, the General Assembly decided to admit as a Member of the United Nations the State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (at that time) pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name.</p> <p>The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/55/12</a> of 1 November 2000.</p> <p>On 4 February 2003, following the adoption and promulgation of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro by the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the official name of "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" was changed to Serbia and Montenegro.</p> <p>In a letter dated 3 June 2006, the President of the Republic of Serbia informed the Secretary-General that the membership of Serbia and Montenegro was being continued by the Republic of Serbia, following Montenegro's declaration of independence.</p> <p>Montenegro held a 21 May 2006 referendum and declared itself independent from Serbia on 3 June.</p> <p>On 28 June 2006 it was accepted as a United Nations Member State by General Assembly resolution <a href="#">A/RES/60/264</a>.</p> |
| 724 | Europe    | <b>Spain</b>                                    | 1479         | 1955      | Member of the European Union since 1986.  |

| ID  | Continent      | Country   | Independence | UN member | Country Notes   |
|-----|----------------|---|--------------|-----------|---|
| 752 | Europe         | <b>Sweden</b>   | 1523         | 1946      | Member of the European Union since 1995.  |
| 756 | Europe         | <b>Switzerland</b>  | 1291         | 2002      |   |
| 804 | Europe         | <b>Ukraine</b>  | 1991         | 1945      | Until 1991 part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Member of the United Nations since 1945 (until 1991 as part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; from 1991 onwards as Ukraine). On 24 August 1991, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic changed its name to Ukraine.  |
| 810 | Europe         | <b>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</b>                  | 1922         | 1945-1991 | Dissolution: 1991. Successor: Russian Federation.<br><br>The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 24 December 1991, the President of the Russian Federation informed the Secretary-General that the membership of the Soviet Union in the Security Council and all other United Nations organs was being continued by the Russian Federation with the support of the 11 member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. |
| 826 | Europe         | <b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> | 1707/1922    | 1945      | Member of the European Union since 1973.<br><br>Left the European Union in January 2020.<br><br>Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all overseas, dependent and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source.  |
| 36  | <b>Oceania</b> | <b>Australia</b>  | 1901         | 1945      | Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all special administrative territories if not provided for by the original data source.  |
| 242 | Oceania        | <b>Fiji</b>   | 1970         | 1970      |   |
| 296 | Oceania        | <b>Kiribati</b>   | 1979         | 1999      |   |
| 584 | Oceania        | <b>Marshall Islands</b>                                     | 1986         | 1991      |   |
| 583 | Oceania        | <b>Micronesia (Federated States of)</b>                     | 1986         | 1991      |   |
| 520 | Oceania        | <b>Nauru</b>  | 1968         | 1999      |   |

| ID  | Continent | Country                 | Independence                                  | UN member | Country Notes  |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--|
| 554 | Oceania   | <b>New Zealand</b>      | 1907  | 1945      | Within GlobalStat: In general, not including all associate and/or special administrative territories if aggregate is not provided for by the original data source. |
| 585 | Oceania   | <b>Palau</b>            | 1994  | 1994      |  |
| 598 | Oceania   | <b>Papua New Guinea</b> | 1975  | 1975      |  |
| 882 | Oceania   | <b>Samoa</b>            | 1962  | 1976      |  |
| 90  | Oceania   | <b>Solomon Islands</b>  | 1978  | 1978      |  |
| 626 | Oceania   | <b>Timor-Leste</b>      | 1975<br>(pro-claimed)<br>2002<br>(recognised) | 2002      |  |
| 776 | Oceania   | <b>Tonga</b>            | 1970  | 1999      |  |
| 798 | Oceania   | <b>Tuvalu</b>           | 1978  | 2000      |  |
| 548 | Oceania   | <b>Vanuatu</b>          | 1980  | 1981      |  |

## Annex II – Groups’ composition and membership timelines

Annex II shows the composition and membership timelines of each regional integration community, international organisation and development group presented by *GlobalStat*. Year of accession and/or exit are taken from the original source. The LDCs list derives from the [UN](#).

| Acronym   | Regional Integration Community | Year | Members acceded (in) / left (out)  |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------|--|
| <b>AU</b> | <b>African Union</b>           | 1963 | In: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda |
|           |                                | 1964 | In: Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia   |
|           |                                | 1965 | In: Gambia   |
|           |                                | 1966 | In: Botswana, Lesotho  |
|           |                                | 1968 | In: Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Eswatini   |
|           |                                | 1973 | In: Guinea-Bissau  |
|           |                                | 1975 | In: Cape Verde, Comoros, Mozambique, São Tome e Príncipe   |
|           |                                | 1976 | In: Seychelles   |
|           |                                | 1977 | In: Djibouti   |
|           |                                | 1979 | In: Angola   |
|           |                                | 1980 | In: Zimbabwe   |
|           |                                | 1984 | Out: Morocco   |
|           |                                | 1990 | In: Namibia  |
|           |                                | 1993 | In: Eritrea  |
|           |                                | 1994 | In: South Africa   |
|           |                                | 2011 | In: South Sudan  |
| 2017      | In: Morocco                    |      |  |

| Acronym                                 | Regional Integration Community  | Year | Members acceded (in) / left (out)  |
|---|---|------|--|
| <b>ASEAN</b>                            | <b>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</b>   | 1967 | In: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand  |
|   |   | 1984 | In: Brunei Darussalam  |
|   |   | 1995 | In: Viet Nam   |
|   |   | 1997 | In: Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar  |
|   |   | 1999 | In: Cambodia   |
| <b>CAN / MERCOSUR / UNASUR / PROSUR</b> | <b>Comunidad Andina/Mercado Común del Sur/Unión de Naciones Suramericanas/ Foro para el Progreso e integración de América del Sur</b> | 1969 | In: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru  |
|   |   | 1973 | In: Venezuela  |
|   |   | 1976 | Out: Chile   |
|   |   | 1991 | In: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay   |
|   |   | 2006 | Out: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)  |
|   |   | 2008 | In: Chile, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)  |
| <b>CARICOM</b>                          | <b>Caribbean Community</b>  | 1973 | In: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago   |
|   |   | 1974 | In: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
|   |   | 1983 | In: Bahamas  |
|   |   | 1995 | In: Suriname   |
|   |   | 2002 | In: Haiti  |
| <b>EU</b>                               | <b>European Union</b>   | 1952 | In: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands   |
|   |   | 1973 | In: Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland   |
|   |   | 1981 | In: Greece   |
|   |   | 1986 | In: Portugal, Spain  |
|   |   | 1995 | In: Austria, Finland, Sweden   |



| Acronym    | Regional Integration Community         | Year | Members acceded (in) / left (out)  |
|------------|--|------|--|
|            |  | 2004 | In: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia   |
|            |  | 2007 | In: Bulgaria, Romania  |
|            |  | 2013 | In: Croatia  |
|            |  | 2020 | Out: United Kingdom  |
| <b>LAS</b> | <b>League of Arab States</b>           | 1945 | In: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan, Yemen  |
|            |  | 1946 | In: Jordan   |
|            |  | 1953 | In: Libya  |
|            |  | 1956 | In: Sudan  |
|            |  | 1958 | In: Morocco, Tunisia   |
|            |  | 1961 | In: Kuwait   |
|            |  | 1962 | In: Algeria  |
|            |  | 1967 | In: South Yemen  |
|            |  | 1971 | In: Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates   |
|            |  | 1973 | In: Mauritania   |
|            |  | 1974 | In: Somalia  |
|            |  | 1977 | In: Djibouti   |
|            |  | 1993 | In: Comoros  |
| <b>OAS</b> | <b>Organisation of American States</b> | 1948 | In: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba (suspended between 1962-2009, not reapplied), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |
|            |  | 1962 | Out: Cuba  |

| Acronym     | Regional Integration Community             | Year | Members acceded (in) / left (out)  |
|-------------|--|------|--|
|             |  | 1967 | In: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago  |
|             |  | 1969 | In: Jamaica  |
|             |  | 1975 | In: Grenada  |
|             |  | 1977 | In: Suriname   |
|             |  | 1979 | In: Dominica, Saint Lucia  |
|             |  | 1981 | In: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  |
|             |  | 1982 | In: Bahamas  |
|             |  | 1984 | In: Saint Kitts and Nevis  |
|             |  | 1990 | In: Canada   |
|             |  | 1991 | In: Belize, Guyana   |
|             |  | 2009 | In: Cuba   |
|             |  | 2009 | Out: Honduras  |
|             |  | 2011 | In: Honduras   |
| <b>SICA</b> | <b>Central American Integration System</b> | 1991 | In: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá  |
|             |  | 2000 | In: Belize   |
|             |  | 2013 | In: Dominican Republic   |
| <b>NATO</b> | <b>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation</b>  | 1949 | In: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States |
|             |  | 1952 | In: Greece, Turkey   |
|             |  | 1955 | In: Germany  |
|             |  | 1982 | In: Spain  |
|             |  | 1999 | In: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland  |
|             |  | 2004 | In: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia  |

| Acronym     | Regional Integration Community                                | Year | Members acceded (in) / left (out)   |
|-------------|---|------|---|
|             |   | 2009 | In: Albania, Croatia  |
|             |   | 2017 | In: Montenegro  |
|             |   | 2020 | In: North Macedonia   |
|             |   | 2023 | In: Finland   |
| <b>OECD</b> | <b>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</b> | 1961 | In: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America |
|             |   | 1962 | In: Italy   |
|             |   | 1964 | In: Japan   |
|             |   | 1969 | In: Finland   |
|             |   | 1971 | In: Australia   |
|             |   | 1973 | In: New Zealand   |
|             |   | 1994 | In: Mexico  |
|             |   | 1995 | In: Czech Republic  |
|             |   | 1996 | In: Hungary, Korea, Poland  |
|             |   | 2000 | In: Slovak Republic   |
|             |   | 2010 | In: Chile, Estonia, Israel, Slovenia  |
|             |   | 2016 | In: Latvia  |
|             |   | 2018 | In: Lithuania   |
|             |   | 2020 | In: Colombia  |
|             |   | 2021 | In: Costa Rica  |

| Acronym | Regional Integration Community | Year | Members acceded (in) / left (out)  |
|---------|--------------------------------|------|--|
| LDCs    | Least Developed Countries      | 1971 | In: Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen |
|         |                                | 1975 | In: Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Gambia   |
|         |                                | 1977 | In: Cape Verde, Comoros  |
|         |                                | 1981 | In: Guinea Bissau  |
|         |                                | 1982 | In: Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, São Tome e Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Togo   |
|         |                                | 1985 | In: Vanuatu  |
|         |                                | 1986 | In: Mauritania, Kiribati, Tuvalu   |
|         |                                | 1987 | In: Myanmar  |
|         |                                | 1988 | In: Mozambique   |
|         |                                | 1990 | In: Liberia  |
|         |                                | 1991 | In: Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Zambia  |
|         |                                | 1994 | In: Angola, Eritrea<br>Out: Botswana   |
|         |                                | 2000 | In: Senegal  |
|         |                                | 2003 | In: Timor-Leste  |
|         |                                | 2007 | Out: Cape Verde  |
|         |                                | 2011 | Out: Maldives  |
|         |                                | 2012 | In: South Sudan  |
|         |                                | 2014 | Out: Samoa   |
|         |                                | 2017 | Out: Equatorial Guinea   |
|         |                                | 2020 | Out: Vanuatu   |
| 2023    | Out: Bhutan                    |      |  |