

**Expert Group Meeting on strengthening
national capacity for the integration of
sustainable development principles into
development strategies of countries
emerging from conflict
18-19 November 2009
Nairobi, Kenya**

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NSDS DEFINITION

A coordinated, participatory and iterative process
to achieve economic, environmental and social
objectives
in a balanced and integrated manner



The formulation and implementation process is a cyclical and interactive process of planning, participation and action, in which the emphasis is on managing progress towards sustainability goals, rather than producing a “plan” as an end product.

Principles & Characteristics (1/2)

- **Integration** of economic, social and environmental objectives
- **Coordination** and balance between sector and thematic strategies and decentralised levels, and across generations
- **Broad participation**, effective partnerships, transparency and accountability
- **Developing capacity** and an enabling environment, building on existing knowledge and processes

Principles & Characteristics (2/2)

- Country **ownership**, shared **vision with** a clear **timeframe** on which stakeholders agree, **commitment** and **continuous improvement**
- Focus on **priorities, outcomes** and coherent **means of implementation**
- Linkage with **budget** and **investment** processes
- Continuous **monitoring and evaluation**

National level

- NSDS is based on national sustainable priorities, identified in the NSDS process.
- NSDS should not duplicate other comprehensive strategies, nor should other comprehensive strategies duplicate an NSDS.
- NSDS may be named differently.
- The NSDS process will take the global sustainable development agenda, including the MDGs into account.
- It will also take other global and regional processes into account (e.g. Mauritius Strategy).

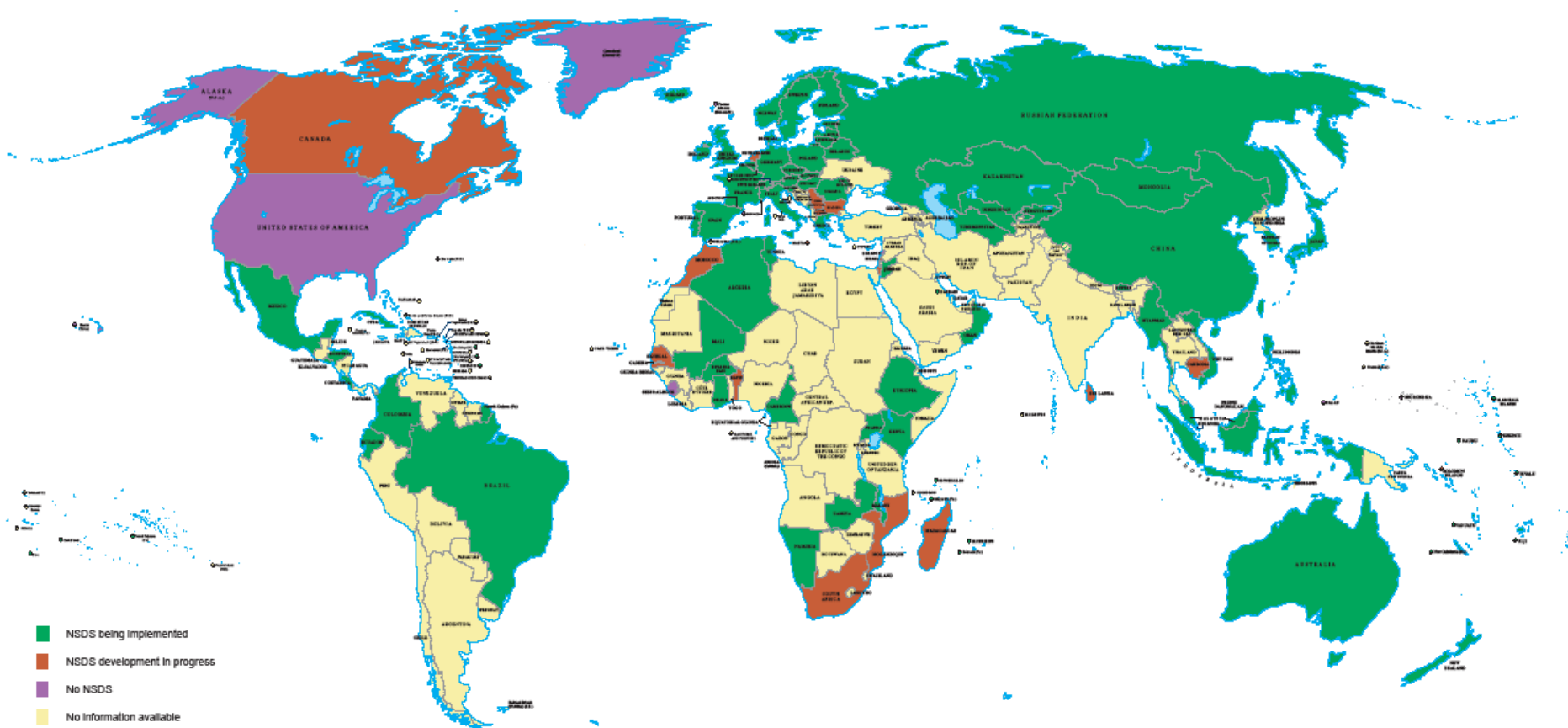
National level

- International goals and targets have to be adapted to national circumstances in order to be meaningful.
- This holds for goals and targets agreed in Rio, the JPOI and the MDGs.
- Coherence between national and international goals and targets important.
- National goals and targets should be ambitious, but realistic.

Targets

- International commitments
 - Agenda 21 – recognized the importance of sound sustainable development policy and calls for strategies for sustainable development
 - Rio+5 (formulation and elaboration by 2002)
 - Millennium Declaration Goal 7, target 9: (integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies/programmes)
 - WSSD JPOI (begin implementation by 2005)
 - World Summit 2005 (national strategies central to achievement of sustainable development)
 - Various commitments made by the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development
- In addition, commitments made at the regional level (European Union, Pacific Forum) and at national levels

National sustainable development strategies: The global picture



- NSDS being implemented
- NSDS development in progress
- No NSDS
- No information available

The map tracks progress towards the WSSD (2002) target for countries to formulate and begin implementation of national sustainable development strategies by 2005. The map is updated on a regular basis. We encourage Governments to submit new information or advise us of corrections through dsd@un.org.

Last update: 4/30/2009

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

* Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Cross-hatch with the colours used for Jammu & Kashmir (neutral colour) and China.

NSDS – The Global Picture

As of 2008:

- Eighty-two United Nations Member States have reported that they are implementing an NSDS
 - *Increase of 19 per cent compared to 2006*
- Sixteen countries are developing an NSDS
- Six countries have no NSDS
- No current information for 87 countries
- Sizeable differences across regions
- All figures based on voluntary reporting to the CSD or to the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development

NSDS – The Global Picture

Different types of NSDS under implementation

For many countries, the question whether it has a NSDS is not a simple 'yes/no' question

NSDS developed in new strategy development processes

Poverty reduction strategies that also function as NSDS

- JPOI recognizes that PRS can be an NSDS
- Some countries also have NSDS separate from their PRS

Comprehensive development plans that function as NSDS

- Sometimes, NSDS consists of two or more documents

Strategies focusing on the environment or on natural resources

- This type of NSDS is not frequently used anymore

NSDS – The Global Picture and Regional Picture

- Different coordination mechanism in place
 - Office of President or Prime Minister
 - Ministry of Planning or Finance
 - Cabinet committee
 - These three are most common
 - Multi-stakeholder sustainable development council
 - Line ministry (Environment)
- Very few official information available regionally
 - This should change for the next map to be published in 2010.

Central America and the Caribbean



Africa



Asia



Knowledge Sharing

- Information on national sustainable development strategies available on national information pages, often with links to strategy documents
 - http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_ni/ni_index.shtml
- Guidelines on preparing national sustainable development strategies
 - http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_publstdt_nlds.shtml
- Information and analysis of country practices in addressing climate change in NSDS
 - http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/documents/bp12_2008.pdf

Shared learning and review of NSDS

- DSD involved in methodology development
- DSD co-organized and participated in various review processes
- Allows for in-depth exchange of experiences and mutual learning, including understanding of institutional characteristics
- Can be a vehicle for capacity-building
- http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_nsds/nsds_egm0307.shtml

Knowledge Sharing- Monitoring

- Monitoring an NSDS
 - Third edition of “Indicators of Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies” recently published
 - Detailed methodology sheets for each indicator available online
 - Guidelines include section on using indicators for monitoring sustainable development processes such as NSDS
 - <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/isd.htm>



Importance of Monitoring

- Monitoring is critical for effective implementation of an NSDS and should be built into the NSDS
 - Without monitoring, the risk is great that the NSDS is merely a list of good intentions.
 - Integration of monitoring system in NSDS supports the choice of measurable and specific targets
 - Facilitates policy interventions and corrections of the NSDS
 - Provides a feedback mechanism and promotes culture of learning
 - Promotes accountability
 - Promotes public interest and information

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Areas of NSDS to be Monitored

- Three broad elements of a NSDS require monitoring:
 - Actions and activities planned in the NSDS
 - Effects and impact of NSDS on sustainable development
 - Progress towards sustainable development
- Monitoring actions and activities planned in the NSDS
 - addresses the question: Are all of us doing what the NSDS calls for?
 - is critical for accountability of individual institutions and actors.
 - Progress or performance or accomplishment indicators are a major tool.

Areas of NSDS to be Monitored

- Monitoring effects and impact of NSDS on sustainable development
 - Addresses the question: Are we achieving the goals and targets of our NSDS?
 - Critical for accountability of all stakeholders;
 - Indicators follow often directly from the formulation of NSDS targets;
 - Assists review and adjustment of NSDS.
 - Addresses the question: Are we on track towards sustainable development?
 - Allows for status-quo assessments and to detect trends of sustainable development;
 - Assists prioritization in early stage of NSDS;
 - Contributes to review and adjustment of NSDs.

CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development

- The CSD indicators consist of 96 indicators of sustainable development, of which 50 are regarded as core indicators.
- ◆ The CSD indicators are organized in 15 themes with 44 sub-themes.
- ◆ Indicator themes:
 - ◆ Poverty
 - ◆ Governance
 - ◆ Health
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Demographics
 - ◆ Atmosphere
 - ◆ Land
 - ◆ Oceans, seas, coasts
 - ◆ Freshwater
 - ◆ Biodiversity
 - ◆ Economic Development
 - ◆ Natural hazards
 - ◆ Global partnership
 - ◆ Consumption and production patterns

Indicator Selection Criteria

- Indicators should meet certain criteria
- For example, CSD indicators used the following criteria
 - primarily national in scope;
 - relevant to assessing sustainable development progress;
 - limited in number, but remaining open-ended and adaptable to future needs;
 - understandable, clear and unambiguous;
 - conceptually sound;
 - representative of an international consensus to the extent possible;
 - within the capabilities of national governments to develop;
 - dependent on cost effective data of known quality; and
 - broad in coverage of Agenda 21 and all aspects of sustainable development.
- Some criteria need to be adapted
 - Coverage of issues in NSDS can replace coverage based on Agenda 21
 - National consensus and standards may be used instead of international ones, if international consensus and standards are lacking or do not reflect national realities.
 - Allowing for meaningful breakdowns (spatial, by socio-economic group, by gender, ...) can be an additional criterion for many indicators.

Indicator selection - Adaptation

- Characterization according to relevance:
 - Relevant.
 - Related indicator relevant, for example because
 - national issue more focused (for example, the CSD indicator on child nutrition covers both under- and overweight, but in some countries only one of the two poses a development problem);
 - subjective instead of objective indicators are preferred (e.g., health issues)
 - related issues are relevant (e.g., regional trade instead of trade with LDCs as in the CSD indicators)
 - Relevant but missing from set, because CSD indicators may not include relevant country-specific issues
 - Irrelevant, for example coastal indicators in land-locked countries.

Thank You

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<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html>