

**Expert Group Meeting on strengthening
national capacity for the integration of
sustainable development principles into
development strategies of countries
emerging from conflict
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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

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_publsdt_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>