NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES:

Birgitte Alvarez-Rivero
Division for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
Agenda 21 – recognized the importance of sound sustainable development policy and called for strategies for sustainable development

Rio+5 (urged formulation and elaboration of NSDS by 2002)

Millennium Declaration Goal 7, target 9: addressed the integration of sustainable development principles into country policies & programmes

WSSD – requested countries to begin implementation of NSDS by 2005)
2001-2004 INITIATIVES

* UN International Forum on NSDSs, (November 2001, Ghana)

* UN Guidance Document (2002) - outlined definition and key principles

* Regional/national observations

* Global map and assessment report to CSD (2002-2006)
A coordinated, participatory and iterative process of Consensus-building and actions 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 in policy design and implementation

- **Coordination** and balance between:
  - sector and thematic strategies
  - levels of government (central, sub-regional and local)
  - 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*
Country Observations

* Peace and stability
* Political commitment
* Harmonization of strategies and plans
* Cooperation at all levels
Country Observations

* Shared vision and ownership

* Monitoring
More information available at:

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds