

Objectives and Agenda

Capacity Development Workshop and Expert Group
Meeting

On

Mainstreaming Sustainable Development into National
Development Strategies

Workshop Objectives

- The overall goal of the workshop is to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders, including Government officials and civil society, to effectively integrate sustainable development into national development planning and implementation.
- The main objective is to share experience on progress made, existing obstacles and challenges, and share good practices amongst participants on ways for overcoming these.

Expected Accomplishments

- Improved knowledge about the processes, institutions and structures required to put in place initiatives relating to sustainable development;
- Improved knowledge of capacity development and technical assistance needed to achieve integrated sustainable development programmes;
- Enhanced awareness of integrated approaches for the development and implementation of national development strategies through the development of a community of practice and the establishment of a network of practitioners.

The Agenda

- Combined Capacity Development Workshop and Expert Group Meeting to enhance mutual learning
- Addresses the key issues raised in the Rio + 20 national reports
- To set the context provides information on the on- going processes
 - The Rio + 20 follow up
 - Post 2015 development agenda
- Designed to be interactive and encourage active participation
- All stakeholders provided with the opportunity to share their experiences
 - Governments, Major Groups, Experts and UN system

The Agenda (cont)

- Provides space for discussion on the follow up actions
 - Knowledge support and learning partnerships
 - Programme development
- The capacity development workshop ends on Friday lunchtime, and expert group meeting will continue in the afternoon.

The Facilitators

- Ms. Kathleen Abdalla
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- Kathleen Abdalla has more than fifteen years experience in sustainable development at the international, regional, national levels. She served as Acting Director of the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development for one year and as Branch Chief overseeing the Division's work on a variety of issues including the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies and sustainable development indicators. She has extensive experience in conducting "shared experiences" at the regional level, assessing national sustainable development strategies, integrating climate change into national strategies and applying strategy methodologies in conflict areas.
- Ms. Abdalla holds a Ph.D. in Economics with areas of expertise in sustainable development, energy and climate change. Her career at the United Nations spanned 28 years during which she served in Iraq, Jordan and South Africa as well as at UN Headquarters in New York. She has authored and supervised numerous UN reports, papers and issues briefs and has published widely.

The Facilitators

- Mr. Marc Levy
- **Marc Levy** is Deputy Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), a unit of **Columbia University's Earth Institute**. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.
- He is a political scientist specializing in the human dimensions of global environmental change. His primary research areas are climate-security linkages, global environmental governance, and sustainability metrics. He has published in a wide variety of sub-topics, including emerging infectious disease modeling, anthropogenic drivers of global change, sustainability indicators, vulnerability mapping, and public-private partnerships. His research has been supported by a number of agencies, including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Agency for International Development, National Institutes for Health, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, UN Environment Program, and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.
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- He has served on several committees of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, as well as on a number of international assessments, and is currently a Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change Fifth Assessment chapter on Human Security. He is chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Measuring Sustainability.
- For a publication list see <http://bit.ly/marclevypubs>.