

Expert Group Meeting
Institutionalizing Sustainable Development Indicators for
Measuring Progress of National Strategies
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National Strategies for Sustainable Development

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Outline

1. What is sustainable development?
2. What is a national sustainable development strategy (NSDS)?
3. Who is committed to develop and implement an NSDS?
4. Who is implementing an NSDS?

UN DESA – Division for Sustainable Development

- Mission Statement: To provide leadership and to be an authoritative source of expertise within the United Nations system on sustainable development
- DSD serves as the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
- CSD:
 - Functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
 - Attended by non-CSD member states, UN system, NGOs and IGOs
 - Includes high-level segment with 60-70 ministers in attendance
- DSD conducts normative work, analytical work and technical cooperation.



Sustainable Development

- “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (Brundtland Commission)
- Sustainable development came to the forefront of public interest in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

RIO Principles

What does sustainable development mean?

- Integration
- Inter-generational equity
- Intra-generational equity
- Global partnership with ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’
- Poverty eradication
- Reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption
- Participation in decision-making
- Access to information
- Access to judicial and administrative proceedings

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 not frequently used anymore

NSDS – The Global 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).

Central America and the Caribbean



NSDS – The Regional Picture

- Only six countries have reported they are implementing an NSDS, in addition to the French Overseas Departments.
- Very few official information available
 - This should change for the next map to be published in 2010.

Thank You

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