

2007 NSDS PROFILE: FRANCE

Information on National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

National sustainable development strategy (NSDS)

The French 2003-2008 NSDS was adopted by the government on 3 June 2003. It is the result of work done jointly by civil society and supported by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSO: 90 representatives of civil society and local authorities) and government ministries. This strategy provides a framework for intervention in the field of sustainable development and serves as a guideline for government action with respect to all of its policies over a five-year period.

The inclusion, on 1 March 2005, of the Environment Charter in the French Constitution gives sustainable development institutional status. Article 6 states, in particular, that "public policies must promote sustainable development".

France was the first country to undergo a "peer review" of its national sustainable development strategy (experience-sharing exercise), in 2005. On 13 November 2006, the *Comité Interministériel pour le Développement Durable* (CIDD) (interministerial committee for sustainable development) approved the updated NSDS for the period 2003-2008. This updated strategy, which follows on from the 2003 NSDS, is based on experience gleaned and peer country proposals. On the one hand it is aligned with the European sustainable development strategy revised on 16 June 2006, thus vertically integrating national and regional level policies; and on the other, the new NSDS takes on board the measures adopted in France since 2003 as well as a number of new measures. Last but not least, it prepares the revision to be carried out in 2008. This update was performed approximately at the "mid-term" point and six months ahead of the deadline set by the European Union.

France takes part in disseminating the experience of National Sustainable Development Strategies in several developing countries, and in particular peer reviews. It took part in the National Sustainable Development Strategy peer review of Burkina Faso, organised by the Francophonie organization (IEPF) in December 2007.