

**GHANA**

**EXCHANGE OF COUNTRY EXPERIENCES  
IN PREPARING NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE CSD**

**SUBMITTED BY  
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a. **THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT**

National Focal points have been playing the following roles:

- i. Coordinating the activities of national institutions and other stake holders involved in the local implementation of Agenda 21, using guidelines from the CSD;
- ii. Coordinating the preparation and submission of national reports;
- iii. Disseminating information relevant to sustainable development to appropriate national institutions and stakeholders;
- iv. Disseminating information from the CSD to appropriate national institutions and stakeholders;
- v. Provide training to people involved in decision making and policy formulation on issues related to sustainable development in the various sectors of the economy to enable them to create awareness on asserting their policies, programmes and activities to strategic environmental assessments;
- vi. Establishment and management of a national advisory committee on the local implementation of Agenda 21. In addition, national committees have been established for the implementation of the various International Environmental Agreements. These committees are made up of representatives of stakeholders from the public sector, the private sector, NGOs, civil society organizations, traditional authorities, the academia, labour movement, woman's groups, children and the youth, farmers and fishermen, etc. Essentially, all these Committees have membership covering all the major groups as defined by Agenda 21.
- vii. Provide the secretariat for national CSD activities.

b. **INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION IN PREPARING NATIONAL REPORTS**

To reflect a true national character, sections of national reports are prepared by the relevant sector ministries and national institutions in the domain of their activities. These are then collated and synthesized by the focal point and submitted to CSD. The National Committee for the Implementation of Agenda 21 has representation from all relevant national Ministries. Also, as deemed relevant, specific Ministries are represented on the national committees for the implementation of International Environmental Agreements.

c. **RESPONDING TO CONFLICTING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO VARIOUS UN SYSTEMS**

Creating synergy among the various environmental conventions and protocols eliminates this issue. Where the reporting requirements conflicts with local situation, the expertise of the National Advisory Committee is called into play.

d. **NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING REPORTS**

Need to strengthen capacity of the various national institutions involved in preparing national reports to be able to network electronically. This would facilitate collation and synthesis of inputs from various sources as well as a quick review of the synthesized document for finalization and submission. It will also make it easy to distribute an electronic version of reports.

The capacity desired will thus cover the acquisition of equipment as well as the training of the manpower to be able to use this equipment.