

“Improving Future National Reporting to the CSD”.

Italy Comments

On the basis of our Italian experience, we observed that the effectiveness of implementation activities are linked to the effectiveness of SD policies in a double way:

- the policies success has to be supported by consistent investments either in SD analysis activities or in planning, in terms of resources devoted, taking into account their central/peripheral distribution. This item should constitute a key issues which has to be reported to the CSD; these resources have to be devoted, in particular, to enhance the knowledge in SD processes;
- the reporting process represents, at national level, a good means to diffuse the awareness and stimulate the adoption of SD policies.

The quality of reporting activities on sustainable development is largely increased by the use of indicators. There is a need to precisely define indicators in order to better integrate the SD into the other policies. Moreover, there is a need to implement indicators related to institutional issues.

Some suggestions. The UN DESA staff could support national reporting

1. providing a methodological assistance through a “term of references” system able to take into account the differences among all the countries in term of institutional structure, capacity building level, development level, etc.
2. focusing the attention on the results obtained as well as on the policies process adopted and decision making structure;
3. adopting the *themes – sub themes – indicators* schema also for the evaluation of Agenda 21 implementation;
4. encouraging the regional cooperation activities aiming to share national experiences and good practices;
5. supporting and networking technical and scientific activities to produce data and indicators on SD and encouraging the adoption of the CSD indicators list in the national internal reporting;
6. promoting the frequent benchmarking of the SD national achievement, again making large use of the indicators. The creation of a worldwide database of the SD country profiles is strongly recommended by Italy;
7. encouraging the use and the diffusion of internet technologies: the establishment of a *Clearing House Mechanism* could help these processes;
8. promoting a regional coordination among the national focal point that could be enhance the efficiency of the reporting system

Finally, Italy recommends more frequent global and regional technical meetings among the national focal points and their technical staffs.