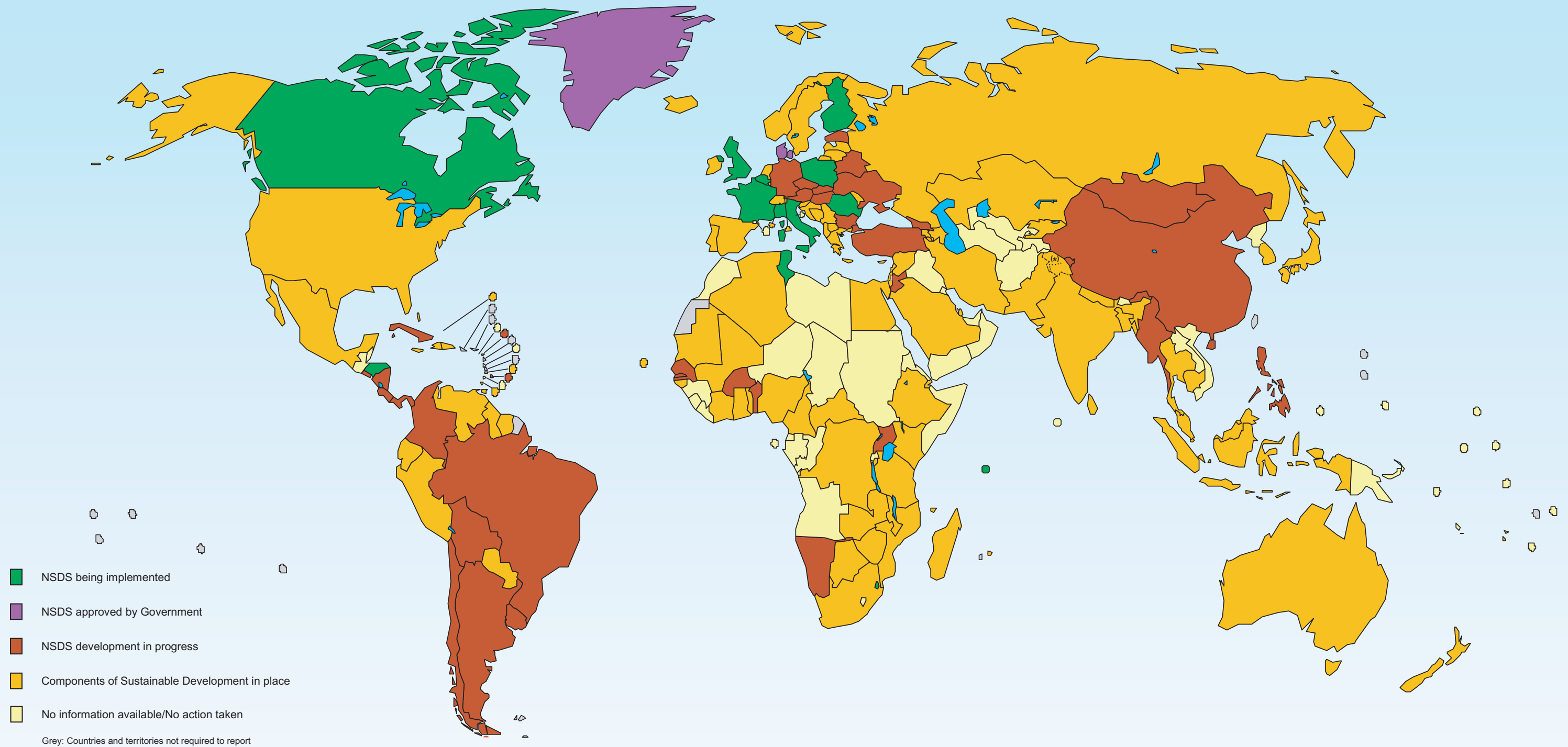


National sustainable development strategies: The global picture 2002



The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, through adoption of Agenda 21, produced a global programme of action for sustainable development for the 21st century. Agenda 21 states that countries should adopt national strategies for sustainable development, which should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country. The 1997 Special Session of the UN General Assembly set a target date of 2002 for the formulation and elaboration of the national strategies for sustainable development. It also reaffirmed that all sectors of society should be involved in their development and implementation. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in August 2002, in its Plan of Implementation urges states to take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development (NSDS) and begin their implementation by 2005.

Since Rio 1992, governments have been making efforts to integrate environmental, economic and social objectives into decision-making by either elaborating new policies and strategies for sustainable development, or modifying or adapting existing policies and plans. This map attempts to capture the general status of development/implementation of national sustainable development strategies based on information in the 2002 Country Profiles and in the National Assessment Reports prepared for the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002. The purpose of the map is not to single out countries that have not initiated or completed the process of developing a national sustainable development strategy, but rather to encourage those countries that have not yet completed the process, to proceed in their efforts to meet the goal of 2005. In order to properly track broad progress in the area of NSDS development and implementation, the Division for Sustainable Development intends to issue, on an annual basis and until 2006, an updated version of the map for distribution at the spring sessions of the CSD.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. * Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

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