

Part II. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ON NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The 1997 Special Session of the UN General Assembly set a target date of 2002 for the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development (NSDS). It also reaffirmed that all sectors of society should be involved in their development and implementation. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation urges States to take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of NSDS and begin their implementation by 2005.

The NSDS global map, distributed at the eleventh session of the CSD, attempts to capture the status of development and implementation of NSDSs at the global level, based on information contained in the 2002 Country Profiles and in the National Assessment Reports, prepared for the WSSD. The purpose of the map is to encourage those countries that have not yet completed the process, to proceed in their efforts to meet the goal of 2005, while at the same time serving as a tool for the CSD to monitor progress in this area.

In order to properly track broad progress in the area of NSDS development and implementation, the CSD Secretariat intends to issue an updated version of the map for distribution at the CSD sessions on an annual basis until 2006.

Please indicate the stages of NSDS development/implementation in your country, by responding to the questions below:

1. Does your country have a NSDS approved by the government:
The Five Year Planning process addresses inter-alia, sustainability issues in general in the country. However, in view of international commitment, India is in the process of evolving country specific NSDS.

2. If **yes**, please give name and year of approval: **No. As NSSD is not in position as yet.**

3. How is your NSDS being implemented? Give specific actions/activities undertaken for this purpose: **Not Applicable.**

4. Has your NSDS been evaluated and if so, when and how? **Not Applicable**

5. Do you have, and if so, what are the other relevant strategies in place supporting the NSDS? Please choose from the following:
Water (name and year of being implemented): **Not Applicable**
Sanitation (name and year of being implemented): **Not Applicable**
Human settlements (name and year of being implemented): **Not Applicable**
Other strategies: **Not Applicable**

6. Have multi-stakeholder consultations, training or workshops for NSDS development been undertaken? If yes please give the nature and type of consultations/training/workshops held:

The Government of India has initiated the process of preparing a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). The draft strategy will go through an iterative process of political, technical and stakeholders' consultations. India is also of the view that the NSDS process should be a continuous process involving the three elements of planning, actions and feedback.

7. Do you have a national coordination body for NSDS development established? If so, please give the name and nature of such body (e.g. composition):

The National Development Council and the Planning Commission headed by Prime Minister are the two national level coordination bodies looking after sustainable development. However, at present there is no single national coordinating body exclusively dedicated to the works of NSDS. A Core Group of Experts on Sustainable Development constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests is expected to work as a 'think tank' on the related issues.

8. Where a NSDS does not exist, do you have other relevant strategies, plans and activities in place? : (Please specify)___

At Present, various strategies on sustainable development are contained in the National Five Year Plans (at present 10th Five Year Plan is operational.) Indian medium term planning has laid down various strategies for achieving Sustainable Development objective, particularly since the 8th Plan. Besides, several sector policies such as National Water Policy, the Health Policy and other policy statements emanating from concerned social and economic Ministries constitute present strategies for sustainable development.