

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: YES
If yes, please give name and year of approval:
If no, please go straight to questions 5-7.

Sweden adopted a national strategy for sustainable development in 2002, Nationell strategi för hållbar utveckling skr. 2001/02:172. A summary document in English is available at <http://miljo.regeringen.se/pressinfo/pdf/M2002.09.pdf>

2. How is your NSDS being implemented? Give specific actions/activities undertaken for this purpose

Sustainable Development is an overall objective of the government's policy. The Swedish SDS encompasses ecological, economic and social (including cultural) aspects of sustainable development. It contains both a longer-term vision and shorter-term goals and measures. In addition, it elaborates on tools and measures to be further developed.

The Strategy is built on existing government policy, goals and measures. Eight "core issues" are identified: our future environment; climate change; demography and public health; social unity, welfare and safety; employment and learning; economic growth; regional development and cohesion; and sustainable societies. These core issues or themes will be highlighted in forthcoming work with the strategy. Local sustainability

and Agenda 21 progress and Sweden's global responsibility is also elaborated in the strategy.

3. Has your NSDS been evaluated and if so, when and how

The National SDS is seen as a long-term process with continuous improvement, which is going to be regularly evaluated, revised and updated. The Strategy is currently being evaluated and revised. The plan is to present a revised version to Parliament in April 2004.

4. 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):

Sanitation (name and year of being implemented):

Human settlements (name and year of being implemented):

A program for sustainable urbanization is currently under preparation. See also general text below on Swedish environmental quality objectives.

The overall objective of environmental policy is to hand over a society to the next generation in which the major environmental problems have been solved. This means that environmental impacts must be reduced to sustainable levels. In Sweden ecological sustainability has to a great extent been addressed in connection with the work of developing the 15 national environmental quality objectives adopted by Parliament. The objectives represent a compass for environmental policy at all levels in Sweden and in our participation in the EU and international cooperation. 65 sub-objectives and several action strategies have been developed for the objectives. The most relevant objectives in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements are: Natural Acidification only, Zero Eutrofication, Good-quality Groundwater, Flourishing Lakes and Streams and A Good Built Environment. Three strategies have been formulated as guidelines for efforts to achieve the environmental quality objectives, i.e.: 1) more efficient use of energy and transport – in order to reduce emissions from the energy and transport sectors; 2) non-toxic and resource-efficient cycles, including an integrated product policy – in order to create energy- and material-efficient cycles and reduce diffuse emissions of pollutants; and 3) efficient management of land, water and the built environment – with a view to increased concern for biological diversity, the cultural environment and human health, efficient management of land and water, environmentally sound spatial planning and sustainable urban structure.

Furthermore, Sweden is the first country in the world to present an integrated policy for global development. The Government presented this Bill "Shared responsibility – Sweden's policy for global development" to the Swedish Parliament, the Riksdag, in May 2003. The overarching aim is to contribute towards achieving an equitable and

sustainable global development. A central challenge in this regard, is to identify methods for improved policy coherence. The Bill recognizes that conflicts of interest will be identified between different policy areas, between long term and short-term goals or between the domestic interest of Sweden and our responsibility for global development. Concrete example of such conflicts of interest may be between the rights of corporations to patents and peoples' right to good health, or, between assistance towards rural development and the EU subsidies to farmers.

The new Bill will be an instrument for this work and will involve all ministries. Activities will be carried out in a number of areas of government affairs and policy sectors. And they will be coordinated in order to put a coherent policy for equitable and sustainable global development in place. A summary of the bill can be found at http://www.regeringen.se/prefak/files/utvecklingsprop_kortversion_ENG.pdf

5. 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 grassroots perspective is of major importance in Swedish sustainable development work. Firstly it should be mentioned that the aspect of sustainable development is included in the Education Act and the three curricula for formal education from pre-school to upper secondary education (incl. initial vocational training). The national Agency for Education supports in-service training of teachers in order to improve Education for sustainable development. Also the Higher Education Act lays the foundation for aspects of sustainability in education at universities and university colleagues. As for non-formal education sustainable development is well in line with the traditional core of liberal adult education.

In addition a broad consultative process for awareness rising of the civil society is carried out in the form of for example workshops, with the participation of NGOs, municipalities, civil society, business enterprises, media, and youth organizations. This started already in the autumn of 2001 and continued during 2002. With a view to strengthening implementation of the WSSD, the government organized a national stakeholder conference in November 2002 with 1,000 participants and published a white paper on Johannesburg in January 2003. A report from the conference is available at:

http://miljo.regeringen.se/hut/pdf/Envision_eng_web.pdf

The white paper is available at:

http://miljo.regeringen.se/propositionermm/skrivelser/pdf/skr200203-29_eng.pdf

The results from consultations together with the Johannesburg conclusions will be of great importance to the first revision of the Swedish NSDS. In the current process of the first revision we use questionnaires on the web as a supplement to a number of workshops for consultation.

The Government's Environmental Advisory Council has initiated dialogue with companies in two different social sectors. One dialogue focused on the building and property sector – which was named Building and Living. Twenty companies and three municipalities participated. The companies involved were real estate management companies, developers, contractors, architects and consultants, suppliers, banks and insurance companies, and telecommunications companies.

The second dialogue focused on the future grocery market – logistics and sales channels – and was named Tomorrow's Grocery Market. The subjects discussed in the dialogue were the retail market, carriers, the food industry and the IT sector. Sixteen companies participated altogether. A wide range of sectors was represented in the groups since tomorrow's solutions will require cross sector cooperation.

The two dialogue projects may be seen as pilot projects, the aim of which is to explore approaches to sustainable development through forward-looking dialogue. Using a back-casting technique, the companies and municipalities in each of the dialogue projects formulated and agreed on a vision for sustainable development up to year 2025. Taking this vision as their starting-point, the groups formulated long- and medium-term objectives and devised strategies for achieving the objectives and the vision. During 2003 an agreement on measures to create a sustainable building sector was signed between the government through The Minister for the Environment, 32 companies, 4 municipalities and one Government Agency as building proprietor. During 2003 the government, 12 companies, 2 county councils and one municipality signed the agreement on Tomorrow's Grocery Market.

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

On 15 June 2000, the Swedish Government appointed a National Committee on Agenda 21 and Habitat, consisting of eleven representatives of the political parties under the chair of the Minister of Housing. The National Committee had the task to coordinate Swedish work on Agenda 21 and sustainable development as well as Swedish commitments under the Habitat Agenda. After submitting the final proposal to the Government in April 2003, the committee had fulfilled its task. On 1 December 2003, the Government established a secretariat for Sustainable Development at the Prime Minister's Office with the responsibility for sustainable development.

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