

Global Efforts for Sustainable Development

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“Sustainable Development – is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”



Historical Background

- UN Conference on Environment and Development, or the 1992 Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro – unanimously adopted Agenda 21, a blueprint for sustainable development.
- Millennium Development Goals – UN General Assembly resolution 55/2, outlined 8 targets aimed at reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.
- World Summit on Sustainable Development – reaffirmed the commitment to Agenda 21 and Millennium Development Goals

Pillars of Sustainable Development

- Economic Development – poverty eradication
- Social Development – active participation of women; education; good governance
- Environmental Protection – prevent environmental degradation and patterns of unsustainable development

At the local, national, regional, and global levels

Economic Development

- Poverty eradication
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people with income less than \$1/day
- Basic health services for all, reduce health threats
- Increase food availability
- Combat desertification, mitigate effects of drought and floods
- Provision of clean drinking water
- Enhance industrial productivity

Changing Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production

- Cleaner production technologies
- Developing cleaner, more efficient energy technologies
- Maintain urban air quality and health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, and of hazardous wastes

Protecting the Natural Resource Base of Economic & Social Development

- Prevent water pollution to reduce health hazards and protect ecosystems
- Watershed and groundwater management
- Support desalination of seawater, water recycling
- Ensure the sustainable development of oceans, marine environmental protection



Action Agenda – Focus on Five Key Thematic Areas

Priority areas for action, identified by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Health
- Agriculture
- Biodiversity protection and ecosystem management

Water and Sanitation

“Water is not only the most basic of needs but is also at the center of sustainable development.”

- Around 1.2 billion people still have no access to clean drinking water
- Around 2.4 billion people do not have adequate sanitation.



Water and Sanitation

Some key issues:

- Prevent water pollution to reduce health hazards
- Protect ecosystems
- Introduce technologies for affordable sanitation, industrial and domestic wastewater treatment
- River basin, watershed and groundwater management
- Support desalination of seawater, water recycling
- Marine environmental protection - oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas are essential components of the Earth's ecosystem

Energy

Some key issues:

- Focus on access to energy in rural areas
- Energy conservation and energy efficiency – building design & management, better mass transportation, advanced and innovative cleaner technologies
- Promotion of renewable energy
- Action on climate change – ratification by countries of the Kyoto Protocol

Health

“Good health is vital for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.”

Some key issues:

- Reduce mortality rates in 2015: by 66.7% for children & infants under 5; by 75% for maternal mortality rates
- Control & eradicate communicable diseases, reduce HIV prevalence, combat malaria, tuberculosis
- Ensure that chemicals are not used and produced in ways that harm human health
- Reduce air pollution
- Improve developing countries' access to environmentally sound alternatives to ozone depleting chemicals

Agriculture

“Agriculture is central to sustainable development. About 70% of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas and depend in one way or another on agriculture for their survival.”

Some key issues:

- Address serious soil fertility problems
- Diversification of crops
- Increase water-use productivity
- Apply R&D to increase productivity in crops and livestock



Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management

“Biodiversity and the ecosystems they support are the living basis of sustainable development.”



Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management

Some key issues:

- Significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010
- Reverse the trend in natural resource degradation
- Restore fisheries to their maximum sustainable yields
- Protection of the marine environment from land based sources of pollution