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International NSDS Milestones from 1970 to Today

Background Paper to
Report 1: A National
Sustainable
Development Strategy:
How New Zealand
measures up against
international commitments

MCGUINNESS INSTITUTE

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Background Paper to	<i>A National Sustainable Development Strategy: How New Zealand measures up against international commitments</i>
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Preface

If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulder of giants.

Isaac Newton, 1642-1727

This background paper briefly outlines the early history of the term 'sustainable development' and the 'global milestones' that have helped shape the role of the current-day NSDS.

The timeline relates to events of international organisations but does not discuss the specific NGOs or individuals that have worked on identifying the problem, developing the solution and lobbying for the implementation of a NSDS framework.

The above quote by Isaac Newton recognises the considerable personal commitment and foresight individuals have had in the past, without which we would not have the level of NSDS uptake we have today.

I would also like to acknowledge the energy and foresight of the young team in *Project 2058*, in particular Ella Lawton, for her considerable perseverance and commitment to this background paper.

Wendy McGuinness

Chief Executive

Sustainable Future

Executive Summary

This background paper provides part of the platform upon which the recommendations are developed in *Project 2058's* first paper, titled *Report 1: A National Sustainable Development Strategy: How New Zealand measures up against International Commitments* (2007).

Since 1997, New Zealand has committed to two international targets to develop a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). These targets are:

- i. the 'introduction' of NSDSs by 2002; this was set at a Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Rio +5, 1997), and
- ii. the 'implementation' of a NSDSs by 2005; this was set under the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* (UNCED, 2002). It was agreed member states would take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development.

This background paper provides the historical context to these international commitments. The milestones are grouped into three timeframes: 1970–79, 1980–91, and 1992 to today. These timeframes were selected to show the move from (i) the identification of two separate concepts (environmental protection and economic development), (ii) agreement on one concept (sustainable development), and (iii) finally turning the one concept into practice.

This overview of the history of significant international events in the progression towards sustainable development since the 1970s provides a context for the decisions we are faced with today. Thus the strength of this timeline is that it pulls together these strands into one storyline that speaks in support of the international consensus on the need to move towards a more sustainable form of development. We argue that this history should hold considerable weight in any analysis of and planning for New Zealand's direction in terms of sustainable development.

1. Purpose

Sustainable Future is an independent think-tank based in Wellington, New Zealand.¹ We are currently undertaking a two-year research project called *Project 2058*². The strategic aim of *Project 2058* is to:

promote integrated long-term thinking, leadership and capacity-building so that New Zealand can effectively explore and manage risks and opportunities over the next fifty years. (Sustainable Future, 2007:5)

In order to reach this objective, we have broken the research project into three parts, of which this is report 1a of Part 1. For an explanation of our methodology and to monitor our progress, please refer to our website.

This background paper briefly outlines the early history of the term ‘sustainable development’ and the ‘global milestones’ that have helped shape the role of the current-day NSDS³. Importantly, the following timeline does not discuss the specific NGOs or individuals that have worked on identifying the problem, developing the solution and lobbying for the implementation of a NSDS framework. However, it is important to recognise and appreciate their considerable personal initiative and commitment, without which we would not have the level of NSDS uptake we have today.

The milestones are grouped into three timeframes: 1970–79; 1980–91, and 1992 to today. These timeframes were selected to show the move from (i) the use of two separate concepts (environmental protection and economic development), (ii) convergence on one concept (sustainable development), and (iii) finally turning the one concept into practice.

¹ Sustainable Future Website: <http://www.sustainablefuture.info>

² *Project 2058* Website <http://www.2058.net.nz>

³ For more detailed information and links to other timelines of significant events, please refer to the Sustainable Future website.

2. 1970–79: Environment Protection and Economic Development — Two Separate Concepts

By the early 1970s a growing awareness of global environmental issues resulted in the creation of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in 1972. A 1972 report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment delivered in Stockholm agreed on the urgent need to respond to the problem of environmental deterioration.

Throughout the 1970s there was increasing recognition of the inter-dependence of environmental protection and economic development. Agreement began to emerge that neither could be managed in isolation from the other. This led to the establishment of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983 (UNCED) and the birth of the approach we now refer to as ‘sustainable development’.

3. 1980–91: Sustainable Development — One Concept

In the early 1980s increasing environmental problems and disasters created a major focus on environmental issues globally. This earmarked a turning point in modern environmental thinking that began to shift the debate from managing the symptoms to treating the causes, and brought development trends into the spotlight. Sustainable development arose from this recognition of the interconnection of issues of environmental quality, and economic and social wellbeing (WRI, 1986). A number of global meetings and initiatives occurred, several of which were significant ‘firsts’, are outlined below.

1980: World Conservation Strategy

The United Nations Environment Programme commissioned the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) to produce a *World Conservation Strategy* (WCS). The resulting strategy was first and foremost an attempt to bring conservation and development together.

1983: World Commission on Environment and Development

The World Commission on Environment and Development was established in 1983 by the United Nations as an independent body. It later became the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

1986: World Resources Institute

The World Resources Institute (WRI) summarise the growing exploration of the concept of sustainable development in their statement below:

Achieving sustainable development — by way of environmentally and socially sensitive economic growth — has become the new agenda. While the term ‘sustainable development’ has slipped into common parlance, its meaning remains elusive ... It is all things to all people: a comfortable, but ill-defined concept. (WRI, 1986: 184)

The publication goes on to define four key features of ‘sustainable development’:

1. It is the effort to unite the ingredients for current economic output with the future productivity of the resource base.
2. The creation of wealth is measured over the long (rather than the short) term.
3. A more sophisticated assessment of costs and benefits that accounts for the indirect costs of economic activity (such as the impacts of pollution distant in space or time), the value of non-market goods and services (such as regulation of the hydrologic cycle of forests, or the aesthetic value of the undisturbed wilderness), and impacts on commonly-owned property and on global commons (such as the stratospheric ozone layer).

3. 1980–91: Sustainable Development — One Concept

4. Development is used to mean economic growth (rather than something that happens to developing countries), making the concept applicable to all countries. (*ibid*)

1987: Our Common Future

The World Commission on Environment and Development releases its report titled *Our Common Future*⁴ (WCED, 1987) and presents it to the United Nations General Assembly. It has produced the most frequently used definition of the term ‘sustainable development’, being:

Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (WCED, 1987: 8)

1991: World Business Council for Sustainable Development

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is created.

Conclusion

The above timeline demonstrates that throughout the 1980s the clear rise in the issue of sustainable development on the global agenda, reflecting a growing realisation of the interconnections between the growth and development of human societies and economies, and the use and pollution of natural resources, ecosystems and ecosystem services. The 1990s would see further action to consolidate and mainstream this growing recognition.

⁴ Often referred to as the Brundtland Report after the Commission’s chair, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway.

4. 1992 to Today: Putting the Concept into Action

From 1992, a number of events occurred that brought countries together to reach agreement on the way forward. Notably, since the late 1980s, the United Nations has played a key role in coordinating a large number of these key events and global agreements. This is illustrated by their role in the more significant international events and agreements outlined below. Several key events with a focus on sustainable development in the Pacific region are also included due to their relevance to the New Zealand context. A visual representation of such significant events contained in Figure 2 of Frame & Marquardt (2006) could be read in conjunction with the list below.

1992: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Sustainable development was further defined by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) *Rio Earth Summit Declaration*⁵ (27 Principles), *Agenda 21* and the *Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests*. All three were adopted by more than 178 governments in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at the Earth Summit in 1992. Notably, Chapter 8 of *Agenda 21* states, in a section headed 'Adopting a National Strategy for Sustainable Development':

Governments, in cooperation, where appropriate, with international organizations, should adopt a national strategy for sustainable development based on, inter alia, the implementation of decisions taken at the Conference, particularly in respect of *Agenda 21*. This strategy should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country. The experience gained through existing planning exercises such as national reports for the Conference, national conservation strategies and environment action plans should be fully used and incorporated into a country-driven sustainable development strategy. Its goals should be to ensure socially responsible economic development while protecting the resource base and the environment for the benefit of future generations. It should be developed through the widest possible participation. It should be based on a thorough assessment of the current situation and initiatives. (UN, 1992: para 8.7)

1992: Commission on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was formed in 1992 after the Earth Summit. Its purpose was to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, through monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, the CSD was also charged with providing policy guidance to follow up *the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*.

The CSD meets annually and currently involves 54 member states. New Zealand last formally attended the CSD meeting in 2001 (NZ Govt, 2004a) and is currently not a member.

⁵ United Nations Website: <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>

4. 1992 to Today: Putting the Concept into Action

1994: Barbados Conference on Small Island Developing States

The Barbados Conference on Small Island Developing States produced a *Programme of Action* (UN, 1994). Although it does not explicitly promote the creation of a NSDS, Resolution 1 holds many of the same principles as those guiding NSDSs. The agreement refers to ‘sustainable development programmes’ and ‘strategies to address the problem of sustainability’ (*ibid*: Annex II).

1996: International Institute for Sustainable Development

In November 1996, an international group of measurement practitioners and researchers from five continents came together at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Study and Conference Centre in Bellagio, Italy to review progress and synthesise insights from practical ongoing efforts in sustainable development. The resulting ‘Bellagio Principles⁶’ were unanimously endorsed. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)⁷ later adopted the Bellagio Principles for *Assessment of Progress towards Sustainable Development* (IISD, 1996).

1997: Earth Summit + 5

A Special Session of the UN General Assembly adopted a comprehensive document entitled *Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21* (UN, 1997), prepared by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). This Special Session set the following target for 2002:

By the year 2002, the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development that reflect the contributions and responsibilities of all interested parties should be completed in all countries, with assistance provided, as appropriate, through international cooperation, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries. The efforts of developing countries in effectively implementing national strategies should be supported. Countries that already have national strategies should continue their efforts to enhance and effectively implement them. Assessment of progress achieved and exchange of experience among governments should be promoted. Local Agenda 21s and other local sustainable development programmes, including youth activities, should also be actively encouraged. (UN, 1997: para 24)

Also at this time, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)⁸ was established by CERES⁹ and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to enhance the quality, rigour and utility of sustainability reporting.

⁶ See <http://www.iisd.org/measure/principles/progress/bellagio.asp> for more information

⁷ The IISD is registered as a charitable organisation in Canada, and receives project funding from both the Canadian government, governments outside of Canada, United Nations agencies, foundations, the private sector and individual donors.

⁸ Global Reporting Initiative Website: <http://www.globalreporting.org/Home>

⁹ Global Reporting Initiative history: <http://www.globalreporting.org/aboutgri/whatwedo/ourhistory/ourhistory.htm>

2000: Earth Charter

The Earth Charter Commission (ECC, 2000) approved the final version of the Earth Charter¹⁰.

2000: United Nations Millennium Declaration, United Nations General Assembly New York

The Millennium Resolution A/RES/55/2 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly continued to support sustainable development (UN, 2000a). The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Appendix 1) — which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 — form a blueprint agreed to by all countries and the world's leading development institutions (UN, 2000b). United Nations members agreed on key values and principles then translated these into action, by identifying key objectives. One of the objectives, 'protecting our common environment' (see box on following page), reaffirmed support for *Agenda 21* and the need for countries to adopt a NSDS (UN 2000a: paras 21–23).

Since the adoption of the MDGs, two additional projects have been undertaken: the December 2002 resolution 57/254 on the *United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014* (2002) and the *UN MDG Indicators* (2006).

¹⁰ The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental values and principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century.

4. 1992 to Today: Putting the Concept into Action

IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.

22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:

- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.
- To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and manmade disasters.
- To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

(UN, 2000a: paras 21–23)

2001: Pacific Regional Submission to WSSD

In September 2001 an Asia Pacific Region Task Force was created under the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) to look at implementing a Pacific Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development. Their vision is ‘Achieving measurable sustainable development in the Pacific region towards improving the quality of life for all’. They intended to do this through the reinvigoration of the implementation of *Agenda 21*, predominantly to achieve priority outcomes, including those stated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Their priorities need to reflect and respond to the unique cultural and geographic dimensions of sustainable development in the Pacific region. They have four objectives:

1. To ensure the sustainable development priorities of the Pacific region are fully acknowledged and integrated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development process.
 2. To secure and strengthen political support from the international community for programmes and initiatives that are essential to sustainable development of this region’s people, their environment and natural resources.
 3. To promote new and existing partnerships beneficial to sustainable development of the region.
 4. To secure and mobilise resources to build capacity for sustainable development.
- (WSSD, 2001)

2001: World Trade Organization Meeting in Doha

The *DOHA WTO Ministerial Declaration 2001* (WTO, 2001) reaffirmed commitment to sustainable development. In accordance with DOHA, the WTO created the Committee on Trade and Development and the Committee on Trade and Environment.

We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the objective of sustainable development, as stated in the preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement. We are convinced that the aims of upholding and safeguarding an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, and acting for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development can and must be mutually supportive. (WTO, 2001: para 6)

Since this statement the WTO has created guidelines such as 'Negotiations on Trade and the Environment' (WTO, 2007) and it held a symposium in September 2006 on *Measuring Different Futures for the Global Trading System: Implications for sustainable development* (WTO, 2006).

2002: International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico

The *Monterrey Consensus*, arrived at during the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, also reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development.

We the heads of State and Government, gathered in Monterrey, Mexico, on 21 and 22 March 2002, have resolved to address the challenges of financing for development around the world, particularly in developing countries. Our goal is to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system. (UN, 2002: para 1)

2002: Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development

Full implementation of *Agenda 21*, and commitment to the *Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21* and to the Rio principles, was strongly reaffirmed at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

In addition, the report of the WSSD 2002, Resolution 2 — the *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* — states:

The implementation of Agenda 21 and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as in the present plan of action, require a substantially increased effort, both by countries themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio principles, including, in particular, the 'principle of common but differentiated responsibilities', which states:

4. 1992 to Today: Putting the Concept into Action

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command. (UNCED, 2002: para 81)

Paragraph 136 states that control of methodology must stay with the member state concerned:

... the choice of the appropriate methodology to be used in countries should be adequate to their country-specific conditions and circumstances, should be on a voluntary basis and should conform to their development priority needs. (*ibid*: para 136)

It was agreed under the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* that United Nations Member States would take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005.

2002: UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014

In December 2002, resolution 57/254 on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) was adopted by the UN General Assembly. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was designated as lead agency for the promotion of the decade.

The vision of education for sustainable development is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation. (UNDESD, 2002)

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO has responsibility for the New Zealand Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (NZDESD).¹¹ The Commission is supported in this work by an Advisory Committee which has worked with stakeholders to develop a draft Strategic Plan for the NZDESD.

¹¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Website: <http://www.unesco.org.nz/homepage.htm>

2002: Country Profiles Project

Agenda 21 recommended that member states consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), refer to 1992 above. The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of *Agenda 21* at the national level. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of *Agenda 21*, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry. Country Profiles are based on information contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments; however, they have not been updated since their original publication. Importantly, the register¹² provides an opportunity for countries to publish their NSDSs¹³.

2004: OECD United Nations Department of Economic Social Affairs Workshop

A January 2004 workshop, co-organised by the OECD and the UN Division for Sustainable Development — Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNSD/DESA), was designed to help meet the challenge of developing national strategies for sustainable development by 2005. The recommendations from the resulting report are shown in Appendix 4.

2004: UNDESA Draft Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The 2004 *Draft Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* (UNDESA, 2004b) emphasised the need for National Sustainable Development Strategies and incorporation of these principles throughout all sectoral-based policy and strategy.

Small island developing states reaffirm their commitment to the adoption of national sustainable development strategies in an integrated and holistic manner, and incorporating the guiding principles of sustainable development into nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and all sectoral policies and strategies; setting targets that are in line with international agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. This will be achieved through improved legislative, administrative and institutional structures, policies and plans and facilitate the participation of civil society. (*ibid*: para 86)

¹² United Nations — National Information: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo/wssd/>

¹³ Refer to Appendix 2 for more information on the register and country profiles and Appendix 3 for a list of details to directly access websites of individual countries national sustainable development processes.

2005: UN Expert Group Meeting Reviewing National Sustainable Development Strategies

Since 2001, the UNDSO has convened four regional meetings to facilitate understanding of NSDSs and related sustainable development indicators, providing a forum for sharing experience among interested countries and organisations. In 2004 UNDSO participated in a review of the French National Sustainable Development Strategy, initiated and organised by the government of France. Both France and the peer countries that participated gave high marks to the utility and effectiveness of this peer review process; the UNDSO decided to convene this global Expert Group Meeting to share the methodology of the French peer review (UN, 2005).

2006: UN Millennium Development Goals Indicators

The recent Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report (UN, 2006) uses goal indicators to monitor the success of the programme. The MDG Dashboard¹⁴ presents the indicators in a highly informative format, aimed at decision-makers and citizens interested in the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. The free database, which provides 60 indicators for about 200 countries over a 15 year period (1990–2005), aims to contribute to developing a more informed debate around the measurement of sustainable development.

2006: European Commission

The Stockholm European Council decided that the political commitment created by the 2000 Lisbon Strategy focusing on social and economic long-term development would be completed with the inclusion of an environmental dimension, and the requirement to develop a NSDS. This move recognised that in the long term, economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand (ESC, 2006). The European Commission prepared and has since updated a *Draft Declaration on Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development* — June 2006. In addition, the renewed European Union (EU) Sustainable Development Strategy urges that member states elaborating their first NSDSs 'should complete these by June 2007' (EC, 2006a: para 40).

2007: UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs

Since 2002, governments have continually reiterated their commitment to developing and implementing NSDSs at subsequent UN Commission on Sustainable Development sessions (UNDESA, 2007). The UN and other organisations have taken a range of actions and developed policies to assist countries to produce and publish relevant, meaningful and accurate NSDSs.

¹⁴ Millennium Development Goals Indicators Website:
<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/DataAvailability.aspx>

5. Conclusion

This history creates a sense of the cumulative impact and momentum created by these events right up to the present year. Thus the strength of this timeline is that it pulls together these strands into one storyline that speaks in support of the international consensus on the need to move towards a more sustainable form of development. We argue that this should hold considerable weight in any analysis of and planning for New Zealand's direction in terms of sustainable development.

Figure 1, from the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 (HM Government, 2005a:17) is a useful summary of the interconnections in terms of goals, targets and tools between the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Doha and Monterrey agreements.

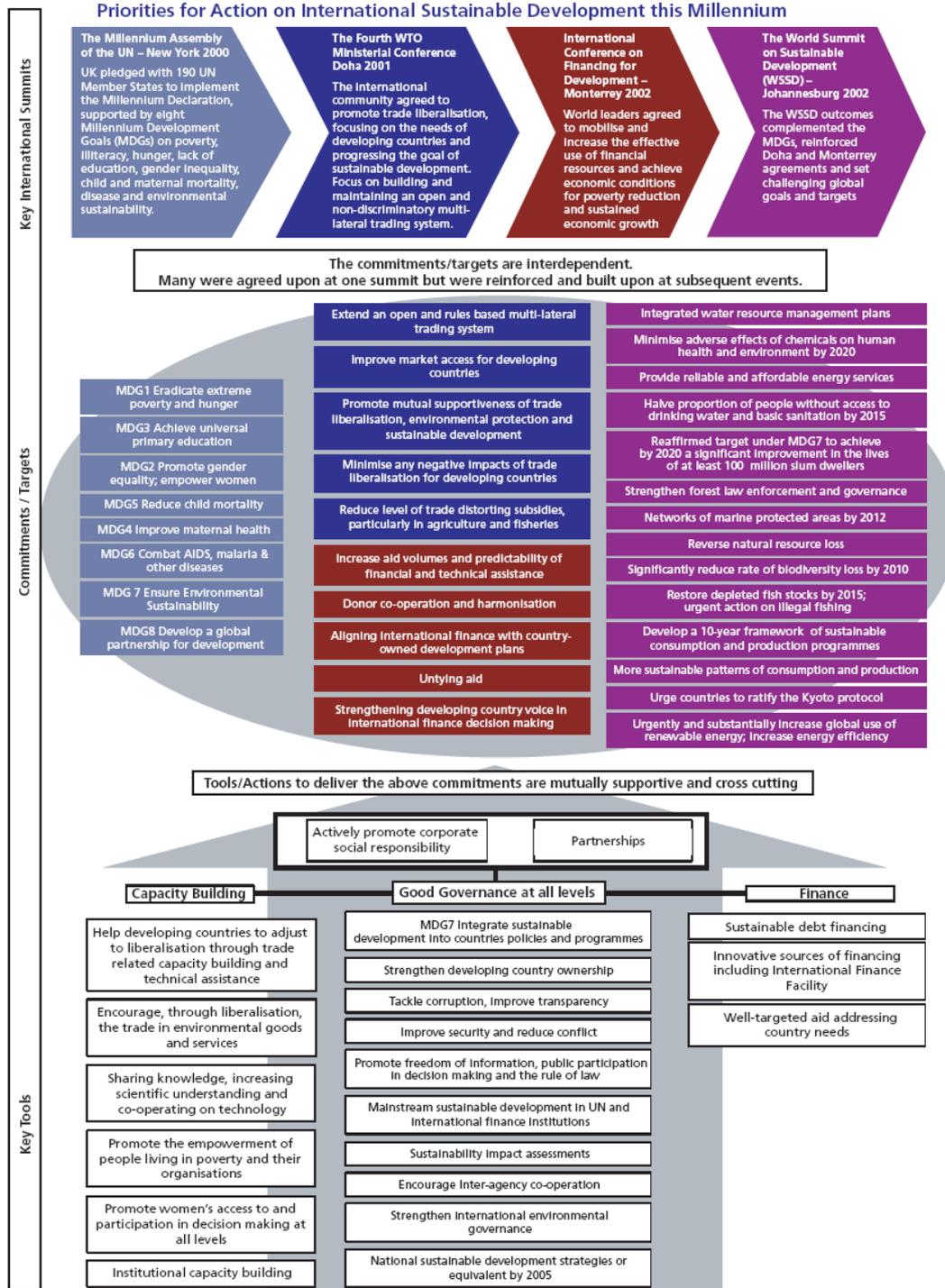
Since 1997, New Zealand has committed to two international targets to develop a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). These targets are:

- i. the 'introduction' of NSDSs by 2002; this was set at a Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Rio +5, 1997), and
- ii. the 'implementation' of a NSDSs by 2005; this was set under the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* (UNCED, 2002). It was agreed member states would take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development.

These commitments have not been met.

5. Conclusion

Figure 1: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 (HM Government, 2005: 17)



Abbreviations

CSD	The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
DSD	Division for Sustainable Development
EC	European Community
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NSDS or NSSD	National Sustainable Development Strategy or National Strategy for Sustainable Development
NZDESD	New Zealand Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WCS	World Conservation Strategy
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

Appendix 1: Millennium Development Goals

Source: UN, 2000b

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open trading system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory, includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally
- Address the least developed countries special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bi-lateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- Address the special needs of landlocked and Small Island developing States.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.

Appendix 2: Country Profiles and National Strategies

a) Country Profiles Project — Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Country Profiles Project: United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Retrieved April 1, 2007 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo/wssd/>

Agenda 21 recommended that member States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997. The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments. Importantly, the register provides an opportunity for countries to publish their NSDS.

b) UNEP Net Country Profiles

Country Profiles. New York: United Nations Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved April 1, 2007 from: <http://www.unep.net/profile/index.cfm>

Country profiles provide a brief overview of the national state of the environment and of a country's international environmental activities. The information is provided by national representatives and is updated by each country on a regular basis.

Currently 79 profiles are complete, but some basic information is available for all countries.

c) Food & Agriculture Organization for the United Nations

FAO Country Profiles and Mapping Information System. Retrieved June 1, 2007 from: <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/default.asp?lang=en>

FAO Country Profiles and Mapping Information System: The Food and Agriculture Organization for the United Nations and its 190 members highlight information as one of the priority areas in fighting hunger and achieving food security. The FAO Country Profiles and Mapping Information System is a pioneering information retrieval tool which groups the organization's vast archive of information on its global activities in agriculture and development in a single area and catalogues it exclusively by country.

d) Country Profiles

National trends in population, resources, environmental and development: Country Profiles. United Nations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division. Retrieved July 12, 2007 from:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/countryprofile/index.htm>

The 2005 compilation of the data shown in these country profiles was made possible by the substantive support of various United Nations agencies and departments at the United Nations Secretariat. In addition to population estimates and projections produced by the Population Division, the data series shown in here include statistics provided by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and by FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, the World Bank, the World Resources Institute, the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC) and the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre.

e) National Information (including NSDS) within UN Countries

United Nations National Information. Retrieved April 1, 2007 from:

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/natlinfo.htm>

National information includes information submitted biennially in national reports by member States to the Commission on Sustainable Development. Also included are 2002 Country Profiles and 2002 National Assessment Reports prepared for the Johannesburg World Summit, as well as 1997 Country Profiles prepared for the Five-Year Review of the Earth Summit.

Appendix 3: Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available

Country	Titles and URLs	(Source: Adapted from UNDESA http://www.undesa.it)	Date
Africa	The New Partnership for Africa's Development (2001) & Programme of Action http://www.nepad.org/2005/files/documents/inbrief.pdf		(2001)
Australia	National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992) www.deh.gov.au/esd		(1992)
Austria	A Sustainable Future for Austria: The Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002) www.nachhaltigkeit.at/strategie/pdf/strategie020709_en.pdf www.nachhaltigkeit.at/strategie.php3?strat_strategie.php3 www.lebensministerium.at/index		(2002)
Belgium	Federal Plan for Sustainable Development (2004–2008) www.cid.d.fgov.be/pub/PL200401/PL200401en.pdf www.cid.d.fgov.be/pub/detail_pub.stm?pub=PL200401&TPub=Plan www.cid.d.fgov.be		(2004– 2008)
Bhutan	National Environmental Action Plan (1998–2001) www.searo.who.int/EN/Section23/Section1318/Section1790.htm www.regserver.unfccc.int/seors/file_storage/phdwpq3nq5xoslk.pdf		(1998)
Cameroon	Cameroon Poverty Reduction Paper www.imf.org/external/country/cmr/index.htm		(2003)
Canada	A Guide to Green Government (1995) www.sdmfinfo.gc.ca/reports/en/ggg/Default.cfm		(1995)
Costa Rica	Capacity 21 Evaluation: Costa Rica www.undp.org/capacity21/docs/evaluations/CostaRica.doc		

Appendix 3. Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available

Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available		(Source: Adapted from UNDESA http://www.undesa.it)	
Country	Titles and URLs		Date
Cuba	Preventing Poverty through Sustainable Development at the Community Level www.undp.org/rblac/wssd/documents/cuba.PDF		
Czech Republic	The Czech Republic Strategy for Sustainable Development (2004) www.vlada.cz/assets/en/rvk/RUR/final_sds_cr_eng_2.pdf		(2004)
Denmark	Denmark's National Strategy for Sustainable Development: A Shared Future — Balanced Development (2002) www.mst.dk/udgiv/publications/2002/87-7972-279-2/pdf/87-7972-259-8.pdf www.mst.dk/udgiv/publications/2002/87-7972-279-2/html/default_eng.htm		(2002)
Estonia	Sustainable Estonia 21 (September 2005) http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=166311/SE21_eng_web.pdf		(2005)
Finland	The Finnish Government Programme for Sustainable Development (1998) www.environment.fi/download.asp?contentid=6081&lan=en www.environment.fi/default.asp?node=9732&lan=en		(1998)
France	Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable : Enraciner l'Avenir dans l'Action (2003) www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=417Z www.environment.gouv.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=680 www.environment.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=1198		(2003)
Germany	Perspectives for Germany — Our Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002) www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/service/download_e/pdf/Perspectives_for_Germany.pdf www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/service/links_e/05.html		(2002)
Greece	The Greek National Strategy towards Sustainable Development (2002) www.minenv.gr/4/41/000/nssd-english-final.pdf www.minenv.gr/4/41/e4100.html		(2002)
Hungary	Conceptual Elements and Requirements for the Preparation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy - Discussion Paper (2004) www.rec.hu/sdconference/doc/V4SDHudraftsstrategy2.doc		(2004)
Iceland	Welfare for the Future — Iceland's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002) www.environment.is/		(2002)

Appendix 3. Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available

Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available		(Source: Adapted from UNDESA http://www.undesa.it)
Country	Titles and URLs	Date
Ireland	Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) http://www.environ.ie/DOEI/DOEIPol.nsf/0/62d49d52d4bc449780256f04003bc7ea/\$FILE/Sustainable%20Development%20StrategyCOPY.pdf www.environ.ie/DOEI/DOEIPol.nsf/wvNavView/Sustainable+Development:+A+Strategy+for+Ireland?OpenDocument&Lang=#11	(1997)
Italy	Strategia d'azione ambientale per lo sviluppo sostenibile in Italia (2002) www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006/04/sust-dev/wp_10.e.pdf www.agenda21.ita/A21verde/svilupposost/strategia_azione_ambientale.pdf	(2002)
Japan	Basic Environment Plan and Indicators www.japanfs.org/index.html www.soumu.go.jp/joho_tsusin/policyreports/english/misc/Basic-Plan.html	(2000)
Jordan	Approaches to Sustainability: Jordan's National Agenda 21 "Small Country, Big Ideas" www.capacity.undp.org/indexAction.cfm?module=Library&action=GetFile&DocumentAttachmentID=519 www.capacity.undp.org/indexAction.cfm?module=Library&action=GetFile&DocumentAttachmentID=573 www.rracp.unep.org/projects/nsds/pub/ATT00032.pdf	(2001)
Kazakhstan	www.rracp.unep.org/projects/nsds/pub/ATT00032.pdf	
Korea	The Korean National Strategy for Sustainable Development (December 2006) www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natinfo/nsds/tmKorea/backgroundReport.pdf www.rrcap.unep.org/projects/nsds/pub/NssdKorea.pdf www.pcsd.go.kr/eng/index.html	(2006)
Lithuania	National Strategy for Sustainable Development (September 2003) www.am.lt/VI/en/VI/files/0,901665001073997792.pdf	(2003)
Luxembourg	Plan National pour un Développement Durable (1997) www.environnement.public.lu/developpement_durable/publications/PNDD_1999_brochure/PNDD_brochure_00_07_PDF.pdf www.environnement.public.lu/developpement_durable/publications/PNDD_1999_brochure/index.html www.environnement.public.lu/developpement_durable/index.html?SID=84e07e9506a7cac52ed8c98f0af3d80	(1997)
Malta	A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2006–2016 third draft (March 2006) http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/ncsd/draftstrategydocument_2006.pdf	(2006)
Mexico	Programa para Promover el Desarrollo Sustentable en el Gobierno Federal (2002) (in Spanish) www.sener.gob.mx/work/sites/Sener/Nva/resources/LocalContent/3709/1/programaenergiamedioambiente2.pdf	(2002)

Appendix 3. Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available

Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available		(Source: Adapted from UNDESA http://www.undesa.it)
Country	Titles and URLs	Date
Mongolia	Mongolia's Journey Towards Sustainability www.rrcap.unep.org/projects/nsds/pub/ncsd_mongolia.pdf	
Netherlands	A National Strategy for Sustainable Development — What Choices Must the Government Make (2001) www.international.vrom.nl/Docs/internationaal/2695%20NSDO%20Samenvatting%20ENG.pdf Netherlands Sustainable Development Action Programme (2004) http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/progress_report.pdf	(2001)
New Zealand #	Sustainable Development in New Zealand Programme of Action (2002) www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/sus-dev/sus-dev-programme-of-action-jan03.html www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/susdev/	(2002)
Norway	Norway's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002) www.regjeringen.no/upload/kilde/ud/bro/2003/0013/ddd/_pdfv/171847-nsbu.pdf	(2002)
Philippines	The Philippine Council for Sustainable Development: Like Cooking Rice Cakes (1998) www.pdf.wri.org/ncsd_philippines.pdf	(1998)
Poland	Poland 2025 Long-term Strategy for Sustainable Development www.rec.hu/sdconference/doc/PL_strategia.doc www.ceu.cz/edu/ma21/strategy_poland.htm	(2000)
Portugal	National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002) www.desenvolvimentosustentavel.pt/_in_portuguese	(2002)
Republic Slovak	National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Slovak Republic (2002) www.tur.sk/doc_en/Slovakia_NSSD_Final.pdf www.tur.sk/index.stm?ape=0--5ed5460afc52a69ce1aa16a204115b39-1-1&x=86783	(2002)
Republic of Uzbekistan	National Environmental Action Plan (1997) www.enrin.grida.no/ara/ncap/eneapuzb.pdf	(1997)
Romania	National Sustainable Development Strategy (1999) www.sdnr.ro/ncdpublications/nsd.pdf	(1999)
Slovenia	Environmental Performance www.unecce.org/env/epr/studies/slovenia/welcome.htm	(1999)

Individual Country NSDS or the Next Best Publication Available		(Source: Adapted from UNDESA http://www.undesa.it)	
Country	Titles and URLs	Date	Date
Spain	www.inma.es/imagenes/ceneam/blanco/pocas.pdf		
Sweden	A Swedish Strategy for Sustainable Development — Economic, Social and Environmental (2003) www.sweden.se/upload/Sweden_se/english/publications/RK/PDF/RK%20Sustainable%20development.pdf www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2066	(2003)	(2003)
Switzerland	Sustainable Development Strategy (2002) www.are.admin.ch/themen/nachhaltig/00262/00528/index.html?lang=en	(2002)	(2002)
Syria	The Syrian National Strategy Report for Sustainable Development (November 2001) www.rrcap.unep.org/projects/nsds/pub/syria_natl_asses.pdf	(2001)	(2001)
Tajikistan	National Sustainable Development Strategy — 2 nd edition (August 2006) www.untj.org/library/?mode=details&id=281	(2006)	(2006)
The Netherlands	Sustainable Action — the National Strategy (2002) international.vrom.nl/docs/internationaal/summary%20actionprogramma%20SD%20text.pdf	(2002)	(2002)
Turkmenistan	Country Programme Action Plan (2005) www.undp.tkm.org/files/co/cpap.pdf www.undp.tkm.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=32	(2005)	(2005)
United Kingdom	Securing the Future — UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/pdf/SD%20Framework.pdf www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/pdf/strategy/SecFut_complete.pdf Scotland: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1493902/39032 Northern Ireland: www.ofm.dfmni.gov.uk/sustain-develop.pdf Wales: new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403826/action-plan-e.pdf?lang=en	(2005)	(2005)
United States	Sustainable Development Partnerships www.sdp.gov/sdp/usgweb/		
Vietnam	Vietnam Poverty Reduction Strategy (2006) www.rrcap.unep.org/projects/nsds/pub/Vietnam_Poverty2006.pdf	(2006)	(2006)

Appendix 4: Recommendations from OECD and the Division of Sustainable Development — Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Source: IECS & UNDESA, 2004: 11–12

1. Ensure high-level political commitment to the development and use of indicators of sustainable development.
2. Develop a national vision, policies and priorities that reflect a commitment to sustainable development.
3. Establish a more coordinated approach towards planning so that current sectoral indicator sets are more fully integrated in the national planning process.
4. Link indicator development and/or use to policy and decision-making.
5. Reconcile at the international level, the various existing indicator sets to streamline reporting requirements at the national level.
6. Develop an institutional mechanism at the national level to coordinate the process of indicator development and analysis.
7. Strengthen basic data and statistics for the development of indicators.
8. Strengthen human and technical capacity in the collection, dissemination and analysis of data relevant for indicator development.
9. Establish national and regional networks, such as integrated information management systems, to facilitate the exchange of information at all levels.
10. Coordinate external funding to respond to national needs and priorities for the development of indicators.
11. Educate stakeholders and increase awareness at all levels on the importance of Indicators of Sustainable Development (ISDs) and relevance to current development issues and to their individual concerns.

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