

REPORT
on the
Institutionalizing
Sustainable Development Indicators
for Measuring Progress of
National Strategies

Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage
Government of Barbados
and
United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Sustainable Development

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCSI	Barbados Coalition of Service Industries
BMA	Barbados Manufacturing Association
BNOC	National Oil Company Ltd.
BNTCL	Barbados National Terminal Company Ltd.
BPOA	Barbados Program of Action
BSS	Barbados Statistical Service
BellagioSTAMP	Bellagio Sustainability Assessment and Measurement Principles
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCJ	Caribbean Court of Justice
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DSD	Division for Sustainable Development (United Nations)
EPPU	Economic Policy and Planning Unit
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach (
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ISD	Indicators on Sustainable Development
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IGOs	Intergovernmental organizations
JANEAP	Jamaica National Environmental Action Plan
JSIF	Jamaica Social Investment Fund
JASPEV	Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

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LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MSI	Mauritius Strategy of Implementation
MTF	Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEWD	Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NDS	National Development Strategy
NEIS	National Environmental Information Systems
NIP	National Indicators Programme
NPC	National Petroleum Corporation
NPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NSCC	National Strategy on Climate Change
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NSP	National Strategic Plan
NREAC	Natural Resources and Environment Advisory Committee
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OLADE	Latin American Energy Organization
PCU	Project Coordinating Unit
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategies
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
PATH	Programme of Advancement, through Health & Education
PCU	Project Coordinating Unit
RBM	Results Based Management
SC	Statistical Council
SSC	Statistical Steering Committee
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
TWG	Technical Working Group
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNST	United Nations Subregional Team

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UWI
WSSD

University of the West Indies
World Summit on Sustainable Development

Institutionalizing Sustainable Development Indicators for Measuring Progress of National Strategies

SUMMARY

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on **Institutionalizing Sustainable Development Indicators for Measuring Progress of National Strategies** which took place on 17-19 September 2009 in Barbados highlighted the following issues, concerns and recommendations.

Sustainable Development Strategies

1. Caribbean countries have made progress in developing and implementing national sustainable development strategies (NSDS). These strategies are prepared covering various time periods and may be nationally referred to by different names. It should be noted that such a NSDS may not be conveyed in a single document.
2. There is a need for a better understanding on what constitutes an NSDS. This holds in particular with regard to comprehensive national development plans that could function as NSDS.
3. The lack of reporting on NSDS is partly due to the fact that reporting in a specified framework is difficult. In many cases the problem lies not with an absolute lack of information, but is more a function of coordination issues between national entities. Often the relevant reports and documents exist but are dispersed, making efforts at cross-referencing difficult.
4. To alleviate the burden on Member States given the amount, complexity, and resource-intensive nature of reporting on sustainable development issues and policies, a standard reporting format for various reports could be identified. An example is the comprehensive annual report on the Caribbean inclusive of relevant indicators produced by United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), which can be used to report on

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Sustainable Development. UNECLAC is currently considering using this report as a way to improve fulfilment of existing reporting requirements.

4. In streamlining multiple reporting instruments, precautions must be taken to ensure that unique, country specific issues are highlighted in an effective manner.

5. In Small Island Developing States (SIDS), NSDS and associated indicators have a specific role in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI). This is especially important for the preparation of SIDS for the upcoming 5 year review of the MSI.

6. Almost 90% of funding provided to Pacific Island Countries in the first 15 years of the GEF were for enabling activities focused on fulfilling international reporting requirements. All indications show that a similar situation exists in the Caribbean. Participants agreed that in general a greater emphasis needs to be placed on implementation of NSDS as opposed to simply reporting. Furthermore if MEA and NSDS reporting are harmonized, countries may receive resources for NSDS implementation from the facilities available to MEAs.

7. Where there is a long time period associated with a National Strategic Plan, as is the case with Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, it may be hard to plan 20 years of implementation. Therefore, review processes may be required.

8. To bring national relevance to Sustainable Development and the associated plans and strategies, stakeholder ownership is critical. For example, the Barbados Ministry of Environment feels a sense of ownership of Goal 4 of the Barbados' National Strategic Plan (NSP) and is in part responsible for its implementation.

9. There is a need to work towards non-partisan ownership of Sustainable Development policies, build intergovernmental and agency linkages, and bolster the inclusion of civil society in the process. There is still much scope to pursue this and it will increase the range of partners and foster buy-in.

10. The role of stakeholders outside the Government in implementation of NSDS remains very limited. Therefore, options to expand their participation should be explored.

11. The continuity of NSDS in case of political changes in Governments needs to be addressed. In this regard, strategy processes should avoid politicization. The broad involvement of the general public and the active involvement of both governing and opposition political parties are among the promising options.

12. The coordination of different, but related strategies is often challenging. There is a need to ensure that NSDS are used as basis for other comprehensive strategies, such as poverty reduction strategies or low-carbon development plans. Moreover, there is a need to coordinate comprehensive strategies with sectoral plans.

13. The role of National Commissions on Sustainable Development (NCSD) was highlighted as important since they provide a focus and ensure that all actors are involved in the pursuing and attaining the goals of Sustainable Development. There is a vital need to employ measures to strengthen NCSD via improved organizational and administrative structures, as well as through an improved overall governance process. For example, NCSD could be requested by law to discuss and review development plans.

Indicator Selection

14. There exists a wide range of indicator sets and initiatives at the international level and within the Caribbean region, from which countries can benefit when developing national sets. Information on such sets may need to be improved.

15. The utilization of selection criteria is important. The different but related sets of criteria used for the development of Indicators of Sustainable Development for Barbados, for the CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development and for the Bellagio principles are promising options.

16. In countries where there is an absence of national guidelines and targets, it is difficult to determine acceptable thresholds for specific indicators. In such instances, international standards can be utilized as an interim measure.

17. The way forward could include an integrated database, as is the case with the collaboration between the GEF-IWCAM Project and the Government of Barbados where they are working together to create an integrated land and

water indicator database. This is based on the water information system already developed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The database will assist greatly with respect to national reporting requirements.

Integrating Cross-Cutting Issues into Sustainable Development Strategies and Indicators

18. With reference to integrating the issue of climate change into NSDS, Caribbean SIDS have prioritized adaptation as an important strategy, since it is recognized that no level of sustainable development can occur without the physical survival of any Caribbean nation.

19. The importance of the role that projects, such as Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change project (CPACC) have played and could play was acknowledged. Such projects raise the profile of many important issues. However because the work is done by way of a temporary mechanism, the expertise of the consultants involved are eventually lost.

There is a need to address the scope for projects to be used as a facility to promote more sustained and lasting effects.

20. The role of national statistical agencies is pivotal to the integration of cross cutting issues into the sustainable development strategies and indicators. The Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados experience is instructional to other countries and regions.

21. The participation of experts in cross-cutting issues in relevant (sectoral) task forces involved in designing the NSDS, as in Jamaica, facilitation the integration of these issues into an NSDS. Securing adequate human capacity, time for consultative processes and financial resources is critical.

22. The integration of cross-cutting issues into NSDS can be strengthened if indicator systems on such issues are based on existing comprehensive set of sustainable development indicators. This helps to identify important linkages, avoids duplication of efforts, reduces reporting burden and increases policy coherence.

23. There must be fuller ventilation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the regional planning process. With respect to SIDS, some

gains are being registered in the areas of waste management and food security. However real change is contingent on achieving fundamental behavioural changes in target groups. The region needs to look at holistic interventions including market measures to address escalating consumption patterns.

Institutionalizing sustainable development indicators

24. It is imperative that national statistical departments be strengthened in order to ensure consistent availability of information. Statistical offices should be in the center of the national statistical system. They could serve as ‘one-stop-shop’, allowing access to data from a variety of sources, including environmental data collected by various agencies.

25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of NSDS could be coordinated through a central Ministry, such as Ministry of Planning, or the Prime Minister office. The establishment of an M&E steering committee can be beneficial, as well as the establishment of M&E unit in each Ministry.

26. The development of core indicators at the regional level could increase data availability, quality and applicability at the national level.

27. It is important to ensure that the process is a consensus driven one. There was a large degree of support for achieving consensus to develop indicators of Sustainable Development through the use of mechanisms such as multi-sectoral commissions or committees. This is closely related to the similar tactic of grooming champions who are outside of the Ministry of Environment. In Barbados close allies were found in other ministries and departments such as Finance and Statistics. In the Guyana experience, a similar advantage was gained by having the Vice President chair a comparable committee.

28. Another effective tactic which was employed in the Barbados case was an effective use of timing. Much of the impetus for both NSDS and indicators came after the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) had been developed and that there was still much energy and enthusiasm for the process.

29. There is a need to build intergovernmental and agency linkages, as well as bolster the inclusion of civil society. There is still much scope to pursue this and it will increase the range of partners and foster buy-in.

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30. A major challenge is that the indicators required are not based upon traditional data which was collected by national statistical offices. This raised several concerns such as the role of the statistical office, the methods of data collection, and specifically, the types of data to collect. One successful approach for addressing these challenges has been the use of a pilot study utilizing a small sample of the proposed indicators. This mechanism provided an opportunity to determine resource needs in terms of finances, man-power, and technology; and indicated important organizational links.

31. A comprehensive legal framework is of great importance not only in respect of environmental issues, but in the creation of a mechanism for the integration of those issues into the national development policy framework. Further to this, within that framework, it is vital that cross-cutting issues, such as those on gender, be identified and effectively integrated through-out all efforts.

32. Coordination and collaboration are important issues at the local level, particularly with respect to data retrieval to facilitate reporting. In many cases the main problem is not the absolute lack of information but rather, where the information is housed and its availability.

33. The absence of institutional frameworks is a major barrier to the implementation of NSDS.

34. There is a need to incorporate NSDS, including the findings of this meeting, into United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes.

35. There is also a need for increased cooperation between regional and international organization sin the Caribbean region.

36. A regional mechanism or hub to facilitate compilation and reporting on successful national approaches, key regional integration processes such as the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), as well as useful regional initiatives such as the work of United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), should be developed. For instance, the results of the EGM and the various country experiences should be packaged as a best practice, documented and institutionalized. Furthermore, UNDESA should revive and provide the SIDNET platform as a mechanism to assist in the promotion and mainstreaming of Sustainable Development best practices by way of the establishment of

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regional SIDS hubs. Via this facility, virtual classroom could be established to allow the exchange of ideas and best practices between SIDS and SIDS regions with various SIDS experts facilitating these exercises.

37. There is a need for further analysis on current situation, goals and gaps on monitoring sustainable development strategies. Further work on the Matrix contained in Appendix 5 could be instrumental.

INTRODUCTION

The Expert Group Meeting on “Institutionalizing sustainable development indicators for measuring progress of national strategies” was held over two and a half days, 17-19 September 2009, in Bridgetown, Barbados. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage (MEWD), and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Division for Sustainable Development (DSD).

The goal for this Expert Group Meeting (EGM) was to develop a range of viable options for developing indicators for sustainable development. It was envisioned that these ideas generated during this meeting would be particularly useful in aiding other Small Island Developing States to conceptualize and implement their own systems of indicators which would be based on the shared experiences and best practices documented by the group.

The meeting was facilitated by representatives of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

OPENING SESSION: WELCOME REMARKS

Ms. Amrikha Singh, Environmental Officer at the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage, Government of Barbados made the initial welcoming remarks. She introduced Mr. Philip Cross, acting Resident Coordinator of UNDP Barbados, Mr. Keneti Faulalo, Interregional Advisor on Small Island Developing States, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and Mr. Lionel Weekes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage, Government of Barbados, respectively, to address the participants.

Mr. Philip Cross, United Nations Resident Representative (Ag.), and Representative, International Telecommunications Union (ITU)¹

Mr. Cross noted the commitment of the Government of Barbados in promoting sustainable development, and praised it for implementing the agreed

¹ See Appendix 2 for full remarks.

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international and national commitments to sustainable development. He indicated that NSDS are critical for advancing sustainable development goals; and that sustainable development is the foundation of the work of the entire United Nations family as it sets the agenda for its interventions.

The Expert Group meeting (EGM) was reminded by Mr. Cross that it was obligatory for the UN to support governments' efforts towards developing and implementing NSDS, and assist them in the improvement of their sustainable development monitoring systems.

The United Nations Resident Representative (ag.) stated NSDS can also play an essential role in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) and the Barbados Program of Action on Sustainable Development in SIDS at the national level within the region. He further noted that with respect to the UN System, there is a clear link between the achievement of sustainable development goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Cross emphasized that the overarching goal of the UN System in Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was to support the achievement of the MDGs for those constituent countries.

Mr. Keneti Faulalo, Interregional Advisor on Small Island Developing States, United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)²

Mr. Faulalo informed the group that the 'special case' of SIDS may have been conceived in Rio de Janeiro Brazil but that it "was born" in Barbados in 1994, as the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. He commented that it was fitting that the participants of this meeting should refer to the Global Conference 15 years ago for inspiration and guidance.

² See Appendix 3 for full welcome remarks.

Mr. Lionel Weekes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage, Government of Barbados³

The Permanent Secretary informed the group that the Government of Barbados has been in discussion with UNDESA to establish concrete synergies between the Indicators process and the Sustainable Consumption and Production process. He noted that both of these require the use of indicators to measure success of targeted interventions. The Permanent Secretary reminded participants that their tasks should include sending the right policy signals for further harmonization of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators.

The group was also told by the Permanent Secretary that Barbados' focus has been on a process driven by consensus, with progress aligned to nationally relevant circumstances. He further explained that the Barbados' indicators process has progressed largely due to a close collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage and the Barbados Statistical Service. This 12 year collaboration includes a significant body of work on both Indicators of Sustainable Development and environmental statistics. Given this fact, the Permanent Secretary instructed the group that any discussions on how best to institutionalize indicators should focus on utilizing a strong national statistics system.

He further expressed his wish that the Expert Group Meeting provides an opportunity for Caribbean Small Island Developing States to discuss the issues of sustainable development strategies, and Sustainable Consumption and Production. This should assist in consolidation of regional positions prior to several important upcoming meetings; these include the 64th and 65th United Nations General Assembly, and the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Permanent Secretary reminded the group that it is critical that the Caribbean speaks as one region and capitalize on any opportunities to refine our regional positions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Mr. Matthias Bruckner Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA initiated this segment of the program by speaking to the objectives of UNDESA regarding the meeting. He suggested that

³ See Appendix 4 for full welcome remarks.

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this Expert Group Meeting should act as a forum for sharing experiences. Specifically, the EGM aimed to allow participants to share experiences and views on:

1. the selection of appropriate indicators for measuring progress of strategy implementation, with a view to identify which selection criteria and which commonly available indicators have been successful;
2. the integration of indicators related to major cross-cutting issues of sustainable development such as sustainable consumption and production patterns into the overall strategy monitoring framework, such as to harness thematic linkages and to increase the coherence and efficiency of reporting processes; and
3. choosing institutional arrangements for monitoring systems and on ways to ensure their effective and continuing implementation, taking into account commonalities as well as idiosyncrasies of the overall institutional systems of the participating countries.

The meeting was also meant to produce a set of options that countries in the process of selecting and institutionalizing indicators for measuring progress of national sustainable development strategies and plans may want to consider.

SESSION 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES: AN OVERVIEW

**Mr. Matthias Bruckner, Division for Sustainable Development
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**

The Mission Statement of UNDESA – Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) is to provide leadership and to be an authoritative source of expertise within the United Nations system on sustainable development. The DSD serves as the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) which is a functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) attended by non-CSD Member States, UN system, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). It includes high-level segment with 60-70 ministers in attendance. DSD conducts normative work, analytical work and technical cooperation.

Under the Rio Principles sustainable development speaks to:

- Integration;
- Inter-generational equity;
- Intra-generational equity;
- Global partnership with common but differentiated responsibilities;
- Poverty eradication;
- Reduction and elimination of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;
- Participation in decision-making;
- Access to information; and
- Access to judicial and administrative proceedings.

According to the Brundtland Commission, Sustainable Development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainable development came to the forefront of public interest in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

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A National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) is essentially a *coordinated, participatory and iterative process* to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives in a balanced and integrated manner. The formulation and implementation process is a cyclical and interactive process of planning, participation and action, in which the emphasis is on managing progress towards sustainability goals, rather than producing a “plan” as an end product.

An NSDS embodies the following principles and characteristics:

- Integration of economic, social and environmental objectives;
- Coordination and balance between sector and thematic strategies and decentralised levels, and across generations;
- Broad participation, effective partnerships, transparency and accountability;
- Developing capacity and an enabling environment, building on existing knowledge and processes;
- Country ownership, shared vision with a clear timeframe on which stakeholders agree, commitment and continuous improvement;
- Focus on priorities, outcomes and coherent means of implementation;
- Linkage with budget and investment processes; and
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation.

At the national level, the NSDS is based on national sustainable priorities, identified in the NSDS process. It should not duplicate other comprehensive strategies, nor should other comprehensive strategies duplicate an NSDS. These strategies, which may have varying titles, are formulated taking into account the global sustainable development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and other global and regional processes such as the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation.

Coherence between national and international goals and targets is very important. Hence, international goals and targets have to be adapted to national circumstances in order to be meaningful. This holds for goals and targets which were agreed in Rio in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the MDGs.

National goals and targets should be ambitious, but realistic. In addition to commitments at the regional and national level, international commitments include:

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- Agenda 21 - recognized the importance of sound sustainable development policy and calls for strategies for sustainable development;
- Rio+5 - formulation and elaboration by 2002;
- Millennium Declaration Goal 7, target 9 - integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies/programmes;
- World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) - began implementation by 2005;
- World Summit 2005 - national strategies central to achievement of sustainable development; and
- Various commitments made by the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development.

As of 2008, 82 United Nations Member States have reported that they are implementing an NSDS. This is a 19 percent increase when compared to 2006 figures. Specifically, sixteen countries are developing an NSDS, six countries have no NSDS, and there is no current information for 87 countries. There are sizeable differences across regions⁴.

For many countries, the question as to whether it has a NSDS is not a simple 'yes or no' answer. There are instances where the NSDS is developed via new strategy development processes such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS). The JPOI recognizes that PRS (which go beyond the NSDS) can constitute an NSDS.

Some countries also have NSDS separate from their PRS, whereas in others some consist of two or more documents. There are also strategies focusing on the environment or natural resources, but these types of NSDS are no longer frequently used.

Globally, there are different coordination mechanisms in place. The most commonly occurring ones are the Office of President (or Prime Minister), the Ministry of Planning (or Finance) and the Cabinet Committee. NSDS are also coordinated by multi-stakeholder sustainable development councils and line ministries such as those typically responsible for the Environment.

⁴ All figures based on voluntary reporting to the CSD or to the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development.

Regionally there are only six countries that have reported that they are implementing an NSDS, in addition to the French Overseas Departments. There is very little official information available regarding this issue.

DISCUSSION

Comment

Every two years countries are asked to report to the Commission of Sustainable Development. The information is sent to national focal points who then coordinate the information- e.g. on mining, waste chemicals, etc. A component of the reporting involves noting the status of NSDS and indicators as well. In the Global Map on NSDS published by UNDESA, only official information is used since this can be verified.

Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

Many, but not all countries have sustainable development policies in place. Under the 10 Year Review for the Barbados Program of Action some detailed reports were prepared by using sector specific information, which may still be useful. At present UNECLAC provides an annual representation of the status of the region. In recognition of the effort necessary to gather this data, it is believed that it should be utilized on a wider scale.

Comment: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

This was a very relevant point given the discussion. When countries are contacted they tend to have the necessary information which is required. However, very often that information does not filter down to other levels within the country, which are involved in reporting.

INTEGRATING THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTATION INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Mr. Keneti Faulalo

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

There are evident linkages between global processes and those which occur at the national level. A strong relationship also exists between instruments such as the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Program of Action as they must be properly analyzed within the context of individual countries' national plans.

With respect to the United Nation's development agenda, environmental protection is not considered to be the highest achievement to be gained through environmental stewardship. Instead, the realization is that the end-point of this process needs to be placed within the context of the wider economy. This is a position which reflects the three pillars of sustainable development as first indicated in the Johannesburg Program of Implementation (JPOI).

In 1992, the importance and relevance of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was recognized and the Barbados Program of Action evolved based on this new status. It is important to note that the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation for the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (MSI) is not binding. There are no threats of decreased funding or other sanctions if countries do not fulfill their reporting responsibilities. However, there are very sound reasons that should encourage Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to report as required.

In the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA), there were many issues which were combined and classified under the same heading. While many development strategies exist, there is no single ideal development strategy; the BPOA itself is not an ideal document but it should be recognized that that its strength lies in the tremendous support and the political endorsement that it has managed to generate. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) must also pay attention to many issues, for example, like trade tourism, which were discussed in Mauritius and that could be described as cross-cutting issues. In light of all this, the discussions conducted in Mauritius should be viewed as having resulted in a successful negotiated document. The NSDS can often be viewed as a version of the MSI but at a national level. The NSDS is mentioned in the MSI in several areas of that document.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have an opportunity to highlight their special case status, and the fact remains that the MSI reflects the commitment given to SIDS at the international level. When enforced through these channels, Caribbean countries' national goals are highlighted and can be more easily facilitated.

The subject of indicators only appears once in the MSI. This reference is made in Paragraph 74c. The monitoring and evaluation section of the document is one of the weaker portions of the strategy. Development indicators for sustainable development for national purposes should have the priority of the MDCs. In addition, development indicators for sustainable development for national purposes should also capitalize on existing information systems like National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and biodiversity clearing houses in their countries of origin to increase their efficacy.

DISCUSSION

Comment: Ms. Decima Corea, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Sustainable Development report could be crafted in a format that allows it to achieve several reporting requirements at once, thereby easing some of the pressure associated with reporting. There has been some movement on this direction in the Caribbean.

Question: Keith Nichols, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Many States do not have an NSDS. Thus they can report on the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Barbados Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (MSI) but not within an NSDS framework. Is it possible to provide a unified template?

Response: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

Countries should report under their NSDS. Efforts have been made to make this reporting as easy as possible. While the overall level of reporting has not increased, the general reporting needs have become more elaborate, so care must be taken.

Question

What about countries with environmental strategies?

Response: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

As long as such a strategy is referenced properly it may be deemed acceptable when submitted. Requirements regarding such submissions are stricter since strategies and other documents must be verified. Following a precautionary approach, the submission must be based on official national reporting that has been verified.

Comment: Mr. Mark Bynoe, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC); and Mr. Keith Nichols, OECS

The relevance of frameworks is a very important issue. There are many documents, but very few NSDS. In many cases the pillars of SD are not included in any strategic documents as environment is not taken as a national or regional priority in many Caribbean countries.

Comment: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

Barbados is usually very diligent in reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). While this goal may be a challenge given Barbados' resources, the reporting process itself is very important and useful.

Prior to the CSD 11 (2002-2003) countries were required to report on every chapter in Agenda 21. This was at times burdensome. The simplification of the process - where the focus is on certain themes such as agriculture, land degradation and drought, in two year cycles - made the reporting process easier. The current format is very useful as a negotiating document.

The rigid reporting deadline can be regarded as challenging especially when paired with the requisite consultation with the private sector and NGOs in the true spirit of sustainable development/ public participation. This participative approach despite the challenge of accessing the requisite resources to undertake such consultation ensures true representation of national circumstances.

Finally, institution of a national focal point allows for efficient coordination. In Barbados, in addition to the national focal point, Cabinet provides oversight to the entire process.

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Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

Many countries do not have open reporting structures. While one country may have a 2020 Vision that may answer many relevant questions, it may not provide the right answers.

Many environment workers are associated with contracts and projects which require reporting. However these initiatives cannot be found in a centralized repository of information. If countries do not have an organized way of collecting information, then they will be unable to submit reports.

Comment: Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNDESA

There is a need to distinguish different types of reporting. There is reporting associated with implementation, and that which is part of the wider reporting process. Reports to the CSD are associated with national activities aimed at the fulfillment of national requirements. In some cases in the Pacific, reporting represents a high proportion of countries' activity and as such requires substantial resources. The participants' concerns regarding the high level of reporting expected should not be addressed by the use of templates despite their usefulness in some cases. Countries are urged to raise this concern at the review of the MSI in September 2010 at the UN General Assembly.

Two fundamental issues should be discussed:

1. Do we as Caribbean countries have national development strategies? and
2. Are we (countries) reporting on these issues?

All countries have been preparing national development strategies in some form. There is a need to look at the extent to which national development strategies are guided by Agenda 21 or the BPOA.

A template may not be ideal but countries still need a set of core of issues to be identified, linked to indicators and referred to constantly. In a system like this, information could continue to be documented by UNECLAC and then pulled together.

Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

Similar discussions have been tabled earlier at a regional Ministers Meeting. They raised their concerns regarding the burden associated with national reporting. The suggestion of utilizing a single report was made. For instance, UNECLAC and UNEP could sign an agreement allowing various parties and

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agencies to use relevant information required from the UNECLAC reports. This was a very strong political statement.

The UN must focus on key issues. While many countries have taken on sustainable development issues, it must be borne in mind that as recently as 15-20 years ago all plans which were developed in the region were typically sectoral. It must be determined by the UN whether or not countries considering the whole of the framework in their reporting?

Templates may not be the best tool for reporting but if there is some cross-referencing of a core group of issues identified, linked to indicators, this could be of help to us.

It is unfortunate UNECLAC has not made any reference to the issues of the regional coordinating mechanism. Their annual reviews have all the information and there is scope to pull key information from their documents.

Comment: Prof. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta, Universidad de Costa Rica

In a forum of Ministers of Environment for LAC, ministers complained of the burden of reporting. In the Panama meeting the Ministers brought a strong policy statement to the UN. They stated that they would provide a single report and the UN would take what they needed it. As a result, they set up a working group on environmental statistics and indicators to facilitate reporting via one report.

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken on board Sustainable Development issues. Fifteen years ago national plans were sectoral, but today they are cross-sectoral National Development Plans. The UN needs to check cross-sectoral development plans and take on board the whole of the framework. This will facilitate a more sustainable operation.

Comment: Mr. Mark Bynoe, CCCCC and Dr. Mark Griffith, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

It must be recognized that cross referencing it does not make a framework sustainable. Reporting is not the main problem. There is a need for more elementary approach to the development of countries, with the utilization of methodologies and tools that will enable fundamental developmental change.

Comment: Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNDESA

If many of the resources currently utilized in reporting could be streamlined, more would be made available for implementation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND GOALS IN BARBADOS

Mr. Derrick Gibbs, Senior Economist

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce

Government of Barbados

Sustainable Development is the use of resources that aims to meet present human needs while preserving the environment so that the needs of future generations can also be met. This is a welfare economics concept – the inter-generation equity criteria. It is a broad and cross cutting concept and since all countries are not all homogenous, the elements of a sustainable development strategy will be shaped by issues unique to them. A major challenge to this is that resources are finite while current human needs and wants are increasing.

Government's overarching economic goal should be the growth of an inclusive and innovative economy for the benefit of all that is closely related to social and environmental goals. Sustainable Development should look to ensure that policies and programmes are designed to meet these goals.

The major Sustainable Development challenges in Barbados include:

- Slow formulation or inadequate legislation to combat challenges to Sustainable Development;
- Climate change and its impact on the environment and economic and social progress;
- High energy cost and dependency on fossil fuels;
- Limited fiscal and human resources to help implement Sustainable Development programmes and projects;
- Challenge of communicating sustainable development concepts to the general public;
- Lack of institutional capacity to implement and enforce Sustainable Development policies;

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- Lack of proper research and critical Sustainable Development indicators to help monitor and implement Sustainable Development strategic programmes; and
- Lack of timely reviews and evaluation of Sustainable Development Plans.

The Barbados National Sustainable Development Policy was commissioned in 1997 and developed through facilitation by a National Commission on Sustainable Development. The Policy, which was completed in 2004, benefited from wide stakeholder buy-in and consultations with the government, NGOs and the private sector. The aim was to secure consensus among stakeholder and secure the best strategies for Sustainable Development.

The goal of the policy is to ensure the optimization of the quality of life for every person and ensure that economic growth and development does not occur to the detriment of our ecological capital.

The objectives include:

- provision of a national framework for decision making based on principles of Sustainable Development;
- encouraging persons to adopt and apply the principles of Sustainable Development; and
- sensitization and education of all persons about key issues and conflicts between development and the environment.

At the national level the Barbados National Strategic Plan 2006-2025 is the guiding document, with the Sustainable Development Policy acting as a major supporting document. The NSP benefited from national discussion via, *inter alia*, town hall meetings, a national consultation, one-on-one discussions and the mail.

The theme of the National Strategic Plan 2005-2025 is Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions. The vision is to have a fully developed society that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive. This vision speaks to “a sustainable society that co-exists in harmony with a beautiful, clean and healthy physical environment and physical infrastructure...”

The Strategic Goals of the Plan are:

- Goal 1: “Inspired, exulting, free” - Unleashing the Spirit of the Nation.
- Goal 2: “Firm craftsmen of our fate” - New Governance for New Times.
- Goal 3: “Strength and unity” - Building Social Capital.

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- Goal 4: “These fields and hills”: Building a Green Economy - Strengthening Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment.
- Goal 5: “Upward and onward” - Enhancing Barbados’ Prosperity and Competitiveness.
- Goal 6: “Strict guardians of our heritage” - Branding Barbados Globally.

With respect to Goal Four, building the Green Economy, this will call for:

1. Strong policies to tackle environmental threats – i.e. use of fertilizers, poor waste disposal etc.;
2. Use of more renewable forms of energy – solar, biomass, wind etc. and more recycling;
3. Greater public education and enforcement;
4. Highlighting concerns with global environment developments – climate change; and
5. All persons working together to ensure we achieve our goals and objectives for a greener society.

The objectives of that goal are:

- to foster effective environmental management;
- to maintain a safe and reliable water supply;
- to ensure an efficient and reliable energy sector;
- to develop a modern transport infrastructure;
- to improve disaster management; and
- to maintain an efficient land-use policy.

Other supporting documents for Sustainable Development include:

- the Barbados Physical Development Plan which speaks to environmental management and land use planning and is updated every 5 years;
- the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2010-2012 which is being developed;
- and the political directive which is gleaned from the Government’s Manifesto.

The next steps for Barbados should include:

1. The need for an implementation plan to guide the Sustainable Development Policy;
2. Continued sensitization by Government to fully embrace the Policy;
3. Establishment of a Green Fund to finance sustainable projects;
4. Further integration of sectoral plans and policies;

5. Pursuance of regional solutions to Sustainable Development within the context of the CSME;
6. Enhancement of public education and awareness programmes;
7. Encouraging research and development of best environmental management practices;
8. Compiling and maintaining a comprehensive database on information relating to Sustainable Development;
9. Completing the development of the indicators of Sustainable Development to better inform on policy; and
10. As the focal point Ministry for small states issues, continue to work with relevant agencies on Sustainable Development matters.

DISCUSSION

Question

Is Barbados' Ministry of Economic Affairs responsible for integration of the sustainable development policy and the medium term strategic framework?

Response: Mr. Derrick Gibbs, Government of Barbados

The responsibility ultimately lies with the Prime Minister's Office but a substantial level of input is always solicited from Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Question: Mark Griffith, UNEP

Is the National Strategic Plan or the National Sustainable Development Policy the master document? Which one speaks to the 3 pillars of Sustainable Development? Which one takes the country forward?

If the Strategic Plan is the mother plan as opposed to the Sustainable Development Policy, then there is no fundamental change in the approach. This does not allow for the achievement of sustainable development.

Response: Mr. Derrick Gibbs, Government of Barbados

The Strategic Plan is a broad planning document, but the Sustainable Development Policy came before it. It is agreed that it would be better to have only one document guiding sustainable development.

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Comment: Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNDESA

The National Strategic Plan that is focused on the period 2006-2025. From experience, the implementation of such a long-term program is difficult. Programs of that duration and scope should have an integrated review process.

Question: Mr. Charles Brown, Government of Bermuda

Is there a single government agency that is responsible for implementation?

Response: Mr. Derrick Gibbs, Government of Barbados

There is no single agency responsible for implementation but a special unit could be put in place to tackle this issue. In most cases the Ministry of Environment may be the one to drive the process.

Comment: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

In Barbados, the Commission of Sustainable Development will be revived with a new mandate in April 2010. Very often initiatives are developed within one sector, so there is a need to generate enough support to make the initiative relevant on the national stage rather than simply in that original sector. There is a need to capitalize on the formal and informal partnerships which have been developed during the dialogue over the past 15 years.

Question: Mr. Charles Brown, Government of Bermuda

Does the Commission focus on any specific areas?

Response: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

The first mandate of the NCSD was to develop the Barbados Sustainable Development Policy. This was accomplished in 2004. The re-established NCSD will focus on areas where further attention is required, for instance, on incentives and concessions, the legal framework, education and research.

Prof. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta, Universidad de Costa Rica

Where a Sustainable Development Policy is not under the purview of a commission, it will not move towards implementation phase. A National Commission on Sustainable Development will ensure that all actors are involved and that the fruits of the strategy will be enjoyed by our children.

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Comment: Ms. Sasha Beth Gottlieb, GEF-IWCAM Project/Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)

CEHI has discussed an Indicators Strategy has been discussed with the Government of Barbados. This was piloted in the form of a centralized database originally based on land and water indicators. This has led to a broader scope of development indicators which would help in national reporting.

Comment: Mr. Derrick Gibbs and Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

It is difficult to speak about institutionalizing indicators, without first making sure that the relevant Statistical Department is equipped to spearhead the data coordination process. Furthermore the strengthening of indicators cannot take place without the strengthening of statistical departments. Barbados is currently undertaking a project looking at the modernization of the Barbados Statistical Services.

**NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
– ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**Mr. Sean Cenac, Senior Development Planner
Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Public Administration
Government of Antigua and Barbuda**

The Economic Policy and Planning Unit (EPPU), Ministry of Finance, Public Administration and the Economy is responsible for the development of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). The EPPU's framework for the NSDP represents the blueprint for Sustainable Development. It refers to Agenda 21 and the incorporation of integrated development planning (IDP); and promotes the formulation of long term, cross-sectoral strategies that span economic, environmental, physical/spatial and social activities. The framework includes Sustainable Development indicators at the national level to record and inform developmental activities. Other areas of work for the EPPU include the MDGs, Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) and Statistics Division.

The draft vision for development is “a sustainable economy through balanced, integrated development strategies that provide a continually improving standard in quality of life while ensuring social stability and integrity of the environment.”

The overall development agenda consists of:

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1. Fiscal Stabilization and Economic Growth: strategic definition of the national economy is oriented on services with primary support to tourism and financial services; internet gaming and information technology; and supporting development into new areas within education (off shore university), health (medical transcription, medical Information Technology) and agriculture.
2. Social Cohesion, Cultural Expression and Community Development are reflected in strategies for the health and education sectors; sports, youth and community service.
3. A public sector that is in-tune with Sustainable Development initiatives, actively using Sustainable Development indicators in decision-making. This requires substantial transformation/ modernization;
4. Cross-cutting issues which provide a closer look at the physical and human resource dimension emphasizing strategies relating to labor; energy use and alternative energy options; environmental integrity; transportation and housing development issues.

The institutional mechanism must provide support to integrated planning. Agents of development are coordinated over the short, medium and long term, with stakeholders are constantly informed by Sustainable Development and use indicators to guide decisions, as well as ensure that defined projects reflect the Sustainable Development vision.

Weaknesses affecting the Sustainable Development agenda and planning process in Antigua and Barbuda include:

1. Uneven planning, scattered resources as a result of
 - i) the institutional structure is in state of flux;
 - ii) an inconsistent planning culture that is limited operational and management plans; and
 - iii) limited human resource capacity.
2. Lack comprehensive, holistic commitment to national planning as a result of
 - i) a prevailing isolated management approach; and
 - ii) the need for stronger political commitment.
3. Uncoordinated trade policy.
4. Weak national statistics and appreciation for data evidenced by

- i) low response rates in surveys; and
- ii) disorganized treatment of data, conflicting data, difficult to monitor indicators.

To bring the institutional gap the following steps have been or are being taken:

- A statistics institutional strengthening project was just completed the legislative review which has recommended the inclusion of environment indicators;
- National Physical Development Plan underway;
- Trade Diversification program to maximize the potential for the services sector; and
- Inclusion of Sustainable Development indicators to the national planning process thereby strengthening decision-making and strategic investment in the public sector projects.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: BERMUDA'S PLAN, PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE

**Mr. Charles Brown, Director of Sustainable Development
Government of Bermuda**

Bermuda's five year Sustainable Development Plan is a result of a 3 year effort which was approved by Cabinet a year ago. It consists of five broad themes:

1. Sustaining Our Communities - focuses on affordable housing and protecting the needy and meeting the health care challenge;
2. Living Within Our limits – looks at managing population growth, waste management and traffic;
3. Maintaining a strong and inclusive economy - requires full participation of full community;
4. Transforming the Governance and Public Sector – responsibilities of the civil service to deliver Sustainable Development. Currently the government has only one officer dealing with Sustainable Development. Due to the commitment of government and private sector, this will soon increase to three persons; and
5. Protecting the Environment and Natural Resources – involves balancing the preservation of open space and land development.

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The long-term goals of the Sustainable Development Unit are to:

1. Institute Sustainable Development as a household subject throughout Bermuda;
2. Embed the concept and practice of Sustainability into our national policies;
3. Establish and maintain a positive perception of Sustainability in Bermuda; and
4. Facilitate and monitor the delivery of Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan.

A survey undertaken by the Government, shows that over 50% of the population do not know that Sustainable Development is about the environment. This speaks directly to the public relations work to be undertaken as social and economic circumstances in relationship to environment must be explained.

The following indicators are use to assess Sustainable Development in Bermuda:

1. Housing: home ownership, time to find housing, percentage of income spent on housing
2. Public Education: graduation rates, student/teacher ratios, public perception
3. Public Safety: incidence of crimes, recidivism rate, perception of personal safety
4. Environment: energy usage, number of vehicles, use of public transportation
5. Health Care: General Practitioner (GP) ratio to population, life expectancy, perception of health care
6. Economy: inflation rate, contribution of tourism to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consumer confidence

Finally, the major challenges with the implementation of Sustainable Development Policy and buy-in in the community include:

1. Awareness and understanding;
2. Commitment by leadership;
3. Human and financial resources;
4. Mobilizing stakeholders; and
5. Priority.

GUYANA'S APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

**Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Presidential Adviser
Government of Guyana**

Guyana's approach to the development of a Sustainable Development policy framework started with the establishment of a Sustainable Human Development Council in 1994. The work of the Council was supported by 3 Sub-Committees:

1. Macro-Economic, Infrastructure & Institutional Development,
2. Natural Resources and Environmental Management, and
3. Social and Cultural Issues.

The three sub-committees worked on their mandates but by the end of the first year, the Council stopped meeting. The work of the Sub-Committee on Macro-Economic issues eventually merged into a Committee to guide the preparation of a National Development Strategy. Meanwhile, the Sub-Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Management continued its efforts and was formally established as an Advisory Body by Cabinet and named the Natural Resources and Environment Advisory Committee (NREAC). The NREAC continued to function in this capacity and is still fulfilling this role today.

With the preparation of the National Development Strategy extending for a few years, the Cabinet re-organized its Sub-Committees to facilitate the process and to reflect on the objectives. The main Sub-Committees of Cabinet focused on:

- The National Economy and Financial matters,
- Natural Resources and Environmental Management, and
- Social Development.

The development of the National Development Strategy (NDS) assumed a very broad based approach with full involvement of all the Political Parties in Parliament with leading roles by two prominent economists in the leadership of the two main Opposition Parties.

Approximately twenty (20) working groups were established to deal with both cross-sectoral and sectoral issues. Each working group included top experts in the areas considered, along with a very broad set of stakeholders who expressed interest.

The resulting NDS was shaped with a commitment to the basic principles of Sustainable Development. It was an elaborate document published with over 30 chapters in 4 volumes. In the end it was decided that it was too cumbersome for public use and that a revised version was needed.

By this time, the process of developing the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) was started. The PRS, which has the essential elements of the NDS, is the main policy guide for national development. There is a wide stakeholder involvement in the oversight of the process in terms of the annual review of implementation. Country wide consultations are regularly carried out for this purpose.

Formal parliamentary oversight of the national development strategy is carried out through 4 Sectoral Committees. They cover the following areas:

1. Economic Affairs;
2. Natural Resources;
3. Social development; and
4. Foreign Relations.

In conclusion, the National Development Strategy and the Poverty Reduction Strategy function as NSDS in Guyana. The process is very inclusive in terms of both the formal political parties across Government and Opposition, and the involvement of stakeholders across the country via consultations and the guiding committees.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORKS– THE JAMAICAN EXPERIENCE

**Mr. Hopeton Peterson, Manager
Planning Institute of Jamaica
Government of Jamaica**

Development planning in Jamaica has evolved over a number of decades. The first ten-year plan was published in 1959. This was followed by a series of 5 year development plans, the last of which was for the period 1990-1995. The five year plans have proven to be useful but they all emphasized the economic and social components of development.

Since 1995, a number of planning frameworks have emerged. They are:

1. National Industrial Policy;
2. National Poverty Eradication Programme;
3. Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation;
4. Medium Term Socio-Economic Framework;
5. Jamaica National Environmental Action Plan; and
6. Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP)

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP) was established in 1995. The major components of NPEP are the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and the Social Safety Net Programme – Programme of Advancement, through Health & Education (PATH).

Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) was established in 1996. The Fund was designed primarily to improve basic social & economic infrastructure in poor communities – schools, community centers, roads, water systems.

The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)

The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) was established in 2001. It targets welfare benefits to the poor, aims to break intergenerational poverty and increase human capital by making school attendance and health care visits a condition for obtaining benefits.

National Industrial Policy

The 1996 National Industrial Policy established a framework for the industrial development of Jamaica. It focused on four essential components:

- macro-economic policy,
- industrial strategy,
- social policy, and
- environmental policy.

The policy identified several economic clusters for which Jamaica was thought to be competitive, and outlined strategies for their development.

Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation (JASPEV) – 2002

The primary aim of JASPEV is to improve policy by allowing citizens to participate in decision-making on matters that affect their lives. The JASPEV

approach emphasized enhancement of equity, social cohesion and social justice. It also consisted of mechanisms which would enhance the capacity of citizens to hold policy makers and implementers accountable for the delivery of specified outcomes.

JASPEV Key Policy Goals are:

- Human Security;
- Social Integration;
- Governance;
- Secure and Sustainable Livelihoods;
- Environment;
- Education and Skills; and
- Health and Physical Well-Being.

Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)

Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) was approved by Cabinet in 2004 as the Government of Jamaica's development strategy for the period 2004-2007. Emphasis was placed on the achievement of macro-economic stability. The policy framework highlights 3 areas of focus - fiscal policy, monetary policy and private sector development. The MTF combined macro-economic, social, environmental and governance policy objectives.

Jamaica National Environmental Action Plan (JANEAP)

As a small island economy heavily dependent on natural resource-based economic activities such as tourism, bauxite mining and agriculture processing; and agriculture, Government developed JANEAP in 1995 to ensure that economic development does not hinder future development options. It is a series of three yearly strategic plan to addressing environment and physical planning issues, which outlines government's major priority environmental goals and proposes actions to address these issues. Over the years, the focus of JANEAP has evolved from environmental issues to dealing with the broader concepts of sustainable development.

Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan

Government's strategic plan for sustainable development is expressed in the Vision 2030 Jamaica, National Development Plan. It is based on a comprehensive vision: "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business".

This is a *de facto* Sustainable Development Strategy. The central vision is to:

- to improve the quality of life and well being of all Jamaicans
- to provide the enabling environment which facilitates an internationally competitive economy.

It provides a road map for achieving developed country status by 2030, and is anchored on four national goals:

- Goal 1: Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential
 - A healthy and stable population,
 - World-Class Education & Training ,
 - Effective Social Protection, and
 - Authentic & Transformational Culture.
- Goal 2: The Jamaican Society is secure, cohesive and just
 - Security & Safety, and
 - Effective Governance.
- Goal 3: Jamaica's economy is prosperous
 - A Stable Macroeconomy,
 - An Enabling Business Environment,
 - A Strong Economic Infrastructure,
 - Energy Security and Efficiency,
 - A technology-Enabled Society, and
 - Internationally Competitive Industry Structures.
- Goal 4: Jamaica has a healthy environment
 - Sustainable Management and Use of Environment and Natural Resources,
 - Hazard Risk Reduction & Adaptation to Climate Change, and
 - Sustainable Urban & Rural Development.

Under Vision 2030, the Planning Advisory Group which consisted of industry leaders, academia, sectoral leaders, provided perspectives on the plan development process. There was also the establishment of 31 Task Forces and the Development of Sector Plan with responsibility for:

- reviewing sector plans,
- establishing sectoral priorities, and
- integrating cross-cutting issues.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Implementation and monitoring will take place through a series of 3 yearly Medium Term Frameworks using 60 proposed indicators aligned to 15 national outcomes which draws from existing frameworks in line with the MDGs.

The performance of the National Development Plan will be measured via the use of following tools:

- Vision 2030 Annual Progress Report;
- Annual Sectoral Reports; and
- Issues/sector briefs, independent evaluations and research reports.

Institutional Arrangements is a tiered structure involving the political, technical and consultative levels:

Political

- Parliament
- Economic Development Committee – chaired by the Prime Minister
- The National Development Council

Technical

- Vision 2030 Jamaica Technical Monitoring Committee
- Vision 2030 Jamaica Technical Secretariat
- Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Consultative

- Thematic Working Groups

Finally, challenges faced include:

1. Insufficient technical and co-ordination capacity;
2. Inadequate managerial skills in strategic goal setting and organizational development;
3. Inadequate technical capacity to define indicators and set targets; and
4. Weaknesses in information systems – data quality, timeliness and reliability.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 – 2025: ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

**Ms. Decima Corea, Deputy Director
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recognised that it is faced with several challenges on the following fronts. These include the following types of challenges:

1. Economic;
2. Physical;
3. Environmental; and
4. Social Infrastructure.

Recognition of these challenges is balanced by Government's acknowledgement of several strategic goals which are fundamental components within the National Economic and Social Development Plan. These strategic goals include:

- Enhancing Global Competitiveness;
- Enabling Human Capital and Social Development;
- Promoting Good Governance;
- Improving Physical Infrastructure; and
- Preserving the Environment, Building National Pride, Identity and Culture.

Each Strategic Goal has been refined and analyzed into more specific objectives. For example, the Strategic Goal entitled "Enhancing Global Competitiveness" has been broken down into the following objectives:

- To improve fiscal performance of central government- this objective encompasses issues such as maintenance of debt/GDP ratios, providing educational and transport infrastructure etc.;
- To attain a strong and sustainable external trade position for instance in the export of bananas; and
- To increase productivity and competitiveness.

In a similar manner, the strategic goal focused on "Enabling Human Capital and Social Development" is broken down into several objectives as well which are

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aimed at improving the welfare of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

These targets include:

- To reduce poverty- the Government recently completed a national poverty assessment exercise, a poverty reduction strategy will follow this initiative;
- To create an adaptable, functional and literate population;
- To improve the health status of the population- the emphasis here will be on the rural population. This strategy was adopted because it is not feasible for the capital city Kingstown to accommodate everyone with health issues. In addition, Government sees this as a positive investment is what is commonly referred to as the country's "bread basket"; and
- To facilitate social, cultural and economic development at the community level.

With respect to the strategic goal, preserving the environment, the objectives which have been generated, focus on optimizing the physical, biological and resource assets of St Vincent and the Grenadines. This goal has been separated into targets set to:

- optimize the use of limited land space- this objective will primarily be focused on providing land for development of residential areas;
- conserve the natural resources of the country through effective utilization and management;
- reduce the dependence on imported energy- several projects will be focused on energy based on solar and geothermal technologies; and
- facilitate the pursuit of appropriate measures to manage biological resources.

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has invested many resources in developing its National Economic and Social Development Plan, which is also the country's NSDS. These contributions were put towards the plan because its development would ensure a higher level of cohesion to the economic and social planning. Other anticipated benefits of the plan are rooted in its ability to provide an improvement in the standard of living of all Vincentians through:

- wealth creation;
- reducing poverty;
- improved health status;
- achievement of high levels of education; and
- adherence to high moral values.

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Vidiah Ramkhelawan, Director (Ag.)
Ministry of Planning, Housing & the Environment
Government of Trinidad and Tobago

The 2000 Millennium Development Goals initiated the process of long term planning by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on achieving developed country status by 2020. In 2002 the Government began discussions on achieving developed country status by 2020. This initiated the process of long term planning with Cabinet Decisions spanning June 2002 – January 2003 which facilitated the:

- development and implementation of a Strategic Plan of Action;
- appointment of a Multi-Sectoral Group to implement effectively the planning process;
- establishment of reporting structure; and
- establishment of an interactive consultative mechanism.

Planning Phase

In 2002 a Multi-Sectoral Committee was established and 28 sub-committees were formed. The planning phase which started in 2002 and ended in 2005, resulted in the production of 26 reports on, *inter alia*; macro economy, health, education, international relations, environment. These reports were condensed into the National Strategic Plan (NSP), which functions as NSDS.

The process was therefore consultative, and the plan produced is by no means fixed and inflexible. This is necessary due to the rapidly changing environment, exhibited via;

- rapid fluctuations in oil prices,
- uneasiness about the US economy,
- the rise of China and India as global competitors for labor/production activities, and
- the competition with respect to land use for befouls versus food production.

In addition to these current changes, it is hoped that on-going monitoring will continue to identify on-going and up-coming challenges.

Sustainable Development Agenda

The comparative analysis on the sustainable development agenda will address economic, social and environmental issues, followed by cross-cutting themes such as science and technology, competitiveness.

In respect of the economic several key indicators will be examined. The Social Agenda will address human development, education and health. It will continue the battle against HIV/AIDS and focus on the Labor Market and Public Utilities, and Emissions, with specific reference to deforestation and air and water pollution will be the focus in the area of the environment.

Vision 2020 – Planning, Implementation and Progress

The Plan developed based on five development priorities:

- 1) Nurturing a Caring Society;
- 2) Promoting effective government;
- 3) Developing Innovative People;
- 4) Investing in sound infrastructure and the environment; and
- 5) Enabling competitive business.

These five development pillars are fundamentally the core areas of activities.

The Implementation Phase of the 2005 Draft NSP was scheduled for 15 years to 2020, and the first 4 years to 2010 in respect of Vision 2020. There are Annual Progress Reports made in response to the Annual 2020 Operational Plan.

The National Strategic Plan (15- 20 years) outlines the long-term strategic perspective. It focuses strategy in the five priority areas (development pillars), emphasizes an integrated policy agenda and performance measurement, and introduces key performance indicators at the macro level.

The Operational Plan (2007-2010) takes Vision 2020 from the strategic to the operational/action level. It links goals, objectives, strategies to key programmes/projects and targets/outcomes; and gives context to the national budget.

Progress reports establish and institutionalize a common framework for reporting on outputs and outcomes across the public sector. They use indicators to measure the progress towards achieving the goals.

Investing in Sound Infrastructure and the Environment

The goal in respect of the environment is that it be valued as a national asset and conserved for the benefit of future generations and the wider international community. Some of the indicators used to monitor progress towards this include:

- Number of complaints about air quality per year;
- Percentage of average annual deforestation;
- Number of wildlife species considered endangered;
- Percentage of population which perceive pollution reduction as a priority;
- Number of noise complaints to local authorities;
- Percentage of land area covered by forest; and
- Percentage of streams with drinkable water.

Way Forward

The way forward will include the:

- New Institutional framework where the Prime Minister's Office has overarching responsibility for monitoring and evaluation;
- Refinement of Targets, Indicators, benchmarks, Reporting framework;
- Re-engagement of stakeholders 2011-2015 Operational Plan ; and
- Looking towards a strengthened Report.

DISCUSSION

Question

Why was a national economic development and social plan needed?

Response: Ms. Decima Corea, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The plan covers all the relevant aspects. The process was initiated with a series of consultations involving working groups. The level of support which was anticipated never materialized. This forced practitioners to actively initiate interactions to advance the process.

A plan was put in place to ensure a purpose when undertaking required activities. This is a mechanism to ensuring increased wealth, reducing poverty, and also encouraging better health.

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Comment: Mr. Keith Nicholls, OECS

There was no mention of a structure for implementation in the plans discussed, and the crux of the matter is getting a structure that works. For progress to be measured, a structure for implementation and an established baseline/benchmark must be in place, and which must serve as the basis for all reports.

There was also no experience reported by country representatives of a fully integrated institutional framework. This step is crucial to the process.

Comment: Mr. Victor Brown, Barbados Statistical Services

There has not been a lot of discussion or sharing on the institutional measures needed to gauge performance regarding the move towards sustainable development. It is important to establish an actual database to determine direction and progress.

Comment: Prof. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica

None of the presentations spoke of councils of sustainable development. It would therefore seem that there is no one body that is accountable for pushing the agenda. Participation must be more widespread. A semi-autonomous body to steer the process allows for monitoring and making politicians accountable.

SESSION 2: INDICATOR SELECTION

INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Matthias Bruckner
UNDESA

Importance of monitoring

Monitoring is critical for effective implementation of an NSDS and should be built into the NSDS. Without monitoring, the NSDS is merely a list of good intentions. Integration of monitoring system in NSDS supports the choice of measurable and specific targets; facilitates policy interventions and corrections of the NSDS; provides a feedback mechanism and promotes culture of learning; promotes accountability; and promotes public interest and information.

Areas of NSDS to be monitored

Three broad elements of a NSDS require monitoring:

1. Actions and activities planned in the NSDS. This addresses the question: Are all of us doing what the NSDS calls for? It is also critical for accountability of individual institutions and actors. As such, progress or performance or accomplishment indicators are a major tool.
2. Effects and impact of NSDS on sustainable development. This addresses the question: Are we achieving the goals and targets of our NSDS? It is critical for accountability of all stakeholders, and assists in the review and adjustment of NSDS.
3. Progress towards sustainable development. This element addresses the question: Are we on track towards sustainable development? It also allows for status-quo assessments and to detect trends of sustainable development; assists prioritization in early stage of NSDS; and contributes to review and adjustment of NSDS.

As an NSDS typically aims at making the development of a country more sustainable, there is substantial overlap in monitoring effects and impact of NSDS and monitoring overall progress towards sustainable

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development. Typically this type of monitoring covers a wider range of issues, and its impact is more directly geared towards strategy actions.

CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development

These Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Indicators on Sustainable Development (ISD) originated from a work program adopted by the United Nations CSD in 1995.

UNDESA publishes a set of Indicators of Sustainable Development. The first edition was published in 1996, followed by the second and third editions in 2001 and 2007 respectively. These indicators serve as reference for countries to develop or revise national indicator sets, and are intended to be adapted to national conditions.

Table 1 depicts the evolution of the CSD Indicators from 1995-2007.

Table 1: Evolution of the CSD Indicators from 1995-2007

PHASE	PERIOD	OUTCOMES
1	1994-1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus-building meetings among major stakeholders • Adoption of indicator framework (“Driving force –state-response”) • Identification of 134 indicators, grouped according to four pillars of Sustainable Development • Preparation of methodology sheets for each of the 134 indicators • Publication of first “Blue Book” (1996)
2	1996-1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot tests in 22 countries from all major regions of world & capacity-building
3	2000-2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of national testing • Revision of ISD based on evaluation (2001) • Reduction to 58 indicators • Introduction of a thematic framework • Publication of second “Blue book” (2001)
4	2005-2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the indicator set, in order to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporate national and international experiences ○ Reflect new thinking and priorities ○ Explore Synergies with other indicator sets (Millennium Development Goal Indicators) • The review included:

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PHASE	PERIOD	OUTCOMES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analytical studies ○ Expert group meetings in 2005 and October 2006 ○ Participants from countries and international organizations ○ Decisions on revisions made by consensus

The Indicators of Sustainable Development

Detailed methodology sheets for each indicator are available online. The methodology sheets will be updated regularly. These guidelines address use of the indicators for monitoring strategies. It is currently the most downloaded document on the DSD website⁵.

The CSD indicators consist of 96 indicators of sustainable development, of which 50 are regarded as core indicators. They are organized in 15 themes with 44 sub-themes. Sample indicators themes are illustrated in **Table 2**.

Table 2: CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development - Sample indicators

THEME	SUB-THEME	CORE INDICATOR	OTHER INDICATOR
Poverty	Sanitation	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	
Oceans, seas and coasts	Coastal zone	Percentage of total population living in coastal areas	Bathing water quality
Land	Forests	Proportion of land covered by forests	Area under sustainable forest management
Economic Development	Employment	Employment-population ratio	Vulnerable employment

CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development

The framework of the CSD indicators can be characterized as policy-based as themes and sub-themes broadly follow common policy areas. This facilitates the use of these indicators in countries that typically use policy frameworks. It must however be noted that they are based on policy areas as opposed to specific policies and objectives.

⁵ <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/isd.htm>

The indicators are also linked to the international policy agenda, in particular Agenda 21.

Most indicators for monitoring NSDS use policy or theme-based frameworks, following the structure of the NSDS. Indicators used for other purposes often use other frameworks. Other purposes include:

- Assessing the state of sustainable development;
- Awareness raising; and
- Communicating the concept of sustainable development.

Examples of other frameworks are:

- Theory-based, in particular capital framework,
- Indices - theory-based, statistics-based, ad-hoc; and
- Pressure-State-Response.

Indicator Selection

Process

Selecting indicators can be done through:

- multi-stakeholder involvement;
- technical experts;
- consensus approach; and
- top-down decisions.

Criteria

Indicators should meet certain criteria. For example, CSD indicators used the following criteria:

- primarily national in scope;
- relevant to assessing sustainable development progress;
- limited in number, but remaining open-ended and adaptable to future needs;
- understandable, clear and unambiguous;
- conceptually sound;
- representative of an international consensus to the extent possible;
- within the capabilities of national governments to develop;
- dependent on cost effective data of known quality; and

- broad in coverage of Agenda 21 and all aspects of sustainable development.

Some criteria need to be adapted. Examples of instances where criteria can be adapted include where coverage of issues in NSDS can replace coverage based on Agenda 21; and where national consensus and standards may be used instead of those set at the international level if the latter is lacking or does not reflect national realities. In addition, allowing for meaningful breakdowns - spatially, by socio-economic group, by gender - can be an additional criterion for many indicators.

Additional criteria relevant, where indicators are used to monitor implementation of NSDS, include policy responsiveness, and timeliness. With respect to policy responsiveness, a further breakdown of indicators by target group often increases the responsiveness. Timeliness is a concern in reference to indicators primarily dependent on census and large surveys. Small-scale surveys and estimates can increase timeliness, but may reduce accuracy.

Adaptation

A number of existing indicator sets are often a useful starting point or additional reference. Examples of such indicators are:

- CSD indicators;
- Other global indicator sets such as MDG indicators;
- Indicator sets used by other countries;
- National and regional indicator sets designed for other purposes (e.g., statistical yearbooks); and
- Sectoral indicator sets.

These indicators can be adapted as needed.

A matrix can be used to rank indicators based on a combination of their relevance and relevant data availability. Characterization according to relevance is as follows:

1. Relevant.
2. Related indicator relevant, for example because:
 - national issue more focused (for example, the CSD indicator on child nutrition covers both under- and overweight, but in some countries only one of the two poses a development problem);
 - subjective instead of objective indicators are preferred (for example, health issues)

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- related issues are relevant (for example, regional trade instead of trade with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as in the CSD indicators)
- 3. Relevant but missing from set, because CSD indicators may not include relevant country-specific issues
- 4. Irrelevant, for example coastal indicators in land-locked countries.

Characterization according to availability of quality data:

1. Fully available.
2. Potentially available, for example through
 - Changes in regular surveys;
 - Arrangements with data 'owner';
 - Improved handling of raw data;
 - Shorter release time.
3. Related data available, for example, number of cars rather than distance traveled could be used for an indicator on the development impact of automobile travel.
4. Not available.

Data Sources

There are various data types and sources needed for indicators. Common types of data needed include:

- National accounts,
- Censuses,
- Household and other surveys,
- Administrative records, and
- Estimations based on agreed standards,

Common sources of data and indicators are, *inter alia*:

- Statistical offices,
- Other ministries and governmental agencies,
- Reports to intergovernmental bodies, and
- Regional and international organizations.

INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE GOAL OF 'BUILDING A GREEN ECONOMY' IN BARBADOS

Ms. Amrikha D. Singh, Environmental Officer
Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage
Government of Barbados

Historical Perspective

The National Indicators Programme (NIP) came into effect in 1997 with a National Steering Committee on Indicators of Sustainable Development assembled under the aegis of the multi-sectoral National Commission on Sustainable Development. The NIP comprised of representatives from:

1. The Town and Country Development Planning Office;
2. The Barbados Statistical Service;
3. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs;
4. The Central Bank of Barbados;
5. The Welfare Department;
6. The Bureau of Women's Affairs;
7. The Ministry of Environment;
8. The Coastal Zone Management Unit;
9. The National Council on Science and Technology;
10. The Solid Waste Project Unit; and
11. Treading Lightly.⁶

Survey

To narrow the expansive list of proposed indicators down to a nationally relevant set, a survey was carried out. Listed below are some of the elements of that survey used to help establish the national framework:

- Determine category of the indicator, that is, whether it can be classified as Economic, Social or Environmental
- Establish a working definition
- Define unit(s) of measurement
- Highlight any restrictions on use of the indicator (for example, is the data considered sensitive?)
- Indicate if any additional cost would be incurred in obtaining data
- List the methods of data collection- whether it was monitoring, surveys, questionnaires or other means

⁶ This NGO is no longer in existence.

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- Establish the constraints to data collection (for instance, is the constraint human and/or financial?)
- Determine any possible proxy measures used if the data is not collected
- Agree on an update frequency- whether it was monthly, quarterly, yearly or other time frame
- Establish the level of data disaggregation desired
- Establish the level of data aggregation desired
- Establish the history of records- how far do they go back
- Note the agency responsible for compilation
- Confirm sources of information if published
- Establish cut-off dates for the latest available data
- Look at what formats of data- hardcopy, electronic, geo-referenced or other exist?

A National multi-sectoral consultation was held to finalize the indicators list. Participants in the process supported the inclusion of indicators which they thought would reflect the national Sustainable Development paradigm. However, some of the indicator information was restricted as there were instances where they were thought unsuitable for the public forum. The finalized list consisted of 170 indicators of sustainable development for Barbados. This selection was followed by a pilot study carried out to test a sub-set of 20 indicators.

Indicators

The 170 indicators identified have been classified into 3 areas:

- Human Well-being,
- Ecological Welfare, and
- Sustainable Interactions,

There were 12 Sub-themes which encompass health, education housing, social welfare, security, air, land-use, water, population, economic development, and consumption and production patterns.

Successes

The following are considered successes emanating from the process:

- Partnerships created during the process still exist today;
- Champions- there are several champions of the process outside of the Ministry of Environment;
- Regional publications on environmental statistics;

- Environmental Vulnerability Index;
- State of the Environment Report;
- Increasing awareness among technocrats (Ministry of Finance etc.);
- Description of land degradation indicators;
- Description of oil and gas indicators;
- Membership of UNDESA's expert group on indicators of sustainable development; and
- Continued work at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) level.

Indicators of the Green Economy

Goal Four of the National Strategic Plan requires the protection, preservation, and enhancement of our physical infrastructure, environment, and scarce resources as we seek to advance our social and economic development. It demands that we find the right balance between our development and the preservation of our physical surroundings. It calls for access to adequate water and energy supplies, a good transportation system and the development and maintenance of sound infrastructure. Specifically, it calls for the following:

- To promote and facilitate the sustainable use of our renewable resources and the wise management of our non-renewable natural resources
- To maintain a safe and reliable water supply
- To ensure an efficient and reliable energy sector
- To develop an efficient transport system and infrastructure
- To improve disaster management
- To develop and maintain an Efficient Land-use Policy

A number of initiatives undertaken by government such as the UNEP Green Economy Initiative, The Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and Barbados' national programmes on Trade and Environment and Sustainable Finance must be monitored in terms of compliance and progress. This is where the Indicators of the Green Economy will come in

A 2007 announcement by the Minister of Finance of Green Economy Fiscal and Economic Proposals called for the establishment of a task force to develop target and indicators of Green Economics and Sustainable Development. A Technical Working Group (TWG) was assembled to articulate an initial list of indicators of the Green Economy. These include:

1. The Central Bank of Barbados,
2. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development,
3. The Ministry of Finance,

4. The Ministry of Energy and the Environment,
5. The Barbados Statistical Service

This mechanism is built on a number of initiatives and policies both national and international including:

- The National Sustainable Development Indicators Programme;
- The Millennium Development Goal Process;
- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs international list of Indicators of sustainable Development;
- The National Strategic Plan; and
- The Barbados Sustainable Development Policy.

A Framework Approach

A number of frameworks can be used for the monitoring of sustainable development, or in this case, a green economy. It was decided that the use of a conceptual framework would help to focus and clarify the kinds of indicators to choose. In the case of Barbados, a theme-based framework was selected. This framework was most appropriate because it linked indicators to policy processes and targets in this case, the objectives and targets as described in the National Strategic Plan.

Thematic frameworks are well suited to monitoring progress in obtaining objectives and goals stipulated in national development strategies. They are also flexible enough to adjust to new priorities and policy targets over time.

The following selection criteria were used to select indicators of the green economy from the overarching lists of indicators:

1. Relevance- Is the indicator relevant to assessing progress towards Achieving Goal Four of the National Strategic Plan?
2. Usefulness- Is the indicator useful to decision making and monitoring?
3. Availability of data- Is data to substantiate the indicator readily available?
4. Practicality- Is it practical to get data on the indicator?
5. Internationally acceptable- this criterion comes with the caveat that there may be some issues crucial to Barbados' national development which leads us to propose an indicator that is not utilized at the international level. Once the indicator satisfies the other criteria, it should not be omitted because this may be an instance of Barbados raising a 'red flag' for an important SIDS issue.

6. Technically sound- It should be noted that while indicators should always be conceptually sound-in new areas of interest, the demand for an indicator may precede its development.
7. Publishable- Can the data be published?

Challenges

Challenges include the lack of human, technical and financial resources to perpetuate the process. There is also the question of where the Sustainable Development indicators stand in terms of national priority– this is often a moving target. Another challenge is the lack of awareness/ attitudes towards information use emanating from these indicators. The use of varying formats, the frequency in which information is provided, and the accuracy of the information collected are other matters which need to consideration as well.

Way Forward

The way forward includes the Ministry of Environment collaborating with Barbados Statistical Service on Modernization of the Barbados Statistical Service. Regionally, Barbados looks for the development of a set of indicators to measure the proposed common environmental policy for CARICOM Member States.

It is also expected that at some point there will be ‘customized’ indicators for the major work ongoing within the ministry such as, Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Biodiversity.

DISCUSSION

Question:

How is the challenge of providing new types of information needed dealt with?

Response: Mr. Victor Browne, Government of Barbados

Traditionally, most of the indicators collected were economic and employment statistics. The difficulty comes with obtaining the newly required statistics e.g. for the environment sector. This challenge extends to developing a process to organize their collection and analysis.

Comment: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

The environmental sector has information in different areas and there is a need to examine how to retrieve that information as it is needed. The work under

GEF-IWCAM, and the Barbados National Energy Information System will assist especially when tied in with the modernization of the Barbados Statistical Services.

Ms. Singh used water as an example to show how the initial series of sustainable development indicators for water were reviewed by the Technical Working Group to be tailored for a green economic framework.

Question: Mr. Sean Cenac, Government of Antigua

Were any local or international sustainability benchmarks utilized?

Response: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

Barbados looked at the National Strategic Plan with respect to targets and benchmarks, as well as international targets set by international environmental conventions and law. However, where targets do not exist, the Government of Barbados' policy is to maintain or improve upon current levels. The process of rationalizing these new standards where targets or benchmarks do not exist proved to be a valuable learning experience.

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS: A SET OF PRINCIPLES TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Prof. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta
Universidad de Costa Rica

Since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) there has been a concern about how to measure progress towards sustainable development. Assessing Sustainable Development is a complex and difficult task. In order to develop a common ground for Sustainable Development assessment, a set of guiding principles is necessary to make them applicable on global, regional, national and local scale.

In 1996 the first release of the Bellagio Principles was published which facilitated the exchange of experiences. In the following years, several international organizations used them as a reference point for their assessments. Since then, new methods were developed and new problems have emerged. In 2009 the

second release of the Bellagio Principles was set up by a group of experts invited by the International Institute for Sustainable Development(IISD), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The new Bellagio STAMP (The Bellagio SusTainability Assessment and Measurement Principles) replace the old Bellagio Principles:

- as guidelines for the whole of the assessment process including the choice and design of indicators, their interpretation and communication of results
- intended for use in starting and improving assessment activities of community groups, NGOs, corporations, national governments and international institutions, to better focus the assessment on issues identified as priorities

The principles will help realize the full potential of sustainability assessments by guiding them in the terms of:

- **content**– the questions that should be answered in assessments;
- **process**– the way in which assessments should be carried out;
- **scope**– the range of the assessment across the dimensions of time and geography; and
- **impact**– the way to maximize the impact of the assessment on individuals' and policy makers' decisions.

The Bellagio STAMP principles are interrelated and are intended for use as a complete set. Specifically, they are:

1. **Guiding Vision** - Assessment of progress towards sustainable development will be guided by the goal of delivering well-being within the capacity of the biosphere to sustain it for future generations.
2. **Essential Considerations**- Assessment of progress toward sustainable development will consider:
 - the underlying system as a whole and the interactions among its components;
 - dynamics and interactions between current trends and drivers of change;
 - risks, uncertainties, and activities than can have an impact across boundaries; and
 - implications for decision making, including trade-offs and synergies.

3. **Adequate Scope-** Assessment of progress toward sustainable development will adopt:
 - an appropriate time horizon to capture both short and long term effects of current policy decisions and human activities and;
 - an appropriate geographical scope ranging from local to global.
4. **Framework and Indicators-** Assessment of progress toward sustainable development will be based on:
 - a conceptual framework that identifies the domains that core indicators have to cover;
 - the most recent and reliable data, projections and models to infer trends and build scenarios;
 - standardized measurement methods wherever possible, in the interest of comparability; and
 - comparison of indicator values with targets and benchmarks, as possible.
5. **Transparency-** Assessment of progress toward sustainable development will:
 - ensure the data, indicators and results of the assessment are accessible to the public;
 - explain the choices, assumptions and uncertainties determining the results of the assessment;
 - disclose data sources and methods; and
 - disclose all sources of funding and potential conflicts of interest.
6. **Effective Communication-** In the interest of effective communication, to attract the broadest possible audience and minimise the risk of misuse, assessment of progress towards sustainable development will:
 - use clear and plain language;
 - present information in a fair and objective way, that helps to build trust;
 - use innovative visual tools and graphics to aid interpretation and tell a story; and
 - make data available in as much detail as is reliable and practicable.
7. **Broad Participation-** To strengthen its legitimacy and relevance, assessment of progress towards sustainable development should:
 - find appropriate ways to reflect the views of the public, while providing active leadership; and
 - engage early on with users of the assessment so that it best fits their needs.

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8. **Continuity and Capacity-** Assessment of progress towards sustainable development will require:
- repeated measurement;
 - responsiveness to change;
 - investment to develop and maintain adequate capacity; and
 - continuous learning and improvement.

THE PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

An Example: A project in Costa Rica to monitor social progress

The project proposal came from the academia, the University of Costa Rica with broad participation of scientists, from different disciplines, to select core variables and indicators and set up the goals for 2010 and 2015.

To monitor national human development progress two streams of information are used as indicators. They were classified as elementary functions and driving factors. The elementary functions were education, health, employment, housing and social security, while the driving factors of social wellbeing were identified as equity and gender, governance, air quality, opportunity generation, water use, land use and citizen safety. See **Table 3**.

Table 3: Compliance of Project with Bellagio STAMP Principles

PROJECT NAME: MONITORING NATIONAL PROGRESS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - CRI			
Principle	Comply		Observations
	Yes	No	
1. Guiding principles	√		
2. Essential considerations			
a. The whole and its parts	√		
b. Current trends and drivers	√		
c. Risks, uncertainties, cross boundary impacts		√	
d. Implications for decision making	√		
3. Adequate scope			
a. Time horizon	√		
b. Geographical scope		√	
4. Framework and indicators			
a. Conceptual framework	√		

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PROJECT NAME: MONITORING NATIONAL PROGRESS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - CRI			
Principle	Comply		Observations
	Yes	No	
b. Standardized measurement methods	√		
c. Targets	√		
5. Transparency			
a. Inputs and outputs accessible to the public	√		
b. Assumptions and uncertainties explained	√		
c. Data sources and methods disclosed	√		
d. Funding resources and potential conflicts of interest disclosed	√		
6. Effective communication			
a. Attract broadest audience	√		
b. Clear and plain language		√	
c. Build trust	√		
d. Tell a story easily	√		
e. Make relevant data available	√		
f. Guard against misuse and encourage analysis	√		
7. Broad participation			
a. Strengthen legitimacy	√		
b. It is useful for decision making	√		
8. Continuity and capacity			
a. Repeated measurement process		√	
b. Responsiveness to change	√		
c. Investment to keep effort on		√	
d. Continuous learning and improvement	√		

Another example: National Strategy on Climate Change – Ministry of Environment, Costa Rica

The project has two complementary agendas – one at the national level and the other at the international level. Both agendas hinged on economic, social and environmental sustainability of development. More specifically, the national agenda focused on mitigation; adaptation; metrics; capacity building and

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technology transfer; education, culture and public awareness; and financing. The goal is to develop a precise, reliable and verifiable information system.

Metrics

The objective is to have a precise, reliable and verifiable set of indicators built in the national decision making process. The following sectors were identified for the two main pillars of the NSCC – mitigation, and vulnerability and adaptation.

Under this objective a workshop was held in October 2007 to define next steps. Multi stakeholders -more than 80 representatives from different institutions and universities, were invited to discuss and identify main challenges.

As a result, sectors were identified for the two main pillars of the NSCC - mitigation, and vulnerability and adaptation. See **Table 4**.

Table 4: Sectors Identified for the Two Main Pillars of the NSCC - Mitigation, and Vulnerability and Adaptation

MITIGATION	VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION
Energy	Water Resources
Transportation	Agriculture
Agriculture	Fisheries and Coastal Zone
Industry	Health
Solid Waste	Infrastructure
Tourism	Biodiversity
Water Resources	
Land Use Change	

Next, indicators had to be identified and prioritized. After this, indicators were validated and communicated to main stakeholders. Later, weaknesses and strengths in the implementation of indicators were recognized, as well as the need for institutional strengthening and funding allocation.

Outcomes of the workshop included the definition of key criteria to identify indicators, such as:

- Simplicity,
- Measurability,
- Achievability,
- Relevance, and

- Set time frame.

Another outcome was the determination of guiding principles to identify indicators. They are:

- Perceptible to changes,
- Quantifiable,
- Comprehensive,
- Synthetic, and
- Cost-efficient.

As a result of this, the workshop explored possible indicators which will later be developed thoroughly. The task is unfinished and continues.

DISCUSSION

Comment: Ms. Sasha Beth Gottlieb, CEHI

Regarding the evaluation on transparency of data, it is very difficult for tourism dependant companies to publicize some data - for example water quality data. While transparency is appreciated, one can comprehend why some countries chose to not publicize data while working towards improvement.

Response: Prof. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta, Universidad de Costa Rica

The difficulty in releasing information that may have a negative impact on the tourism sector is acknowledged. Nonetheless, it is important that the public has access to information with which it can make reasonable choices. As such, countries must follow the example of Costa Rica and make the political decision to be transparent and honest.

SESSION 3: INTEGRATING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND INDICATORS

INTEGRATING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES INTO NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND INDICATORS– THE CASE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Matthias Bruckner

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

NSDS and climate change

Climate change is a sustainable development issue and not simply an environmental concern. It threatens to erase progress made in achieving sustainable development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The integrated nature of this problem is also reflected in its implications in finding a feasible solution. The complexity of this situation can be seen in the manner that greenhouse gas emissions depend on economic and technological pathways.

Current emissions impact on the living conditions of future generations. However, poor and vulnerable countries are expected to face the greatest burden of climate change, while having contributed the least to the problem.

There are a number of benefits to be realized by addressing climate change in an NSDS. They include the fact that an NSDS:

- provides a natural framework for climate change;
- facilitates the identification and valuation of co-benefits of climate change actions on other sustainable development issues;
- facilitates harnessing co-benefits from actions driven by non-climate objectives; and
- enables country to identify and solve trade-offs between climate change and other objectives.

Examples of co-benefits include increase of energy security via the reduction of emissions from combustion of (imported) fossil fuels. Other co-benefits include improved disaster risk management which addresses not only climate related events such as droughts and floods, but also non-climate related ones like earthquakes and volcanoes; as well as the preservation of forests to maintain natural capital and to sustain livelihoods also increases carbon absorption.

Benefits of addressing climate change in an NSDS include:

- intergenerational equity is at the heart of the concept of sustainable development and of the climate change challenges;
- as global partnership forms an integral part of the sustainable development agenda, an NSDS facilitates the consideration of other countries' concerns;
- as an NSDS is a participatory process, it facilitates the engagement of non-state actors.

Country Experiences

Most countries address climate change in their NSDS. Forty-nine out of 60 countries included in a recent study⁷ by DSD explicitly reference climate change in their NSDS. There are however large variations in type of coverage of climate change issues. Generally, mitigation is covered more extensively than adaptation, but exceptions exist.

There are a number of areas in which countries identify linkages to climate change mitigation. These include:

- Renewable energy,
- Energy efficiency and energy saving,
- Forests,
- Transport,
- Eco-efficiency,
- Waste management,
- Housing, and
- Agriculture.

Countries have also identified linkages to climate change adaptation in the following areas:

⁷ The study available at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/documents/bp12_2008.pdf.

- Disaster management
- Climate observation and forecasting,
- Agriculture,
- Fishery,
- Water management,
- Forests, and
- Economic development.

Some countries also explicitly link climate change to foreign policy, technology transfer, development cooperation, and the international carbon market- in particular Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

A wide range of policy instruments have been included in NSDS, such as:

- Economic (subsidies, tax exemption, ...);
- Regulations, mandatory and voluntary standards, voluntary arrangements with private sector;
- Developing new and revising existing strategies and management practices;
- Providing information;
- Research;
- Awareness campaigns.

Capacity-building

Many countries express a need for capacity-building in this area. As such, UNDESA has just started a project on integrating climate change concerns into NSDS in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project focuses on climate change adaptation; development of methodologies and indicators; and testing methodologies and conducting national capacity-building workshops.

Indicators of sustainable development and climate change

Existing sustainable development indicator sets are a useful point of departure for the derivation of indicators related to climate change. This helps in the identification of important linkages, avoiding duplication of efforts, and may reduce reporting burden for agencies.

Linking climate change indicators to sustainable development indicators also increases coherence among indicator sets. This coherence can further be increased by utilizing existing issue-specific sets of sustainable development

indicators. Examples of these are energy indicators of sustainable development and biodiversity indicators.

It was also noted that countries are using many indicators of sustainable development related to climate change as part of their indicators sets used for monitoring the NSDS. Further to this the identification of additional specific indicators is useful, e.g. climate indicators such as changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. It is also possible that the disaggregating of existing indicators may make them more climate relevant.

Main challenges

One major challenge arises from the fact that the definitions of climate change adaptation are often vague. Furthermore, examination of the concept reveals that people and economies adapt to multiple factors and that climate change is just one of them.

Another difficulty is answering the question, whether all development indicators are climate change related. This arises on scrutinizing the statement that “development is the best form of adaptation.” The answer lies in the fact that there is a natural synergy between climate change impacts and adaptation measures.

Other challenges include

- Underdeveloped methodologies for measuring technology transfer;
- Difficulty in measuring the impact of carbon markets and related mechanisms;
- Incomplete statistical classifications for indicators in some important domains;
- Data unavailability;
- Lack of capacity for indicator computation and indicator analysis
- The time lag between climate change policies and climate change impact.

DISCUSSION

Question: Mr. Ronnie Griffith, Government of Barbados

Are there any implications on the status of health issues as a result of climate change? Were there any linkages?

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Response: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

They are potentially strong linkages between the two. That relationship is a major focus of the sustainable development component of the survey.

Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

The first major project after 1994 SIDS meeting was Caribbean Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project. The genesis and development of the process reflects how that linkage is important. The manner in which sea level rise led to the mainstreaming of the climate change agenda must be considered. It is recommended that information be gathered on what was accomplished and how it could be replicated.

In Guyana, the framing of a national strategy has been given special emphasis within the context of a low carbon economy.

Comment

Every Caribbean SIDS has prioritized adaptation as an important strategy, since it is recognized that no level of sustainable development can occur without the physical survival of any Caribbean nation.

Comment: Mr. Mark Bynoe, CCCCC

The Caribbean has gone a step further by utilizing experimental projects involving modern technologies such as geo-thermal energy and flexible greenhouses. If sustainable development is honestly embraced, especially its alternative energy aspects, there must be an examination of current consumption patterns for oil. Other major industries like tourism should also undertake similar evaluations especially in the context of carbon neutral aspirations.

Comment: Mr. Hopeton Peterson, Government of Jamaica

Poverty is an important driver of environmental degradation. In addressing climate change in the context of sustainable development, there is a significant role for technology in driving overall economic efficiency and in further developing the service industry.

INTEGRATING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES INTO VISION 2030 JAMAICA – NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Hopeton Peterson, Manager
Sustainable Development and Regional Planning
Planning Institute of Jamaica
Government of Jamaica

Background to Plan Formulation

The Planning Development Unit was established with Sector Specialists from the Social and Economic sectors and well as Sustainable Development.

Thirty-two (32) task forces were established each with responsibility for developing a sectoral plan. These task forces liaised and interfaced with the Planning Institute, Government agencies, private sector and civil society. Approximately 20 persons representing a range of professionals, with sector specific knowledge were invited to participate on each Task Force. The Task Forces were divided into eight clusters.

Cross-Cutting issues

With respect to the NDP, the main cross-cutting issues were:

- Energy,
- Environment/Climate Change,
- Hazard Risk Reduction,
- Gender,
- Poverty,
- Disabilities,
- Science, Technology & Innovation, and
- Culture & Values.

Sector Specialists are ultimately responsible for ensuring that cross-cutting issues are integrated into the NDP. Hence, each sector (social, economic, sustainable development) was assigned responsibility for the cross-cutting issues falling under their portfolio. These specialists worked together cross-referencing the sector issues in the various sector plans.

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Mechanisms for integrating Cross-Cutting Issues

1. Each cluster was asked to consider cross-cutting issues presented in other sector plans represented in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Clusters and Relevant Cross Cutting Issues

CLUSTER	CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES
<p>CLUSTER 1</p> <p>Real Sector (agriculture, mining & quarrying, manufacturing, and construction)</p> <p>Energy</p> <p>Environmental & Natural Resources Management/Climate Change</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Gender • Science, Technology & Innovation
<p>CLUSTER 2</p> <p>Macroeconomy & Trade</p> <p>Labour Market and Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Poverty • Energy • Science, Technology, & Innovation
<p>CLUSTER 3</p> <p>Services</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Creative Industries & Sport</p> <p>Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Environment • Climate Change
<p>CLUSTER 4</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Information & Communications Technology</p> <p>Science, Technology & Innovation</p> <p>Creative Industries & Sports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Poverty • Population • Culture & Values
<p>CLUSTER 5</p> <p>Urban & Regional Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment/Climate Change

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CLUSTER	CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES
Tourism Housing Transport Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy
CLUSTER 6 Governance Law & Order Justice Correctional Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Culture & Values • Education & Training • Environment/Climate Change
CLUSTER 7 Poverty Reduction/Eradication Health Social Security Social Welfare & Vulnerable Groups Persons with Disabilities Urban & Regional Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Gender • Education & Training

2. Experts on a range of cross-cutting issues that were identified participated in Task Forces. For example, there was a gender specialist on 7 of the Clusters. These experts had the responsibility for flagging related cross-cutting issues within the cluster and for reporting back to the cluster, and to formulate indicators to adequately reflect the integration of the particular cross-cutting issue.
3. Cross-Cutting Review Panels with expertise on a range of cross-cutting issues were established to review specific clusters. These panels which facilitated the involvement of people from different segments of society in the review of the draft plan included the Internal Review Panel, which consisted of Planning Institute of Jamaica Staff; and the External Review Panel- made up of private and public sector agencies, as well as civil society. These panels operated at the sector level and at the level of the NDP.

4. Thematic Working Groups were also set up to oversee the plan in relation to the various outcomes. These Groups had the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the plan including cross-cutting issues.

Lessons Learnt

Lessons learnt include recognition of the importance of ensuring there is:

- Adequate consultation at all stages and levels;
- Adequate capacity. There was a small number of people co-ordinating a wide range of cross-cutting issues;
- Adequate financial resources– the consultative process was limited by resources availability which in turn affected the team’s ability to address the wide range of cross-cutting issues; and
- Adequate monitoring of all issues.

BARBADOS’ NATIONAL ENERGY INFORMATION SYSTEM (NEIS): NATIONAL ENERGY INDICATORS DEVELOPMENT

**Ms. Claire Corbin, Senior Economist (Ag.)
Ministry of Finance, Investment, Telecommunications and Energy
Government of Barbados**

Background

In December 2008 the Energy Division approached Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) to obtain assistance with the compilation, organization and registration of energy information. The system would be used in a cross-sectoral manner with both the private and public sector involvement.

The Energy information system for Barbados is spearheaded by a technical team which includes government representation from Energy- which includes Natural Resources, Research and Renewable Energy Departments; Economic Affairs; and Statistics. There is also a Statistical Committee with broader membership including the major oil companies - SOL, Esso and Texaco; national oil companies – Barbados National Oil Company Ltd. (BNOC), Barbados National Terminal Company Ltd. (BNTCL), National Petroleum Corporation (NPC), as well as the University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados Manufacturing

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Association (BMA), Barbados Coalition of Service Industries (BCSI) and the Central Bank of Barbados.

After 13 Committee meetings, it was determined that the three pillars of the NEIS are electricity, hydrocarbons and renewable energy.

The major elements of the indicator development will be economic, social and environmental with the main themes being equity, health, production, use, security and atmosphere. Data will be uploaded via the internet or through an intranet.

Specifically, environmental indicators include greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity generated, per capita greenhouse gas emissions and total emissions intensity with respect to GDP. Renewable energy indicators will include:

- Renewable Energy Intensity
- Solar Intensity
- Biomass Intensity
- Bio-Diesel Intensity

Additional indicators are:

- Electricity Affordability
- Hydrocarbon Affordability
- Energy transformation efficiency
- Percent Share of the renewable energy supply in the total energy supply for given period (%)
- Disparities

These indicators measure progress, thereby distinguishing between desirable and undesirable trends. An initial list of 20 indicators for energy has been approved at Cabinet:

1. The share of household income spent on fuel and electricity
2. Household energy use by income and corresponding fuel mix
3. Accidental fatalities per energy produced by the fuel chain
4. Energy use per capita
5. Energy use per unit of GDP
6. Efficiency of energy conservation and distribution
7. Reserve-to-production ratio
8. Industrial energy intensities
9. Agricultural energy intensities

10. Tourism energy intensities
11. Transport energy intensities
12. Other service/commercial energy intensities
13. Fuel shares in energy and electricity
14. Non-carbon energy share in energy and electricity
15. Renewable energy share in energy and electricity
16. End-use-energy prices by fuel and sector
17. Net energy import dependency
18. Stocks of critical fuels per corresponding fuel consumption
19. Propensity to invest in energy; and
20. Green house gas emissions from energy production and use per capita and per unit of GDP

The training program for the National Environmental Information Systems (NEIS) included a 3 day training session at the University of the West Indies (UWI), with additional provision of online training as necessary and an option to revisit and update parameters.

At present, a memorandum of understanding is currently being drafted to facilitate the relationship between the public and private sector in regards to information exchange. It is expected that there will be Cabinet Approval for the Memorandum of Understanding and the Statistical Committee shortly.

The project will start date is scheduled for April 2010, the start of the next financial year.

DISCUSSION

Question: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

In respect of the Barbados situation presented, only indicators related to GDP such as energy intensity were utilized as opposed to other kinds of statistics. Could any other physical factors be used as well?

Response: Clair Corbin, Government of Barbados

At present, economic statistics were mainly utilized. However an effort will be made to expand the scope of the indicators used.

Comment: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

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Barbados' current challenge is not that there is a complete lack of data, but that there is no central repository for data which exists. This information needs to be collated as much as possible. This is important not only to the energy sector, but towards the eventual development of the green economy indicators.

Question: Mr. Charles Brown, Government of Bermuda

Bermuda recently established a Department of Energy. What is the level of collaboration between Energy and the Statistical Department?

Comment: Mr. Bryan Haynes, Government of Barbados

Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Statistical Services started a long time ago. This relationship includes being involved with several committees on analyzing indicators - particularly in relation to the green economy. Thus there was an efficient and effective collaboration between Energy and the Barbados Statistical Service.

Comment: Mr. Hopeton Peterson, Government of Jamaica

There is a need to examine structures to improve environmental data collection. For instance, where water quality data is collected in a project setting, data collection ends with the project. With the exception of Trinidad, other territories including Jamaica have experience problems in the collection of environmental data. It was noted that in Jamaica, the experience in the collection of environmental data is that it can be a very physical or very technical process.

Question: Ms. Beverly Lugay, UNECLAC

How does the Caribbean value environmental resources such as those relating to the damage done to coral reefs?

Response: Mr. Hopeton Peterson, Government of Jamaica

At present, the Caribbean relies heavily on qualitative measures. Quantitative methodologies exist but are not widely used in the region. As a result of this, baseline data is lacking. Despite this, with the requisite expertise and time it is possible to come up with a clear indigenous methodology.

The OECS provides training in coastal assessment with a focus on hurricane damage.

Comment: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

NSDS should have targets. It provides a reference point in the absence of monetary target valuations.

Comments: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

There is a need to realize the value in having a core set of quality collective standards/targets. The world, post the Kyoto Protocol had focused on emission caps.

THE MARRAKECH PROCESS ON A TEN-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION: AN OVERVIEW

**Mr. Mark Griffith, Senior Programmer
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Contextual Framework

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) discussion centered on unsustainable patterns on consumption and production relevant to developed countries:

The major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment [is] the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances." - Agenda 21 (Chap. 4.3), Earth Summit, Rio 1992:

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) continued the same trend:

"Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource based of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirement for, sustainable development." - JPOI, para. 14

"Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmesto accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate,

delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries," - JPOI, para. 15

Definition of SCP

SCP is "the use of services and related products which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life-cycle so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations" - CSD International Work Programme.,1995.

There are three elements of the definition:

1. resource efficiencies and sustainability of use of natural resources;
2. production processes; and
3. reduction in resource degradation, pollution and waste over the life-cycle

A very relevant question is whether it is possible to develop a set of indicators to measure these elements. While this is possible generally speaking, in the Caribbean the information may not necessarily exist.

The Marrakech Process

The Marrakech Process is a global informal multi-stakeholder expert process to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and to support the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP). It was launched in 2003.

It can be argued that international communities have developed mechanisms to allow them to shift their responsibility of not addressing the key issues relating the SCP. The Marrakech Process is set up to undertake the following tasks:

- a. Organizing regional consultations to promote awareness and identify priorities and needs for SCP;
- b. Helping build regional programmes and implementation mechanisms with regional, sub-regional and national ownership, to be endorsed by the relevant regional institutions;

- c. Implementing concrete projects and programmes on the regional, national and local levels to develop and/or improve SCP tools and methodologies...;
- d. Evaluating progress, exchanging information and encouraging international cooperation and coordination, through the international review meetings;
- e. Securing and incorporating multi-stakeholder inputs on the elaboration of a 10YFP to be submitted as input to the CSD18/19.

The Marrakech Process: Task Forces

The Task Forces of the Marrakech Process are:

1. cooperation with Africa
2. sustainable products
3. sustainable lifestyles
4. sustainable public procurement
5. sustainable tourism
6. sustainable buildings and construction
7. education for sustainable consumption

Preparation in Latin America and the Caribbean

At the regional level there have been five consultations for Latin American and Caribbean countries. Previous meetings were held in Argentina, 2003; Nicaragua, 2003 and 2005 and Brazil, 2007. The fifth is currently taking place in Cartagena, Colombia. The output of these consultations will be the development of an Action Plan on SCP adopted by the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean.

As we move for in this process there is a need to constantly ask the questions:

- what is required to measure the elements of the 10 Year Framework on SCP; and
- what are the implications for national development?

DISCUSSION

Comment: Mr. Hopeton Peterson, Government of Jamaica

SCP patterns are not well ventilated in the planning process. It is a challenge to effect change in production and consumption patterns given the capitalistic behavior displayed by citizens.

Comment: Dr. Mark Griffith, UNEP

For successful positive changes in consumption and production patterns, behavioral changes must be addressed incrementally on an individual and national level in areas like consumption of fossil fuels. A State cannot speak to sustainable development without changing in this regard.

Comment: Vidiah Ramkhelawan, Government of Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad has considered SCP and agrees that it all depends on values and attitudes. There must be consideration of the impact of doing business as usual with respect to natural resources and the standard of living, versus making lifestyle changes for the preservation of natural resources, and a better standard of living in the future.

Question: Mr. Brian Haynes, Government of Barbados

How do you address the desire for wealth creation in relation to the need for sustainable development?

Response: Dr. Mark Griffith, UNEP

A balance must be struck regarding the use of resources. It is a decision of national significance, particularly in this era where the green economy has taken precedence.

Comment: Mr. Brian Haynes, Government of Barbados

There is a dichotomy between macro and micro levels - the issue goes beyond the Government to the market.

Comment: Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNDESA

In preparation of the Guideline for responses in the context of SIDS, it was recognized that in many cases, SIDS are already taking some positive action with respect to SCP. In sectors such as waste, large gains have been achieved by way of the application of the 3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle. There has also been some movement in the area food security where some countries have started to promote the consumption of locally grown food.

While the results may not be outstanding, steady gains can be observed. Public awareness can only go so far. Real change is contingent on the ability to induce fundamental behavioral changes in target groups.

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Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

There is a basic contradiction in the attainment of the goals of SCP while operating in a highly competitive environment promoted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) which facilitates environmental damage. Economists had predicted that in an unbridled free market system, there will always be issues of this nature.

Comment: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

Consumption is also impacted upon by measures used to solve global environmental problems. For instance, when the United Kingdom committed to reducing its emissions reduction, as emission figures went down, consumption figures traveled in the opposite direction.

Comment: Mr. Mark Bynoe, CCCCC

In times of crisis, the Caribbean has looked towards alternative solutions, for instance, with the increase in oil prices. It is recognized that Governments may be required to use a strong arm to implement the necessary measures on a national level. These issues should also be analyzed from a regional perspective.

SESSION 4: INSTITUTIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Keneti Faulalo
UNDESA

Both the JPOI and the MSI provide sound guidance for states which wish to develop the ability to monitor the sustainable development strategies that they are currently implementing or wish to in the future.

Several sections of the JPOI provide useful support in this regard such as Chapter XI, Section H: Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable development at the national level,

162. It is suggested that States should:

- a) Continue to promote coherent and coordinated approaches ...establishment or strengthening of existing authorities and mechanisms necessary for policy-making, coordination and implementation and enforcement of laws;

163. All countries should promote sustainable development at the national level by, inter alia, enacting and enforcing clear and effective laws that support sustainable development.

All countries should strengthen governmental institutions, including by providing necessary infrastructure and by promoting transparency, accountability and fair administrative and judicial institutions.

164. All countries should also promote public participation, including through measures that provide access to information regarding legislation, regulations, activities, policies and programmes. They should also foster full public participation in sustainable development policy formulation and

implementation. Women should be able to participate fully and equally in policy formulation and decision -making.

165. Further promote the establishment or enhancement of sustainable development councils and/or coordination structures at the national level, including at the local level, in order to provide a high-level focus on sustainable development. In that context, multi-stakeholder participation should be promoted.

The references to “coherent and coordinated approaches” and “policy formulation and implementation” references tools such as NSDS and other overarching policy documents which direct and guide sustainable development, and which can be used to effect monitoring. Also worthy of note are terms such as “existing authorities and mechanisms” which allude to tools such as sustainable development councils, committees and similar opportunities where relevant stakeholders can interact. The sentiment behind these mechanisms is also reinforced by the multiple references to terms such as transparency, public participation, and access to information.

Similar guidance is available from the MSI. Again, continual references to aspects that highlight participation, partnerships and legislative frameworks are made. These can be seen in the following two sections:

- Chapter XI _ Section I: Participation of Major Groups:
 - 168. Enhance partnerships between governmental and non - governmental actors,
 - 170. Promote and support youth participation for example, supporting local youth councils or their equivalent,
Promote and support youth participation for example, supporting local youth councils or their equivalent,
- Chapter XVI: National and Regional Enabling Environments:
 - 74 d. Improve legislative, administrative and institutional structures, and facilitate the participation of civil society in all sustainable development initiatives;

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- 74 e. Create and empower sustainable development task forces, or their equivalent, to function as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies
- 74 f. Rationalize legislation that affects sustainable development at the national level, where appropriate, improve coordination between legislative frameworks and develop guidelines for those who must carry out legislative objectives;

While it is recognized that there is no one standard (no size fits all) approach, there are a number of desirable components that characterize examples considered as best practice. These advantageous elements include:

- Public participation- this is required from a number of stakeholders to be effective, and would include Government Agencies, Civil Society partners, Youth, Women, and Private Sector entities;
- Multi-Disciplinary/Multi-Sector nature; and
- Coordination, Transparency, Accountability.

Public participation is one of the most desirable traits, and is certainly included in all examples of best practice. With respect to the presentations which have been delivered in this work-shop, there is evidence that several countries have Sustainable Development Councils with supporting Committees. However there is not a significant amount of evidence that wider engagement - public participation, is being utilized to its fullest potential. What comes through very clearly though is that, on the whole, other elements have been addressed and incorporated. A brief summary of the information presented would indicate that:

- Predominantly Government Agencies have been involved in the process;
- Gender issues have been recognized;
- Multi-Disciplinary/Sector approaches have been widely utilized;
- Levels of coordination have been generally good. Leading Agencies tend to be mostly Environment Agencies or Development Planning Agencies;
- There is transparency & accountability - challenges are mounted when impact on economic activities are a consideration; and
- Evidence has been shown regarding the use of Risk Assessment & Risk Management.

DISCUSSION

Comments: Ms. Sasha Beth Gottlieb, CEHI and Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNDESA

The GEF-IWCAM Project utilizes committees that are similar to sustainable development councils. Working with that inter-sectoral committee was challenging.

In the Pacific islands tension was exhibited when the countries formed multi-sectoral agencies to work towards public reform.

Comment: Mr. Keith Nicholls, OECS

When inter-sectoral committees were first introduced there was significant discussion and utilization of the concept. However, in countries like St Lucia, Dominica and Grenada, these committees fell apart despite having very vibrant launches. In many instances they were not started by, or included government. They therefore had neither the authority to advise nor influence government in any capacity. As a result, these committees disintegrated because they were not sanctioned mechanisms within the wider system.

Caribbean nations need to pay more attention to implementation of the process, instead of focusing solely on reporting. There is a need to look at the barriers to implementation and solutions to these barriers. Until those barriers are addressed there will be no progress. SIDS of the region should combine their efforts in a bid to make progress.

At present the implementation of processes and programs relevant to sustainability can only succeed if there is a legal framework to provide legitimacy and standing. Effective institutional frameworks are also required.

Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

There have been many projects in the Caribbean with significant potential where the benefits anticipated did not materialize. Based on this occurrence, there seems to be some discrepancy between communication and coordination.

There is a need to focus on national efforts and beyond. The formation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has helped but reviews like this EGM which look at impacts could also be beneficial. Regardless of the

institutional framework or the policy approach adopted, certain principles which lead to sustainable development must be at the forefront of efforts made.

Comment: Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNDESA

A regional versus national balance is crucial. This perspective allows awareness of where the decision-making process sits at both levels. In many cases national bodies do not wish to relinquish any authority to regional entities. This retards the process.

Comment: Mr. Keith Nicholls, OECS

The new OECS Treaty will tighten decision making of the Member States. Decision taken by the authority will be enshrined in documents. This gives states the ability to combine resources.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING VISION 2020

**Ms. Vidiah Ramkhelawan, Director
Ministry of Planning, Housing & the Environment
Government of Trinidad and Tobago**

BUILDING THE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK- TARGETS AND INDICATORS

Sources for Indicators and Targets

This process of building baseline databases began with the National Strategy. It was recognized at that time that there was an absence of critical information and there was a need for a strong measurement framework. Primarily international bench marks set by international conventions, and decisions arising out of meetings, global ranking reports were used. These included:

- Millennium Development Goals;
- Agenda 21;
- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- World summit on Sustainable Development;
- Human development Index;
- Global Competitiveness Reports;
- World Bank – World Development Indicators;

- National Centre for Education Statistics;
- World Tourism Organisation; and
- Governance Matters;

Both macro and goal specific indicators are used taking into account that “as we pursue our goals we must measure our performance and our relative progress... as development takes place some of the measures would have to be changed as the objectives are met...” NSP Pg.82.

Challenges

Some of the challenges of building a measurement framework include the collection of data. Another is making the shift from output to outcomes, measuring and reporting, and institutionalizing a measurement culture– i.e. changing public sector management to a result oriented approach.

There is also the problem of capacity deficiency. There is a need for training in Results Based Management (RBM) including monitoring, evaluation, data collection and management, and analyzing findings within central and line agencies.

Way forward- Managing for Development Results- Institutionalizing Monitoring and Evaluation

New public sector management monitors and evaluates development interventions and uses that information to improve decision making, thereby ensuring the achievement of development goals. In such instances the focus is on achieving outcomes/impact of interventions, rather than focusing on output. This permits managers to identify and take action to correct weaknesses. In effect, what gets measured gets done.

2009-2010

In the new institutional framework, with the Prime Minister’s Office having overarching responsibility for monitoring and evaluation. The Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee will seek:

- To provide strategic guidance with respect to the development of a monitoring and evaluation policy for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;
- To develop a framework and policy guidelines for the operation of monitoring and evaluation in conjunction with other strategic management systems;

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- To develop a strategy to build capacity to undertake monitoring and evaluation; and
- To develop a strategy to create a monitoring and evaluation culture.

The Committee will comprise of representatives from:

- Ministry of Planning Housing and the Environment - responsibility for monitoring and evaluation in the public sector
- Ministry of Social Development - existing monitoring and evaluation framework for the social sector, (output data)
- Office of the Prime Minister Reporting responsibility to the PM, he is the champion for monitoring and evaluation in the public sector
- Ministry of Finance Budgeting for results – Minister of Finance in this year’s budget speech reiterates the importance of results approach to finance
- Tobago House Of Assembly inclusion and similar governance

With the new institutional framework, staff will monitor the implementation of the Vision 2020 Plan. This monitoring and evaluation will be done across the public sector. Training and building capacity will be an integral part of the process.

It will also seek to undertake the following reports, plans and programmes:

- Programme Activity Architecture (Alignment of sectors/ministries to Vision 2020)
- Refinement of Targets, Indicators, Benchmarks, Reporting framework
- Progress Report 2010
- Evaluation 2007-2010 Operational Plan
- Engagement with Stakeholders on the 2011-2015 Operational Plan
- Drafting 2011-2015 Operational Plan

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MODERNIZATION PROJECT OF THE BARBADOS STATISTICAL SERVICE PROJECT

Mrs. Angela Hunte, Director

Barbados Statistical Service

**Ministry of Economic Affairs, Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and
Commerce, Government of Barbados**

Rationale for Project

Statistics informs planning, policy-making and implementation, evaluation of policy interventions and strategies, and decision-making in all spheres of life. In addition, Barbados has recognized and accepted the need for evidence-based policy making and implementation.

Discussions with various stakeholders revealed certain deficiencies in the National Statistical Service and issues relating to the timely delivery of statistical products. These included, *inter alia*;

- a need for adequate coordination between the Barbados Statistical Service (BSS) and the various government agencies which either provide data to the department or which produced various statistics;
- the need to improve data quality by dealing with the problem of low response rates to Establishment Surveys;
- the need for a new/revised legal framework;
- the need to be more customer-focused and to expand the current range of products to satisfy customer demand; and
- the need for more detailed information and new formats in which data should be presented.

Consequently, this IADB funded Project was developed to address these challenges and concerns. The Loan Agreement was signed on December 11, 2008 by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the project are:

1. To strengthen the BSS' ability to provide relevant, timely and quality Economic and Social Statistics; and
2. To establish the leadership of the BSS in the area of Statistics within the Public Sector.

Beneficiaries of the Project

The country as a whole stands to benefit. Specifically, the public and private sector will benefit by having timely, reliable and quality statistics from improved governance for planning, policy-making, analysis, decision-making and implementation, and evaluation of projects.

Statistical information will also be available to donor agencies, as well as other international and regional organizations. Researchers, universities, students, non-governmental organization and the public in general will also be able to access these statistical products.

Components of Project

The six components of the project are:

A. Component 1: A new or revised legal framework

This component is meant to:

- strengthen the BSS' ability to perform its duties more effectively;
- strengthen the technical and administrative autonomy of the BSS;
- broaden the institutional setting to include other statistics producing units of agencies and ministries, while asserting the BSS' role as leader of a wider statistical system;
- enhance the internal and external accountability of the BSS and other statistics producing units in agencies and ministries;
- better allow for compliance by both those agencies responsible for collecting information and those agents or agencies expected to provide information;
- clarify the scope of data protection; and
- make it more apparent that the BSS has the responsibility for making information more accessible to users.

When the new legal framework is adopted (or a new Act is passed) a Statistical Council (SC) will be institutionalized. The SC will replace the Statistical Steering Committee.

B. Component 2: Statistics Network

This component deals with the establishment of a Statistical Network. It is intended to provide assistance for the creation of a network of agencies involved in statistics production. The component is meant to improve cooperation and coordinate the national statistics program. This coordination will seek to:

- Set priorities for statistical products;
- ensure that standardized/harmonized concepts, definitions, procedures and working methodologies are used by all agencies; and
- establish clear and formal communication channels between agencies and the BSS.

National Statistical System

The BSS will play a coordinating role with the various units which will not only supply data to the BSS, but receive statistical information and assistance from the BSS. These units include agencies such as:

- Tourism,
- Agriculture,
- Housing,
- Labor,
- Customs and immigration,
- Registration,
- Central Bank,
- Police,
- Energy,
- Environment,
- Education,
- Health, and
- International business.

C. Component 3: Institutional Re-engineering

Based on the assessment of the institution, the options for reform of the managerial and administrative performance will be considered. The IADB project will support the implementation of the selected option.

D. Component 4: Enhancement of Statistical Products

This component seeks to improve:

- the technical capacity of the BSS and other agencies to collect, process and disseminate data; and

- the production and dissemination of key Social and Economic Statistics.

E. Component 5: Human Capacity

The Human Capacity Component will support the creation and implementation of a Human Resource Management System and any necessary regulatory reforms. It will also provide to the BSS and other agencies with academic and on-the-job technical training

F. Component 6: Technical Infrastructure & Public Outreach

This component will be used to:

- upgrade the information technology of the BSS and relevant agencies—specifically the upgrade of hardware and software, and the establishment of an intranet and network with agencies which provide data to the BSS; and
- to facilitate dissemination of statistics to the public which will include the enhancement of the BSS Website

Structure for Project Execution

With respect to execution of the project, a Statistical Steering Committee (SSC) was established to coordinate and monitor the project and approve the Annual Operating Plan. The relevant SSC members will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of technical assistance activities financed by the Project within their agencies.

The SSC comprises representatives of public and private sector agencies and is chaired by the Director of Statistical Services. The Committee meets on a regular basis. Provision has also been made for setting up of technical sub-committees to discuss various aspects of statistics, for example, agriculture and tourism.

The Project Coordinating Unit has been set up and comprises:

1. a Project Coordinator,
2. a Senior Accountant,
3. a Project Officer, and
4. a Clerk/Typist.

Project Implementation

The Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) has strived to ensure that the conditions specified by their Development Partner were met so that funds could be drawn

down. The Procurement Consultant has been hired and will train staff of the PCU in procurement matters.

Discussions are currently being held with stakeholders. The feedback will be used to prepare Terms of Reference for Consulting Agency hired to assist in the implementation of the Project. This will be a two stage process where Package 1 will include Components 1 to 5, and Package 2 will consist of Component 6

Execution Mechanisms

The three main execution mechanisms are:

1. The Annual Operating Plan- containing targets, budget, source of financing;
2. The Procurement Plan- containing schedule for procurement of goods and services; and
3. The Operating Manual- containing detailed Project execution procedures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out through various technical and financial reports, annual project review meetings, independent mid-term & final evaluations, and external auditing by auditors approved by the IADB.

Conclusion

The project, which is supported at the highest level of Government, will lead to the provision of timely, relevant, and quality statistics required by users; and a general improvement in technical capacity and procedures of the National Statistical System. It will also be beneficial to the public and private sectors, and members of the public.

Success will depend on the full cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

Question: Decima Corea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

How will the BSS ensure increased response rates by agencies providing data and statistics?

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Comment: Mrs. Angela Hunte, Government of Barbados

The BSS has utilized legal provisions provided under the Barbados Statistical Act to address these measures and has taken a few agencies to court for non-compliance. The penalty imposed for breach of the relevant provision is a fine of just over BDS\$200.00. As the penalty is low it is not effective as a deterrent. Further to this a significant drawback of bringing an action for non-compliance is that it is time consuming.

The main mechanism engaged is public awareness. The BSS holds a seminar explaining its responsibilities, how they are carried out and the importance of the provision of information by stakeholders. The aim is to show how statistics help stakeholders and its increasing importance at the highest levels of government.

Question: Mr. Matthias Bruckner, UNDESA

Was the BSS involved in planning and the provision of indicators towards the achievement of Goal 4 of the National Strategic Plan?

Response: Mrs. Angela Hunte and Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

The BSS provides data and the analysis is done by the planning institution. However overall, in respect of the National Strategic Plan, these efforts were conducted as part of a partnership. The BSS sits on a steering committee which includes the Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs - the agencies with the overarching responsibility for the National Strategic Plan, and was a major partner both in the development of the National Indicators of Sustainable Development and the Green Economy Indicators.

Question: Dr. Mark Griffith, UNEP

What are the BSS' resource needs in terms of the collection of all environmental data? Does BSS have any regional partnerships?

Response: Mrs. Angela Hunte, Government of Barbados

The BSS is not responsible for all tasks dealing with statistics and indicators. The organization works with the specialist agencies which possess the capacity to do their specialized work. This information is fed into the BSS.

BSS is part of a regional mechanism that has an established regional statistical work program. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been doing a lot of training in the region in an effort to build capacity in statistical offices.

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Comment: Hortense Fraser, The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

At present CARICOM has identified a list of core indicators for Member States. The mechanism for the collection of data is implemented nationally. However, some countries have indicated that there is some disconnect between line ministries and the statistical offices.

Question: Mr. Charles Brown, Government of Bermuda.

Has the BSS captured data pointing to SCP?

Response: Ms. Amrikha Singh, Government of Barbados

In Barbados SCP spans many sectors that partner with the BSS, *inter alia*, agriculture, waste management, energy and commerce. Consequently there is in existence, data and indicators useful for SCP analysis. We nonetheless look forward to the strengthening of the system and foresee the need to access resources to fund the changing demands on the national information network.

Comment: Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Government of Guyana

There are two main problems:

1. first, that issues are very loosely defined and are not specific enough; and
2. second, there are variances in the nature and character of what needs to be measured.

The importance of environmental statistics should be convincingly sold to government as this will lead to greater buy-in among a wide range of stakeholders.

SESSION 5: POLICY OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS

Participants discussed various options that SIDS in the region wanted to consider in the process of selecting and institutionalizing indicators for measuring progress of national sustainable development strategies and plans. They discussed the current situation, where they wanted to be in the future, and the challenges and constraints they face in realising their goals in terms of NSDS, indicators and institutional mechanisms. The following represents the output of that discussion.⁸

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NSDS)

Vision – Where they want to go

In respect of NSDS participants of the EGM expressed a desire to attain full understanding of NSDS as well as the process involved in developing them. It is hoped that countries in the region would move towards the formulation of National Development Plans based on Sustainable Development principles; the development of sound operational plans; and the implementation of Sustainable Development Plans.

Participants also wish to work towards non-partisan ownership of Sustainable Development policies; and the empowerment of civil society groups involved in the process.

The Current Situation

Many Caribbean nations have no NSDS. However, there is an array of other strategies and plans that have been adopted by governments within the region. In fact, various forms of plans related to Sustainable Development can be found, but under different titles. Many of them contain elements of Sustainable Development that are not recognized as such.

⁸ See Appendix 5 for The EGM Assessment of the Current Situation, Where They Want To Be, and Barriers To Success

There is no comprehensive understanding of what an NSDS is by some countries; and there is a general lack of clarity concerning Sustainable Development and environmental issues in the region. This is not surprising, considering that the terms “Sustainable Development” and the “Environment” are sometimes used interchangeably.

Since different priorities exist nationally within the region, NSDS are country-specific in nature. In addition it is noted that considerable effort is channelled into the preparation of plans, but this does not flow through to the implementation phase.

Finally, while the participation of stakeholders is facilitated during the planning phase, it is limited during implementation stage.

Challenges and Constraints

In many countries there is no clear acceptance at the policy level that Sustainable Development is a priority. It follows as a consequence major challenges to the process in the Caribbean include the absence of:

- implementation plans;
- effective participation by stakeholders and people-focused strategies;
- non-partisan ownership of plans;
- awareness and understanding by public at large of Sustainable development; and
- adequate financial and human resources.

With respect to the lack of financial resources, the matter of accessing long term financing for the process must receive special attention from national and international sources.

INDICATORS

Vision – Where they want to go

Representatives of regional organisations and governments believe that an accepted set of indicators that guide national and regional Sustainable Development should be developed. As such they wish to develop an information management system that promotes efficiency, is user-friendly, accessible, and allows for clear interpretation.

There was a call for the development of Sustainable Development indicators and programmes to enhanced awareness of indicators of Sustainable Development.

The Current Situation

Some Caribbean nations already have advanced indicators programs in place, while others are in the process of developing a more limited Sustainable Development indicators program. There are also some countries with existing strong national statistics framework which can be integrated into the sustainable development mechanism.

In many of the systems in place there is an absence of critical Sustainable Development data, such as data on natural resources and certain aspects regarding social statistics. The country representatives also indicated that the analysis of data in many countries is currently weak. However, traditional strengths tend to be in the area of collection and analysis of economic statistical data.

Finally, the burden associated with reporting was noted as a major issue.

Challenges and Constraints

With respect to indicators a recognised challenge is the absence of data and information systems. In addition to this, where they are in existence, they often cannot be regarded as user-friendly.

Other important points of concern include the depth of indicators analysis, and the fact that a number of the national statistical systems in the region need strengthening initiative in respect of Sustainable Development data.

INSTITUTIONS

Vision – Where they want to go

The group agreed that countries should work towards the development of effective governance structures for Sustainable Development at the national and regional levels. They also called for the establishment of a central planning unit for Sustainable Development, and coordinated implementation and integrated planning. Other elements of institutional changes EGM participants wish to see in place in the future include:

- empowered civil society groups;

- the formulation of Sustainable Development indicators by various agencies; and
- the rationalization of the roles of Sustainable Development councils versus national Statistical Offices.

With respect to the legal framework for institutions, EGM participants would like to see a greater appreciation by nations for the regional legal framework. They also would like to see legislation that is harmonized, and fully coherent with clear responsibilities between agencies to remove gaps, overlaps and conflicts.

The Current Situation

The EGM participants believe that currently, legislative frameworks and the governance structures need to be strengthened. With respect to the former, weak enforcement was flagged as an issue.

Challenges and Constraints

The EGM listed the following as barriers to achieving goals of Sustainable Development experienced in relevant institutions:

- Weak existing governance structure;
- Institutional problems specific to the Caribbean;
- Lack the capacity to fully utilize the established legislative frameworks;
- Poor Enforcement of existing legislative framework;
- Weak Enforcement capacity and a lack of clarity of administrative jurisdiction;
- Lack of political will;
- Lack of clarity with respect to where decision making with respect to Sustainable Development sits;
- Poor management information systems, if any;
- Uncertainty as to whether Sustainable Development principles are a part of decision making;
- No link between Sustainable Development decision making linked and budget decisions;
- Insufficient Inter-agency collaboration;
- Low level of public-private partnerships focussed on implementation;

- Limited ability of national statistical systems to collect and make accessible Sustainable Development data to stakeholders;
- Limited capacity to analyze data for Sustainable Development decision-making;
- Limited ability of statistical departments to manage Sustainable Development related data; and
- Lack of a central depository for Sustainable Development data and information.

POLICY OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants of the EGM proposed the following policy options and recommendations.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Indicator Selection

1. To alleviate the burden on Member States given the amount, complexity, and resource-intensive nature of reporting, a standard reporting format for various reports could be identified. An example is the comprehensive annual report on the Caribbean inclusive of relevant indicators produced by UNECLAC, which can be used to report on Sustainable Development. UNECLAC is currently considering using this report as a way to improve the current situation.
2. In streamlining multiple reporting instruments, precautions must be taken to ensure that unique, country specific issues are highlighted in an effective manner.
3. Currently, in reference to SIDS, as much as 80% of GEF resources (in the Pacific) go to reporting on MEAs. All indications show that a similar situation exists in the Caribbean. Participants agreed that in general a greater emphasis needs to be placed on implementation of NSDS as opposed to simply reporting. Furthermore if MEA and NSDS reporting are harmonized, countries may receive resources for NSDS implementation from the facilities available to MEAs.
4. The role of NSDS and the use of associated indicators must be examined in reference to the MSI and BPOA. This is especially important for the preparation of SIDS for the 5 year review of the MSI.

5. The way forward could include an integrated database with CEHI's regional database focussing on land and water, being highlighted as a best case example. Furthermore, it is imperative that national statistical departments be strengthened in order to ensure consistent availability of information.

6. The role of NCSDs was highlighted as important since they provide a focus and ensure that all actors are involved in the pursuing and attaining the goals of Sustainable Development.

Indicators

7. An accepted set of indicators that guide national and regional Sustainable Development should be developed. As such, an information management system that promotes efficiency, is user-friendly, accessible, and allows for clear interpretation should be developed.

8. A precise, reliable and verifiable set of indicators built into the national decision-making process would go a long way to tracking implementation. Monitoring is critical for effective implementation of an NSDS since without monitoring, the NSDS will only be a list of good intentions.

Integrating Cross-Cutting Issues into Sustainable Development Strategies

9. There is a need to work towards non-partisan ownership of Sustainable Development policies, build intergovernmental and agency linkages, and bolster the inclusion of civil society in the process. There is still much scope to pursue this and it will increase the range of partners and foster buy-in.

10. In countries where there is an absence of national guidelines and targets, it is difficult to determine acceptable thresholds for specific indicators. In such instances, international standards can be utilized as an interim measure.

11. A comprehensive legal framework is of great importance not only in respect of environmental issues, but in the creation of a mechanism for the integration of those issues into the national development policy framework. Further to this, within that framework, it is vital that cross-cutting issues, such as those on gender, be identified and effectively integrated through-out all efforts.

12. There is a need to address the scope for projects to be used as a facility to promote more sustained and lasting effects.

13. A regional mechanism or hub to facilitate compilation and reporting on successful national approaches, key regional integration processes such as the CSME, the CCJ, as well as useful regional initiatives such as the work of UNECLAC, should be developed.

For instance, the results of the EGM and the various country experiences should be packaged as a best practice, documented and institutionalized. Furthermore, UNDESA should revive and provide the SIDNET platform as a mechanism to assist in the promotion and mainstreaming of Sustainable Development best practices by way of the establishment of regional SIDS hubs. Via this facility, virtual classroom could be established to allow the exchange of ideas and best practices between SIDS and SIDS regions with various SIDS experts facilitating these exercises.

14. There must be fuller ventilation of SCP in the regional planning process. With respect to SIDS, some gains are being registered in the areas of waste management and food security. However real change is contingent on achieving fundamental behavioural changes in target groups. The region needs to look at wholistic interventions including market measures to address escalating consumption patterns.

15. With reference to integrating the issue of climate change into NSDS, Caribbean SIDS have prioritized adaptation as an important strategy, since it is recognized that no level of sustainable development can occur without the physical survival of any Caribbean nation.

16. There is a vital need to employ measures to strengthen NCSDs via improved organizational and administrative structures, as well as through an improved overall governance process.

CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING STATEMENT

Ms. Amrikha Singh, Environmental Officer
Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage
Government of Barbados

Ms. Singh commended all attendees for the rich discussion and high levels of participation. There was a great level of interest in the agenda and participants were honest and open in the sharing of experiences.

She noted that UNDESA has always been an excellent partner and it was a pleasure working with Mr. Faulalo and Mr. Bruckner on the Expert Working Group meeting and the continued work towards the 15 year review of Barbados Programme of Action.

Ms. Singh thanked the participants and told them that it was a pleasure to work with them. She also recognized the Ministry of Environment's team for their efforts towards making the Expert Working Group Meeting a success.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANTS

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**APPENDIX 2: WELCOME REMARKS, MR. PHILIP
CROSS, UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR
(ACTING), AND REPRESENTATIVE, INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)**

Mr. Lionel Weekes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage; other Representatives of the Government of Barbados; Mr. Keneti Faulalo, Interregional Advisor on Small Island Developing States, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other United Nations Colleagues; participants; specially invited guests; ladies and gentlemen. Good morning!

In my capacity as Acting UN Resident Coordinator, I am very pleased to welcome you to Barbados, United Nations House, and to this Expert Group meeting titled *“Institutionalizing Sustainable Development Indicators for Measuring Progress of National Strategies”* which is being hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage, Government of Barbados, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development.

On behalf of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, who is currently on an overseas assignment, and the entire United Nations Subregional Team (UNST) for Barbados and the OECS, I would like to thank the Government of Barbados for collaborating with UNDESA to organize and host this very important session in Barbados. Indeed, this re-affirms the commitment of the Government of Barbados to promote sustainable development, and implement the agreed international and national commitments to see sustainable development the goals realized.

National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) are critical to advance sustainable development goals. As you know, sustainable development is the foundation of the work of the entire United Nations family as it sets the agenda for our interventions. It is therefore obligatory for the UN to support governments’ efforts towards developing and implementing National Sustainable Development Strategies, and also assist countries to improve their sustainable development monitoring systems.

National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) can also play an essential role in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) and the Barbados Program of Action on sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the national level. A NSDS provides a unified framework for advancing sustainable development goals objectives of SIDS identified individually at the national level and jointly at the international level.

For the UN System, there is a clear link between the achievement of sustainable development goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The overarching goal of the UN System in Barbados and the OECS is to support the achievement of the MDGs in Barbados and the OECS, through building resilience to reduce social, economic and environmental vulnerability using a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). This reflects a shared mandate of supporting achievements of the MDGs.

Subregional governments have committed to achieving the MDGs as part of the national, subregional and global commitments. These SIDS have demonstrated some degree of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by incorporating them into their national development plans. The lack of accurate data in many of these countries, however, has constrained formulation of evidence-based policies and accurate assessment of progress, relevant for achievement of MDGs as well as the development of national strategies for sustainable development.

Barbados is indeed one of the countries highly committed to advancing sustainable development. Within this context, the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage is taking the lead for monitoring the goal on “Building a Green Economy – Strengthening the Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment”.

“Building a Green Economy” calls for increasing the efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources as well as for reducing resource degradation.

This Expert Group meeting, which brings together experts from across the Latin America and Caribbean region, expects to produce a number of options that countries in the process of selecting and institutionalizing indicators for measuring progress of national sustainable development strategies and plans may want to consider.

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The UN System in Barbados and the OECS supports this initiative, and we wish you every success in your deliberations. We look forward to hearing how the outcomes can be incorporated into our work in the subregion.

I thank you.

APPENDIX 3: WELCOME REMARKS, MR. KENETI FAULALO, INTERREGIONAL ADVISOR ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, UNDESA

Mr. Philip Cross, acting United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Lionel Weekes, PS, Water Resources and Drainage, Government of Barbados, Country Participants, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am honored to say a few words on behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in this very important Expert Group Meeting on “Institutionalizing sustainable development indicators for measuring progress of national strategies” in Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

Honorable Minister, let me from the outset thank your Government for responding to the call from UNDESA to co-host this very important meeting. Barbados will always hold a special place in the United Nations Agenda on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the sustainable development of SIDS as a ‘special case’ was conceived. Paragraph 17 of Agenda 21 recognizes Small Island Developing States are a ‘special case’, both for environment and development. It states, “*Because small island development options are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development.*”

The ‘special case’ of SIDS *may have been conceived* in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, but *it was born* right here in Barbados in 1994, as the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the BPOA.

It is fitting therefore, that we should look back to that Global Conference 15 years ago for inspiration and guidance for our deliberations in the next few days.

I would like to recall three key points from the Statement made at the Opening of 1994 Global Conference, by its President, the then Prime Minister of Barbados, His Excellency Mr. Erskine Sandiford.

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The *first point* is that even back then at the birth of the BPOA, the importance of being able to monitor sustainable development progress was well recognized. In his Opening Speech His Excellency Mr. Erskine Sandiford said, And I Quote, “The decisions ... formalized in Agenda 21, ..., signaled a firm resolve to conquer the economic, social and environmental problems that ultimately threaten our continued survival on this planet Earth. Our task here in Barbados is to convert that resolve into concrete action by outlining realistic policies *and setting attainable targets in the search for patterns of sustainable development.*”

While he may not have used the term ‘indicators’ in his speech, “setting attainable targets in the search for patterns of sustainable development”, at least to myself, says loud and clear, *that we need to be able to measure progress.*

The second point I wanted to highlight from that Opening Speech by Mr. Erskine Sandiford, was that sustainable development, and how we measure sustainable development, need to be *People-centered*. And I quote, “Regardless of the mechanisms employed, no strategy for sustainable development will be effective in the long term unless its focus is on people -the ordinary man in the street, the housewife, the farmer, the office worker and the child. These are the persons who must ultimately live the lessons of sustainable development if they are to be successful.”

The third and last point I wanted to highlight from that Opening Speech is the importance of *Partnerships*. And I paraphrase his point on partnerships here, for conciseness; He said, “When all is said and done, our best hope for achieving sustainable development is through the creation of partnerships. [T]he process should not end (at the national level). It should extend beyond national boundaries to include regional as well as international partnerships.”

It is in that spirit of Partnerships that has brought us all together here in Barbados this week, to strengthen our ability to measure progress in sustainable development in terms of improving the lives of the ordinary man in the street, the housewife, the farmer, the office worker and the child.

I look forward to sharing national, regional and international level ideas, experiences and lessons in the next few days.

Thank you.

APPENDIX 4: WELCOME REMARKS, MR. LIONEL WEEKES, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER RESOURCES AND DRAINAGE, GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

Mr. Phillip Cross, acting United Nations Resident Coordinator, and Representative of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Mr. Keneti Faulalo, and Mr. Matthias Bruckner, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Dr. Mark Griffith, United Nations Environment Programme, other members of the UN Family, participants, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen..... Good Morning. To those of you who have travelled from abroad to participate welcome to Barbados.

Ladies and Gentlemen the journey to this meeting being held here in Barbados can trace its roots to the United Nations Summit on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 where it was resolved that a core set of indicators be developed in order to measure and assess progress towards achieving sustainable Development. In 1995, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) initiated the development of indicators for measurement of sustainable development. A working list of 134 indicators was selected and 22 countries volunteered as pilot testing countries. The pilot testing process commenced in 1996 and was coordinated by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The Government of Barbados joined the United Nations testing program for the development of Sustainable Indicators in 1997 and took a very active role in the international process to develop a set of indicators of sustainable development, very often representing the concerns of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the process and formally articulating its National List of Indicators of Sustainable Development in 2000. The indicators process employed a participatory mechanism established under the National Commission on Sustainable Development.

During this time, the Government of Barbados also produced its National Sustainable Development Strategy – the Barbados Sustainable Development Policy in 2004 – the culmination of over six years of intense consultation with

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major stakeholder groups. This Policy, in addition to providing a national definition and framework of sustainable development, fully supported the development and use of appropriate indicators to demonstrate the country's progress along the road of sustainability and, more specifically, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy recommendations articulated within the document.

Between 2000 and 2005 the Government of Barbados undertook a number of initiatives emerging from our work developing national indicators of Sustainable Development including:

1. Preparation of the first National State of the Environment Report; and
2. Enhanced reporting to the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which Barbados is signatory.

In 2005, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs decided to review and update the current set of indicators. The review was timely, because

1. countries and organizations had by then increased their knowledge of and experiences with indicators of sustainable development; and
2. the increasing emphasis on measuring development progress, as evidenced for example by the Millennium Development Goals.

As part of the review process, two global Expert Group Meetings, in 2005 and in 2006 were convened. The objectives of these meetings were to review, update and finalize the existing list of indicators developed by the Commission of Sustainable Development and to consider future areas of work on indicators. The Government of Barbados was an active participant at these *fora*.

And so in 2006 when the Government of Barbados articulated the National Strategic Plan for Barbados 2006-2025, more specifically Goal 4, which speaks to "*These Fields and Hills: Building a Green Economy – Strengthening the Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment*", the Ministry of the Environment was mandated to produce a set of Indicators of the Green Economy and we were able to answer the call with alacrity. These 'Green Economy' indicators, mostly drawn from the original national list of Indicators of Sustainable Development, will be used to monitor progress towards achieving Goal 4 of the National Strategic Plan.

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Now let me make a brief comment about the issue of Sustainable Consumption and Production which is also included on the agenda for this Expert Group Meeting. As an active advocate for cohesive environmental governance at the United Nations level, the Government of Barbados has been in discussion with UNDESA to establish concrete synergies between the Indicators process and the Sustainable Consumption and Production process, which too will require the use of indicators to measure success of targeted interventions. So for participants, your task here should also include sending the right policy signals for further harmonization of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators.

It might also be of interest to those of you present here today, especially the agencies involved in indicators work, that at the CARICOM level, the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) (Environment) held in Georgetown, Guyana, in April 2008, agreed to the Development of a Caribbean Community Environmental Policy and associated Key Statistics and Indicators required under the CARICOM Caribbean Single Market and Economy or CSME, Environment Component.

The Government of Barbados has been advocating that the CARICOM initiative should build on already existing initiatives including the work being undertaken by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in developing an International List of Indicators of Sustainable Development.

I therefore think it is safe to say that it is because of our commitment nationally, regionally and internationally to the principles of sustainable development and to the use of indicators to measure progress in achieving that sustainable development, we have arrived at this juncture where we are today at this Expert Group Meeting in Barbados.

I think I should point out at this juncture that indicator sets for the monitoring of national policies in general are not merely academic exercises. The use of indicators plays an important role in getting the right information, to the right persons, at the right time. I believe that the former British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli put it best when he said

“As a general rule, the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information.”

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This brings us neatly to an important objective of this Expert Group Meeting. How do we make indicators of sustainable development part and parcel of the national metrics and reporting system where they can guide the decisions of politicians, technocrats, consumers, academics and the public at large? How do we institutionalize these indicators?

I am of the strong belief that the concept of Sustainable Development by its very essence is a constant state of change and flux so various issues will 'bubble to the top' if you will, at various times. For example, Sustainable Consumption and Production will receive special focus at the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010 and 2011. The world is currently focused on having a successful outcome at the Copenhagen climate negotiations in December later this year.

What remains constant, through it all, however is the need for explicit accounting, via indicators and other monitoring systems of our policies and programmes. An instructive lesson we have learned nationally is that the success of our efforts will be determined retrospectively, so our focus has been on a process driven by consensus, with progress aligned to nationally relevant circumstances, rather than on achieving remote targets. Institutional arrangements are generally free to evolve and emerge in line with existing national resources and capacities.

The Barbados indicators process has progressed largely due to a close collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage, through the hub of the Environmental Unit, and the Barbados Statistical Service over the past twelve (12) years on a significant body of work on both Indicators of Sustainable Development and environmental statistics. So when this meeting discusses how best to institutionalize Indicators- one way I would argue, is via a strong national statistics system

What we have learnt for sure is that progress towards Sustainable Development can be best charted by the measurement of a limited number of indicators where the methods and data employed for assessment of progress are open and accessible to all, and where any progress made is effectively communicated to all publics. We have to make allowances for repeated measurement in order to determine trends (as has been our experience with coastal zone management), incorporate the results of experience and promote best utilization of existing institutional capacity.

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I am very hopeful that the information to be presented and discussed at the Expert Group Meeting will provide an opportunity for the region to share its experiences and provide concrete recommendations to the UN on the issue of national sustainable development strategies and the use of indicators to monitor their effectiveness. I hope that this Expert Group Meeting provides an opportunity for Caribbean Small Island Developing States to dialogue on the issue of both sustainable development strategies and Sustainable Consumption and Production, thereby consolidating regional positions prior to a number of important upcoming milestone meetings including the 64th and 65th United Nations General Assembly and the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It is critical that we speak as one region and we should not pass up opportunities to refine our regional positions.

I sincerely hope that your discussions over the next two and one half days are rich and productive. I look forward to receiving the outcomes of the meeting and you have my assurance that the Government of Barbados will take your policy recommendations on board at the various International Environmental negotiations, and that we will encourage our regional neighbors to do likewise.

In closing I will encourage you to work hard but to also enjoy some of what Barbados has to offer. I believe I will be seeing some of you later today so until then...

Ladies and Gentlemen- I thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX 5: THE EGM ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, WHERE THEY WANT TO BE AND BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

	WHERE WE WANT TO BE	WHERE ARE WE	WHY NOT THERE
NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NSDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full understanding of 'what is an NSDS' as a process • National development plans based on Sustainable Development principles • Full implementation of Sustainable Development plans • Sound operational plans • Non-partisan ownership of Sustainable Development policies • Empowered civil society groups in the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development not fully understood. • Not every country has a Sustainable Development strategy • There are many strategies and plans • Not all countries understand what a Sustainable Development strategy is • Various forms of plans related to Sustainable Development, called different things • Different country-specific priorities. • Haziness in Sustainable Development issues and environment • Sustainable Development and environment used interchangeably • Effort in preparation of plans but lack of implementation • Existing plans contain elements of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness and understanding of public at large • No clear acceptance at policy level that Sustainable Development is a priority • Sustainable Financial and human resources constraints • Effective participation of stakeholders and people-focused strategies • Partisan ownership • No implementation plans

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	WHERE WE WANT TO BE	WHERE ARE WE	WHY NOT THERE
		<p>Sustainable Development, without being recognized as such</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory planning but limited participation in implementation within and beyond government 	
INDICATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient information management systems • Generally agreed, accepted set of indicators that guide national and regional Sustainable Development • User-friendly, ease of accessing, clarity of interpretation • Coherent Sustainable Development indicators development by different agencies • Enhanced awareness of indicators of Sustainable Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some countries have somewhat advanced indicators program in place • In general, limited Sustainable Development indicators development • Some countries have strong statistics programs • Burden of reporting • Analysis of data currently weak • Strong statistical economic data • Critical Sustainable Development data is missing e.g. natural resources and some social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and information systems not user-friendly • Statistics systems to be strengthened with respect to Sustainable Development data • Need analytical capacity at scale for indicators development • Effective Information management systems
INSTITUTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective governance structures for Sustainable Development in place at the national and regional levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation frameworks need to be strengthened • Weak enforcement • Governance structure needs strengthening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened governance structure required • Institutional constraints • Legislation frameworks, capacity limitations

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	WHERE WE WANT TO BE	WHERE ARE WE	WHY NOT THERE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation fully coherent with clear responsibilities between agencies to remove gaps, overlaps and conflicts in legislation • Legal frameworks fully harmonized • Empowered civil society groups • Sustainable Development indicator development by various agencies • Role of Sustainable Development council viz a viz stats? • Must be a central planning unit for Sustainable Development • Coordinated implementation and integrated planning • Greater appreciation of regional legal framework adopted by countries 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of existing legislative framework. • Enforcement capacity and clarity of administrative jurisdictions, • Political will • Where does decision making sit vs. MIS that supports Sustainable Development sit? • A need to ensure that Sustainable Development principles are a part of decision making. • Sustainable Development decision making linked to budget decisions • Inter-agency collaboration to be improved • Strengthened public-private partnerships for implementation • Strengthen national statistical systems to collect and make accessible Sustainable Development data to stakeholders • Strengthen capacity to analyze data for Sustainable

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	WHERE WE WANT TO BE	WHERE ARE WE	WHY NOT THERE
			Development decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance ability of statistical departments to manage Sustainable Development related data • Central depository for Sustainable Development data and information