

Regional Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies and Indicators for Sustainable Development For the Arab Region

12-14 December, 2004

Cairo, Egypt

Remarks on National Sustainable Development Strategies in the Region



Sustainable Development: from Abstract to Practicality

- Sustainable development remains an abstract in most part in the region. It needs a more clearer vision for implementation.
- It lacks practical tools that make it doable, achievable, and measurable.

SD Strategies & Environmental Strategies

- With the turn of the 21st century, countries have been developing national environmental strategies that are based on the concept of sustainable development, and are involving key stakeholders.
- There is progress has been made; however it is not named SDS, and is not fully yet reflective of the concept and elements of NSDS.

Sustainable Development Governance

- Governance structure for sustainable development is problematic, nevertheless it is the key for achieving sustainable development, and is necessary to bridge the gaps between commitments and actions needs.

Integrated Assessment of Sustainable Development

- Strategies are not based on integrated systematic assessment of sustainable development that analyzes and bridges between scientific knowledge and policy.
- Assessments are essential for developing sound SD strategies, to identify key priority issues, and priorities for actions.
- It is to provide the information, which supports policy formulation and decision making.

Policy Relevance

- Sustainable Development Strategies need to be policy relevant and intuitively easy to grasp and communicate;
- “Policy Makers have to be in the heart of in the development of SD strategies, because after all they hold the key to its success or failure.”

Capacity

- Lack of adequate capacity
 - Human capacity.
 - Financial capacity
 - Coordination capacity