



Multi-stakeholder
Mechanisms for
SD Planning:

Lessons from Europe and Asia-Pacific

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What is this MSM and what is it for?

A mechanism that must be established at all levels especially at national level (NCSD) as agreed upon in UNCED (A21) and reiterated in WSSD (JPOI) to serve as:

- Voice for sustainability
- Mechanism for integration & coordination
- Venue for resolving issues
- Means for cooperative action & forging commitments
- Vehicle for promoting education, raising awareness & information dissemination
- Mechanism for formulating, monitoring & assessing the implementation of national strategies

Over-all Lessons

- Challenges are practically the same in the two (all) regions and at various levels, e.g.:
 - Low political will
 - Inadequate capacity and capability
 - Lack of financial support
- The difference lies in the ability to cope
 - Europe has the edge
- Both regions have a lot to learn from each other and they must harness these knowledge for their mutual benefit

Challenges at Formation Stage

Stakeholder issues (political will issue) such as:

- Government's suspicion/distrust of CSO & tendency to protect its domain
- Underdeveloped or disorganized civil society
- Business sector's lack of interest to participate or deal with government & CS
- Fear of the unknown (e.g., would CSO participation in planning affect government control?)

- *Europe surmounted these much earlier due to wider democratic space and EU/EC support*
- *AsPac has less democratic space & no institutional and peer support*

Challenges at Formation Stage

Lack of knowledge & low capacity to initiate the NCSD establishment process

- How many and who will be involved?
- Who will represent civil society & business?
- What would be the role, functions & structure vis-à-vis existing bodies?
- How can the processes & operations be funded?

- *European countries learned from each other and had peer and EC pressures*
- *Most countries in AsPac continue to struggle*

Challenges at Operational Stage

Limited understanding of SD & attendant issues

- Environment-oriented (leadership, composition, agenda)
- Weak integration of SD pillars in NSDS
- Inappropriate/Confused strategies and action agenda

Conflict/Confusion of roles and representations

- The Netherlands experience: shifting lead
- The Philippine experience: forum shopping
- The Thailand experience: sidelining

➤ *Europe and AsPac both struggle in these areas*

Challenges at Operational Stage

- **Inadequate financial resources including technical & administrative support**
 - *European NCSDs are financially supported by governments but continue to maintain a high level of independence*
- **Absence of venue for exchange of knowledge & experiences among NCSDs**
 - *Europe has EEAC and ESDN*
 - *AsPac had APNCSD but lack of funds rendered it moribund*
- **Weak vertical (global-local) & horizontal (inter-NCSDs) coordination & monitoring**
 - *Europe has CSDs at all levels and the European Commission*
 - *AsPac has few mechanisms at all levels but no over-all coordinator/overseer such as EC and these are uncoordinated.*

Conclusion:

COOPERATION & NETWORKING ARE USEFUL & NECESSARY

- Establish a platform for partnership & knowledge sharing such as the network of NCSDs/NSDS advocates and implementers
- Share knowledge, experience & resources in e.g.:
 - Preparing/updating NSDS & Regional SDS that mainstream critical issues & looking beyond borders
 - Properly implementing, monitoring & evaluating strategies & programs; developing indicators & standards; using tools
 - Setting up institutional mechanisms at various levels & helping these become effective, self-sufficient and self-sustaining

Sources of Information

- **EEAC Conference Bordeaux**
- **Studies and Publications of Earth Council on NCSD and NSDS**
- **NCSD Conferences and Networking of Earth Council and Partners:**
 - Rio+5 where NCSD networks started
 - UNCSD Sessions and Side Events (w/ UNDESA)
 - WSSD and Side Events (w/ country partners, e.g. Indonesia and Belgium)
 - Global and Regional NCSD conferences (in cooperation w/ ASEF, UNDESA, Korea NCSD, Japan NCSD, Philippine NCSD, etc.)

Thank You!