

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SOUTH ASIA



Ever since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held at Johannesburg in 2002 and the Johannesburg Plan of implementation was adopted, Sustainable Development got a great deal of global attention and ownership. Countries developed their home grown National Sustainable Development Strategies and the process has now further been geared by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The much talked and promoted global agenda in the shape of SDGs is now the focus of attention in the global, regional and national politics of environment. Like other global agendas SDGs are now the obligations of countries to be achieved by 2030. Developing countries are still waiting for the developed and other multinational partners to support them in translating it into action.

Developing countries are mostly facing the capacity, coordination and awareness problems in dealing with new and emerging issues related to sustainable development. Thus achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be a real hard challenge as it would require a dynamic shift from the traditional developmental mind set to sustainable development in the seventeen areas identified as SDGs. As sustainable development involves almost all sectors of economy and to bring together all those stakeholders would be a real uphill task for the national policy and planners. It has been observed that developing countries would have to indigenize SDGs enabling them to initiate a suitable institutional response to these challenges.

To start with there is a need to develop a baseline of the SDGs indicators at national, regional and sub-regional level. Mapping of SDGs indicators and its analysis would help identify the existing gaps in the institutional capacity to achieve them. Once the gaps are identified, it would be easy to develop strategy to remove such gaps paving the way for achieving the SDGs goals and targets. Mapping of institutional capacity gaps play a key role in implementation of SDGs at any level. At sub-regional level in South Asia, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) is working on the eight environmental SDGs to identify and map capacity gaps. Using the Pressure, State and Response framework analysis tools, a suitable response strategy will be developed for addressing the capacity gap. This will not only help in achieving the SDGs goals and targets but also facilitate SACEP member countries in implementation of the sustainable development agenda in a harmonized and aligned form at the sub-regional level in South Asia.

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