

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE NSSD GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP
2 NOVEMBER 2005, SOUTHERN SUN – JOHANNESBURG INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM**

1. Part One: Introduction

The Department of Environmental Affairs hosted a national government workshop on 2 November 2005 in Johannesburg. The main focus of the workshop was to introduce the idea of establishing an intergovernmental steering committee to support and coordinating the development of a national strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD). The full programme of the workshop is attached.

The workshop was attended by representatives of various national government departments and provincial representatives. The attendance register is attached .

This report briefly outlines the highlights of the workshop and the agreed upon follow-up organisational issues and a summary of the substantive discussion on some of the content of issues of the NSSD.

2. Part Two: Summary of Discussions

Welcome & Workshop purpose, expectations and Objectives

The workshop was officially opened and chaired by Ms Judy Beaumont: Chief Director, International Environment and Sustainable Development Coordination at DEAT. In her opening she apologised for the absence of the Deputy Director General: International Cooperation and Resources, Mr Alf Wills who is the overall official overseeing the NSSD process at DEAT.

Ms Beaumont outlined the workshop objectives of the workshop as follows

- Receive a progress update on the NSSD process
- Brainstorm and share ideas on how best to engage with stakeholders
- Identify other policy and strategy development process and their implications on the NSSD process
- Formally constitute the Intergovernmental NSSD Steering Committee and identify how best to mobilise intergovernmental participation in the process.
- Refine the NSSD Framework, Discuss and refine the current substance of the NSSD
- Develop and consolidate the NSSD roadmap

The workshop agreed that those were acceptable and achievable objectives and raised the following issues

The need to refine the Terms of Reference, meeting schedules and representativity of the Steering Committee, including alternate representatives, provincial participation and the participation of local government in the steering committee

The meeting further acknowledged that some participants did not have the mandate to sit in a steering committee. It was clarified that participants were invited based on the recommendations from their immediate principals and that some were drawn for the WSSD task team. The meeting agreed that

- It would be desirable for all participants to have the appropriate mandate from their departments
- Provinces will participate in the steering committee and that DEAT should pursue the discussion with provinces on how best to develop a programme that ensures provincial input and feedback
- DEAT should pursue a discussion with other departments not yet participating in the process, and should discuss with SALGA on local government participation.

Presentations and Plenary Discussion

The workshop had the opportunity to discuss the substantive issues relating to Chapter 1 – 4 of the NSSD as outlined in the NSSD framework concept document. (Annex 3). The discussions were introduced in the form of three plenary presentations covering the following areas.

1. The NSSD Framework Rationale, for and NSSD – *Towards emerging vision, mission and principles for a National Strategy for Sustainable Development - Ms Dorah Nteo, Deputy Director: Policy and Research.*

Ms Dorah Nteo, Deputy Director Policy and Research at DEAT introduced a discussion on the Vision Mission and Principles of the NSSD. She outline that the presentation was not an actual draft of the NSSD but rather aimed at introducing the initial thinking and parameter on how the vision, mission and principles in the NSSD may be crafted

The presentation mainly introduced the following issues

- Rationale for an NSSD and why South Africa was developing an NSSD beyond compliance with the JPOI target
- Key questions on how best to develop the NSSD vision, mission and principles, with a national context and from a broad perspective of existing commitments in other basic documents like the constitution, reconstruction and Development Programme
- A brief outline of the NSSD Chapters and how the substance development process fitted in the various chapters.

The workshop raised the issue of identifying other processes that will add value to the NSSD and avoid duplication. The main issues raised were

- The (i) development of a government wide monitoring and evaluation system (ii) the Shared and Accelerated Growth Strategy being led by the

presidency and (iii) The review of the National Spatial Development perspective.

- The NSSD should be peculiar to the South African development context even though there were international guidelines. The Context should clearly refer to our role in the region and continent
 - The review of cooperative Governance in the chapter of governance needed to consider strengthening current horizontal (amongst departments) cooperative governance.
 - The NSSD needed a stronger chapter on communications, awareness and stakeholder engagement.
 - The vision, mission and principles should have both long term and mid term elements
2. Key driving forces (that may impact on development outcomes in South Africa in the next 20 years – trends at the interface of social, economic and environmental imperatives – Identifying Risks and Opportunities – *Blessing Manale, Director International Sustainable Development Cooperation*

The presentation covered the an overview of the development of chapters 2 and 3 of the NSSD, namely trends and projections that are expected to affect development and quality of life in SA in the next 20 years, and policy and implementation risks and opportunities affecting these trends and possible policy adjustments required.

Key trends in the economic, social, ecological and governance spheres were briefly outlined; highlighting interconnected critical questions and issues that need to be dealt with.

Reference was made to a number studies, reports and research output, amongst others; The Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, Africa Economic Outlook (OECD, AfDB) and a number of government strategies for energy, environment, water management, biodiversity, climate change and others

In discussions covered the following issues were raised.

- The broad spectre of the trends and themes identified was challenging and that there was a need to prioritise key themes.
- There was a need to identify positive trends e.g growth in the services sector, cultural dimensions of the social trends
- There was a need to integrate high level macro trends in a index format e.g trends on quality of life, access to government services etc.
- The workshop also suggested the following trends to be investigated and added.

- Youth Development
 - Gender
 - Transport
 - Crime and Corruption
 - Regional Integration (Trade and Spatial Development)
3. Overview of Approach to Chapter 4 of NSSD: Goals Commitments and Actions to be undertaken in the NSSD - *Blessing Manale, Director International Sustainable Development Cooperation.*

A short outline of the proposed approach to chapter 4 was outlined mainly emphasising that Chapter 4 is the cornerstone of the NSSD as it will outline “ what needs to be done’.

The workshop agreed that the overall framework of the chapter was well thought off however there is a need to crystallise all international and regional commitments and to clearly define how sector reviews will be done in determining measurement often sectors contribution to meeting all goals and commitments.

There was also emphasis on the need to ensure a balance on the themes to ensure that the NSSD was not viewed as a green NSSD. The NSSD needed to be both a framework document (visionary) but also be an action tool (practical and measurable). Another key question that was raised was the legal status of the NSSD within the suite of planning tools and policy milieu

4. NSSD process and Organisational Issues

Mr Manale also made a presentation (Annex 7) on the NSSD development process. His presentation covered the following areas

- The post WSSD process, including the joint responsibility of both DEAT and the Department of Foreign Affairs to coordinate post WSSD follow-up
- The cluster reporting structure on the NSSD and overall WSSD follow-up.
- The forthcoming key main areas of engagement of government and civil society. The challenges of finding the appropriate civil society focal points beyond approaching the various.
- Public participation processes and the need to creatively engage parliament and the legislatures
- The establishment of an academic review panel, with concerns that it seemed the historically disadvantaged institutions had not nominated any academics to sit on the panel.
- Various internal processes that may influence the NSSD content (e.g MDG + 5 Review, review of various other international commitments)

During the discussion the workshop participants raised the following issues

- The need to include provinces in the consultation process
- Improvement of Communication including prior circulation of documentation

- There were a number policy and strategy processes taking place in the country which the NSSD could benefit from and add value to
- Expand the representativity of the academic review panel
- The need to feedback information into other clusters like governance and administration and the social cluster as some of the substance issues were within the mandate of those clusters.
- What was the pressure for completing the NSSD in April 2006 under such tight deadlines

The workshop agreed that the current environment was opportune for the development of an NSSD due to other policy process unfolding in the country mainly around (i) MDG + 5 Follow-up (ii) Shared and Accelerated Growth (iii) Project Consolidate (iv) Review of the National Spatial Development Perspective (v) Improvement of monitoring and evaluation (vi) The revision of IDP early in 2006 etc

Working Groups

The workshop was divided into two working groups

Group 1 discussed “ Key driving forces (that may impact on development outcomes in South Africa in the next 20 years – trends at the interface of social, economic and environmental imperatives”

The groups were expected to further elaborate on the presented trends, identify any key and substantive information lacking on the trends.

Whilst the group agreed on the overall methodology of utilising the trends /key driving forces as away of determining areas that needed priority intervention in the NSSD. The following issues were raised

- There was a need for an in depth analysing of the trends beyond the figures
- There is a need to raise transportation as a key driving force.
- Land reform should be dealt with in a cross cutting manner
- There was need for a section on the regional implications of the trends.
- The role of S&T and R&D needs to be clearly outlined. There were trends in are of R&D spending, Research output, research infrastructure, and R& D cooperation that could be added on the R&D trends
- The following areas were also to be prioritised in the trends section
 - Youth Development
 - Gender
 - Transport
 - Crime and Corruption
 - Regional Integration (Trade and Spatial Development)
 - Waste (to include not only solid waste)
 - Desertification and Land Degradation
 - Urbanisation and Migration
 - Vulnerable people
 - Rural Development

- Human Resource Development and Skills

- The trends needed to do a retrospective policy analysis and regulatory impact assessment

Group 2: Discussed “Emerging vision, mission and principles for a National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The group was not expected to prepare a draft of the vision, mission and principles but rather to provide guidance on what issues needed to be incorporated in the chapter. The group recommended that a drafting committee needed to be established to provide a draft of the chapter.

However the group identified the overall thrust of the chapter and made some recommendation on the context of the chapter by proposing key words and elements: -

Vision: South Africa aspires to be prosperous democratic State that benefits its entire people with the following as key elements of the vision (i) Sustainability (ii) Responsible use of natural resources for posterity (iii) Integration

Mission: The mission should outline how South Africa aims to realize its vision. It should breakdown the vision into a coherent set of high level actions that are all encompassing. It should also be realistic and be set within the current context. The key elements of the mission should (i) equity (ii) Resourcing (Capacitation, empowerment) (iii) The framework for managing the integration of social, economic and natural needs (iv) co-operative governance and partnerships (at different levels)

The principles: should a core set of values that will guide our action and define the parameters in which we carry out our mission and suggested the following elements: (i) People centered development, (ii) holistic approaches, (iii) Macro-micro linkages and (iv) interdependence of the pillars (v) Sustainable utilisation of natural resources (Development without undermining the environment and natural resources) (vi) Access to opportunities (redress and justice) (vii) Participatory democracy

3. Way forward and Closure

The workshop agreed upon the following as key follow-up issues

1. The circulation of all base documents on the NSSD process
2. Confirmation of Steering committee member mandates from respective departments
3. A meeting with provinces to discuss an engagement mechanism
4. A stakeholder engagement Strategy
5. A drafting Committee on the substantive issues of Chapter 1 –3 should be convened before the 30 November Workshop

6. Convening of the Academic review panel. With further engagement with institutions to further nominate academics in areas of public policy development

The workshop also agreed the next meeting of the steering committee will be held on 1 December 2005 in Pretoria and that DEAT should propose and circulate a roster of all future steering committee meetings as well a full roster of major milestones and events in the NSSD process.

The workshop concluded its business at 13:45 with a vote of thanks from Ms J Beaumont.

4. Part four: Annexure

4.1 Programme and Agenda of Workshop

4.2 Presentations

- 4.2.1 Presentation: Key driving forces (that may impact on development outcomes in South Africa in the next 20 years – trends at the interface of social, economic and environmental imperatives – Identifying Risks and Opportunities -
- 4.2.2 Presentation: Rationale for and NSSD and South Africa's Sustainable Development challenges – *Towards emerging vision, mission and principles for a National Strategy for Sustainable Development*
- 4.2.3 Presentation: *NSSD Progress Report*

4.3 Background Documents

- 4.3.1 NSSD Framework Concept Document
- 4.3.2 *Terms of Reference: Academic Review Panel*
- 4.3.3 *Terms of Reference: Government Steering Committee*
- 4.3.4 *Terms of Reference NSSD Chapter 3*
- 4.3.5 *Terms of Reference: Chapter 4*

4.4 *Programmes and Agenda: 30 November Workshop Agenda*

4.5 Attendance Profile and Contacts Details

4.6 NSSD Roster and Outline of key dates and activities