

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

PORTUGAL



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

At the release of this publication, Portugal had not submitted its Country Profile in the standard format requested by the Secretariat.

Due to the fact that the format differs from that utilized by most countries, inconsistencies could arise when including the information in the database currently under development. For this reason, we appeal to countries to present their Country Profiles in the standard format provided by the Secretariat which has been made available in this CD-Rom for ease of reference.

Once the Country Profile has been properly formatted and submitted to the Secretariat, it will appear on our web page: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>

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I. Portugal – Policy Action

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1. International Framework and Context

1.1. Background

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The representation of the 176 attending countries was made at the highest level and culminated in a Summit attended by 102 Heads of State. This Earth Summit followed a long process of reflection and involvement at world level and its aim was to find a common platform of action for the Environment and Sustainable Development. The resulting work led to the signing of two Conventions, two Declarations and one Action Agenda, Agenda 21.

Portugal held in this date the Presidency of the European Union (then the European Economic Community). As a result of the approximately 400 actions and measures foreseen, Portugal needed the involvement of 17 Ministries and 74 Public institutions at the time².

² 'Strategic Synthesis' – Most relevant aspects for the pusuance of the Conclusions of the UNCED, MARN/ Project Team, Dec.1992

The following themes and action proposals as the results of the Rio Conference stand out:

- i) Climatic Changes (Framework Convention)
- ii) Biodiversity (Convention)
- iii) Forests (Declaration of Principles)
- iv) Desertification (Convention Preparation – subsequently signed in 1994)
- v) Agenda 21 (Plan of Action)
- vi) Rio Declaration (27 Principles to guide Action)
- vii) Setting up of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)

The Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), established at the 1992 Summit, was the catalyst in the implementation process of Agenda 21. Portugal was an active participant in all the CSD meetings from the outset.

The General Assembly of the United Nations in 1999 resulted in Resolution 53/242; this established that the 2nd World Summit would take place in 2002 coinciding with the assessment of the ten years since 1992.

1.2. Sustainable Development – Conceptual and Operational Contents

Ten years after the Rio Summit, we can say that the current problems are those of a world in an accelerated urbanisation process, under a growing threat of climatic changes (and the consequent worsening of the processes of natural catastrophes – sudden changes in climatic conditions, flooding and droughts), lack of fresh water and the inherent consequences for health and food safety, generalised loss of biodiversity, uncontrolled deforestation, intensification of the processes of desertification and erosion of arable land, increase of situations of risk and accidents, growing presence of dangerous substances in the environment and the food chain and difficulty in controlling the sources of pollution (on land – periodic and widespread, and at sea – spills, deposits of dangerous waste, etc).

Given the changes which the world has since undergone, notably with regard the globalisation process, the implementation of the principles of Sustainable Development currently involves the updating of the

concerns which existed in 1992 at the Rio Summit and present in the programme contents of Agenda 21. In Portugal this aim has been kept in mind when defining environment and development policies.

*The three dimensions of Sustainable Development*³

Firstly the environmental dimension. The natural restriction to the development of human activities is the crux of the question of *sustainability*. The merely economic use of ‘natural resources’ by production activities and subsequent consumption has been substituted by the more suitable formulation of ‘**use of environmental resources**’ which includes well being for human life.

The economic dimension. Economic activities are part of life and are included in the development process, enabling the satisfaction of human needs; the consideration of the **qualitative aspects of development**, in addition to the economic aspects, is indispensable in the scope of *sustainable development* for the simple reason that “neither aggregate growth nor the growth of incomes is enough to ensure the progress of society as a whole”⁴.

The social dimension. From a broader perspective, development includes not only strengthening the material basis of sustenance, but also opening up to new opportunities and strengthening capacities (‘capacity building’). The inclusion of the social dimension in *sustainable development* also results from the essential consideration of the **equity** criterion in the implementation of sustainable development.

It is also important to remember the institutional dimension in addition to these three dimensions. The institutional dimension highlights questions related to the forms of governance (flexibility, transparency, democracy) and legislative systems, together with the framework of the social partners’ participation (trade unions and enterprises) and civil society (NGO) as essential aspects for the promotion of the objectives of sustainable development.

Operational Progress of the Concept

³ UNIDO, 2001 - **The Three Dimensions: Defining Sustainable Development**, Doc/50367

⁴ Ibid

It is well known that there is a time lag between world pledges and the true fulfilment of those pledges; this is the result of the difficulties involved in operationalising such an ambitious concept as *Sustainable Development*.

The methodological search for operational means and instruments has been orientated towards various approaches, of which the following stand out:

- i) Information Systems (particularly Indicators⁵) and Benchmarking
- ii) Observatories⁶
- iii) Scenarios⁷
- iv) Extended Accounting Systems (Social Statistics⁸ and Environmental Statistics, ‘Green’ Accounting, etc)⁹

The structure of indicators adopted by Portugal is currently based on the OECD proposal, of the ‘Pressure-State-Response’ (PSR) type. This type of indicator has been increasingly used to evaluate national policies and sectorial strategies as well as for the evaluation of projects.

2. Portugal’s Participation in the Bodies of International Reflection and Agreement

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (Rio 92) allowed the theme of Social Development to become an unequivocal part of the working agendas of international Organisations.

Following the positions which Portugal has assumed meanwhile in the international context, the

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/云报告?reportId=5_11935

