



Implementing UNEP's Programme of Work Through 'National Sustainable Development Strategies' (NSDS)

The trade union Major Group wishes to reinforce the notion that sustainable development and its three pillars must serve as a framework for the unfolding of UNEP's Programme of Work (POW) in both the short or the long term.

However, just saying that is not enough! These ideas need arms and legs, so to speak, that are able to measure, report on and apply the three pillars at the national level to concrete implementation measures .

Chair, such a mechanism exists within the United Nations system but it is completely disconnected right now to the UNEP's Programme of Work and goals

I am referring to the "National Sustainable Development Strategies" - otherwise known as the NSDS.

NSDS contain clear and measurable social, environmental and economic indicators through which 90 countries have already begun to report – sometimes on an annual basis..

How will the UNEP programme of work at the national level line up with NSDS indicators for poverty eradication, public health, gender & equality issues, education, as well as employment and social security? And how will these line up to the NSDS environment and economic indicators?

The "New Green Deal" and the Green Jobs that delegates have talked about must be made to transform our future must be framed within NSDS, which themselves should be placed at the centre of the Governance architecture for UNEP and serve as a tool for implementation.

I am pleased to report that last year at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) all Major Groups (youth, local authorities, business, science & technology, indigenous groups, trade unions, NGO's women and farmers) – ALL agreed to promote the evolution of National Sustainable Development Strategies within the UN system.

Trade Unions agree with the delegate of Costa Rica who said that “if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it”. The NSDS can help both measure and manage UNEP’s POW relative to sustainable development.

Thank you Chair

Lucien Royer
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