In nearly every chapter of Agenda 21 countries are called upon to make national plans, strategies or policies for individual areas or sectors. Such plans should at the same time form part of and be consistent with so-called overall comprehensive national plans or strategies for sustainable development.

The main description of the concept of "a National Plan or Strategy for Sustainable Development" is contained in chapter 8 of Agenda 21 on the Integration of Environment and Development in Decisionmaking. Adopting a National Strategy for Sustainable Development is proposed as one of several activities to meet with the overall objective (ref.8.3) of improving or restructuring the decision-making process so that consideration of socio-economic and environmental issues is fully integrated and a broader range of public participation assured.

In Agenda 21 chapter 8.7 the following is specifically said about adopting a National Strategy for Sustainable Development:

Governments, in cooperation, where appropriate, with international organizations, should adopt a national strategy for sustainable development based on, inter alia, the implementation of decisions taken at the conference, particularly in respect of Agenda 21. This strategy should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country. The experience gained through existing planning exercises such as national reports for the conference, national conservation strategies and environment action plans should be fully used and incorporated into a country-driven sustainable development strategy. Its goals should be to ensure socially responsible economic development while protecting the resource base and the environment for the benefit of future generations. It should be developed through the widest possible participation. It should be based on a thorough assessment of the current situation and initiatives.

While the goal of National Strategies or Plans for Sustainable Development should be to ensure socially responsible economic development while protecting the resource base and the environment for future generations, main elements in the process of developing a strategy would be:

a) harmonization of the various sectoral, economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operation in the country;

b) utilization and incorporation of experience gained through existing planning exercises;

c) widest possible public participation;

d) that the strategy is country driven;

e) that the strategy is based on a thorough assessment of the current situation and initiatives,

These same main elements or features of the planning process are found referred to in relation to plan and policy objectives and activities in other, more sectoral chapters of Agenda 21 and in the two international conventions resulting from Rio. The importance of these elements is thereby to be considered reinforced.
The following matrix shows where in the text of Agenda 21 and the two conventions the abovementioned elements or features appear. The complete abstracts from Agenda 21 and the conventions are contained in Annex I.

Elements:

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<td>4. Changing Consumption Patterns</td>
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<td>5. Demographic Dynamics</td>
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<td>19. Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals</td>
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<td>23. Strengthening the Role of Major Groups</td>
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<td>24. Global Action for Women towards Sustainable and Equitable Development</td>
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<td>25. Children and Youth in Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>26. Recognizing and Strengthening the Role of Indigenous People and their Communities</td>
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<td>37. National Mechanisms and International Co-operation for Capacity Building</td>
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<td>37.10</td>
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<td>40. Information for Decision Making</td>
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The matrix illustrates particularly the importance of the integration aspect (ref. element a)) in this context e.g. the integration of environment and development in decisionmaking. Another feature which is often repeated throughout Agenda 21 in the context of integrated planning and decisionmaking processes is **wide public participation** (ref.element c)).

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<tr>
<th>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</th>
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<td>UN Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
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Annex I:

Abstracts from Agenda 21 and the Rio conventions where reference is made to national plans or strategies

Preamble 1.3.: Its (Agenda 21’s) successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of Governments. National strategies, plans, policies and processes are crucial in achieving this. International cooperation should support and supplement such national efforts.

Ch.3 Combating Poverty:
(d) International and regional cooperation and coordination.

3.10 the UN system, through its relevant organs, organizations and bodies, in cooperation with Member States and with appropriate international and non governmental organizations, should make poverty alleviation a major priority and should:

a) Assist Governments, when requested, in the formulation and implementation of national action programmes on poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Action oriented activities of relevance to the above objectives, such as poverty eradications, projects and programmes supplemented where relevant by food aid, and support and special emphasis on employment and income generation, should be given particular attention in this regard.

Ch.4 Changing Consumption Patterns:

4.26 Governments and private - sector organizations should promote more positive attitudes towards sustainable consumption through education, public awareness programmes and other means, such as positive advertising of products and services that utilize environmentally sound technologies or encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns. In the review of the implementation of Agenda 21, an assessment of the progress achieved in developing these national policies and strategies should be given due consideration.

Ch.5 Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability:

5.16 Existing plans for sustainable development have generally recognized demographic trends and factors as elements that have a critical influence on consumption patterns, production, lifestyles, and long terms sustainability. But in the future, more attention will have to be given to these issues in general policy formulation and the design of development plans. To do this, all countries will have to improve their own capacities to assess the environment and development implications of their demographic trends and factors. They will also need to formulate and implement policies and action programmes where appropriate. Policies should be designed to address the consequences of population growth built into population momentum, while at the same time incorporating measures to bring about demographic transition. They should combine environmental concerns and population issues within a holistic view of development whose primary goals include the alleviation of poverty; secure livelihoods; good health ; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training, as well as fulfilment of their personal aspirations; and empowerment of individuals and communities. Recognizing that large increases in the size and number of cities will occur in developing countries and under likely population scenario, greater attention should be given to preparing for the needs, in particular of women and children, for improved municipal management and local government.
5.31 National population policy goals and programmes that are consistent with national environment and development plans for sustainability and in keeping with the freedom, dignity and personally held values of individuals should be established and implemented.

5.42 Population programmes are more effective when implemented together with appropriate cross-sectoral policies. To attain sustainability at the local level, a new framework is needed that integrates demographic trends and factors with such factors as ecosystem health, technology and human settlements, and with socio-economic structures and access to resources. Population programmes should be consistent with socio-economic and environmental planning. Integrated sustainable development programmes should closely correlate action on demographic trends and factors with resource management activities and development goals that meet the needs of the people concerned.

5.56 Proposals should be developed for local, national and international population/environment programmes in line with specific needs for achieving sustainability. Where appropriate, institutional changes must be implemented so that old-age security does not entirely depend on input from family members.

Ch 6 Protection and Promotion of Human Health

6.40 The overall objective is to minimize hazards and maintain the environment to a degree that human health and safety is not impaired or endangered and yet encourage development to proceed. Specific programme objectives are:

a) by the year 2000, to incorporate appropriate environmental and health safeguards as part of national development programmes in all countries;
b) by the year 2000, to establish, as appropriate, adequate national infrastructure and programmes for providing environmental injury, hazard surveillance and the basis for abatement in all countries;
c) by the year 2000, to establish, as appropriate, integrated programmes for tackling pollution at the source and at the disposal site, with a focus on abatement actions in all countries;
d) to identify and compile, as appropriate, the necessary statistical information on health effects to support cost/benefit analysis, including environmental health impact assessment for pollution control, prevention and abatement measures.

Ch 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development

7.51 A comprehensive approach to human settlements development should include the promotion of sustainable energy development in all countries as follows:

a) Developing countries should:

i) formulate national action programmes to promote and support reafforestation and national forest regeneration with a view to achieving sustained provision of the biomass energy needs of the low-income groups in urban areas and the rural poor, in particular women and children;

ii) formulate national action programmes to promote integrated development of energy-saving and renewable energy technologies, particularly for the use of solar, hydro, wind and biomass sources;

Ch 8 Integrating Environment and Development in Decision-Making
8.3 The overall objective is to improve or restructure the decision-making process so that consideration of socio-economic and environmental issues is fully integrated and a broader range of public participation assured. Recognizing that countries will develop their own priorities in accordance with their prevailing conditions, needs, national plans, policies and programmes, the following objectives are proposed:

a) to conduct a national review of economic, sectoral and environmental policies, strategies and plans to ensure the progressive integration of environmental and developmental issues;

b) to strengthen institutional structures to allow the full integration of environmental and developmental issues, at all levels of decision-making;

c) to develop or improve mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of concerned individuals, groups and organizations in decision-making at all levels;

d) to establish domestically determined procedures to integrate environment and development issues in decision-making.

a) Improving decision-making processes

8.4 The primary need is to integrate environmental and developmental decision-making processes. To do this, Governments should conduct a national review and, where appropriate, improve the processes of decision-making so as to achieve the progressive integration of economic, social and environmental issues in the pursuit of development that is economically efficient, socially equitable and responsible and environmentally sound. Countries will develop their own priorities in accordance with their national plans, policies and programmes for the following activities:

a) Ensuring the integration of economic, social and environmental considerations in decision-making at all levels and in all ministries;

b) Adopting a domestically formulated policy framework that reflects a long-term perspective and cross-sectoral approach as the basis for decisions, taking account of the linkages between and within the various political, economic, social and environmental issues involved in the development process;

c) Establishing domestically determined ways and means to ensure the coherence of sectoral, economic, social and environmental policies, plans and policy instruments, including fiscal measures and the budget; these mechanisms should apply at various levels and bring together those interested in the development process;

d) Monitoring and evaluating the development process systematically, conducting regular reviews of the state of human resources development, economic and social conditions and trends, the state of the environment and natural resources; this could be complemented by annual environment and development reviews, with a view to assessing sustainable development achievements by the various sectors and departments of government;

e) Ensuring transparency of, and accountability for, the environmental implications of economic and sectoral policies;

f) Ensuring access by the public to relevant information, facilitating the reception of public views and allowing for effective participation.

b) Improving planning and management systems

8.5 To support a more integrated approach to decision-making, the data systems and analytical methods used to support such decision-making processes may need to be improved. Governments, in collaboration, where appropriate, with national and international organizations, should review the status of the planning and management system and, where necessary, modify and strengthen procedures so as to facilitate the integrated consideration of social, economic and environmental issues. Countries will develop their own priorities in accordance with their national plans, policies and programmes for the following activities:
a) Improving the use of data and information at all stages of planning and management, making systematic and simultaneous use of social, economic, developmental, ecological and environmental data; analysis should stress interactions and synergisms; a broad range of analytical methods should be encouraged so as to provide various points of view;
b) Adopting comprehensive analytical procedures for prior and simultaneous assessment of the impacts of decisions, including the impacts within and among the economic, social and environmental spheres; these procedures should extend beyond the project level to policies and programmes; analysis should also include assessment of costs, benefits and risks;
c) Adopting flexible and integrative planning approaches that allow the consideration of multiple goals and enable adjustment of changing needs; integrative area approaches at the ecosystem or watershed level can assist in this approach;
d) Adopting integrated management systems, particularly for the management of natural resources; traditional or indigenous methods should be studied and considered wherever they have proved effective; women’s traditional roles should not be marginalized as a result of the introduction of new management systems;
e) Adopting integrated approaches to sustainable development at the regional level, including transboundary areas, subject to the requirements of particular circumstances and needs;
f) Using policy instruments (legal/regulatory and economic) as a tool for planning and management, seeking incorporation of efficiency criteria in decisions; instruments should be regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure that they continue to be effective;
g) Delegating planning and management responsibilities to the lowest level of public authority consistent with effective action; in particular the advantages of effective and equitable opportunities for participation by women should be discussed;
h) Establishing procedures for involving local communities in contingency planning for environmental and industrial accidents, and maintaining an open exchange of information on local hazards.

c) Data and information

8.6 Countries could develop systems for monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving sustainable development by adopting indicators that measure changes across economic, social and environmental dimensions.

d) Adopting a national strategy for sustainable development

8.7 Governments, in cooperation, where appropriate, with international organizations, should adopt a national strategy for sustainable development based on, inter alia, the implementation of decisions taken at the Conference, particularly in respect of Agenda 21. This strategy should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country. The experiences gained through existing planning exercises such as national reports for the conference, national conservation strategies and environmental action plans should be fully used and incorporated into a country-driven sustainable development strategy. Its goals should be to ensure socially responsible economic development while protecting the resource base and the environment for the benefit of future generations. It should be developed through the widest possible participation. It should be based on a thorough assessment of the current situation and initiatives.
Ch 9 Protection of the Atmosphere

Energy development efficiency and consumption.

9.12 Governments at the appropriate level, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, should:

a) Co-operate in identifying and developing economically viable, and environmentally sound energy sources to promote the availability of increased energy supplies to support sustainable development efforts, in particular in developing countries;

b) Promote the development at the national level of appropriate methodologies for making integrated energy, environment and economic policy decisions for sustainable development, inter alia through environmental impact assessments;

c) Promote the research, development, transfer and use of improved energy-efficient technologies and practices, including endogenous technologies in all relevant sectors, giving special attention to the rehabilitation and modernization of power systems, with particular attention to developing countries;

d) Promote the development of institutional, scientific, planning and management capacities, particularly in developing countries, to develop, produce, and use increasingly efficient and less polluting forms of energy;

h) In accordance with national socio-economic development and environment priorities, evaluate and, as appropriate, promote cost-effective policies or programmes, including administrative, social and economic measures, in order to improve energy efficiency.

i) Build capacity for energy planning and programme management in energy efficiency, as well as for the development, introduction, and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;

j) Promote appropriate energy efficiency and emission standards or recommendations at the national level aimed at the development and use of technologies that minimize adverse impacts on the environment.

Ch 10 Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources

Strengthening planning and management systems

10.7 Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of regional and international organizations should review and, if appropriate, revise planning and management systems to facilitate an integrated approach. To do this they should:

a) Adopt planning and management systems that facilitate the integration of environmental components such as air, water, land and other natural resources, using landscape ecological planning (LANDEP) or other approaches that focus on, for example, an ecosystem or a watershed;

b) adopt strategic frameworks that allow the integration of both developmental and environmental goals; examples of these frameworks include sustainable livelihood systems, rural development, the World Conservation Strategy/Caring for the Earth, primary environmental care (PEC) and others;

c) Establish a general framework for land-use and physical planning within which specialized and more detailed sectoral plans (e.g. for protected areas, agriculture, forests, human settlements, rural development) can be developed; establish intersectoral consultative bodies to streamline project planning and implementation;
Promoting application of appropriate tools for planning and management

10.8 Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of national and international organizations, should promote the improvement, further development and widespread application of planning and management tools that facilitate an integrated and sustainable approach to land and resources.

Ch 11 Combating Deforestation

Management related activities

11.4 Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of regional, subregional and international organizations, should, where necessary, enhance institutional capability to promote the multiple roles and functions of all types of forests and vegetation inclusive of the other related lands and forest-based resources in supporting sustainable development and environmental conservation in all sectors. This should be done, wherever possible and necessary, by strengthening and/or modifying the existing structures and arrangements, and by improving cooperation and coordination of their respective roles. Some of the major activities in this regard are as follows:

d) Developing and implementing plans and programmes, including definition of national and, if necessary, regional and subregional goals, programmes and criteria for their implementation and subsequent improvement;

Objectives

11.13 The objectives of this programme areas are as follows:

a) to maintain existing forests through conservation and management, and sustain and expand areas under forest and tree cover, in appropriate areas of both developed and developing countries, through the conservation of natural forests, protection, forest rehabilitation, regeneration, afforestation, reforestation and tree planting, with a view to maintaining or restoring the ecological balance and expanding the contribution of forests to human needs and welfare;

b) to prepare and implement, as appropriate, national forestry action programmes and/or plans for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. These programmes and/or plans should be integrated with other land uses. In this context, country-driven national forestry action programmes and/or plans under the Tropical forestry Action Programme are currently being implemented in more than 80 countries, with the support of the international community;

c) to ensure sustainable management and, where appropriate, conservation of existing and future forest resources;

Ch 12 Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought

12.4

d) Developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning;

(a) Management-related activities:

12.37 Governments at the appropriate level, and with the support of the relevant international and regional organizations, should:
b) Develop national plans of action to combat desertification and as appropriate, make them integral parts of national development plans and national environmental plans;

Ch 14 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

14.4 a) Agricultural policy review, planning and integrated programming in the light of the multifunctional aspect of agriculture, particularly with regard to food security and sustainable development;

E. Land conservation and rehabilitation

Objectives

14.45 The objectives of this programme area are:

a) by the year 2000, to review and initiate, as appropriate, national land-resource surveys, detailing the location, extent and severity of land degradation;

b) To prepare and implement comprehensive policies and programmes leading to the reclamation of degraded lands and the conservation of areas at risk, as well as improve the general planning, management and utilization of land resources and preserve soil fertility for sustainable agricultural development.

Ch 15 Conservation of Biological Diversity

Objectives

15.4 b) Develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources;

Activities

15.5 a) Develop new or strengthen existing strategies, plans or programmes of action for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources, taking account of education and training needs;

b) Integrate strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological and genetic resources into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, with particular reference to the special importance of terrestrial and aquatic biological and genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Ch 17 Protection of the Oceans, all Kinds of Seas, Including Enclosed and Semi-enclosed Seas, and Coastal Areas and the Protection, Rational Use and Development of their Living Resources.

Activities

a) Management related activities

17.6 Each coastal State should consider establishing, or where necessary strengthening, appropriate coordinating mechanisms (such as a high-level policy planning body) for integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and their resources, at both the local and national levels. Such mechanisms should include consultation, as appropriate, with the academic and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, local communities, resource user groups, and indigenous people. Such national coordinating mechanisms could provide, inter alia, for:
b) Implementation of integrated coastal and marine management and **sustainable development plans** and programmes at appropriate levels;

17.39 National planning and coordinating bodies should be given the capacity and authority to review all land-based activities and sources of pollution for their impacts on the marine environment and to propose appropriate control measures.

17.132 International organizations, whether subregional, regional or global, must recognize the special development requirements of small island developing States and give adequate priority in the provision of assistance, particularly with respect to the development and implementation of **sustainable development plans**.

**Ch. 18 Protection of the Quality and Supply of Freshwater Resources: Application of Integrated Approaches to the Development, Management and Use of Water Resources**

**Objectives**

18.11 All States, according to their capacity and available resources, and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, including the United Nations and other relevant organizations as appropriate, could set the following targets:

A) by the year 2000:
   i) to have designed and initiated costed and targeted **national action programmes**, and have put in place appropriate structures and legal instruments;
   ii) to have established efficient water-use programmes to attain sustainable resource utilization patterns;

B) by the year 2025:
   i) to have achieved subsectoral targets of all freshwater programme areas.

18.12 All states, according to their capacity and available resources, and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, including the United Nations and other relevant organizations as appropriate, could implement the following activities to improve integrated water resources management:

   a) formulation of costed and targeted **national action plans** and investment programmes;

**Means of implementation**

   b) **Scientific and technological means**

18.16 Water resources development and management should be **planned in an integrated manner**, taking into account long-term planning needs as well as those with narrower horizons, that is to say, they should incorporate environmental, economic, and social considerations based on the principle of sustainability; include the requirements of all users as well as those relating to the prevention and mitigation of water-related hazards; and constitute an integral part of the socio-economic development planning process. A prerequisite for the sustainable management of water as a scarce vulnerable resource is the obligation to acknowledge in all planning and development its full costs. Planning considerations should reflect benefits investment, environmental protection and operation costs, as well as the opportunity costs reflecting the most valuable alternative use of water. Actual charging need not necessarily burden all beneficiaries with the consequences of those considerations. Charging mechanisms should however, reflect as far as possible both the true cost of water when used as an economic good and the ability of the communities to pay.
Ch 19 Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products

Objective

19.58 By the year 2000, national systems for environmentally sound management of chemicals, including legislation and provisions for implementation and enforcement, should be in place in all countries to the extent possible.

Ch 21 Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Wastes and Sewage-Related Issues

21.10 Governments should initiate programmes to achieve sustained minimization of waste generation. Non-governmental organizations and consumer groups should be encouraged to participate in such programmes, which could be drawn up with the cooperation of international organizations, where necessary. These programmes should, wherever possible, build upon existing or planned activities and should:

   c) Develop, where necessary, national plans to minimize waste generation as part of overall national development plans;

21.18 Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should:

   b) By the year 2000, in all industrialized countries, and by year 2010, in all developing countries, have a national programme, including, to the extent possible, targets for efficient waste reuse and recycling.

Activities

21.19 Governments and institutions and non-governmental organizations, including consumer, women’s and youth groups, in collaboration with appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, should launch programmes to demonstrate and make operational enhanced waste reuse and recycling. These programmes should, wherever possible, build upon existing or planned activities and should:

   c) Develop and implement national plans for waste management that take advantage of, and give priority to, waste reuse and recycling;

C. Promoting environmentally sound waste disposal and treatment

Activities

21.30 Governments institutions and non-governmental organizations, together with industries, in collaboration with appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, should launch programmes to improve the control and management of waste-related pollution. These programmes should wherever possible, build upon existing or planned activities and should:

   b) Review and reform national waste management policies to gain control over waste-related pollution;
   d) Develop human waste management plans, giving due attention to the development and application of appropriate technologies and the availability of resources for implementation.
Ch.23 Strengthening the role of Major Groups

23.2 One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, in the more specific context of environment and development, the need for new forms of participation has emerged. This includes the need of individuals, groups and organizations to participate in decisions, particularly those which potentially affect the communities in which they live and work. Individuals, groups and organizations should have access to information relevant to environment and development held by national authorities, including information on products and activities that have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment and information on environmental protection measures.

Ch.24 Global Action for Women towards Sustainable and Equitable Development

Activities

24.3 Governments should take active steps to implement the following:

a) Measures to review policies and establish plans to increase the proportion of women involved as decision makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development;

Ch.25 Children and Youth in Sustainable Development

25.14 Governments should take active steps to:

f) Establish procedures to incorporate children’s concerns into all relevant policies and strategies for environment and development at the local, regional and national levels, including those concerning allocation of and entitlement to natural resources, housing and recreation needs, and control of pollution and toxicity in both rural and urban areas.

Ch.26 Recognising and Strengthening the role of Indigenous People and their Communities

26.5 United Nations organizations and other international development and finance organizations and governments should, drawing on the active participation of indigenous people and their communities, as appropriate, take the following measures, inter alia, to incorporate their values, views and knowledge, including the unique contribution of indigenous women, in resource management and other policies and programmes that may affect them:

d) Contribute to endeavours of indigenous people and their communities in resource management and conservation strategies (such as those that may be developed under appropriate projects funded through the Global Environmental Facility and Tropical forestry Action Plan) and other programme areas of Agenda 21, including programmes to collect, analyse and use data and other information in support of sustainable development projects.

Ch.33 Financial Resources and Mechanisms

33.8 All countries should assess how to translate Agenda 21 into national policies and programmes through a process that will integrate environment and development considerations. National and local priorities should be established by means that include public participation and community involvement, promoting equal opportunity for men and women.
33.9 for an evolving partnership among all countries of the world, including, in particular, between developed and developing countries, **sustainable development strategies** and enhanced and predictable levels of funding in support of longer term objectives are required. For that purpose, developing countries should articulate their own priority actions and needs for support and developed countries should commit themselves to addressing these priorities. In this respect, consultative groups and roundtables and other nationally based mechanisms can play a facilitative role.

33.10 the implementation of the huge sustainable development programmes of Agenda 21 will require the provision to developing countries of substantial new and additional financial resources. Grant or concessional financing should be provided according to sound and equitable criteria and indicators. The progressive implementation of Agenda 21 should be matched by the provision of such necessary financial resources. The initial phase will be accelerated by substantial early commitments of concessional funding.

33.22 Developing countries should also begin to draw up **national plans for sustainable development to give effect to the decisions of the Conference**.

**Ch 35 Science for Sustainable Development**

35.7 Countries, with the assistance of international organizations, where required, should:

develop, apply and institute the necessary **tools for sustainable development**, with regard to:

i) Quality of life indicators covering, for example, health, education, social welfare, state of the environment, and the economy;

ii) Economic approaches to environmentally sound development and new and improved incentive structures for better resource management;

iii) Long term environmental policy formulation, risk management and environmentally sound technology assessment;

**Objectives**

35.16 The primary objective is to provide assessments of the current status and trends in major developmental and environmental issues at the national, subregional, regional and global levels on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge in order to develop alternative **strategies**, including indigenous approaches, for the different scales of time and space required for **long-term policy formulation**.

**Ch 36 Promoting Education, Public Awareness and Training**

36.5 Recognizing that countries and regional and international organizations will develop their own priorities and schedules for implementation in accordance with their needs, policies and programmes, the following activities are proposed:

b) Governments should strive to update or prepare **strategies aimed at integrating environment and development as a cross-cutting issue** into education at all levels within the next three years. This should be done in cooperation with all sectors of society. **The strategies** should set out policies and activities, and identify needs, cost, means and schedules for their implementation, evaluation and review. A thorough review of curricula should be undertaken to ensure a multidisciplinary approach, with environment and development issues in their socio-cultural and demographic aspects and linkages. Due respect should be given to community-defined needs and diverse knowledge systems, including science, cultural and social sensitivities;
37.4 Specific objectives include the following:

a) Each country should aim to complete, as soon as practicable, if possible by 1994, a review of capacity- and capability-building requirements for devising national sustainable development strategies, including those for generating and implementing its own Agenda 21 action programme;

Activities
Build a national consensus and formulate capacity-building strategies for implementing Agenda 21

37.5 As an important aspect of overall planning, each country should seek internal consensus at all levels of society on policies and programmes needed for short- and long-term capacity-building to implement its Agenda 21 programme. This consensus should result from a participatory dialogue of relevant interest groups and lead to an identification of skill gaps, institutional capacities and capabilities, technological and scientific requirements and resource needs to enhance environmental knowledge and administration to integrate environment and development. The United Nations Development Programme in partnership with relevant specialized agencies and other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations could assist, upon request of governments, in the identification of the requirements for technical cooperation including those related to technology transfer and know-how and development assistance for the implementation of Agenda 21. The national planning process together, where appropriate, with national sustainable development action plans or strategies should provide the framework for such cooperation and assistance. The United Nations Development Programme should use and further improve its network of field offices and its broad mandate to assist, using its experience in the field of technical cooperation for facilitating capacity-building at the country and regional levels and making full use of the expertise of other bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and regional commissions and development banks, as well as relevant international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Establish a review mechanism of technical cooperation in and related to technology transfer and know-how

37.7 Donor and recipients, the organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, and international public and private organizations should review the development of the cooperation process as it relates to technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how activities linked to sustainable development. To facilitate this process, the Secretary-General could undertake, taking into account work carried out by the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, consultations with developing countries, regional organizations, organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, and multilateral and bilateral aid and environment agencies, with a view to further strengthening the endogenous capacities of countries and improving technical cooperation, including that related to the technology transfer and know-how process. The following aspects should be reviewed:

a) Evaluation of existing capacity and capability for the integrated management of environment and development, including technical, technological and institutional capacities and capabilities, and facilities to assess the environmental impact of development projects; and evaluation of abilities to respond to and link up with needs for technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how, of Agenda 21 and the global conventions on climate change and biological diversity;
b) Assessment of the contribution of existing activities in technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how, towards strengthening and building national capacity and capability for integrated environment and development management and assessment of the means of improving the quality international technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how;

37.10 The national entity in charge of technical cooperation, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme resident representatives and the United Nations Environment Programme representatives, should establish a small group of key actors to steer the process, giving priority to the country’s own strategies and priorities. The experience gained through existing planning exercises such as the national reports for United Nations Conference on environment and development, national conservation strategies and environment action plans should be fully used and incorporated into a country-driven, participatory and sustainable development strategy. This should be complemented with information networks and consultations with donor organizations in order to improve coordination, as well as access to the existing body of scientific and technical knowledge and information available in institutions elsewhere.

Ch 38 International Institutional Arrangements

38.13 The Commission on Sustainable Development should have the following functions:

   b) To consider information provided by governments, including, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

J. National implementation

38.36 States have an important role to play in the follow-up of UNCED and the implementation of Agenda 21. National level efforts should be undertaken by all countries in an integrated manner so that both environment and development concerns can be dealt with in a coherent manner.

38.38 Furthermore, States could consider the preparation of national reports. In this context, the organs of the United Nations system should, upon request, assist countries, in particular developing countries. Countries could also consider the preparation of national action plans for the implementation of Agenda 21.

38.39 Existing assistance consortia, consultative groups and round table should make greater efforts to integrate environmental considerations and related development objectives into their development assistance strategies, and consider reorienting and appropriately adjusting their membership and operations to facilitate this process and better support national efforts to integrate environment and development.

38.40 States may wish to consider setting up a national coordination structure responsible for the follow-up of Agenda 21. Within this structure, which would benefit from the expertise of non-governmental organizations, submissions and other relevant information could be made to the United Nations.

Ch 40 Information for Decision-Making

40.4 Commonly used indicators such as the gross national product (GNP) and measurements of individual resource or pollution flows do not provide adequate indications of sustainability. Methods for assessing interactions between different sectoral environmental, demographic, social and developmental parameters
are not sufficiently developed or applied. Indicators of sustainable development need to be developed to provide solid bases for decision-making at all levels and to contribute to a self-regulating sustainability of integrated environment and development systems.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

Article 6 General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use
Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting party concerned; and

b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Article 3 Principles

4 The Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. Policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change.

Article 4 Commitments

All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:

b) formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national and, where appropriate regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

Article 12 Communication of Information Related to Implementation

1. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1, each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties, through the secretariat, the following elements of information:

a) A national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permits, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties;

b) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention; and

c) Any other information that the Party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculation of global emission trends.