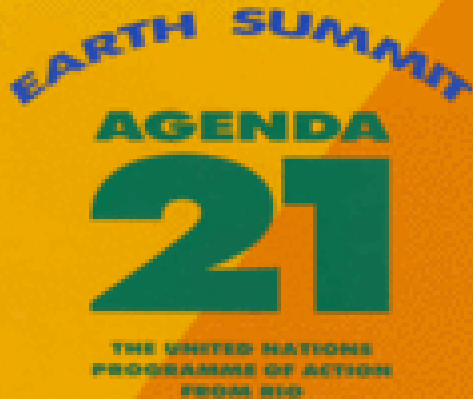


Agenda 21



Agenda 21 is a non-binding, voluntarily implemented action plan of the [United Nations](#) with regard to [sustainable development](#).^[1] It is a product of the [UN Conference on Environment and Development \(UNCED\)](#) held in [Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), in 1992.

It is **an action agenda** for the UN, other multilateral organizations, and individual governments around the world that can be executed at **local, national, and global levels**. The "21" in **Agenda 21** refers to the **21st century**. It has been affirmed and modified at subsequent UN conferences.

Development and evolution of Agenda 21

Stockholm (1972) - (UN Conference on the Human Environment - *Only One World*)

- For the first time gathered leaders from the whole world to coordinate efforts to protect the environment. The motto of the Conference was

1987 Brundtland Commission (Our Common Future)

- The World Commission on Environment & Development -‘Our Common Future’
 - The goal of SD: “SD is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”
 - Integrated and holistic nature of SD: Poverty, health, economic growth and equity is as important as a clean environment

Rio Declaration (1992) - UNCED (UN Conference on Environment and Development - *Earth Summit*)

- The full text of Agenda 21 was revealed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development ([Earth Summit](#)), held in [Rio de Janeiro](#) on June 13, 1992, where 178 governments voted to adopt the program. The final text was the result of drafting, consultation, and negotiation, beginning in 1989 and culminating at the two-week conference.

Rio+5 (1997) – (After 5 years in 1997)

- In 1997, the [UN General Assembly](#) held a special session to appraise the status of Agenda 21 (Rio +5). The Assembly recognized progress as "uneven" and identified key trends, including increasing [globalization](#), widening inequalities in income, and continued deterioration of the global environment. A new General Assembly [Resolution](#) (S-19/2) promised further action.

The Millennium goals (2000)

Rio+10 (Johannesburg 2002)

- Main article: [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#)
- **The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**, agreed at the [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) ([Earth Summit 2002](#)) affirmed UN commitment to "full implementation" of Agenda 21, alongside achievement of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and other international agreements.

Agenda 21 for culture (2002)

- Main article: [Agenda 21 for culture](#)
- The first World Public Meeting on Culture, held in [Porto Alegre](#), Brazil, in 2002, came up with the idea to establish guidelines for local cultural policies, something comparable to what Agenda 21 was for the environment.^[2] They are to be included in various subsections of Agenda 21 and will be carried out through a wide range of sub-programs beginning with [G8](#) countries.

Rio+2012 (After 20 years in 2012)

- Main article: [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#)
- In 2012, at the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#) the attending members reaffirmed their commitment to Agenda 21 in their outcome document called "**The Future We Want**".

Earth Summit

- Agenda 21 was established at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Agenda 21 is a commitment to sustainable development, which was agreed by many of the world's governments.
- Countries that have agreed to Agenda 21 are encouraged to conserve and preserve their environments and natural resources at local and national level.



Structure and contents

- Agenda 21 is a 300-page document divided into 40 chapters that have been grouped into 4 sections:

Section I: Social and Economic Dimensions

- This section is directed toward combating poverty, especially in [developing countries](#), changing consumption patterns, promoting health, achieving a more sustainable population, and sustainable settlement in [decision making](#).

Section II: Conservation and Management of Resources for Development

- Includes atmospheric protection, combating [deforestation](#), protecting fragile environments, conservation of biological diversity ([biodiversity](#)), [control of pollution](#) and the management of [biotechnology](#), and [radioactive wastes](#).

Section III: Strengthening the Role of Major Groups

- Includes the roles of [children](#) and youth, [women](#), [NGOs](#), [local authorities](#), business and workers and strengthening the role of [indigenous peoples](#), their communities, and [farmers](#).

Section IV: Means of Implementation

- [Implementation](#) includes science, [technology transfer](#), [education](#), [international institutions](#) and financial mechanisms.

Agenda 21 tackles social and environmental problems, including:

- air pollution
- deforestation
- biodiversity loss
- health
- overpopulation
- poverty
- energy consumption
- waste production
- transport.



Sustainable development

- Sustainable development encourages the conservation and preservation of natural resources and of the environment.
- If sustainable development is to be successful we all have to change our attitudes to our current lifestyles and the impact they have on the environment.

Conservation and preservation

- Conservation is the sustainable use and management of natural resources, including wildlife, water, air and earth deposits. The conservation of trees involves making sure that they are not used faster than they can be replaced.
- Conservationists say that development is necessary for a better future, but only if the changes are not wasteful.

Conservation and preservation

- Preservation attempts to maintain in their present condition areas of the Earth that are so far untouched by humans.
- Many landscapes are being taken over by farming, industry, housing, tourism and other human developments, and we are losing many landscapes that are truly natural.



Energy

- Energy is needed for heating, electricity, manufacturing, construction and transportation.
- Fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) are non-renewable. The average person in the UK uses 35 times as much energy as someone in India.
- Renewable energy sources include solar power, wind power and hydroelectric power. Agenda 21 requires countries to increase the proportion of energy supplied by renewable schemes that do not produce greenhouse gases, which may cause global warming.

Transport

- Transport is damaging our environment, producing pollutants that lead to acid rain, poor air quality and global warming.
- Governments need to control the rate of traffic growth and improve the performance of vehicles.
- People need to be encouraged to become less dependent on cars and increase their use of public transport.

Waste

- The more waste we produce the more we have to dispose. Sustainable waste management encourages the generation of less waste, the re-use of consumables and the recycling of waste that is produced.
- Waste includes paper, plastics, glass, metals, foods, chemicals, oils, bricks and wood.
- The UK aims to reduce, re-use, recycle and recover waste.



Agenda 21- Contents

1. Preamble

SECTION I. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

2. *International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies*
3. *combating poverty*
4. Changing consumption patterns
5. Demographic dynamics and sustainability
6. Protecting and promoting human health conditions
7. Promoting sustainable human settlement development
8. Integrating environment and development in decision-making

SECTION II. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

9. Protection of the atmosphere
10. Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources
11. Combating deforestation
12. *Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought*
13. Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development
14. Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development
15. Conservation of biological diversity
16. Environmentally sound management of biotechnology
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
18. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources
19. Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products
20. Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, in hazardous wastes
21. Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues
22. Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes

SECTION III. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

23. Preamble
24. Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development
25. Children and youth in sustainable development
26. Recognizing and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities
27. Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations: partners for sustainable development
28. Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21
29. Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions
30. Strengthening the role of business and industry
31. Scientific and technological community
32. Strengthening the role of farmers

SECTION IV. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- 33. Financial resources and mechanisms
- 34. Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building
- 35. *Science for sustainable development*
- 36. Promoting education, public awareness and training
- 37. National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries
- 38. International institutional arrangements
- 39. International legal instruments and mechanisms
- 40. *Information for decision-making*

Democracy-Participation

Experience has shown that sustainable development requires a commitment to sound economic policies and management, an effective and predictable public administration, the integration of environmental concerns into decisionmaking and progress towards democratic government, in the light of country-specific conditions, which allows for **full participation of all parties concerned.**

Non-governmental organizations play a vital role in the shaping and implementation of participatory democracy.

Ensuring people's participation and promoting human resource development for sustainable agriculture

Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of the relevant international and regional organizations, should:

- Encourage people's participation on farm technology development and transfer, incorporating indigenous ecological knowledge and practices;
- Launch applied research on participatory methodologies, management strategies and local organizations.

Science for sustainable development

Science is essential to the search for **sustainable development** and should be responsive to emerging needs.

One role of the sciences should be to provide information to better enable formulation and selection of environment and development policies in the decision-making process. In order to fulfill this requirement, it will be essential to enhance scientific understanding, improve long-term scientific assessments, strengthen scientific capacities in all countries and ensure that the sciences are responsive to emerging needs.

- Scientific knowledge should be applied to articulate and support the goals of sustainable development.
- Sustainable development requires taking longer-term perspectives, integrating local and regional effects of global change into the development process, and using the best scientific and traditional knowledge available.
- Often, there is a communication gap among scientists, policy makers, and the public at large, whose interests are articulated by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Better communication is required among scientists, decision makers, and the general public.

Programme for the Future

Implementation of Agenda 21

Adopted by the Special Session of the General Assembly, 23-27 June 1997

- We reaffirm that Agenda 21 remains the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development. We reaffirm all the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Forest Principles.
- Economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.