

Definitions of Sustainable Development – highlight key words and phrases you feel are important

- 1) *“A dynamic process which enables all people to realise their potential and to improve their quality of life in ways that simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth’s life support systems”* Forum for the Future (2008)
- 2) *“A balanced interaction between population and the carrying capacity of the environment, such that the population develops to its full potential without adversely affecting the carrying capacity of the environment upon which it depends”*
Buckminster Fuller Institute (Source Citnet 2010)
- 3) *“The ability of all to live a safe, healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and local, cultural and spiritual values”* Chrisna du Plessis (2002)
- 4) *“ ... maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve lifestyles and feelings of wellbeing on one hand and preserving and enhancing natural resources and ecosystems on the other”* Global Development Research Center, Kobe, Japan
(Source: GRDC 2009)
- 5) *“..... economic growth that will benefit present and future generations without detrimentally affecting the resources or biological systems of the planet”* W. Clinton's US President’s Council for Sustainable Development (1993)
- 6) *“..... leaving the world a better place than you found it, taking no more than you need, trying not to harm life or the environment and making amends if you do”* Paul Hawken (2004)

Bonn Declaration

We, the participants gathered at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Bonn, Germany on 31 March to 2 April 2009 issue the following statement and call for action:

1. Despite unprecedented economic growth in the 20th century, persistent poverty and inequality still affect too many people, especially those who are most vulnerable. Conflicts continue to draw attention to the need for building a culture of peace. The global financial and economic crises highlights the risks of unsustainable economic development models and practices based on short-term gains. The food crisis and world hunger are an increasingly serious issue. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns are creating ecological impacts that compromise the options of current and future generations and the sustainability of life on Earth, as climate change is showing.

2. A decade into the 21st century, the world faces substantial, complex and interlinked development and lifestyle challenges and problems. The challenges arise from values that have created unsustainable societies. The challenges are interlinked, and their resolution requires stronger political commitment and decisive action. We have the knowledge, technology and skills available to turn the situation around. We now need to mobilise our potential to make use of all opportunities for improving action and change.
3. The impacts of unsustainable development, priorities, responsibilities and capacity differ between regions and between developing and developed countries. All countries will need to work collaboratively to ensure sustainable development now and in the future. Investment in education for sustainable development (ESD) is an investment in the future, and can be a life-saving measure, especially in post-conflict and least developed countries.
4. Building on the Jomtien, Dakar and Johannesburg promises, we need a shared commitment to education that empowers people for change. Such education should be of a quality that provides the values, knowledge, skills and competencies for sustainable living and participation in society and decent work. The Education for All agenda underlines that the availability of basic education is critical for sustainable development. It similarly emphasises pre-school learning, education for rural people and adult literacy. Achievements in literacy and numeracy contribute to educational quality, and will also be critical to the success of ESD.
5. Through education and lifelong learning we can achieve lifestyles based on economic and social justice, food security, ecological integrity, sustainable livelihoods, respect for all life forms and strong values that foster social cohesion, democracy and collective action. Gender equality, with special reference to the participation of women and girl children in education, is critical for enabling development and sustainability. Education for sustainable development is immediately necessary for securing sustainable life chances, aspirations and futures for young people.

UNESCO 2005 declared that Education for Sustainable Development

Should allow every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.

Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory

teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development.

Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way.

Education for Sustainable Development requires far-reaching changes in the way education is often practised today.

UNESCO is the lead agency for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

RIO +20

193 World leaders approved a document called 'The Future we want'

"The outcome document provides a firm foundation for social, economic and environmental well-being," Mr. Ban said. "It is now our responsibility to build on it. Now the work begins."

The document calls for a wide range of actions, among many other points, including:

- launching a process to establish sustainable development goals;
- detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development;
- strengthening the UN Environment Programme and establishing a new forum for sustainable development;
- promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures;
- taking steps to go beyond GDP to assess the well-being of a country;
- developing a strategy for sustainable development financing;
- adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production;
- focusing on improving gender equality;
- stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy; and recognizing the importance of voluntary commitments on sustainable development.