



The principles of sustainable development

Everyone has the right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Present and future generations are equally entitled to this right.

Environmental protection must be seen as an integral part of any development process.

Each country has the right to utilise its own resources, without affecting the environment beyond its borders.

Polluters must provide compensation for damage caused to the environment — the so-called polluter pays principle.

Economic activities should be combined with the principle of implementing preventive measures for environmental protection.

States must cooperate in the interests of environmental protection.

The alleviation of poverty and of inequality in living standards in the different parts of the world are an integral aspect of sustainable development.

States must limit and abolish unsustainable models of production and consumption and enhance appropriate demographic policies.

The most efficient way to solve environmental problems is to involve all interested parties.

States must develop and encourage the informed participation of the population in decision-making processes.

States must develop and implement effective legislation for environmental protection.

Environmental protection must involve all social groups.

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.





Energy

Levels of consumption of all forms of energy are continually rising. Improving access to reliable, sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources and services, as well as creating national programmes for energy efficiency, are vital tasks in the coming 10 to 15 years.



Forests

The world's forests are disappearing mainly due to the expansion of agriculture. In the coming years, forest management and recovery will be of the utmost importance.



Climate change

The world community has emphasised the need to reach an agreement on greenhouse gas emission norms in developed countries, and has declared the following tasks to be imperative in addressing climate change:

- to improve understanding of the concept of sustainable development and to stabilise the relevant institutions at international, regional and national levels;
- and

- to further endorse the role of civil society and to promote partner initiatives between the private and public sectors.