

# 40 Years of sustainable Development : Key Dates

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## **1972 : 1st UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE)**

Creation of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). For the first time, the various links between global environment and development needs were discussed.

## **1980 : The concept of sustainable development appeared for the first time in world conservation Strategy (WCS)**

The WCS defines the four main factors in natural resource destruction :

- Poverty
- Population pressure
- Social inequalities
- International trade conditions

## **1987 : “Our Common Future” Report (Brundtland Report)**

For the first time “sustainable development” was defined establishing links between social, economic, cultural and environment issues.

“Sustainable development is a development mode that fulfills the needs of present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill theirs.”

## **1988 : Creation of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

It is responsible for the scientific processes of global warming.

## **1992 : Earth Summit – United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro**

173 Heads of State adopted the “Agenda 21” action program containing :

- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The forest management statement
- Creation of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

## **1994 : International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo**

Goals :

- Universal access to family planning by 2015
- Strengthening women’s autonomy

## **1995 : World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen**

128 Heads of State and Government adopted the Declaration on Social Development, which aims to address the 3 scourges that affect every country in the world : poverty, unemployment, and social disintegration.

## **1996 : City Summit in Istanbul**

States committed themselves to 2 goals : adequate shelter for all and viable sustainable human settlements with regards to the environment, human rights, social development, women, and the population in the specific context of urbanization.

## **1997 : 1<sup>st</sup> World water forum in Marrakech**

Every 3 years, this group of NGO’s, governments, and international organizations aims to place water issues on the international political agenda and raise social awareness of the importance of water.

## **2000 : United Nations Millennium Summit in New York**

Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set for 2015 :

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Equality of the sexes
- Infant mortality
- Maternal health
- Diseases
- Environmental sustainability
- Global partnership

## **2002 : World Summit Sustainable Development in Johannesburg**

Developing partnership with civil society (local communities, governments, citizens, associations, companies, etc.) assumed an important dimension.

## **2005 : Kyoto Protocol came into force**

Signed on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1997, the Protocol needed to be ratified by at least 55 countries, representing 55 % of global greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010, it has been ratified by 168 States.

## **2010 : 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Nagoya – COP10**

Concrete results : adoption of a strategic plan to preserve biodiversity and creation of an intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

## **2012 : Rio+20 Summit – UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)**

2 themes : the green economy in the context of sustainable development and the institutional framework for sustainable development.