



REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

**MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT, LAND PLANNING
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The First National Conference for Sustainable Development

FRAMEWORK PAPER

TUNIS, 1-2 OCTOBER 2014

The National Conference for Sustainable Development Tunis, 1-2 October 2014 Framework Paper

I. What is the National Conference for Sustainable Development?

The National Conference for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is a national consultation process involving different actors and stakeholders in socio-economic development and environmental protection.

On one hand, Tunisia faces major immediate and future challenges. On the other hand, important changes on both political and institutional levels have been occurring in the country since the Revolution. This represents a very good moment and an opportunity to make innovative development policies and strategies reforms in order to ensure sustainable development.

The first National Conference for Sustainable Development will be held on the 1st and 2nd of October 2014 and should be reorganised every 3 years.

II. Which principles should govern the Conference?

The National Conference for Sustainable Development will be conducted on the basis of the three following principles:

1. The debates of the Conference will cover issues that are cross cutting and of strategic significance. The topics will be systemically addressed in a way equal attention is paid to economic, social, environmental, cultural and governance aspects.
2. The debates will be conducted with key stakeholders in the development process, namely: **(i)** the administration and the public sector, **(ii)** the private sector, **(iii)** the civil society and **(iv)** the experts and academics. Each of these four groups of stakeholders is requested to provide its vision and perspective on proposals of policy measures in relation with the different topics of the NCSD.
3. A convergent and shared vision of the stakeholders will be developed and shared by all the participants in the Conference.

III. What are the topics to be discussed at the Conference?

With reference to various studies and reports which have been recently done on sustainable development in Tunisia, the following six major topics could be maintained:

1. Production and consumption patterns,
2. Management of natural resources and ecosystems and adaptation to climate change
3. Quality of life and pollution control
4. Land use planning, the city and transportation,
5. Education, innovation and knowledge management,
6. Environmental governance for sustainable development governance.

IV. How will the debates be organized?

The six topics mentioned above will be debated by each group of stakeholders through a series of consultation workshops during the months of July and August 2014. Each of the four groups will write a document of about fifteen pages, about two pages per topic, addressing three key questions:

1. What are the major issues of the topic that are problematic and/or represent a barrier to sustainable development?
2. What strategic directions should be adopted as a response to overcome the issues and challenges?
3. What are the respective priority measures to be taken by public authorities in the short and medium term?

After the completion of the work by the groups, and during the first half of September 2014, a synthetic compilation of the respective visions and proposals will be made and presented in a joint report to be validated by the same groups. This report will be presented, discussed and revised at the National Conference for Sustainable Development which will take place between the 1st and 2nd of October 2014. The final report of the Conference will be considered as a national consensus document with three key findings:

- The national issues and challenges to sustainable development;
- The vision and major orientations to lay the foundation for sustainable development;
- Proposals for policy measures (executive) in the short and medium terms.

V. Who is the target for the Conference Output?

The final report of the Conference will be addressed primarily to the three following state institutions:

1. The Government (the present and/or the future government resulting from the forthcoming elections of October 26, 2014), especially for executive measures in the short and medium terms;
2. The Parliament for legislative measures;
3. The Constitutional Authority of Sustainable Development and the Rights of Future Generations. As part of carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the Constitution of 27 January 2014, this body will monitor and follow up with all having to do with the consideration of visions, directions and policy measures in laws and development plans.

The different groups of actors who contributed to the final report of the Conference will have the task to follow up with the implementation of these measures by the above mentioned institutions at various occasions and public dialogues, especially during the preparation of development plans and future Conferences.

VI. Calendar of the Conference

The first National Conference for Sustainable Development will be held according to the following schedule:

Tasks	Periods and dates
Preparatory meetings for launching the four groups of actors	From 17 th of May to 31 st of July 2014
Work of the four groups	From 31 st of July to 5 th of September 2014
Finalization of the four group reports	5th of September 2014
Edition of the synthetic report based on the four group reports	From 6 th to 18 th of September 2014
Validation of the synthetic report by the groups	From 19th to 23rd of September 2014
Edition of the documents to be presented at the First National Conference for Sustainable Development, 1 st and 2 nd of October 2014.	From 24 th to 29 th of September 2014
Organization of the First National Conference for Sustainable Development in Tunis in presence of the extended groups and larger participation of different stakeholders	The 1st and 2nd of October 2014
Summary of the work and preparation of the final document to NCSD	From 3rd to 15th of October 2014
Submission of the final report to the Government for adoption	Between 22nd of October and 5th of November 2014
Publication of the final report of the conference	December 2014

VII. What reference documents to be used during the Conference?

A selection of reference documents is available for different groups of stakeholders participating in the Conference:

1. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development, Tunisia; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, 2012, updated in 2014;
2. The Environmental Profile of Tunisia, European Union, 2012;
3. The national reports on the state of the environment for the years 2011 and 2013, OTEDD/ANPE;
4. Sectorial Sustainability Guidelines Documents (agriculture, tourism, transport, industry, water, energy, the city, forests and fishing), developed by the Tunisian Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development
5. Sectorial strategies developed by various governmental departments.

All of the documentation as well as the calendar and related information on the Conference are available on the national portal of the environment:

<http://www.environnement.gov.tn/>

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