

Ralph (Skip) Luken:

Where is industry in sustainable development planning process in developing countries?

In its preparatory activities for The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) requested national experts in 18 developing and transition economies to assess the planning process for enhancing the contribution of industry to sustainable development. The assessment of changes in institutional arrangements fell into three categories: (1) generation of statistical information about the economic, social and environmental impacts of the manufacturing sector; (2) involvement of the manufacturing sector in the preparation of a sustainable development strategies and (3) enactment of specific policies and programmes regarding industry.

The reports found little information about the impacts of industry on environmental quality in the more explicit environmental frameworks, such as national conservation strategies and national environmental action plans, and next to nothing in these documents on the positive impacts of industry.

The reports also found in most instances insufficient changes in institutional arrangements regarding generation of information, involvement of industry in the planning process, policy regimes and policy integration among industrial, environmental and technology policies. However, there were notable examples of policy integration among the policy regimes in terms of coordination, cooperation and coherence.