

Section 3 : Strengthening the Role of Major Groups

Chapter 30 : Strengthening the role of business and industry

Business and industry will play a crucial role in the implementation of Agenda 21. Relevant areas include:

- social and economic development
- waste minimisation
- reducing impacts on resources and the environment
- developing products and services that contribute to sustainable development.

A. Promoting cleaner production

Objective

- To increase the efficiency of resource utilisation, and reduce waste output.

Activities

Governments, businesses, industries and other organisations should:

- strengthen cooperation in implementing sustainable development
- promote cleaner production through economic instruments, legislation and standards
- internalise environmental costs into accounting and pricing mechanisms
- report annually on their environmental records, energy and resource use
- adopt codes of conduct promoting better environmental practice
- co-operate with trade unions to improve knowledge and skills in implementing sustainable development
- increase education, training and awareness in cleaner production
- expand existing data bases at the national and international level.

B. Promoting responsible entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurs play an important role in the social and economic development of a country. Responsible entrepreneurship can improve

the efficiency of resource use, reduce hazards, minimise wastes and safeguard environmental quality.

Activities

Governments, businesses, industries and other organisations should:

- encourage the establishment and operation of sustainably managed enterprises
- encourage the establishment of venture capital funds for sustainable development projects
- support training in the environmental aspects of enterprise management
- establish sustainable development policies in world-wide corporations
- establish partnerships between enterprises to facilitate the exchange of skills and technology
- establish national councils for sustainable development to promote entrepreneurship
- increase research and development of environmentally sound technology
- ensure responsible and ethical management of products and processes.