

A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA

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THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA

During the 5th meeting of Malta's National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD), held on 9 December 2002, the Commission appointed a Task Force to oversee the preparation of a Sustainable Development Strategy for Malta. This decision was taken in line with Article 8(7) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act XX 2001), which lists the functions of the Commission.

The Task Force was composed of Lino Briguglio as coordinator, Godwin Cassar, Victor Axiak, Ray Cachia Zammit and Marguerite Camilleri.



THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA (Cont)

The Task Force agreed that the strategy was to have two phases.

Phase 1:

The development of an overarching set of strategic directions

Phase 2:

Setting of targets and indicators corresponding the strategic directions.



THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA (Cont)

The task force drew up a draft sustainable development strategy in February 2003.

The document consisted of an overarching vision and principles, listing the aspirations of government, civil society and the private sector in this regard, and outlining methods of implementation, taking into account Malta's capacities and constraints.

THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA (Cont)

The draft strategy consisted of five chapters as follows:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. The dimensions of sustainable development**
- 3. The proposed strategy for Malta**
 - 3.1 Managing the environment and resources**
 - 3.2 Promoting sustainable economic development**
 - 3.3 Fostering sustainable communities**
 - 3.4 Cross-cutting strategic issues**
- 4. Implementing the strategy**
- 5. Conclusion**



THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA (Cont)

The activities of the NCSD had to be suspended for some months due to various reasons, including the referendum on Malta's accession to the EU, and the General Elections. When the NCSD resumed its operations in early 2004, the task of developing a Sustainable Development Strategy again took centre stage.



THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MALTA (Cont)

The draft strategy prepared by the task force was approved by the NCSD in April 2004, subject to minor editorial changes and updating of information. The document was printed in the form of a booklet in July 2004.

The document was also placed on a Website dedicated to the NCSD.

<http://home.um.edu.mt/islands/ncsd/draftstrategydocument.pdf>



THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

A consultation process with regard to the sustainable development strategy for Malta was discussed and planned during the NCSD meetings held between January and April 2004.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS (Cont)

An NCSD Sub-Committee was appointed to oversee Phase 1 of the consultation process.

The Sub-Committee was composed of the following persons:

- **Lino Briguglio as Co-ordinator**
- **Victor Axiak**
- **Maria Attard**
- **Simone Borg**
- **Paul Pace, and**
- **Emanuel Borg as secretary.**

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS (Cont)

The Sub-Committee agreed that Phase 1 of the consultation process was to be structured as follows:

- A National Conference to launch the process
- Consultation with major groups to be coordinated by Lino Briguglio
- Consultation with focus groups to be coordinated by Marguerite Camilleri
- A National Conference to wind up the process

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS (Cont)

The NCSD agreed that Phase 1 of the process was to be concluded in December 2004.

Most of the consultation process had been concluded by that date.

However there were things that remained to be completed, including the processing of the feedback from the various consultation meetings and the organization of the national conference to wind up the process .



LAUNCHING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS (Cont)

The Sub-Committee organised a National Conference with the support of the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, aimed at launching the consultative process.

The conference, was held at Corinthia San Gorg on 24 April 2004.

It was attended by about 230 persons, and was highly successful in eliciting the participation of persons representing various stakeholders.

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS

The Consultation process also involved meeting with major groups.

The objectives of the meetings were:

- **To review the document on the draft strategy for sustainable development in Malta**
- **To discuss issues of importance to the group concerned**

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

The agenda for the meetings was:

- **Introduction by chairperson/coordinator**
- **Distribution of draft strategy document prepared by the NCSD**
- **Brief introduction and explanation of procedure**
- **Breakout into groups, if the number of participants was sufficiently large**
- **Open discussion with a focus on issues of concern to the participants**
- **Concluding session**

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

Consultation meetings were organised with the following major groups between May and December 2004 (Names in brackets refer to meetings coordinators).

- **Women (Grace Attard/Marguerite Camilleri)**
- **Farmers (Tony Meli)**
- **Youth (Jean Paul De Lucca/Lino Briguglio)**
- **Science and Technology (Jennifer Harper)**

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

- **NGOs (Vince Attard/Lino Briguglio)**
- **Workers and their Unions (Saviour Rizzo)**
- **Local Authorities (Joe Borg)**
- **Senior Citizens (Carmel Mallia/Charles Arrigo)**

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

Consultation meetings were also held with representatives of the following economic sectors:

- **Construction (Kevin Buhagiar/Lino Briguglio)**
- **Industry (Jonathan Borg)**
- **Tourism (MaryLouise Mangion/Lino Briguglio)**
- **Energy (Maria Attard)**
- **Transport (Maria Attard)**



CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

Each meeting had one rapporteur to produce a report on the proceedings of the meeting and to propose revisions of the draft sustainable development strategy document, based on the suggestions by the participants at the meeting.

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

The following public sector stakeholders were also consulted and response was received by email or by post:

- **Central Government**
- **Public Corporations and Authorities**



CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

A regional meeting for Gozo was held on 26 November 2004, focusing on the special circumstances of the island.

It was very successfully organised and very well attended.

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH MAJOR GROUPS (Cont)

The following meetings are yet to be held:

- **Meeting with the Cabinet Committee on the Environment (being held today)**
- **Meeting with the Social Committee of the House of Representatives (tentatively set for 20 June)**
- **Meeting with the MCESD (tentatively set for 25 June)**
- **Meeting with the Media (set for 1st June)**



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR GROUPS (cont)

The following is initial feedback that can be scanned from the rapporteurs' reports.

However the feedback – which was very extensive – has not been totally processed yet.

The NCSD is commissioning an expert to perform this task.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR GROUPS (cont)

General

- **In most groups there was a general understanding that sustainable development has various dimensions.**
- **In most groups the issue of lack of enforcement was highlighted.**
- **There was a general recognition that economic instruments are useful.**
- **In most groups there was a recognition that membership of the EU was conducive to sustainable development in Malta.**

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR GROUPS (cont)

General

- **There were contrasting views regarding the balance between economic development and environmental concerns. Some wanted to assign centre stage to economic development, others to environmental concerns**
- **There were also contrasting views regarding the role of the government. Some (especially NGOs) wanted a larger role assigned to civil society.**

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR GROUPS (cont)

Regarding the text:

- **The draft strategy was considered to be very comprehensive and covers all aspects of sustainable development**
- **Most major groups, as expected, wanted more importance to be assigned to those major groups**
- **The regional characteristics, particularly Gozo, were not given enough importance in the strategy**



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR GROUPS (cont)

Regarding the text: Suggestions for Improvement

- **The implementation section of the draft strategy is somewhat weak.**
- **Some aspects of sustainable development, such as renewable energy and the use of economic instruments need to be given more importance.**
- **Some sections of the document need updating.**
- **The strategy lacks targets and indicators (note: this was planned to be done in the next phase of the development of the strategy).**



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS

Why focus groups?

- **To complement the more formal consultations**
- **Focus on groups that would not normally come to consultation meetings**

The Groups:

- **University law students,**
- **Young mothers,**
- **Girls government secondary school students,**
- **MCAST Agriculture students,**
- **Local Band Club committee members**



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Structure of Meetings

Meetings ran for 1 - 2 hours, 8 – 12 persons (except law students), not designed to be representative or enduring.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

5 Questions

- **What things make Malta a good place to live compared to other places today?**
- **What things do not make Malta a good place to live in?**
- **If you could imagine Malta in 2025 (or some other target year), and we had the power to make it a wonderful place, what would it be like?**
- **What problems need to be addressed to transform Malta as we know it today to this wonderful place in 2025?**
- **Which of these are the most important priority issues for Malta to tackle?**



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Findings – Question 1: 'Good place'

- **Mostly it's our social life**
- **Young Mothers and Agriculture Students showed more appreciation for natural environment**
- **Law Students mentioned a few economic factors**
- **Different groups highlight different elements of Quality of Life**
- **Important impacts for policy making**

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Findings – Question 2: 'Bad place'

- **Again, it's social (negative insular attitudes) but also environmental (shabby, dirty too built-up)**
- **Economic concerns: cost of living, service in public institutions, law enforcement, transport**
- **Young Mothers thought social issues made Malta a worse place to live in, while Band Club also so environmental issues as making Malta a bad place to live in (reversal from Q1).**

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Findings – Question 3: 'Vision 2020'

A Sustainable Malta will have a high level of quality of life and provide opportunities for all. We want to see:

- **Smarter, more attractive cities, towns and villages with more gardens, and spaces for recreation and sports;**
- **More vibrant natural areas and better accessibility to countryside and coast;**
- **More positive, tolerant and responsible attitudes, and quality and affordable social services including education, health care, housing and pensions;**
- **Better service in public institutions;**
- **A strong and diversified economy based on various sectors including manufacturing, tourism, office jobs and ship-related activity;**
- **A fair income distribution;**
- **Better roads and a new public transport system;**
- **Less stress and a better work-life balance.**

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Findings – Question 4: 'How to achieve it?'

- **Focus on social arena: education, values, social solidarity**
- **Improvements to the way institutions function (justice, enforcement, governance)**
- **Environment: land use and dilapidation, pollution and littering,**
- **Economic: inflation, not taking pride in one's work**

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Findings – Question 5: 'Priorities'

Society	<p>Education (based on improving values: 'Christian values, human values', respect - and better parenting and instilling national pride)</p> <p>Gender issues (women's issues, sexual abuse, prostitution)</p> <p>Addressing particular social issues (drug abuse, stress, immigration) and areas of deprivation (e.g. Valletta and Cottonera)</p> <p>Access to social services (health care, pensions)</p>
Environment	<p>Pollution and Waste</p> <p>Protecting the sea</p> <p>Protecting historical heritage</p> <p>Cleanliness and maintenance</p>
Economy	<p>Wages that allow people to live decently (with respect particularly to house prices)</p> <p>Jobs and the economic sustainability of the agriculture and tourism industries</p>
Institutions	<p>Governance and enforcement (efficiency, governance, customer care, discipline, enforcement with harsher penalties, even for Government)</p>
Transport	<p>Improve transport system (better roads and alternative to cars)</p>



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH FOCUS GROUPS (cont)

Conclusions:

- **Address contradictory perceptions regarding state's role**
- **Address concerns about social aspects, cleanliness & maintenance, institutions, positive appreciation of the environment, impacts on different groups**
- **Vision statement for 1 generation (25 yrs)**
- **5-10 year timeframe for Strategy**
- **List of short-term priorities**
- **These key items should be discussed in the NCSD**

NEXT STEPS

- **The consultation process with major groups and with focus groups will round up the first phase, which was concerned with the developing of an overarching strategy consisting of a number of strategic directions**
- **The next phase will be the setting of targets and indicators for the strategic directions set.**
- **The consultation process will be wound up by the organisation of a national conference. Suggested date: October 2005**



END OF PRESENTATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION