

2nd Walloon Sustainable Development Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2nd Walloon Sustainable Development Strategy (WSDS) was adopted in July 2016. The Decree on the Walloon Sustainable Development Strategy (27 June 2013) foresees the adoption of a new strategy every new legislature. This strategy follows hence a 1st strategy adopted in October 2013.

The strategy is designed as *“a guidance and actions document to promote initiative and consistency for sustainable development in the public policies of the Walloon Region”* (art. 2, 2° of the decree).

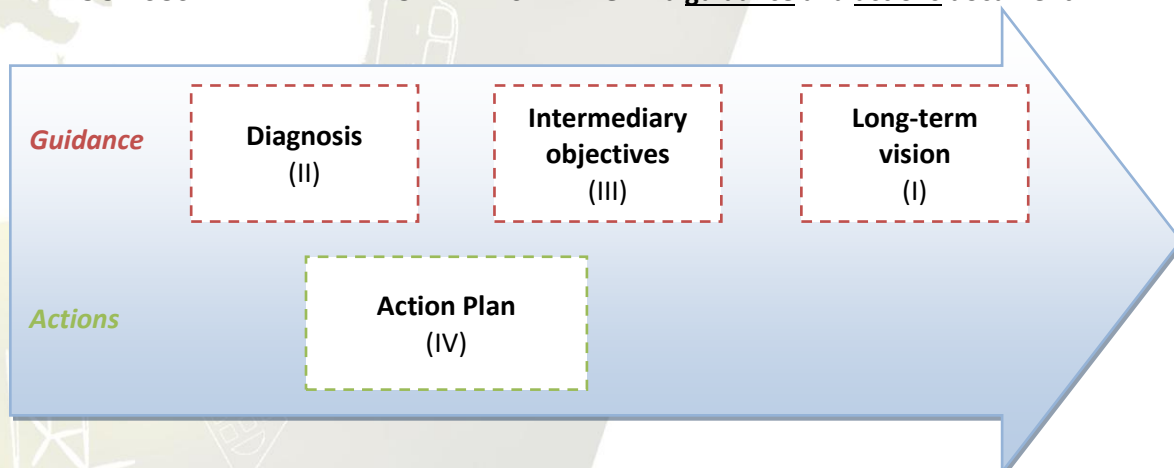
The 2nd WSDS aims at better meet the needs of present generations without compromising the prospects of future generations to satisfy their own needs. It focuses therefore on the necessary change of our consumption and production patterns to make Wallonia more resilient, create local jobs, reduce the negative impacts on the environment and generate a better shared prosperity. This change is in particular addressed in three areas through the strategy: food, energy and resources.

The strategy is fully in line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, adopted within the United Nations in September 2015. This agenda entails 17 goals and 169 targets that the Head of States and Governments have committed to achieving by 2030. This strategy along with other action plans intends to contribute to the attainment of the goals and to take part in this ambitious multilateral agenda.

The decree defines the components of any WSDS (art. 5). The 2nd WSDS consists therefore of four chapters:

- A **long term vision** (chapter I) which describes the desired future for Wallonia. This vision defines an ideal situation and comprises a set of long term objectives. As such it gives a direction for the Walloon actors in order to pursue the transition of Wallonia to sustainable development.
- A **diagnosis of the weaknesses and strengths** (chapter II) of Wallonia in its transition to sustainable development. It describes the current situation based on the analysis of a set of indicators.
- **Intermediate objectives** (chapter III), at short and medium term, which punctuate the way towards the long term vision.
- An **action plan** (chapter IV) which includes concrete measures contributing to the realization of the objectives for the themes it covers.

2nd WALLOON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY = a guidance and actions document



The 1st three chapters address all the dimensions of sustainable development whereas the action plan has a more restricted scope. It targets specific areas and cross-cutting tools which are considered as policy priorities for this strategy. It complements other existing plans.

Elaboration process

Participation is at the heart of sustainable development, it has hence been largely mainstreamed in the elaboration process of the 2nd WSDS. Indeed, the draft strategy adopted in December 2015 was submitted to 3 advisory councils as foreseen by the decree. A public consultation on the draft document was also undertaken between February and May 2016. A total of 51 organizations and 199 citizens took part in this consultation. Their opinions were analyzed and taken into account when possible in the final version of the strategy. A report of the results of the consultation is annexed to the strategy.

Vision

The vision, by describing a desired future in Wallonia in 2050, aims to mobilize and to foster closer cooperation among all actors of the society, and hence to become in this way an actual shared vision.

The vision builds on the political commitments made at the Walloon level as well as the sustainable development commitments made at the national, European and international level since 1992. Thus, it reflects a situation in which the 17 sustainable development goals (the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development) will be achieved.

The vision is based on the principle of distributional justice, in both time and space, which is central to the Brundtland and WSDS decree definition of sustainable development. The objective is not only to enable, in a given country, the present generations to meet their needs and improve their quality of life it is also to ensure that it does not compromise the ability of people living elsewhere and in the future to meet their own needs or to dispose of a better quality of life. The vision is therefore structured around 3 dimensions:



- **Here – Living in Wallonia in 2050:** this dimension deals with the ability of the Walloon citizens to meet their needs and to enjoy a certain quality of life. This dimension addresses aspects such as health, food, housing, education, employment, income, goods and services, inequalities...
- **Elsewhere – Living in the world in 2050:** this dimension focuses on the interdependencies between the Walloon development and the development of the rest of the world. It broaches aspects such as a greater autonomy in energy, food and resources, the fight against poverty worldwide or the diminution of greenhouse gases.
- **Later – Living after 2050:** this dimension addresses the ability of future citizens to meet their needs and improve their quality of life. Investments in education, health or infrastructure as well as the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources are covered among others under this dimension.

The vision also underlines the role of the citizens, organizations and governments at the local and regional level in the transition of Wallonia towards sustainable development.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis is based on the evaluation of forty indicators over the period 2004 – 2014. Those indicators reflect the main economic, social and environmental trends in Wallonia in order to assess the progress of the Region in its transition to sustainable development.

The diagnosis is articulated around 4 questions:

- **Here** - How are the satisfaction of the needs and the quality of life evolving in Wallonia?
- **Elsewhere** - How does the development in Wallonia contribute, at its own level, to meeting the needs and the quality of life in the rest of the world?
- **Later** - How are the resources passed on to future generations evolving to meet their needs and their quality of life?
- **Consumption and production patterns** - How are the consumption and production patterns evolving in Wallonia?

The 1st three questions refer to the three dimensions of the vision: here, elsewhere and later. The 4th question focuses on the consumption and production patterns given their impact on the three dimensions – here, elsewhere, later.

3 axes du
Développement durable



The indicators are selected following a set of criteria. Their evolution is analyzed against the objectives of the long term vision taken into account their trend and their average annual growth rate in absolute value over the analyzed period. Four cases are distinguished: quick progress 😊, slow progress 😐, fall 😞 and not applicable if the data available over the period are not sufficient to assess the indicator.

Indicators	😊	😐	😞	NA
Here	3	4	2	3
Elsewhere	4	/	2	1
Later	5	1	5	/
Consumption and production patterns	4	4	2	/
	40%	23%	28%	10%

16 indicators out of 40, accounting for 40% of the indicators, show a quick progress over the period 2004-2014 whereas around 50% of them show a fall or a *status quo*.



Short and medium term objectives

The intermediary objectives punctuate the way to the long term vision (chapter I). Given the recent multilateral agenda, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the 2030 ASD constitute the intermediary objectives. In the 3rd chapter, the 17 SDGs and the 121 targets¹ are listed and arbitrarily grouped under five categories, the 5 Ps, which are the communication elements of the agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

Under every target, is indicated:

- the competency level involved (Wallonia, Federation Wallonia-Brussels, German community and Federal authority) ;
- the fact that the issue addressed by the target is tackled in the political declarations of the Governments of Wallonia and the Federation Wallonia-Brussels ;
- a quantitative target at the Walloon level if it exists.

The analysis shows that the Governments of Wallonia and the Federation Wallonia-Brussels have, in their respective political declaration of 2014, taken commitments for 104 targets out of 121 for the whole target or part of it. The Walloon Government has committed to reach quantitative targets for 21 targets. And 40 targets are linked to the 3 areas of the action plan (food, energy and resources).

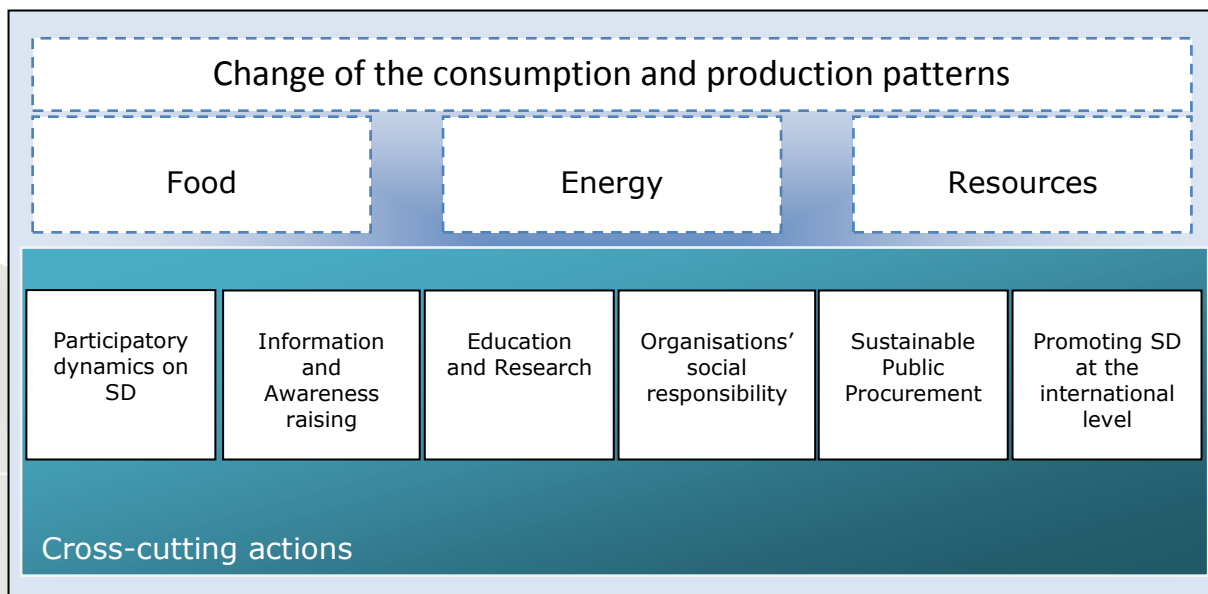
Action Plan

In order to reach the short and medium term objectives (chapter III), a set of actions are defined to be implemented within the next 3 years.

The action plan aims to make the consumption and production patterns more sustainable in 3 specific areas: food, energy and resources. It is reinforced by a set of cross-cutting actions related to support policies: participatory dynamics on sustainable development, information and awareness raising, education and research, organizations' social responsibility, sustainable public procurement, promoting sustainable development at the international level.

In total, the action plan encompasses 100 actions spread over all the ministers of the Walloon Government. However, a large majority are in the hands of the Minister in charge of sustainable development, who is leading the establishment and implementation of the 2nd WSDS.

¹ 121 out of 169. The chapter only presents the targets which are relevant for Wallonia.



Furthermore, the action plan does not have the ambition to cover all the SDGs. It targets some policy priorities and must be considered as complementary to other action plans of the Walloon Government.

Monitoring and evaluation

As foreseen by the Decree, the implementation of the WSDS will be monitored at least every two years. The broad public will be informed of the modalities and results of this monitoring. A synthetic report will be given to the Parliament within the month of the monitoring.

Furthermore, the Decree provides that the results of the evaluation of the strategy at the end of the legislature will be part of the next strategy.

For more information:

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