

# United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014



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Part I

## The “Big Picture”

OR “What’s this all about?”

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*“Education at all levels can shape the world of tomorrow...”*

UNESCO

# Background/ History...

## 1987 The Brundtland Commission...

**Sustainable Development** = *Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.*

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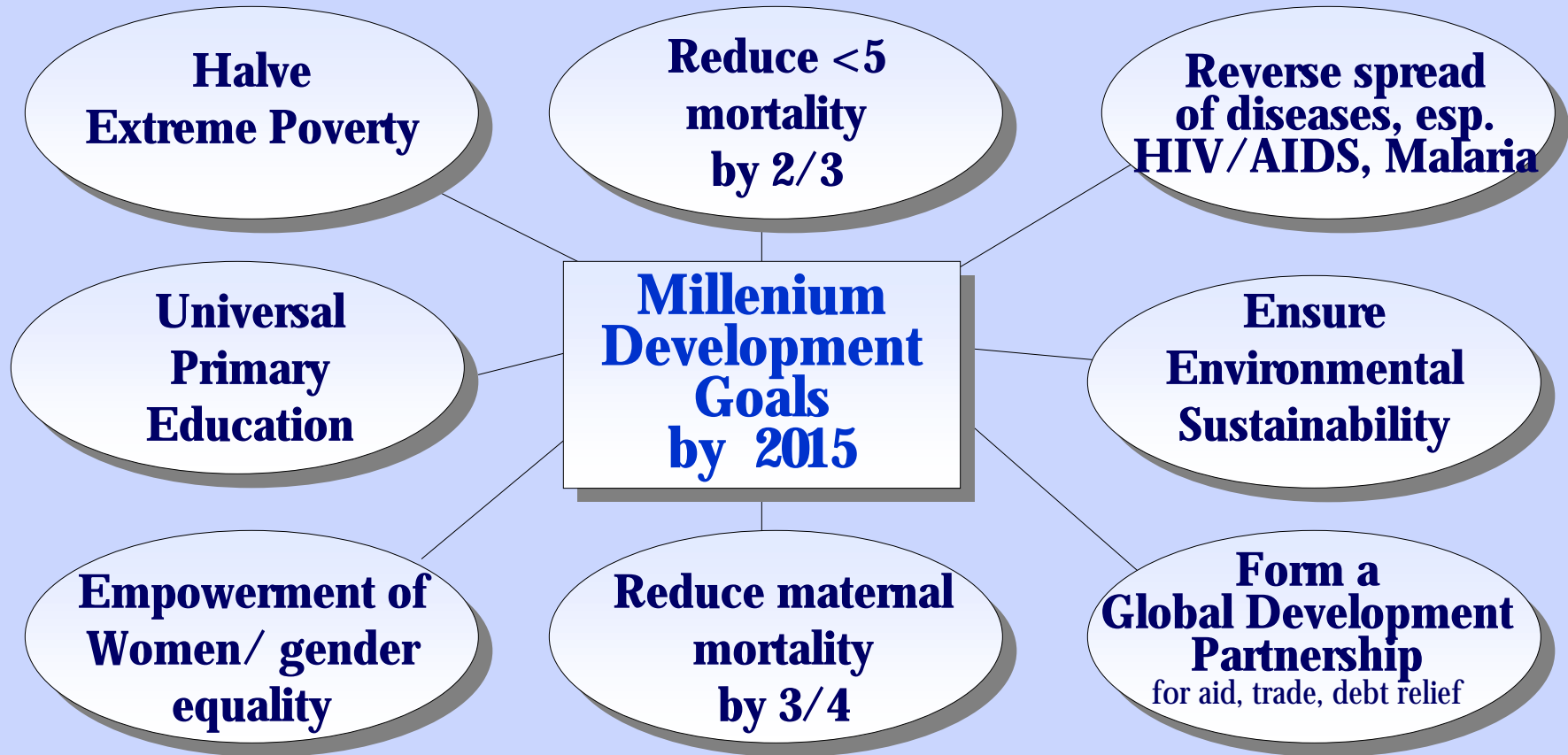
## 1992 The Rio Earth Summit...

**Agenda 21 - Action Plan/ “Blueprint for Sustainable Development”**  
**(40 chapters, 300 pages)**

**Chapter 36: Promoting Education, Public Awareness and Training**

**Background/  
History cont'd...**

# **2000 UN Millenium Summit**



**Background/  
History cont'd...**

# **2002 The World Summit on Sustainable Development...**

**27% coral reefs  
Seriously threatened  
(up from 10%)**

**2.8 billion living  
on < \$2/day)**

**1.1 billion lack  
clean water**

**Extinctions  
on the rise**

**10 years after Rio  
Declining indicators**

**6 million children  
died from hunger  
In 10 years**

**Greenhouse gas  
emissions up 9%**

**Growing gap  
between rich & poor**

# The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014



Approved by UN  
Gen. Assy. 2002

**UNESCO:**  
appointed lead UN  
agency

*“Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract -- sustainable development -- and turn it into a reality for all the world's people.”*

Kofi Annan, UNSG, 2001

**1. Promotion and improvement of basic education;**

**2. Reorienting existing education at all levels to address sustainable development;**



## **Action Areas**

**3. Developing public understanding and awareness of sustainability;**

**4. Training the workforce with knowledge and skills to perform their work in a sustainable manner.**

# Key Themes...

**Sustainable Production  
& Consumption**

**Fresh Water  
Management**

**Biodiversity**

**Conservation &  
Protection**



## Key Themes (cont'd)...



**Health  
Promotion**



**Human  
Rights**

**Peace & Int'l  
Understanding**

**Imp. of Info . &  
Comm.  
Technology  
for ESD**



**Gender  
Equality**



**Poverty  
Alleviation**

# National Initiatives

**US Partnership for  
the DESD**

**Japan Council  
on the DESD**

**German National  
Committee for the  
DESD**

**Others forming:**

**Portugal, Greece, Sweden, the  
Philippines, India, etc.**



**E**EDUCATION for Sustainable Development  
United Nations Decade 2005-2014

# US Partnership for the Decade

## VISION:

**Education for Sustainable Development  
integrated into education and learning  
in the U.S.**

## MISSION:

**Leverage the UN Decade to foster  
Education for Sustainable Development  
in the U.S.**



## **US Partnership for the Decade**

**...all sectors – higher education, K-12,  
business, faith communities, non-profits,  
government**

**...a community-builder, convener, catalyst  
and communicator for the Decade in the  
United States**

**[www.uspartnership.org](http://www.uspartnership.org)**

# US Partnership for the Decade

**“Business  
Innovation for  
Sustainability”  
(October '04)**

**Living Institutions –  
“Today, Tomorrow, Forever:  
The Role Living Institutions  
Can Play in the DESD”  
(November '04)**

## Conferences

**Sustainability and Higher  
Education Conference -  
“Defining the Vision”  
(October '04)**

**Nat'l Assn. of  
Independent Schools –  
“Education for Sustainability:  
How Far Will You Go?”  
(February '05)**

# Discussion

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Part II

## Connecting the Dots

between the Bahá'í community.....the DESD

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*“Education is the indispensable foundation of all human excellence”*

Abdu'l-Baha

# The Sustainability “Stool”

**Education for Sustainable  
Development**

*Developing Systems Thinkers*

**Economic  
Principles**

**Social  
Principles**

**Environmental  
Principles**

**Spiritual Principles**

# **Examples of Spiritual Principles related to sustainability**

## **Economic**

**Elimination of  
extremes of  
wealth and  
poverty**

**Work as worship**

**Moderation**

**Be content  
w/little**

**Voluntary giving**

**Profit sharing**

## **Social**

**Equality of women  
and men**

**Elimination of all  
forms of prejudice**

**Unity in diversity**

**Universal  
compulsory  
education**

**Trustworthiness**

## **Environmental**

**Interdependence of  
all life**

**Nature a reflection of  
the Divine**

**Humility – Earth  
source of all our  
wealth**

**Unity in diversity**

**Cleanliness**

**Kindness to animals**

**Soloist vs.**

**Whole Systems Thinker**

**Can identify one  
part of a system**

**OR**

**sees no connection  
between the  
parts of the system**

**OR**

**lives life through a  
“zoom lens”  
without  
benefit of a  
“wide angle” lens**

**Makes choices  
and decisions  
and takes actions  
that maximize  
the health of the  
whole system  
upon which the  
specific parts  
depend.**

**Able to work well in  
diverse groups which  
enable them to  
recognize  
interdependencies in  
systems**

# Some areas for combining principles of sustainable development and systems thinking

## Personal

- Consumption patterns
- Water & Energy use
- Clothing purchases
- Recreation/hobbies
- Yard care, landscaping
- Household Cleaning products
- Home purchase
- Vacation planning
- Family planning
- Transportation choices

## Business

- Production methods
- Energy and water use
- Waste disposal
- Employee benefits
- Stockholder relations

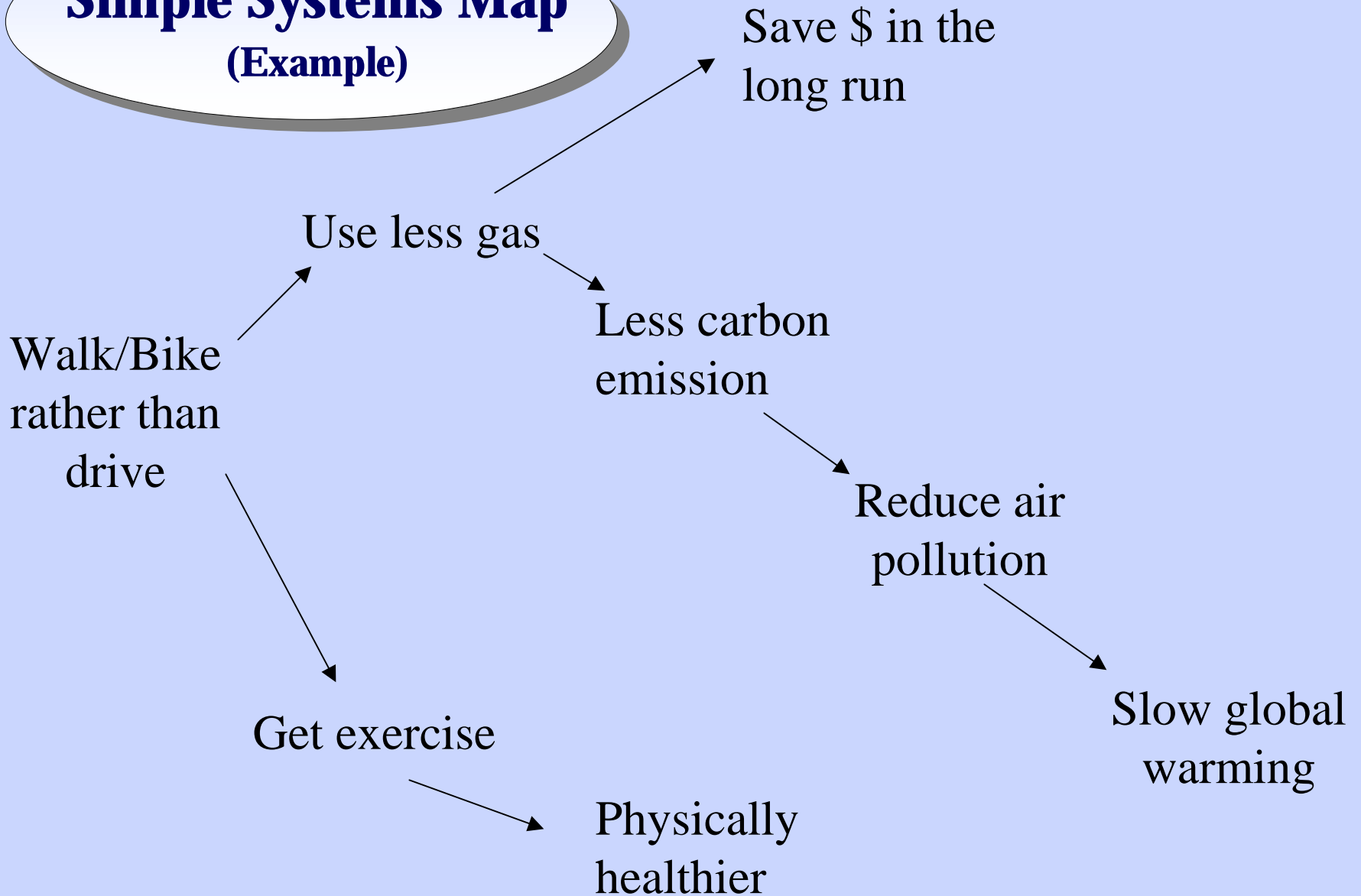
## Community

- Building a Bahá'í center
- Organizing a Bahá'í Feast
- Running a Bahá'í summer school
- Conference planning
- Devotional program

# Case Studies

- 1. Break into groups and read the selected case study.**
- 2. Consult on and list the underlying social, economic and environmental principles.**
- 3. Analyze the project as a systems thinker and draw a diagram showing the relationship between the parts of the system.**

# Simple Systems Map (Example)



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Part III

## Bringing it Home

Implementing ESD in the Bahá'í community

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*“Let deeds, not words, be our adorning!”*

Abdu'l-Baha



# U.S. Bahá'í Participation in the Decade

**U.S. Partnership –  
Executive Team**

**Conferences/Seminars  
Orlando '03, '04;**

**Bahá'í National Center  
working group  
(October)**

**Articles and features in  
publications (Brilliant  
Star; The American  
Bahá'í; World Order  
(online))**

**Wilmette Institute online  
course (Oct. '05) and  
other web re**

**Courses at Bahá'í  
schools**

## **Break into Groups**

- **Individual**
- **Family & Parenting**
- **Local Bahá'í community**
- **Community at large**
- **National community**

- 1. Consult on what actions can be taken at that level to advance education for sustainable development**
- 2. Create a list/ diagram/ drawing/ skit/ song and/or dance to communicate to the group the results of your ideas**
- 3. Finish with interpretive gallery of ideas and creations**

**THANK YOU!**