

**UNDP Unveils Final Draft of the Revised National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania - Horizon 2013-2020-2030**



National  
Strategy  
for  
Sustainable  
Development

**Bucharest, 3 July 2008** — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) marked the final phase of the Revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania with a public debate held at the National Academy. The project was launched in January under the aegis of Traian Basescu, President of Romania, and in its final form, will be the first overarching strategy document for Romania as a member state of the European Union (EU).

The event was moderated by Attila Korodi, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, and featured keynote speakers Jan Sorensen, United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, and Ionel Haiduc, President of the Academy. Other guest speakers were Calin Georgescu, Director of the National Centre for Sustainable Development, UNDP's implementing agency for this project, distinguished scientists, government experts, labour unions heads, and members of civil society.

UNDP held 30 national and regional debates, 3 meetings of the Scientific Council and 19 meetings of the Drafting Group. The Drafting Group coordinators consulted with representatives of public authorities, political parties, business and professional associations, labour unions, NGOs, youth groups and other concerned groups. The drafting process aimed to reflect and harmonize development goals and sustainability after EU accession at local, national and EU level, from the short time horizon of 2013, medium 2020, to the long-run of 2030.

"It is important to note that the process of drafting the National Strategy for Sustainable Development has not been politicized," noted Mr. Jan Sorensen, UN RC/UNDP RR in his opening statement. "It resulted in a broad-based and broadly owned blueprint for convergence of Romania with the social and economic indicators of the EU 27 countries. The work that has gone into this document sets a valuable precedent for long-term strategic planning informed by public consultation."



*L to R: Jan Sorensen UN RC/UNDP RR, the Aula Magna of the Romanian Academy, Minister Attila Korodi.*

In order to secure the further sustainable development of the Romanian economy, the new Strategy establishes a set of objectives such as economic growth while reducing the consumption of natural resources; reduction of energy consumption; modernization of educational systems with a special emphasis on vocational training; improved labour productivity; conservation of forests areas and balanced regional development.

"Most of the current sectorial policies lack a sustainable development dimension, and once the new Strategy will be passed into law, they will have to be revised accordingly," said Minister Korodi.

After the final debate the document will be updated and posted on the website of the Romanian Government in order to receive further feedback until September 5, 2008. The final form of the Strategy will be officially endorsed by the Romanian Government and submitted to Parliament for adoption as a single-article law. Then, by the end of the year it will be submitted to the European Commission for a peer-review.

The implementation of the concept of sustainable development—as the general orientation of the European Union and a national policy of Romania, will require periodical re-evaluations. In conformity with the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU, bi-annual implementation reports for the national strategy will be submitted to the European Commission; the first such report for Romania is due in 2011. The reports are envisioned to be accompanied by proposals and recommendations addressing the relevant orientations, policies and priorities formulated at EU level.