

## ***Challenges to Sustainable Development Policy-Making***

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# **Sustainable Development: The New Development Paradigm**

- **Sustainable Development, as advocated by Bruntland Commission in 1987, aims to reconcile economic, social and environmental objectives**
- **However, three decades later, dominant goal of most governments remain economic growth**
- **Concept of SD fraught with theoretical and practical problems**
- **Concern over environmental issues remain very high, natural resource base continues to be degraded at an alarming rate, with climate change probably constituting the greatest market failure ever experienced**

# Some Basic Theoretical and Practical Issues

- **Needs of the Human v/s need to preserve the earth**
- **Local Benefit v/s Human Common Goal**
- **How to Balance development between regions**
- **Dealing with Diversity**
- **Development Needs of Developing Countries v/s Need to curb GHG emissions**
- **Recognise SD as a developmental issue, not just environmental**
- **Need to Improve Inter-agency collaboration**

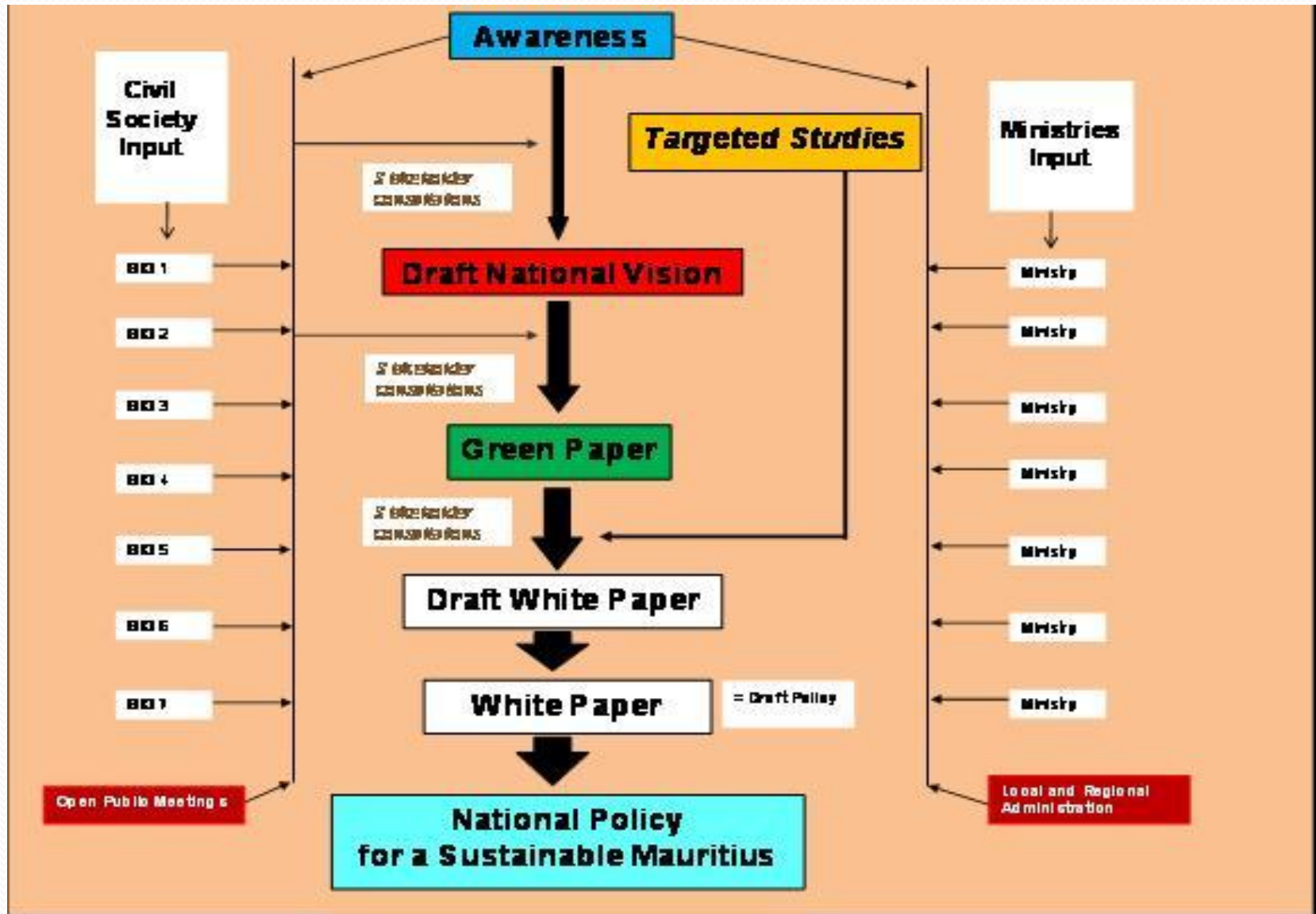
# Case for State Intervention

- **Growth generates externalities**
- **The externalities can be:**
  - onsite
  - offsite
  - or at some future point in time
- **Private business is unable to cope because of their nature and costs**
- **If not dealt with, they can lead to market failures**
- **In view of such threats, the state has a duty to arbitrate between developmental and environmental protection goals**

# **National Sustainable Development Strategies: Approaches**

- **Multi-Dimensional and Comprehensive**
- **Sectoral**
- **Integration of SD Principles in existing Planning Processes**
- **Cross-Sectoral (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, e.g.)**

# The MID Policy Process (Mauritius)



# Weaknesses of Green Paper

1. Consultations not based on a background paper and no targeted studies carried out
2. Simply a summary of issues raised during consultations, without any attempt to distil them into relevant policy issues and without any analysis
3. The rationale behind a sustainable development path is not articulated properly
4. “Sustainability” has agreed definitions, and key words like low carbon development, climate-resilience, green economy, etc. form part of the basic vocabulary. In this green paper, none of these key words are even mentioned
5. Short of providing clear policy options, the paper keeps on rambling about the consultations, dwells lengthily and repetitively on the process of conducting these

# Moving the MID Process Forward: Challenges

- **Sectoral or Comprehensive Approach?**
- **Institutional grounding : Ministry of Environment or Finance?**
- **Leadership (particularly in terms of implementation)**
- **Financing Arrangements**



# **Short and Medium Term Challenges facing Policy-makers**

- **Enhancing Scientific Basis for Decision Making**
- **Developing Methods and Tools for Assessment of SD Issues**
- **Promoting Capacity-building**
- **Promoting Technology Development and Transfer**
- **Developing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks**
- **Creating the Frameworks and Partnerships that Allows Private Sector to Play its Role**
- **Taking steps to Diversify Economy**
- **Formulating strong National Physical Development / Land Use Plans**
- **Providing Education, Training, and Public Awareness**



**Thank you for your attention**