

Definition of 'Sustainable'



Until 2016, the Government defined sustainable development as “**a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come**” and it identified four key objectives which have to be met at the same time if it is to be achieved:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

The Government's definition of sustainable development changed slightly with the publication of the National Planning and Policy Framework and became: “... **the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**”

This is in fact the definition established by Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly. And there are now three (rather than four) overarching objectives to be achieved:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

These are stated to be “interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways”.



Fundamental requirements of sustainable development are therefore to **deliver a better quality of life for generations to come** and **avoid compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**



Having regard to the long term environmental damage done by the aviation industry to the local environment and the global environment it is difficult to reconcile unfettered expansion of aviation with the requirement to achieve sustainable development.