Progress in 10 year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

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Background

Changing consumption and production patterns is one of the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development, as recognized by the Heads of State and Governments in the Johannesburg Declaration (2002).

The Johannesburg World Summits Plan of Implementation calls in Chapter III for the development of “a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.” The framework should strengthen international cooperation and increase exchange of information and best practices to facilitate the implementation of national and regional programmes to promote sustainable consumption and production.

The first international expert meeting on the 10-year framework took place in Marrakech, Morocco, 16-19 June 2003, organized by DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development and UNEP. The meeting identified a number of key priorities, including the development of policies for sustainable consumption and production, and the integration of economic, environmental and social aspects. It recommended the worldwide implementation and sharing of experiences on Integrated Product Policy (IPP) approaches through international initiatives such as the Life Cycle Initiative. Participants agreed that strategies for sustainable consumption and production should include a mix of regulations, economic incentives and communication tools, and involve partnerships between government agencies, international organizations, private enterprises and public interest organizations. The meeting called for expanding the survey of activities on sustainable consumption and production in order to have a better picture of current activities at the international level.

The meeting launched the “Marrakech-Process”, including regular global and regional meetings supported by informal expert task forces and roundtables to promote progress on the 10-year framework on sustainable consumption and production. UNEP and DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, have been identified as the leading agencies in promoting and developing the 10-year Framework of Programmes at the global and regional level.

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At the regional level meetings have so far been held in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in 2003-2004, where regional needs and priorities have been identified and regional strategies on sustainable consumption and production have been developed. The outcomes of these meetings were reported at the 2nd International Workshop on Sustainable Consumption.

The Latin American meetings were held in Argentina, April 2003 and Nicaragua, October 2003. As a result, a Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was developed, as well as a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP. The Latin American Forum of Environment Ministers has officially established the Council.

The Asia-Pacific meetings were held in Indonesia, May 2003, and Republic of Korea, November 2003. Preliminary ideas on a regional strategy for the Asia-Pacific region were developed, with indications of needs and priorities. One proposal was to establish a "help centre" with the support of UN ESCAP and UNEP's regional office. The outcome of the meeting in the Republic of Korea was endorsed by the ESCAP Committee on Managing Globalization.

The First African Expert Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in Casablanca, Morocco, 17 – 20 May 2004. It identified the regional and sub-regional priorities and explored the linkages of poverty and consumption and production patterns, and how SCP contributes to poverty alleviation, economic development and could also be an opportunity to leapfrog. “Casablanca Statement on SCP” was prepared and adopted by consensus by all participants. It was presented to the AMCEN meeting, in Lybia, June 2004.

**Areas of Work Under the 10-Year Framework**

The Marrakech process is to be supported by informal task forces or roundtables on sustainable consumption and production, with participation of experts from developing and developed countries, to promote progress on the 10 year framework and the implementation of Chapter III in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The following provides an overview on activities or roundtables with work in the area of the 10-year framework:

A. **General Policy Instruments and Analytical Tools**
   - UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

B. **Changing Consumption Patterns**
   - UNEP/DTIE - YouthXchange
   - UNEP/DTIE - Sustainable Consumption Network (SC.net)
   - UNEP/DTIE - Advertising and Communication Forum on Sustainability
   - UNEP/DTIE - Sustainable procurement
   - DESA/ DSD - Expert Group on Sustainable Public Procurement

C. **Changing Production Patterns**
   - UNEP/DTIE - Sustainable Products and Services (Eco-design and Product-Service-Systems)
   - UNEP/DTIE – Cleaner Production (CP) Activities
   - UNEP/DTIE - National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC )
   - DESA/ DSD - Expert Group on Environmental Management Accounting (EMA)
   - DESA/ DSD - National Cleaner Technology Strategies (NCTS)

D. **Sectoral Issues**
An informal advisory meeting of experts on the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production took place in Paris, 2 March, 2004. The meeting which was organized by UNEP in consultation with DESA/DSD brought together in their personal capacity experts from Governments, business associations, NGO's and international Governmental organizations.

The 10-year framework is not simply a series of meetings to discuss issues, but is intended to promote implementation of projects, supported by international programmes of UN agencies and other regional and international organisations. An important challenge for all parties involved would be to clearly communicate about the meaning of the framework - what added value it has in concrete terms - so that other stakeholders can join the efforts, in particular development aid agencies, regional and international development banks, other UN agencies and the private sector.

Poverty eradication and social issues have clear linkages with the sustainable consumption and production agenda. The 10-year framework's primary focus should be on mass consumption and industrial production, which is not restricted to industrialised countries. There is an emerging "global consumer class", with large groups of middle-class consumers showing increasingly similar consumption patterns, for instance in countries such as Brazil, China and India. These groups would be included as target groups in the work on both consumption and production issues, whereas large parts of Africa are confronted with challenges of a different nature, with provision of better access to basic needs as overriding priority. UNEP's work in this area should aim at meeting basic needs of the poor, incorporating the Millennium Development Framework and operationally following the CSD thematic cycle of work.

UNEP has, as the experts pointed out, a special role to play in testing global methodologies through concrete demonstration projects. These will show the feasibility of approaches, which can then be replicated by other agencies, such as UNDP and the World Bank.

Emerging national strategies on sustainable consumption and production, such as the dialogues started in China, Nicaragua, Germany and the United Kingdom, should help to identify concrete delivery mechanisms, such as National Cleaner Production Centres, and increase government's commitment. Strategies should be inserted in national strategies on sustainable development and in poverty reduction strategies, rather than be created as separate plans.

Key instruments and tools that UNEP should work on - based on its existing expertise and networks on Sustainable Consumption and Cleaner Production, include the Life Cycle Initiative and integrated product policies, economic instruments, and communication and advertising. Education should be developed in co-operation with UNESCO. Capacity building and reaching small and medium sized enterprises remains a key area. Linkages with the trade agenda need to be explored as well.

Key sectors and issues for the implementation of resource-efficiency strategies include the information technology sector, more in particular prevention and management of electronic waste, as an input to the ongoing Information Summit discussions. This should be carried out in co-operation with the Basel Convention, and UNEP's e-Sustainability Forum. UNEP should also consider taking up the disseminating of information on international (product) standards, on multilateral environmental agreements, on reporting guidelines (such as those establish by the Global Reporting Initiative - GRI), on sustainable procurement and on technology transfer. Assistance of national governments in implementing the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection should start with a focus on water.
Regional meetings in 2004

Regional meetings have been or will be held in Africa and Europe in 2004. These meetings are a continuation of the meetings in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in 2003. By this, North America will be the only region without any regional meeting so far at the end of 2004.

The First African Expert Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in Casablanca, Morocco, 17 - 20 May 2004. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in consultation with DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, and hosted by the Moroccan Center for Cleaner Production. Financial support for the meeting was provided by the Governments of Norway and Germany. Participants in the meeting included experts from governments, national cleaner production centers, academia, civil society, private sector and international organizations.

The objectives of the meeting were:
(a) To identify regional and sub-regional priorities and needs for sustainable consumption and production in Africa; and to consider a regional framework for promoting more sustainable consumption and production, contributing to poverty alleviation, economic development and environmental protection
(b) To make African countries benefiting from the international process and to prepare outcomes of the meeting, which could be presented to different African governmental organisation

All the goals were fulfilled and, in addition, the meeting adopted a statement requesting different African governmental organisations to elaborate a regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production and an action plan for capacity building.

The European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Bilbao, Spain, 12-14 May 2004, got to join together around 300 experts in sustainable consumption and production, coming from 46 countries worldwide. On the sub-regional/national European level a workshop was held for the Baltic region on 17-18 June 2004. The particular issues in these transition countries to promote sustainable consumption and production were discussed. Another sub-regional workshop is scheduled for Russia. A wider European multi-stakeholder conference is planned for end November.

UNEP is currently organising the 8th International High-level Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production that will address two basic themes: "Environment and Basic Needs" and "Global Challenges and Business" and will notably aim to create a new vision for the work of the international community to promote more sustainable lifestyles.

The next global meeting within the 10-year framework of programmes is planned in Costa Rica in 2005. This meeting will review the progress made in the Marrakech process and define the goals for the next steps to promote the implementation of projects.

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will consider the 10-Year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as one of the themes in the 2010/2011 cycle of its multiyear programme of work.

UNEP has taken a leading role in developing the issue of sustainable consumption further and integrating it with cleaner production. It is no secret that there is still a long way to go to achieve sustainable development. Practical tools have to be developed that help to implement Sustainable Consumption. Governments have just started to go in the right direction. Activities and initiatives on all levels of society are needed.