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# Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Item 4 (a) and 5 of the provisional agenda\*

Policy issues: state of the environment

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council

## Sustainable consumption and production

### **Report of the Executive Director**

#### **Summary**

The present report gives an account of good practices in promoting sustainable consumption and production adopted since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, including. I some of the main activities of the United Nations Environment Programme on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production. It gives examples of effective sustainable consumption and production policies, voluntary measures, capacity-building activities and multi-stakeholder partnerships and also identifies institutional needs and gaps that need to be addressed in moving forward on sustainable consumption and production. Furthermore, it describes the work of the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was launched in response to a request made in the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop a 10-year framework of programmes to support the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The 10-year framework of programmes is one of the five themes of the current cycle of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. This framework will be further developed, reviewed and, potentially, endorsed by the Commission at its nineteenth session, in May 2011. The framework can provide a platform for international cooperation and the sharing of good practices for extending, replicating and scaling up the broad range of sustainable consumption and production activities and initiatives that exist today. The report examines how a 10-year framework of programmes could support existing initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, providing coherence and coordination between them, fostering partnerships and providing a platform for the exchange and replication of best practices, consolidating and channelling technical and financial support where needed. It also provides possible elements of the structure and programmes of the 10-year framework of programmes in order to support discussions by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session.

### I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested below:

The Governing Council,

Recalling Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which in its paragraph 4.8 calls for action to meet the objective of promoting patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress and will meet the basic needs of humanity,

Recalling also paragraphs 2, 14 and 15 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,  $^2$ 

Recalling further Governing Council decision 22/6 of 7 February 2003,

Recognizing that resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production are one of the six cross-cutting priorities and objectives of the United Nations Environment Programme's medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013, which is aimed at providing strategic direction to the Programme's activities in all areas,

Commending progress made since the twenty-second session of the Governing Council in advancing the sustainable consumption and production agenda through the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, notably through its subprogramme on resource efficiency, and through the activities of the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production,

Acknowledging the numerous and diverse sustainable consumption and production initiatives under way at the national, regional and international levels, many of which have received financial and technical support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Marrakech Process,

Welcoming the support demonstrated for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session, in 2010, and also welcoming the recognition by the Commission of the work of the Marrakech Process and its task forces,

Welcoming also the strengthened collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs during the current cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and expressing support for the increased participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in preparations for and the implementation of the outcomes of the Commission's nineteenth session,

Acknowledging that further progress in achieving sustainable consumption and production requires a more sustainable approach that will enable all relevant stakeholders to respond in the most appropriate and efficient way to regional and national priorities and needs, to scale up and build linkages between relevant initiatives and actions within the United Nations family and other stakeholders, and to channel resource mobilization effectively,

- 1. *Invites* the Executive Director to build upon and strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's existing activities and initiatives with relevant governmental institutions and all stakeholders in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- 2. Supports the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production that aims at responding to national, regional and global needs, provides a global focus for a common vision and goals including institutional arrangements that create a strong, credible and accessible technical base and policy interface, supporting regional and national initiatives within identified priority sustainable consumption and production programmes, and encourages the broad participation and involvement of stakeholders and effectiveness, efficiency and coherence within and beyond the United Nations system;

<sup>1</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August—4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

- 3. *Recommends* the endorsement of such a 10-year framework of programmes by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session, in 2011;
- 4. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to play an active role, along with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in the development of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production in all its dimensions goals and vision, institutional arrangements and priority programmes and that it play a leading role, in conjunction with other agencies, in supporting its subsequent implementation, including in programme areas where the United Nations Environment Programme has particular expertise and through the coordination of its institutional arrangements, if required by the Commission on Sustainable Development, drawing on its experience through the coordination of initiatives such as the Marrakech Process and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
- 5. Encourages Governments to support the design and endorsement of a sound and effective 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production during the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held from 28 February to 4 March 2011, and the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held from 2 to 13 May 2011, and to support its subsequent implementation to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production;
- 6. *Invites* Governments to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially the least developed countries, to support the implementation of any decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, once adopted, and to develop further programmes on sustainable consumption and production;
- 7. *Recognizes* that the 10-year framework of programmes could prove an important building block for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012;
- 8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to strengthen linkages between relevant programme areas within the United Nations Environment Programme;
- 9. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session in anticipation of the Governing Council's contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

### II. Defining sustainable consumption and production

- 2. Sustainable consumption and production has been defined as "the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations".<sup>3</sup>
- 3. One of the main goals of sustainable consumption and production is to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, and thus sustain economic development and the human welfare gains that flow from it (for example, job creation, poverty reduction, improvement in health and education), while protecting ecosystems and enhancing natural and cultural diversity. Governments, businesses and consumers all need to change their policies, activities and choices to achieve a shift to sustainable consumption and production.
- 4. Meeting basic needs sustainably lies at the heart of sustainable consumption and production. It offers opportunities to attain the Millennium Development Goals by delivering more products in a cleaner and safer way while using fewer materials and less energy. Sustainable consumption and production goals and actions are powerful levers with which to accelerate the transition to an environmentally efficient economy and to turn environmental and social challenges into business and employment opportunities.

<sup>3</sup> The definition was given by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment at the Oslo Symposium on Sustainable Consumption in 1994 and has since become the most widely accepted definition of the term "sustainable consumption and production".

# III. Review of sustainable consumption and production initiatives since the adoption of Agenda 21

- 5. During the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Governments agreed for the first time on the need for sustainable consumption and production. They adopted Agenda 21, chapter 4 of which called for "action to promote patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress and will meet the basic needs of humanity". It identified two areas for action: focusing attention on the problem of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; and developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns. While some initiatives along those lines had begun before 1992, Agenda 21 was the first global political agreement to focus action on moving towards sustainable consumption and production.
- 6. Since the 1990s, solutions and policy approaches have expanded from downstream and end-of-pipe solutions, based on dilution and treatment, to include upstream, preventive policy approaches focusing on cleaner production and, in more recent years, on sustainable consumption and life-cycle approaches. This expansion was a response to the growing evidence that resource efficiency gains had been overtaken by overall production increases. It was also a response to the realization that, while progress had been made in understanding and controlling environmental problems caused by production processes, environmental problems caused by the use of the products were far from being solved.
- 7. For over 15 years, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have supported the provision of technical assistance to establish national capacities and demonstrate the potential of preventive environmental strategies in developing countries. Building on previous efforts, the joint UNIDO and UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme has resulted in the establishment of more than 50 national cleaner production centres and programmes worldwide; the production of technical tools and training manuals; the launch of hundreds of technical demonstration projects; the integration of preventive policies at the national level; the training of thousands of national industrial experts; and the establishment and promotion of regional round-table forums and networks of national cleaner production centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The centres contribute to a more productive use of natural resources such as energy, water and materials, reduced wastes and emissions (including of greenhouse gases) and reduced risks to workers, communities and consumers.
- 8. While society had by then become more concerned about natural resource depletion and environmental degradation, a debate on the role of voluntary action by industry bodies in the 1990s paved the way for increased awareness of corporate social and environmental responsibility. In the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of May 2000,<sup>5</sup> ministers sought a greater private-sector commitment to engender a new culture of environmental accountability. A few months previously, in late 1999, a speech by the Secretary-General at the World Economic Forum had marked the birth of the United Nations Global Compact.<sup>6</sup> UNEP is active as one of the core United Nations agencies in this partnership, which has since been challenging companies to integrate into their operations 10 core principles in the areas of human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption.
- 9. Many businesses have been exploring ways of moving beyond compliance by using environmental management systems to improve their environmental performance. One tool for doing so is the life-cycle assessment. Since the early 1990s, efforts have led to the development of life-cycle assessment standards in the International Organization for Standardization 14000 series. In 2002, UNEP joined forces with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry to launch the Life Cycle Initiative, an international partnership. The Initiative is a network of research and industry experts who work together to develop new methodologies and guidance to advance life-cycle management and clarify its role in promoting efficient resource use. The Initiative also includes capacity-building for small and medium-sized enterprises in the use of life-cycle assessment approaches in developing markets.

<sup>4</sup> According to an independent evaluation of the UNIDO-UNEP Cleaner Production Programme undertaken in 2008.

<sup>5</sup> www.unep.org/malmo/malmo\_ministerial.htm.

<sup>6</sup> www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/index.html.

<sup>7</sup> www.epa.gov/nrmrl/lcaccess/pdfs/chapter1\_frontmatter\_lca101.pdf.

- 10. Economic instruments have increasingly been used in many countries and sectors to make consumption and production patterns more sustainable. A growing range of environmental taxes and charges has been integrated into fiscal systems in developed and developing countries. For example, the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme, as a cap-and-trade system, established a price for carbon, permitted free trade in emission allowances throughout the European Union and put in place the necessary infrastructure for monitoring, reporting and verifying actual emissions from the businesses covered by the scheme. On the basis of the verified emissions reported during the period 2005–2007, the European Commission has cut the volume of emission allowances permitted during 2008–2010 to 6.5 per cent below the 2005 level, ensuring that genuine emissions reductions will take place.
- 11. Sustainable consumption policies have been developed to complement continuing and expanding economic regulations and voluntary frameworks on the supply side. Knowledge, awareness and competences have been recognized as key to the mainstreaming of sustainability into consumers' decision-making processes. In 1999, the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection were expanded to include new elements on sustainable consumption. <sup>10</sup> UNEP has worked in close cooperation with international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), consumer organizations, education networks and practitioners to promote formal and informal education as key tools in the shift towards sustainable consumption patterns. Recently, UNEP supported the development of a partnership for education and research on responsible living, which gathers educators, researchers and practitioners from more than 100 institutions in over 40 countries, especially in Latin America and Asia and the Pacific. The capacity-building tools and activities of the UNEP/UNESCO YouthXchange Programme on sustainable lifestyles and consumption have reached more than 45 countries from all regions since 2001 through collaboration with national partners, including non-governmental organizations for young people, eco-schools, consumer and environmental education organizations and ministries of environment and education. Guidelines on education for sustainable consumption were jointly developed by UNEP and the Marrakech Process task force on education for sustainable consumption to assist policymakers and educators in implementing education for sustainable consumption in the formal education sector.
- 12. Education, communication and information are essential to stimulate change. Owing to increased consumer awareness and concern for sustainable development, the market for green and fair trade products has grown rapidly. In the United States of America alone, sales of organic food and beverages have risen from \$1 billion in 1990 to an estimated \$20 billion in 2007. Consumer organizations and other non-governmental organizations have played a significant role in raising consumer awareness of the impacts of consumption choices.
- 13. The myriad experiences of promoting sustainable consumption and production showed the need for continued information, education and capacity-building to produce more environmentally sustainable products. They also pointed to a renewed emphasis on promoting sustainable consumption patterns and increased public and private investment in environmentally sound technologies and the design and production of sustainable goods and services. This led to the adoption in 2009 of the UNEP work programme on resource efficiency as one of six subprogrammes under the UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013.<sup>12</sup>

#### A. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

14. OECD has worked on sustainable consumption and production for some years. One example is a long-standing project at the Environment Directorate on the impacts of household consumption on the environment and the design of environmental policy targeted at households. Another project examines the effect of environmental policy on household behaviour in the five key areas of energy use, waste, transport, food and water. Policy recommendations are drawn from a unique comparative study implemented in 10 OECD countries across five sectors. A further example includes a study on how national Governments and other public authorities can generate both direct and indirect environmental benefits through greener public purchasing programmes and other initiatives. Particular attention is currently being paid to financial, budgeting and accounting issues, and a report on this

<sup>8</sup> www.bcca.org/ief/wssd\_sg.htm.

<sup>9</sup> http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/brochures/ets\_en.pdf.

 $<sup>10 \</sup>qquad www.unep.fr/shared/publications/pdf/DTIx0570xPA-TrackingProgress2.pdf.$ 

Sustainable Consumption and Production for Development, UNEP, June 2010, available at www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/dialogue/pdf/SCPforDevelopment\_BGpap180610\_final.pdf.

www.unep.org/PDF/FinalMTSGCSS-X-8.pdf.

subject has just been released. Through its Committee for Consumer Policy, OECD has also worked on consumer protection, education and information as they relate to sustainability. In April 2010, a workshop was held on enhancing the value and effectiveness of environmental claims to protect and empower consumers.

# B. Increased political commitment to sustainable consumption and production at the regional level

15. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, sustainable consumption and production initiatives and policies have steadily increased in number. All regions have convened decision makers and experts through regional round-table discussions or workshops on the subject. Regional strategies have been developed in most regions, with the aim of facilitating the development of national and regional capacities to design and implement policies and management practices and share information and expertise to promote sustainable consumption and production.

#### 1. Africa

- 16. High-level commitment to sustainable consumption and production has been demonstrated in Africa, as exemplified by the launch of a regional 10-year framework of programmes in Addis Ababa in May 2006. UNEP supported the development of the African 10-year framework of programmes by co-organizing the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was instrumental in its development. The framework was endorsed by regional institutions such as the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production. In conjunction with the Marrakech task force on cooperation with Africa and other regional partners, UNEP has developed a project to support the implementation of the African 10-year framework that includes the development of an African eco-labelling mechanism.
- 17. The following priorities are at the core of the African 10-year framework of programmes: energy; water and sanitation; habitat; and urban development and renewable resource-based industries. The links between sustainable consumption and production and poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods have been emphasized as both are priorities for the region. Since its launch, activities to mainstream sustainable consumption and production into development plans, including through demonstration projects, training and awareness-raising, have been implemented in countries and subregions with the support of the Marrakech Process task force on cooperation with Africa, UNEP, UNIDO and other organizations.

#### 2. Latin America and the Caribbean

- 18. The Latin American and Caribbean regional sustainable consumption and production strategy was developed in 2003 as one of the outcomes of a meeting of government experts on sustainable consumption and production in the region, held in Buenos Aires and organized by the Government of Argentina in conjunction with UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was endorsed by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean the same year, with the Forum subsequently establishing a regional council of government experts on sustainable consumption and production as a technical and advisory body to the Forum and the region's Governments. The Council's aim is to identify and propose effective mechanisms for the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes to promote and facilitate the adoption of sustainable patterns of consumption and production.
- 19. The priority areas for sustainable consumption and production defined by the regional council and the Forum of Ministers are national sustainable consumption and production policies and strategies; sustainable consumption and production in small and medium-sized enterprises; sustainable public procurement; sustainable lifestyles; and a regional information network for sustainable consumption and production.<sup>13</sup> The development of national-level strategies, action plans and policies on sustainable consumption and production has also been promoted through this forum, as has the integration of sustainable consumption and production into national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction. A UNEP project to support the implementation of a regional programme on sustainable consumption and production began in 2007. Participating countries

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Sustainable consumption* and production, mining, transport, chemicals and waste management: the results, trends and challenges of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, www.uneptie.org/scp/marrakech/publications/pdf/RIM%20LAC%20Draft%20document%201.pdf.

include Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. A regional information network on sustainable consumption and production has also been developed to help with capacity-building and networking through e-learning, videoconferencing, an e-forum and a virtual library. There are now some 500 specialists in the region, and more than 400 publications on sustainable consumption and production.

20. Subregional institutions have also been active in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production, including the Common Market of the South, which approved a common policy for cooperation and the promotion of sustainable consumption and production; the Andean Community, which has sustainable consumption and production as a core item on its environmental agenda for 2006–2010; and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, which is currently developing a regional policy for sustainable public procurement.

#### 3. West Asia

- 21. Following two regional round-table discussions on sustainable consumption and production in West Asia (in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, in March 2008, and Cairo in September 2009), an Arab regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production was launched in September 2009 with the support of the League of Arab States, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and UNEP. The strategy was subsequently approved in mid-November 2009 by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. It focuses on six priorities: energy for sustainable development; water resources management; waste management; rural development and eradication of poverty; education and sustainable lifestyles; and sustainable tourism.
- 22. At its twentieth session, in 2009, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment agreed to hold regional round-table discussions on sustainable consumption and production at regular intervals to follow up on the implementation of the strategy. The secretariat for the round-table discussions comprises the League of Arab States, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, a national cleaner production centre, a regional non-governmental organization and, on a rotating basis, an investment fund. The secretariat has also been tasked with developing an implementation plan for the green economy in the region.

#### 4. North America

23. In North America, numerous private-sector initiatives and government policies promote sustainable consumption and production in various economic sectors, including agriculture, energy and water. The Governments of Canada and the United States, supported by UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, held a North American multi-stakeholder workshop on sustainable consumption and production in November 2008, engaging government officials, sustainable consumption and production experts, business representatives, academics and non-governmental organizations. Activities were proposed to broaden understanding of and support for sustainable consumption and production in the region and included activities on designing policies, monitoring their subsequent effectiveness, and compiling and publishing sustainable consumption and production good practices and their potential replicability. A second such workshop is expected to take place in Ottawa in February 2011, with a planned focus on green buildings.

#### 5. Asia and the Pacific

- 24. A round-table discussion on sustainable consumption and production was first held in 1997 in Asia and the Pacific, originally to share results and make further progress on cleaner production in the region. Nine such round-table discussions have since taken place, expanding to the larger issue of sustainable consumption and production and reviewing the latest issues and trends.
- 25. Another important activity in the region is the Green Growth initiative, which was jointly launched by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of the Republic of Korea. The initiative is policy-oriented and emphasizes environmentally sustainable economic progress to foster low-carbon, socially inclusive development, making it similar in its objectives and activities to initiatives carried out in other regions under the label of sustainable consumption and production. With the five main tracks of green tax and budget reform, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable consumption, green business, and ecological efficiency indicators, the initiative encompasses sustainable consumption and production and has become an important vehicle for related work in the region. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNEP have jointly established a regional help desk on

sustainable consumption and production that provides technical assistance to Governments and other stakeholders and facilitates information and knowledge exchange.

- 26. The SWITCH Asia Programme financed by the European Commission has a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises in Asia and the Pacific. It seeks to induce a change at the level of producers and consumers, but also at the policymaking level. It has been funding 30 projects in 15 Asian countries in areas such as green public procurement, cleaner production and eco-labelling.<sup>15</sup>
- 27. The programme works simultaneously on the production and consumption sides, employing a multi-stakeholder approach with strong and intensive working relationships with small and medium-sized enterprises, building upon existing structures and networks. The dissemination of results and exchanges of good practices are being supported by its Network Facility. <sup>16</sup> It contributes to increased employment and incomes by enhanced production that meets international environmental standards and higher competitiveness, for example, through resource savings and better access to international companies' supply chains. In addition, the adoption of sustainable consumption and production will help to improve the conditions of labourers by promoting reasonable salaries, decent working conditions and the protection of children's rights (social corporate responsibility). The Programme is currently being extended through a policy support component, based on an agreement being developed between the European Commission and UNEP, to provide additional support to Governments in the region in the design and implementation of a range of policies promoting sustainable consumption and production.

#### 6. Europe

- 28. European Union Governments endorsed the European Union Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan in 2008. It includes proposals aimed at improving the environmental performance of products and increasing the demand for more sustainable goods and production technologies. It also seeks to encourage the European Union's industries to take advantage of opportunities to innovate. Components of the policy on sustainable consumption and production include:
  - (a) Integrated product policy;
  - (b) Thematic strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources;
  - (c) Thematic strategy on waste prevention and recycling;
  - (d) Eco-management and audit scheme;
  - (e) Eco-labelling scheme;
  - (f) Environmental technologies action plan;
  - (g) Green public procurement;
  - (h) Eco-design of energy-using products directive;
  - (i) Environmental compliance assistance programme. 17
- 29. Pan-European collaboration and partnership on sustainable consumption and production were promoted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Belgrade in October 2007, where ministers called for the development of national programmes and partnerships to promote sustainable consumption and production in the pan-European region.

# IV. Engagement for sustainable consumption and production at the national level

- 30. Sustainable consumption and production initiatives have been launched at the national level, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sometimes in relation to activities in place at the regional level and often independently.
- 31. For example, in addition to regional round-table discussions held in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, national round-table discussions on sustainable consumption and production have taken place at regular intervals in Brazil (2006), China (2006, 2008 and 2009), India (2006, 2007 and 2010), Mexico (2010) and South Africa (2008) with the support of

<sup>15</sup> http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation/environment/switch\_en.htm.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp\_en.htm.

UNEP, the Marrakech Process and the European Commission. The main objectives of these initiatives are to raise awareness of sustainable consumption and production, identify country-specific sustainable consumption and production priority areas, and define policies and means to promote the development and effective implementation of sustainable consumption and production at the national level. In September 2010, for example, the Brazilian Government launched a public consultation process on a newly revised sustainable consumption and production national plan of action, which is closely related to the national action plan on climate change. Close contact was maintained with UNEP during revision of the plan of action and implementation of the national action plan. Among the wide range of priorities defined by Brazil, the initial implementation of the national action plan will focus on the following areas: sustainable construction; sustainable consumption and retailing; sustainable public procurement; increased recycling of solid waste; education on sustainable consumption; and the environmental agenda for public administration. Joint work by Brazil and UNEP in these areas will last for 42 months and involve relevant national institutions.

- 32. Some Governments have begun or are developing national sustainable consumption and production programmes, while others have integrated sustainable consumption and production into national development strategies. They include Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Dominica, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mauritius, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Two sustainable consumption and production strategies have also been developed at the city level in Cairo and Maputo.
- 33. Several of these initiatives have benefitted from the support of UNEP and the Marrakech Process in the form of workshops on developing sustainable consumption and production programmes and guidelines for national sustainable consumption and production programmes entitled "Planning for Change". Support from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has enabled UNEP to develop nonprescriptive guidelines on designing and implementing national sustainable consumption and production programmes and action plans. The guidelines provide sustainable consumption and production indicators and good practices, and stress the importance of integrating sustainable consumption and production into existing national strategies such as poverty reduction strategy papers, sustainable development strategies, social and economic plans and energy development policies. They provide a flexible approach to the development of sustainable consumption and production programmes that can be adapted to local circumstances, employing 10 key steps. 18

# V. Work by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency

- 34. Recognizing the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the goals of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, <sup>19</sup> the UNEP medium-term strategy <sup>20</sup> identifies resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production as one of six cross-cutting thematic priorities to guide the organization's future work. The overarching aim of UNEP work on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production today is that natural resources be produced, processed and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way, in which environmental impact is decoupled from economic growth and social co-benefits are optimized. To that end, UNEP is focusing on enhanced resource efficiency and the implementation of a life-cycle approach. The term "life cycle" implies that the environmental impact of production and consumption, from raw material extraction to manufacturing, distribution, use and disposal, should be dealt with. It also implies coverage of the full value chain or cradle-to-cradle production cycle. Demonstrating and communicating the environmental, economic and social gains to be made from resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production is central to the UNEP programme of work.
- 35. The UNEP subprogramme on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production is structured four areas for action: assessment; policy action; investment; and stimulation of demand. What this involves in practice is set out below.

www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP\_Planning\_for\_change\_2008.pdf.

The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building calls for the provision of "systematic, targeted, long- and short-term measures for technology support and capacity-building, taking into account international agreements and based on national or regional priorities and needs"; www.unep.org/dec/onlinemanual/Compliance/NationalImplementation/CapacityBuilding/Resource/tabid/679/Def ault.aspx.

<sup>20</sup> www.unep.org/PDF/FinalMTSGCSS-X-8.pdf.

#### A. Assessments to strengthen the scientific knowledge base

- UNEP conducts assessments of trends in the way in which resources are extracted and used throughout the global economy. This work promotes understanding of critical resource flows between economies and industries, and enhances the ability to gather and interpret data on resource flows. The UNEP International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management<sup>21</sup> conducts independent scientific assessments of the sustainable use of natural resources. Twenty-nine leading scientists with long-standing international experience serve as its members, with the support of 20 Governments on its steering committee, in addition to the European Commission and the OECD secretariat. The assessments conducted by the Panel support the goal of ensuring that sustainable consumption and production policies are based on accurate science, including improved understanding of scarcities. drivers and impacts. The Panel's most recent report, on metal stocks in society and recycling rates, demonstrates how growing metal stocks can serve as huge above-ground mines. Exploiting these virtual mines could contribute to the reduction of primary metals mining and thus the decoupling of resource use from economic growth. In early 2011, the Panel will publish its first report on the importance of decoupling resource use and environmental degradation from economic growth; the report will identify key sectors and policy options on which to focus in greening national economies and building resource-efficient societies.
- 37. The Panel's work, focusing on the national and industry levels, is complemented by assessment work at the organizational and product levels led by the Life Cycle Initiative of UNEP and the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. The Initiative has a network of research and industry experts who collaborate in working groups to develop new methodologies and guidance to advance life-cycle management and clarify the Initiative's role in promoting efficient resource use. The Initiative also includes capacity-building for small and medium-sized enterprises in the use of life-cycle assessments in developing markets.

#### B. Taking action through governmental policies and regulatory instruments

- 38. UNEP work in this area seeks to support Governments and public and other institutions to build capacity and take action through the use of appropriate policies, regulatory instruments and management approaches. Activities to build capacity focus mainly on developing countries that have major resource-intensive and inefficient industries and are vulnerable due to their dependence on individual resources. Its projects aim to provide guidance on recommended economic instruments, policy and management approaches such as what is termed the "3Rs" initiative (reduce, reuse, recycle). Projects in this area includes projects under the Green Economy Initiative and the Marrakech Process. Under the Green Economy Initiative, UNEP conducts macroeconomic analysis that covers key industry sectors and sets out the economic case, together with suggested policy instruments, for greening national economies. The provision of advisory services to a growing number of volunteer Governments complements support being delivered by UNEP in the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production into national development planning. 

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- 39. UNEP capacity-building activities also target city and other local authorities, for example in respect of sustainable urban planning and integrated waste management. UNEP promotes resource augmentation through the recycling, reuse and recovery of resources from unavoidable waste (e.g., waste management initiatives or wastewater reuse/recycling) and the harvesting and use of renewable resources (e.g., rainwater and waste agricultural biomass).
- 40. UNEP has trained policymakers and practitioners in 30 countries across three continents in the development of integrated solid waste management plans. Such plans, developed for cities, ensure that as much as 70 per cent of waste can be diverted for reuse and recycling to recover material and energy. In Maseru, of 210,000 tons of waste per year, only 30 per cent will be sent to landfills, bringing an estimated economic benefit of \$900,000 per year. The waste diverted for reuse and recycling, and then energy that it generates, creates new businesses and employment and raises revenue. In Matale, Sri Lanka, of 47 tons of waste produced each day, some 36 tons will be diverted for recycling; the generation of compost and biogas and the recovery of plastics and paper will provide jobs and boost economic activity.<sup>24</sup>

www.unep.fr/scp/rpanel/.

<sup>22</sup> UNEP work on the green economy is described in document UNEP/GC.26/18/Add.1.

<sup>23</sup> UNEP activities to mainstream sustainable consumption and production into national development planning have been described in chapter VI below.

Information Platform on Waste Management: http://www.unep.or.jp/letc/GPWM/info\_platform.html.

41. The UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre promotes and facilitates the implementation of environmentally sound technologies, including associated management systems. Currently, the main focus areas of the Centre's work are waste management and water and sanitation. Its work consists of providing technology information and assisting technology decision makers in assessing and selecting technologies from various options. The Centre has prepared several compendiums of information on technology, including on solid waste management (generic technologies on all aspects of waste management); converting waste agricultural biomass into useful materials, converting waste plastics into fuel; urban and domestic water use efficiency; and freshwater augmentation. The Centre has also developed a draft methodology, known as "sustainability assessment of technologies", to assess technology options. The draft methodology has been tested in some of the Centres' technology demonstration projects and is being finalized.

#### C. Seizing investment opportunities for new markets and technologies

- 42. Working with business and industry partners, UNEP identifies investment opportunities for alternative business models and ways of greening industrial development. In partnership with UNIDO, UNEP is providing capacity support for small enterprises in developing countries. The Joint UNEP/UNIDO Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme offers a supportive programmatic structure for engagement at the regional and national levels, building capacities and supporting thematic projects. Globally, this work focuses particularly on three value chains that are the most intensive in their overall use of materials, energy, water, land and biomass: the building and construction, agriculture and food, and metals and manufacturing industries. Continuing UNEP work with related service industries finance, telecommunications, tourism and environmental services (water and waste) complements this. Over the past 16 years, resource-efficient and cleaner production ideas have been applied in many industries worldwide, delivering important benefits to the industries' production and finances, surrounding communities and the environment.
- 43. In conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNEP is working on an African initiative to promote production and trading opportunities for organic agricultural products. The initiative supports the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in the development of a common East African organic standard to facilitate trade in organic agricultural products within and outside the region. In 2004, the Uganda Organic Standard was adopted, and in 2007, as part of the East African Community, Uganda adopted the regional standard, the East African Organic Products Standard developed under a joint initiative between UNEP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In July 2009, the Government of Uganda released a draft organic agriculture policy. Through these initiatives, Uganda has become a significant producer of organic products and has benefitted from an important source of export earnings and revenue for farmers.
- 44. UNEP cooperates with the information and communication technologies industry on solutions for the environmentally sound management of electronic waste through the Global e-Sustainability Initiative and the "solving the e-waste problem" initiative facilitated by the United Nations University. With regard to metals and manufacturing, UNEP is responding to the Commission on Sustainable Development's discussion of mining at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions by investigating the launch of a new global partnership involving leading mining and metals companies. The partnership will aim to address new ways of promoting innovation in resource efficiency from extraction to downstream stages, including manufacturing and the recycling of used materials. Likewise, the Sustainable Investment and Financing in Tourism network aims to provide mechanisms and a justification to attract and reorient tourism investment and financing on to a more sustainable path.
- 45. UNEP has also promoted public-private partnerships as a means of putting in place more sustainable management practices and technologies and expanding markets for sustainable products. For example, the UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative brings together stakeholders from all sectors of the construction industry to work together to realize the significant energy and resource savings that existing and new buildings offer. In the area of agriculture and food, UNEP is forging new partnerships to address the use of water and other resources in the agri-food value chain. Building on its participation in the European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production Round Table, UNEP has been working to promote sustainability in the supply chains for irrigated rice production in Thailand and spiny lobster fishing in Brazil. The most recent partnership to be launched is that of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, which builds on the Marrakech Process task

More than one third of global energy use and associated greenhouse-gas emissions takes place in buildings. According to the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the building sector harbors a low-cost greenhouse gas emission reduction potential of more than 6 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030 with existing commercialized technologies.

force for sustainable tourism. This partnership aims to bring together tourism stakeholders to decouple the links between tourism and climate change; promote and disseminate sustainable tourism good practices; encourage tourism as a mechanism for poverty alleviation; provide information on policy frameworks; identify mechanisms for sustainable financing and investment in tourism; and assist the sector to develop more sustainable supply chains. These partnerships continue to evolve, providing lessons for new initiatives launched by UNEP and others pertaining to a range of policies and economic sectors.

### D. Stimulating demand for resource-efficient goods and services

- Working with management, media and communications experts, UNEP is developing communication tools to help individual and institutional consumers purchase and use resource-efficient technologies, products and services. The work on the demand side addresses the fact that improvements in resource efficiency are often undermined by unsustainable consumption patterns. This highlights the need to complement technology improvements with programmatic work to tackle behavioural change and lifestyles. Since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNEP has supported the development and promotion of environmental management systems, company sustainability reporting and related international standards. Since the 1980s, UNEP has hosted annual dialogues with business and industry, and has taken the opportunity offered by high-level forums to review private-sector progress in addressing the world environmental agenda. UNEP also strategically contributes to other global and regional business forums, such as the Business for the Environment Summit series, working with the United Nations Global Compact and other key stakeholders.
- 47. UNEP has been closely involved in supporting company reporting on sustainability, acting as an incubator for the Global Reporting Initiative, <sup>26</sup> which has become a collaborating UNEP centre. It continues to work closely with the Initiative and other partners to promote and improve reporting globally, develop sector-specific guidelines (e.g., biodiversity, buildings and construction and finance) and to build capacities in developing countries. UNEP works with the International Organization for Standardization and other stakeholders and institutions to develop credible consumer information tools. This work includes the refinement of methodologies such as water footprinting, in which UNEP is partnering with the CEO Water Mandate of the United Nations Global Compact, UNESCO and other organizations involved in the Water Footprint Network.
- 48. Since 2007, UNEP has been active in Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Mexico and south-east Africa, including South Africa, in partnership with the German capacity-building organization Inwent, the European Commission and others, in supporting producer and government efforts to meet and promote eco-labelling standards and enhance coherence between labels. Effective communication being crucial in promoting sustainable lifestyles and consumption choices, UNEP has also supported the development and dissemination of marketing and communication guidelines targeted at public institutions, local authorities and marketing professionals. Several national and international awareness campaigns on sustainability issues have been launched.
- The use of appropriate standards and management tools is also promoted through work on sustainable procurement and facilities management in Governments and the United Nations as part of the Sustainable United Nations initiative. The Sustainable United Nations Facility was established in 2008 with the dual objective of coordinating the implementation of the United Nations' climate-neutral strategy among all United Nations system organizations and providing the same support to public organizations outside the United Nations, in particular in developing countries. This effort has to date generated the first-ever common greenhouse-gas inventory for all United Nations organizations and developed guidelines and best-practice recommendations in facility management, green meetings, sustainable travel, sustainable procurement and e-communication. In parallel, the initiative has joined hands with CN Net to establish a help desk to support organizations outside the United Nations to move towards climate-neutral and sustainable operations. Together with the Marrakech Process task force on sustainable public procurement, UNEP is also active in promoting sustainable public sector procurement. It initiated in 2009 a project on capacity-building for sustainable public procurement in developing countries, targeting six pilot countries (Costa Rica, Chile, Mauritius, Mexico, Tunisia and Uruguay) with funding from the European Commission and Switzerland.

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50. Work at the national and regional levels in all the above-mentioned areas is undertaken as part of what is known as the "one United Nations" approach and is being delivered in accordance with United Nations development assistance frameworks established at the national level in relevant target countries where national support is introduced.

#### VI. Marrakech Process

- 51. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Marrakech Process was established as a global multi-stakeholder platform to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production and the development of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs form the joint secretariat of the Marrakech Process, functioning with support from a multi-stakeholder advisory committee and the participation of national Governments, major groups and various stakeholders.
- 52. Since its inception, the Process has supported the development and implementation of projects and programmes on sustainable consumption and production and the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships, based on regional and national priorities. It has built up a network of policy and technical experts, Governments and business and civil society organizations to share experiences and encourage implementation. Through various mechanisms, such as international and regional expert meetings, dialogues with development cooperation agencies and business and industry and major groups, the Process has facilitated international, regional and national dialogue and cooperation on sustainable consumption and production issues between various stakeholders.
- 53. Marrakech Process activities have included support for the development of regional strategies on sustainable consumption and production and national sustainable consumption and production programmes or action plans, as discussed above. The process has also supported regional workshops on sustainable consumption and production programmes in Latin America with the Andean Community (in Peru in 2008), in South Asian countries (in Nepal in 2008), in Africa (in Kenya and Senegal in November 2009), in the Caribbean (in Guyana in February 2010), and national workshops in Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Croatia, Ghana and Kazakhstan (in 2009) and Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Mali and Saint Lucia (in 2010).
- 54. With the support of the Norwegian Government, additional tools have been developed to promote the integration of sustainable consumption and production into national development agendas, with a special focus on poverty alleviation efforts. They include sustainable consumption and production indicators for developing countries, a guidance framework, and publications entitled "Mainstreaming Sustainable Consumption and Production and Resource Efficiency into Development Planning" and "Towards Triple Impact: Toolbox for Analysing Sustainable Ventures in Developing Countries".

### A. Activities of the task forces

- 55. Since 2005, seven Marrakech Process task forces have been launched as voluntary initiatives led by Governments with North-South, multi-stakeholder participation. These task forces support the development of sustainable consumption and production tools, capacity-building and the implementation of sustainable consumption and production projects on the following specific issues related to sustainable consumption and production: cooperation with Africa, sustainable products, sustainable lifestyles, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism, sustainable buildings and construction, and education for sustainable consumption. All relate closely to efforts to forge a green economy and to respond to problems such as climate change and resource scarcity. Some highlights from the outputs of the task forces include:
- (a) Development of an approach for implementing sustainable public procurement: in 2009, UNEP launched a project on capacity-building for sustainable public procurement in developing countries to support the development and implementation of national sustainable public procurement policies in seven countries (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Mauritius, Tunisia and Uruguay). During the first year of the project, 120 experts from 48 countries were trained. In 2011, the approach will be revised on the basis of the lessons learned from the various pilots, and will constitute a future UNEP-led international sustainable public procurement initiative;
- (b) Development of an African eco-labelling mechanism: to establish a region-wide system for sustainability standards, improving marketing opportunities for sustainable African products and providing incentives for production practices that have minimal environmental impact;

- (c) Introduction of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable entrepreneurship into African universities and colleges through the Smart Start Up project: training sessions were organized in eight African universities to motivate future African entrepreneurs to seize sustainable business opportunities (Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania);
- (d) Policy recommendations on sustainable tourism and awareness-raising tools such as the green passport: campaign on responsible holiday choices (Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Israel and South Africa);
- (e) Policy recommendations on buildings for a better future: these constitute a collection of best-policy practices to promote sustainable buildings and construction and a baseline study on buildings and climate change mitigation, looking at energy efficiency in buildings and construction with related policies and tools;
- (f) Collaboration on eco-design, labelling and improving the performance of energy-using products through the task force on sustainable products: this has led to an International Energy Agency implementing agreement for a cooperation programme on efficient electrical end-use equipment, a new international collaborative programme to promote more energy-efficient electrical equipment. To date, 10 International Energy Agency member countries have formally committed themselves to implementing the agreement;
- (g) Development of guidelines and recommendations on education for sustainable consumption aimed at policymakers and educators: workshops on education for sustainable consumption were organized during key international conferences, such as the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (31 March–2 April 2009), at which key recommendations on education for sustainable consumption were endorsed.

# B. Developing inputs for the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

- 56. The fourth implementation cycle (2010–2011) of the Commission on Sustainable Development has as one of its main themes the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. The Marrakech Process has been developing and piloting elements of this framework over the past few years through regional expert meetings and consultations.
- 57. Expert consultations were held in 2003, 2008 and 2009 in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and the Arab region, during which each region identified its needs and priorities in terms of sustainable consumption and production. Priorities identified included some common to almost all regions (energy, waste management, water and mobility). Housing, agriculture and tourism were seen as priorities in most regions, with poverty eradication identified as a cross-cutting issue important to all.
- 58. Based on these multi-stakeholder consultations, the Marrakech Process developed inputs for the 10-year framework of programmes, including elements on its vision, objectives and programmes. A succession of draft inputs to the framework was prepared through a participatory and broad consultative process with stakeholders from all regions, taking into account the experiences and outputs of the Marrakech Process task forces. Inputs were received from Governments, regional institutions and other stakeholders involved in the Marrakech Process Advisory Committee, major group stakeholders (in particular businesses, non-governmental organizations and trade unions), sustainable consumption and production experts and relevant United Nations agencies.
- 59. At its eighteenth session, in May 2010, the Commission on Sustainable Development acknowledged the work of the Marrakech Process. Representatives (including those of the African Union, the European Union and the Group of 77 and China) recognized that the Process had led to significant initiatives, had raised awareness of sustainable consumption and production in all regions and had provided valuable policies, mechanisms and capacity-building activities that which could contribute major elements to a 10-year framework of programmes. Broad support was expressed for the inputs to the framework developed through the Marrakech Process, and many representatives emphasized the need to create a framework building on recent work in national, subregional and regional strategies. In his summary (E/CN.17/2010/15 E/2010/29), the Chair noted that a number of sustainable consumption and production solutions had been developed through the Marrakech Process, and that those efforts needed to be scaled up and replicated, possibly as part of the framework.
- 60. The Marrakech Process has proved effective in supporting the implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies at the regional and national levels, bringing together communities of interest and facilitating the sharing of knowledge and information throughout countries and regions. Through its consultations and various activities, the process has linked the

knowledge of practitioners and experts in sustainable consumption and production practices with the needs and priorities of policymakers and the societies that they represent. Its limited resources notwithstanding, it has been able to raise strong interest in sustainable consumption and production and the 10-year framework among Governments and stakeholders, and it has played a significant role in identifying gaps and needs in moving forwards on sustainable consumption and production. The flexibility of its structure has allowed the organic growth of initiatives such as the establishment of sustainable consumption and production round-table discussions, which in turn have led to the development of regional and national strategies and programmes for sustainable consumption and production. The challenge now lies in finding the most suitable mechanisms for scaling up and replicating these successful activities.

# VII. Why a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production is needed

- 61. While the activities described above represent important efforts in moving towards sustainable consumption and production, further efforts are needed to change current patterns of consumption and production. Although the UNEP programme of work on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, including the Marrakech Process, has been important in creating a bottom-up approach, the next steps will demand attention from the highest political levels to ensure formal commitment to building capacity, implementing policies and management practices, and stimulating consumer choice.
- 62. During discussions on the 10-year framework at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, success stories with regard to sustainable consumption and production were presented. Representatives noted, however, that those successes described were often fragmented, resulting in a lack of coherence in policy instruments and missed opportunities to realize synergies. The framework, they said, could support existing initiatives, giving them impetus, incentives, direction and cohesion. It could also strengthen cooperation and coordination between existing and new initiatives, and foster partnerships between the stakeholders carrying out sustainable consumption and production initiatives. The Commission recognized that the framework could provide a platform for the broad sharing of experiences, lessons learned, best practices and knowledge at multiple levels and could allow for the replication and scaling up of successful initiatives.
- 63. The framework should also mobilize the technical and financial support necessary to allow the implementation of national and regional initiatives. It should support decision makers in selecting and applying an appropriate, locally adapted mix of policies and actions specific to countries, sectors and segments of society.
- 64. More particularly, a framework is needed:
- (a) To support a common vision and goals for a sustainable, equitable and prosperous world to which all countries can aspire in the decades ahead, while catalysing the political, technical and financial support required for the attainment of these goals;
- (b) To increase knowledge-sharing and networking to strengthen and extend communities of sustainable consumption and production practitioners, providing the means to link such communities across countries and regions and build stronger bridges between national Governments, policymakers, researchers and scientists, the business sector, non-governmental organizations and local authorities;
- (c) To provide a clearing house for policy guidance (good practices, expert networks and policy tools) and practical sustainable consumption and production solutions or approaches in key sectors, ensuring a dynamic feedback process where the set of policies and tools grows as more experience is accumulated;
- (d) To foster effective partnerships to advance various aspects of sustainable consumption and production, particularly at the regional and global levels, by facilitating the creation of new partnerships in areas of need, providing incentives for existing partnerships to become more active and effective and a platform for sharing experiences and resources;
- (e) To mobilize additional financial support for regional and national initiatives in developing and implementing activities in the field of sustainable consumption and production;
- (f) To offer convenient means of gaining access to technical assistance on sustainable consumption and production at the national and regional levels for policy design, programme creation and cooperation and coordination with various technical assistance programmes using tools and methodologies;

- (g) To support networks and groups dedicated to making sustainable lifestyles and behavioural change more popular;
- (h) To provide a strong science base and policy interface that would ensure the use of scientific assessment tools in measuring policy impacts and relevance;
- (i) To ensure a periodic review through a system incorporating guidelines, tools and metrics for monitoring and measuring progress towards sustainable consumption and production secured by these programmes.
- 65. As recognized by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session, the 10-year framework of programmes could be an important input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Such a framework could contribute to advancing sustainable development by helping Governments to put in place policies and capacity-building activities that accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns and thus could contribute to the transition to a green economy.

### VIII. Way forward and proposed elements for the framework

- 66. At the Commission on Sustainable Development's eighteenth session, Governments called for an ambitious and actionable framework with explicit goals, measures of progress and mechanisms to support the implementation of the 10-year framework, with predictable financing.<sup>27</sup> Representatives also said that such a framework should support policies and tools including sustainable procurement, cleaner production guidelines and methods, green building codes and standards, sustainable resource use measures, demand-side electricity management, reduction of fossil fuel subsidies, promotion of renewable energy though feed-in tariffs, development of super-efficient consumer products, eco-labelling, codes of conduct for advertising, awareness-raising campaigns and education for sustainable consumption and lifestyles.<sup>28</sup>
- 67. Whatever decision the Commission may adopt at its nineteenth session, there will be a need to clarify the framework's goals and general areas of priority, together with the means for developing, implementing, reporting on and monitoring progress in specific programmes adopted by regions, national Governments and donors involved in supporting sustainable consumption and production.
- 68. The main elements for implementing an effective framework that would need to be developed further before the nineteenth session could include:
  - (a) Vision, goals and objectives;
- (b) Institutional arrangements to support implementation (institutional structure, functions, implementation mechanisms for programmes and a mechanism for providing funding on a flexible and voluntary basis);
- (c) Programmes, including a template for their development and identification of some priority programmes for the initial phase of the framework's implementation.
- 69. The framework will be reviewed and potentially endorsed by the Commission at its nineteenth session, with a possible way forward as follows:
- (a) Development of the framework's vision, goals and objectives to support the transition to a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous world;
- (b) Review of the options for the framework's institutional arrangements to develop those that are the most relevant and consensual to support implementation;
- (c) Agreement on the priority voluntary programmes (with the flexibility to develop further programmes later);
- (d) Help in the mobilization of the financial and technical resources necessary for implementation;
- (e) Securing of high-level political commitment for the proposed model or framework that could be reinforced at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and fully integrated into its outcome, if deemed appropriate.
- 70. A continuing review of potential models for the framework's institutional structure, carried out by UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, analyses and compares

<sup>27</sup> E/2010/29-E/CN.17/2010/15.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

six existing models from the United Nations system, engaging multiple stakeholders, against possible functions of the framework. Those models, two of which were conceived and led by UNEP, are the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Marrakech Process, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the United Nations inter-agency mechanism on energy, water and ocean groups, the research centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the Millennium Development Goals model. The conclusions will provide guidance on which institutional elements could be most effective in achieving the framework's objectives. This could permit the development of an institutional model based on a mix of effective elements from the models reviewed.

- 71. This review of options will be presented at an intersessional meeting on the 10-year framework of programmes to be held on 13 and 14 January 2011 in Panama, organized by the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development with the support of UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, at the request of representatives at the Commission's eighteenth session. The meeting is intended to advance discussions in the lead-up to the intergovernmental preparatory meeting to take place in February 2011 and the nineteenth session of the Commission, in May 2011, ensuring a successful outcome, including a decision on the framework at the nineteenth session. The main conclusions from this review of options and the outcomes of the intersessional meeting will be made available as an addendum to the present report.
- 72. Initial conclusions from this review demonstrate that the efficiency of the model in achieving its objectives depends on three factors: the high-level and formal involvement of a broad range of stakeholders; a formal review and reporting system; and secure and predictable funding.
- 73. Coordination and coherence at all levels are necessary in providing effective responses to national and regional priorities. Incremental improvement on the status quo is unlikely to achieve substantial gains in the adoption and implementation of sustainable consumption and production principles, methodologies and practices; hence a greater level of commitment from all stakeholders will be necessary. Such commitment will be enhanced by an institutional structure that provides for the full participation of key stakeholders, especially in the adoption of goals for the framework, and the development of its programmes.
- 74. The models' ability to operate under their own governance arrangements affects their effectiveness and responsiveness to emerging issues and has major implications for accountability. While acknowledging the breadth of the sustainable consumption and production issue, the diversity of its stakeholders, the broad range of expertise necessary for its successful implementation and the necessary involvement of relevant United Nations agencies in their areas of expertise, it is also noted that diffused responsibility rather than a central governance structure poses coordination challenges and complicates accountability to stakeholders.
- 75. Substantial expertise, knowledge and resources already available can be incorporated into the framework. Related initiatives could be linked without distorting their primary purposes. It is clear also that United Nations agencies can contribute much through their regular programmes.
- 76. Given these conclusions, and bearing in mind the main specificities and challenges as regards the framework in terms of the cross-cutting and holistic nature of sustainable consumption and production, which requires the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders in a wide range of areas and coordinated action at all levels, a model could be proposed. The framework could draw upon the most pertinent and effective elements from existing structures, such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (with its effective coordination of activities at the national, local and global levels and dedicated funding mechanism), the Marrakech Process (with its flexibility and convening of a broad range of stakeholders and vast range of activities) and, to a certain extent, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (fostering research and building expertise).
- 77. The framework could include a multi-stakeholder global forum, the enhancement and involvement of existing centres of expertise on sustainable consumption and production in the regions, improved national and regional coordination, participation of relevant United Nations agencies through formalized agreement, and a focus for resource mobilization. To foster national and organizational commitment to the programme, national and organizational focal points would be designated through official channels. The organization could be supported by a lead agency. The arrangements would take into account instruments and processes developed to date, and would be sufficiently flexible to deal with new instruments and processes without duplicating efforts. They would provide for the delivery of agreed programmes, while permitting the creation of new programmes that could be developed in response to emerging needs.