

**Agenda Item 7: Implementation of the UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/8,
entitled Sustainable consumption and production**

This note provides a progress update on the implementation of UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/8, entitled Sustainable consumption and production.

Progress made pursuant to UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/8 entitled “Sustainable consumption and production”

Summary

At its second session, held in May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, which followed the adoption of Agenda 2030 including Sustainable Development Goal 12.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the United Nations Environment Programme supported implementation of the resolution by means of programmatic activities, as secretariat of the International Resource Panel, as secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and through direct involvement in the implementation of this framework’s six programmes.

These efforts were aligned with the Resource Efficiency Sub-Programme as outlined in the Programme of Work 2016-2017, within an increased emphasis on transversal collaboration across units.

I. Background

1. In May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, following the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

2. Two important review processes have been undertaken since the adoption of the resolution 2/8 in order to track progress on Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

- a) The mid-term review of the 10-Year Framework which comprised a comprehensive and consultative stock-taking of progress made between 2012-2017 and an independent external review of activities implemented.
- b) The review of Sustainable Development Goal 12 at the High-Level Political Forum 2018.

The present report provides an update on progress made in implementing the resolution, as requested in paragraph 6 (d), including information from the aforementioned review processes.

II. Progress on the implementation of resolution 2/8

The review of Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the mid-term review of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns both served to inform the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. With the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, 71 countries and the European Union reported on over 300 on policies, regulatory, voluntary or economic instruments that supported the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns across their economies or within specific sectors. Since 2016, twelve countries have adopted a national strategy specifically dedicated to sustainable consumption and production: Algeria, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany, Honduras, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Viet nam.

The United Nations Environment Programme has supported the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production objectives within national development and regional cooperation strategies through its activities as Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes and through the regional SWITCH projects in Asia Pacific, Africa and the Mediterranean, funded by the European Union. In addition to national level capacity-building activities, this led to the strengthening of regional cooperation, and contributed to the formulation of new regional roadmaps for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Asia Pacific and Mediterranean regions, and of the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy.

However, despite an increasing number of countries developing policies to promote sustainable consumption and production, implementation at scale remains a challenge: global extraction of natural resources and emissions of greenhouse gases, which have been increasing since the 1970s, show no

sign of slowing down. The One Planet network, formed to implement the 10-Year Framework, has been recognized as a key mechanism to fill this implementation gap and help countries achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12. This network is a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development, composed of more than 600 partners and 130 national focal points, generating collective impact for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns through its six programmes.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, 250 partners of the One Planet network reported more than 1,800 activities at global (38%), national (30%) and regional (21%) levels. Capacity-building has been a strong element of the network's activities since the adoption of the framework, providing a total of 919,260 person-days of training on various policies, practices and sectors. For instance, ICLEI and the United Nations Environment Programme together supported 2500 procurement practitioners and policy makers through regional networks, with an estimated reduction of 380,000 tons of CO₂/year as well as 54,3 GWH/year in primary energy savings.

Key highlights on progress from the thematic multi-stakeholder programmes of the 10-Year Framework include from the Sustainable Food Systems programme, recommendations to improve biodiversity protection in policy and criteria of food standards and sourcing requirements of food companies and retailers through a broad collaboration. The Sustainable Public Procurement Programme completed a *2017 Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement* complemented by *Factsheets on Sustainable Public Procurement in National Governments*. The Consumer Information Programme's '*Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information*' offer ten high-level principles on how to communicate product sustainability performance to consumers which have been downloaded over 1500 times and road tested with 28 companies and standard-setting bodies from all regions. In the Sustainable Tourism programme, key environmental indicators were developed to enable reporting against the sustainable development goal indicator 12.6.1. The Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme is supporting the application of a sustainable housing design tool, developed by UN-Habitat in a Trust Fund project in Nepal. In the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme the *Monitoring and Evaluation of Sustainability Impacts and Scalability of Sustainable Lifestyles Project* developed a technical tool incorporating quantitative and qualitative methods for assessing gaps, contexts, impacts, and scalability of projects to define innovative and successful projects and implementation modalities. Overall, the *Trust Fund of the 10-Year Framework* is currently supporting 37 national-level projects, but the demand this type of support far exceeds the number and scale of current projects. A total of more than 1,000 proposals were received for Trust Fund projects, out of which it was possible to fund only these 37.

In terms of knowledge sharing and science-based tools, support to countries in strengthening their capacities to design and implement science-based strategies on sustainable consumption and production has advanced. The secretariats of the 10-Year Framework, the Life Cycle Initiative and International Resource Panel are supporting the development of a National Hotspots Analysis tool to help countries understand high-impact sectors and activities and define intervention areas to ameliorate those impacts, considering environmental and socio-economic indicators. This tool is currently being piloted in three partner countries, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan and Argentina. Further progress has been made on promoting life cycle approaches worldwide, through the Global Life Cycle Assessment Data Access network (GLAD), a multi-government initiative launched in 2018. Also engaging the private sector and academic communities, GLAD is aimed at facilitating access and interoperability of life cycle assessment data. An e-learning module on "Introduction to Life Cycle Thinking" was made available in 2017 and has been used already by thousands of stakeholders in the public sector, industry and civil society.

The work of the International Resource Panel on sustainable management of natural resources led to an information document launched at the Third UN Environment Assembly. The Terms of Reference for the full report was approved at the 21st meeting of the International Resource Panel in Lima, Peru in November 2017. Progress was reviewed at the 22nd meeting of the Panel in Shenzhen, China in June 2018, and a final version will be ready for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

The work of the UN Environment Programme targeting the uptake of more sustainable business practices used a two-pronged approach; enhancing capacities of national business service providers to support business in responding to growing demands for more sustainable products and services while simultaneously building the motivation and capacity of policy makers and other key actors to develop enabling conditions for eco-innovation. Activities engaged nine countries (Colombia, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Vietnam) seen as having a high potential to develop

innovative solutions for sustainability, and to provide a business model that could be disseminated to catalyse replication and upscaling in these countries, and beyond.¹

The One Planet network site (previously the *Global Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse*) continues to gain momentum in terms of membership and content, showcasing the activities and outputs of the One Planet network. As of September 2018, more than 4200 registered members of the platform have submitted 500+ initiatives and 800 technical resources.

The new Strategy of the One Planet Network for 2018-2022 was formally launched at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2018. Responding directly to the recommendations from the mid-term review², this Strategy '*One Plan for One Planet*'³ was developed by the stakeholders engaged in the One Planet network. A fifteen person Task Force, chaired by the Government of Finland, engaging programme leads, regional representatives and UN agencies developed core elements of this strategy drawing on results of the mid-term review. The strategy defines a common vision and objectives with a clear way forward to exploit the diverse strengths of the multi-stakeholder network and achieve greater scale in activities to secure Sustainable Development Goal 12. Each strategy objective has a set of agreed actions with Key Performance Indicators that will be tracked as the network advances implementation of this goal.

III. Recommendations and suggested action

Reports from the UN Secretary General highlighted that Sustainable Development Goal 12 on Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production is the least resourced of all the goals and only covered in a fragmented way⁴. In parallel, the One Planet network reporting highlighted that efforts to implement sustainable consumption and production are mainly focused on the development of policies, tools and solutions, while there remains a gap in the implementation of these policies and solutions. The fourth UN Environment Assembly provides an opportunity to focus on this implementation gap, drawing on the mid-term review of the Ten Year Framework and the review of Sustainable Development Goal 12, to define innovative policies and solutions applicable at greater scale.

The mid-term review identified that the 10-Year Framework as seriously under-resourced and that the *Trust Fund of the 10-Year Framework* required strengthening to better support implementation on the ground. Building on these recommendations and aligning to the repositioning of the UN System to deliver on Agenda 2030, the Trust Fund has now become the *One Planet Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustainable Development Goal 12*. This is a collaboration between five UN agencies engaged in the One Planet network: UN Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN World Tourism Organization, UN-Habitat and the UN Office for Project Services. The fund is supported by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. This new Global Fund is designed to ensure coordinated approach to financing Sustainable Consumption and Production and bring its implementation to the next level in terms of scale and impact.⁵

Taking account of the progress achieved so far, and the challenges of implementing the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns at scale, the following recommendations and suggested actions are provided for the consideration of the Assembly. These are based on the recognition that while there are many policies and initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, and now a broad global network and political support for this shift, there remains much to do to support implementation on the ground. The recommendations are as follows:

- a) Member States provide high-level political support for to the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, based on enhanced inter-ministerial coordination, so as to support the One Plan for One Planet Strategy, including by renewing and strengthening the mandate of their national focal points, as well by engaging other key stakeholders at national level;

¹ Source of information for impact achieved: <http://unep.ecoinnovation.org/success-stories/>

² Recommendations available in the mid-term Magazine here:
http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/one_planet_network_mid-term_magazine.pdf

³ The Strategy '*One Plan for One Planet*' is available here:
http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/strategy_one_planet.pdf

⁴ *System-Wide Outline of Functions and Capacities of the UN Development System – Consultant's report*, June 2017 (page 24-25). Available at: https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/sg-report-dalberg_unds-outline-of-functions-and-capacities-june-2017.pdf

⁵ More information on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund is available here: <http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/mptf.pdf>

- b) UN Environment Programme to provide additional support the coordinated monitoring of progress on SDG12, and the benefits associated with the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through capacity-building activities;
- c) Member States and other stakeholders, including the business sector, join the One Planet network to share and apply policies, implementation tools and solutions for sustainable consumption and production, responding to national and regional needs and priorities that they have defined; and
- d) Member States are encouraged to raise the profile of the new One Planet Multi-Partner Trust Fund within their governments, and among their partners, with the aim of enhancing contributions to the Fund. Securing substantially enhanced financial resources, from a broad range of public and private sources, will be crucial for achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and SDG 12.