



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



International Processes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

A Background Paper for the North American Sustainable Consumption and Production Workshop on Green Building

Ottawa, Ontario

January 31-February 1, 2011

This workshop is linked to broader international processes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The governments of the United States and Canada in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) held the first North American Workshop on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in November 2008 in Washington, D.C. Its goal was to define a regional approach to advance SCP in North America that also contributes to the Marrakech Process, a global multi-stakeholder platform to support the shift to SCP. The meeting provided a platform to shape North American needs and priorities for achieving SCP and to identify success stories, best practices, lessons learned and gaps. This second regional workshop will build on the outcomes of first one. The aim is to have a multi-stakeholder dialogue promoting bi-national collaboration on green building as an important application of international SCP efforts. The workshop will also contribute ideas for the development of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on SCP, due for review at the 19th Session of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in May 2011.

I. Defining Sustainable Consumption and Production

Sustainable consumption and production can be 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”*.¹

One of the main goals of SCP is to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, and thus sustain economic development and the human welfare gains which flow from it (e.g. job creation, poverty reduction, improvement in health and education), while protecting ecosystems and enhancing natural and cultural diversity. Governments at all levels, businesses and consumers all need to make changes in their policies, activities and choices respectively to achieve the shift to SCP.

Meeting basic needs in a sustainable manner is at the heart of SCP. It offers opportunities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by delivering more products, in a cleaner and safer way, using less materials and energy. SCP goals and actions are powerful levers to accelerate the

¹ Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Oslo Symposium on Sustainable Consumption, 1994; this has become the widely accepted definition of sustainable consumption and production.

transition to an eco-efficient economy and to turn environmental and social challenges into business and employment opportunities.

II. The Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production: Key outcomes and the way forward

International co-operation is essential to effect the transition to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Recognizing this, governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in 2002, called for action to “*encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production*” (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, JPOI).

Following the WSSD, the Marrakech Process (MP) was established as an informal global multi-stakeholder platform to support the implementation of SCP and the development of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (the 10 YFP). The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) form the joint Secretariat of the Marrakech Process, with the support of a multi-stakeholder advisory committee and the participation of national governments, development agencies, Major Groups² and other stakeholders.

Since 2003, the Process has been supporting the development and implementation of projects and programmes on SCP 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, business and civil society organisations to share experiences and encourage implementation. Through a range of mechanisms, such as seven Task Forces focused on specific issues, international and regional expert meetings, dialogues with development cooperation agencies, consultations with business and industry and Major Groups, the Process has facilitated international, regional and national dialogue and cooperation on SCP issues. Together, these outputs are contributing policy tools, capacity building materials and practical experience which could become or provide the foundations for elements of the future 10 YFP.

Regional strategies and national programmes on SCP

The Marrakech Process activities have included support to the development of regional strategies on SCP and national SCP programmes or action plans. These include: (i) an African 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP; (ii) a Latin American Regional Strategy on SCP and establishment of a Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP, supported by the regional Forum of Ministers of Environment; (iii) the European Union Action Plan on SCP; (iv) an Asia Pacific Regional SCP Help Desk and a Regional Green Growth Initiative; and finally (v) an Arab Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production, approved by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in 2009.

The process has also supported regional workshops on SCP programmes: in Latin America with the Andean Community (Peru, 2008); South Asian Countries (Nepal, 2008); North America (Washington, 2008), Africa (Senegal and Kenya, 2009); the Caribbean (Guyana, 2010); and national workshops held between 2009 and 2010 in Croatia, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Ghana Mali, Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, St Lucia and Dominica.

² Agenda 21 formalized nine overarching categories of society through which all citizens could participate in the UN activities on achieving sustainable development, these are: women; children and youth; indigenous people; NGOs; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological community; farmers.

A manual has been published providing practical steps for the development, implementation and monitoring of national SCP programmes: “Planning for Change: Guidelines for National Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production”³.

Marrakech Task Forces

Since 2005, seven Marrakech Task Forces (MTF) have been launched as voluntary initiatives led by governments with North-South and multi-stakeholder participation. These Task Forces support the development of SCP tools, capacity building and the implementation of SCP projects on the following specific SCP-related issues: (i) cooperation with Africa; (ii) sustainable products; (iii) sustainable lifestyles; (iv) sustainable public procurement; (v) sustainable tourism; (vi) sustainable buildings and construction; and (vii) education for sustainable consumption.

Some examples of key outcomes of the Marrakech Task Forces include:

- Method/approach for implementing sustainable public procurement in developing countries: to support the development and the implementation of national SPP policies in 7 countries (Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Mauritius). In 2009, 120 experts from 48 countries were trained. In 2011, the approach will be revised towards developing a future UNEP-led international sustainable public procurement initiative.
- African eco-labeling mechanism which will establish a region-wide system for sustainability standards, improving marketing opportunities for sustainable African products and providing incentives for production practices that have minimum environmental impact.
- Collaboration on eco-design, labeling and improving the performance of energy-using products: the International Energy Agency (IEA) Implementing Agreement for a Cooperation Programme on Efficient Electrical End-Use Equipment.
- Policy recommendations on sustainable tourism and awareness-raising tools - the “Green passport” campaign on making responsible holiday choices (Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Israel, and South Africa)⁴.
- Policy recommendations “Buildings for a better future” 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 tool⁵.
- Policy guidelines and recommendations on education for sustainable consumption “Here and Now!”⁶.

Mainstreaming SCP into development agenda

The Marrakech Process cooperation dialogue with development agencies aims at highlighting the contribution of SCP policies and tools to poverty reduction and sustainable development, and better integrating SCP objectives in development plans⁷. With the support of the Norwegian Government, the tools have been developed for promoting the integration of SCP into national development agendas, with a special focus on poverty alleviation efforts (i.e. “SCP indicators for developing countries - A guidance framework”⁸; “Mainstreaming SCP and Resource

³ www.unep.fr/shared/publications/pdf/DTIx1028xPA-Planning4change.pdf

⁴ www.unep.fr/greenpassport

⁵ <http://unep.org/SBCI/pdfs/SBCI-BCCSummary.pdf>

⁶ www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/pdf/H&NMay2010.pdf

⁷ UNEP and the OECD organized a joined Conference on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Development: Building cooperation and synergies towards Rio+20 supporting poverty reduction and green growth, 10-11 June 2010, Paris, France

⁸ www.unep.fr/shared/publications/pdf/DTIx1085xPA-SCPindicatorsEN.pdf

Efficiency”⁹; “Towards triple impact - Toolbox for analyzing sustainable ventures in developing countries”¹⁰).

Towards CSD 19 - for a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP

The fourth implementation cycle (2010-2011) of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has as one of its main themes the 10 YFP. The Marrakech Process has been developing and piloting elements of this framework over the past few years through regional expert meetings, policy design and capacity building activities, consultations and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

A series of expert consultations (22 meetings) have been held in the different regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Arab region) during which each region identified its needs and priorities in terms of SCP. Priorities identified included some common concerns across almost all regions, notably energy, waste management, water, and mobility. The sectors of housing, agriculture and tourism are priorities in most regions, with poverty eradication identified as an important cross-cutting issue to all.

Based on these multi-stakeholder consultations, the Marrakech Process has developed inputs to the 10 YFP. A succession of draft inputs to the 10YFP were prepared through a participatory and broad consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders from all regions, also taking into account the experiences and outputs of the Marrakech Process Task Forces. Inputs were received from governments, regional institutions, actors involved in the Marrakech Process Advisory Committee, Major Groups, SCP experts, and relevant UN agencies.

At its 18th Session in May 2010, the CSD acknowledged the work of the Marrakech Process and recognized that the Process had led to significant initiatives and raised awareness of SCP in all regions. The session also noted that the process has provided valuable policies, mechanisms and capacity building activities, which could contribute major elements for a 10YFP. Broad support was expressed for the inputs to the 10YFP developed through the Marrakech Process, and many delegations emphasized the need to create a 10YFP building on recent work on the national, sub-regional and regional strategies.

Many delegations at CSD 18 also called for an intersessional meeting to advance discussions in the lead-up to the Inter-governmental Preparatory Meeting (28 February-4 March 2011) and CSD 19 (2-13 May 2011). In response to this request, UNEP and UN-DESA organised an intersessional meeting which was hosted by the Government of Panama on 13-14 January 2011 in Panama City.

The intersessional provided a non-negotiating space for Member States, Major Groups, and UN Agencies to foster a productive dialogue on a potential structure of a 10YFP, possible key elements of its institutional arrangements and programmes, as well as on the means of implementation necessary to ensure sustainability of such a framework. There was general agreement among participants that an ambitious and actionable 10YFP that will contribute in a meaningful way to achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production in all countries is needed and should be concluded at CSD 19. There was broad acceptance that the 10YFP should provide (i) commitment to global common goals and vision; (ii) knowledge sharing and networking; (iii) support for enabling policy frameworks and strategic planning and investment; (iv) technical cooperation; (v) opportunities for collaboration; and (vi) awareness raising, education and civil society mobilization.

In terms of examining the kind of institutional structure that would be most suitable and effective for the 10YFP, there was a rich discussion of possible lessons and elements which might be

⁹ www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/59/Documents/SCPMainstreamingintoDevPlanning.pdf

¹⁰ www.roap.unep.org/pub/TowardstripleimpactEN.pdf

drawn from different existing models, based on an analysis of the 6 existing models carried out by UNEP and UNDESA¹¹. A number of countries supported a structure similar to the SAICM model with its formal political commitment in the form of a declaration, global policy strategy, and plan of action (which would take the form of programmes in the case of the 10YFP). There was also broad recognition by speakers of the need to build on the accomplishments of the Marrakech Process, which was cited as a good example of incorporating regional and national needs and identifying gaps in implementation.

During the discussion on potential programmes for the 10YFP, key criteria could include that the programme 1) Promotes resource efficiency, material efficiency, decoupling; 2) Addresses multiple life-cycle stages; and 3) Achieves progress on at least one pillar of sustainable development without regress on the other two; preferably advance the integration of all three. Additional, desirable criteria could include that the programme : 1) Seizes win-win opportunities; 2) Augments sustainable choices available to producers and consumers; 3) Increases affordability of sustainable choices; 4) Makes information for sustainable choices accessible and easy to understand; 5) Provides a solid scientific and policy knowledge base; and 6) Offers incentives for technological and social innovation and producer/consumer responsibility. Other criteria suggested included leveraging resources from different sources, ensuring transparency, providing incentives, having a strong scientific base, avoiding green protectionism, and emphasizing their voluntary nature. The individual programmes should include monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

In terms of the thematic foci of programmes under the 10YFP, many agreed that they could take a life-cycle approach, but that not every programme could or should address all stages of the life cycle. A number of delegations highlighted that the work of the Marrakech Process Task Forces would serve as a good basis for the development of programmes. Programmes should be flexible and adaptable to regional and national contexts.

In the Chair's Summary of the meeting, UN DESA and UNEP were requested to prepare a background paper presenting options for the institutional structure and criteria for developing programmes in the 10 YFP. These will be considered during preparations for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, to facilitate the development of a draft negotiating text of the 10 YFP for CSD 19.

III. The Marrakech Process and UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative

The Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings & Construction (MTF), led by the Government of Finland, was one of the seven task forces established during the Marrakesh Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The work of the MTF formed the basis of a "Draft Programme for Sustainable Buildings and Construction (SBC)", developed by UNEP and stakeholders, which will be submitted for consideration during the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development at CSD19 in May 2011.

The MTF reviewed best policy practices and discussed indicators of sustainable construction. The responsibility for continuing the work of this task force was transferred to the United Nations Environment Programme's Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) in 2010, and the task force is now closed. UNEP-SBCI works to promote policies and practices for a

¹¹ Background Paper 1: 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP): A Review of Options for Institutional Structure at: www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Review-of-Models_BGpaperFinal_31_12_10clean.pdf

sustainable built environment. This is a joint effort with key stakeholders in this sector, including governments, industry, business, local authorities, research institutions, academia, experts and NGOs.

The objective of the Draft Programme for SBC is to ensure that building and construction activities in all countries are carried out with an aim to improve energy efficiency and resource efficiency based on life cycle costing of investments. Specific goals in the draft programme are to:

- Establish enabling frameworks at national levels to implement sustainable building policies.
- Reduce the climate footprint from energy use in buildings by at least 30% by 2021.
- Use public buildings to spearhead market transformation towards sustainable buildings by ensuring that all new and refurbished public buildings are 50% more energy efficient than the national average, and that they include significant resource efficiency measures with regard to construction materials, water use and waste generation.
- Reinvest savings from energy savings in public buildings into slum upgrading programs applying sustainable building principles to provide more affordable and more sustainable dwellings.

This work and outcome of the MTF aligns well with the green buildings agenda. As international sustainable building networks, national governments, local authorities and cities, the construction sector, financial institutions, and others focus on policies and practices to promote green buildings, the delivery mechanisms envisioned through the Draft Programme capitalize on the cooperation of all of these actors to achieve the energy savings potential in buildings worldwide.

As a result, measures discussed and reviewed during the MTF process, such as the development of indicators and focus on best practices lead to specific activities needed to promote green building on a global scale. These include common metrics, such as the Common Carbon Metric developed by UNEP-SBCI, a globally-applicable protocol for measuring energy use and reporting greenhouse gas emissions from building operations. This metric is part of a broader Sustainable Building Index being developed, and policy tools, such as the adoption of rating schemes, financial mechanisms, sustainability criteria, codes, and legislation.

UNEP-SBCI, its members and partners, including national green building councils, the World Green Building Council, industry representatives, governments, and local authorities, are involved in all facets of this work. The MTF process has assisted in guiding the agenda and focusing international attention on the potential to achieve more sustainable consumption and production in buildings and construction practices.

IV. Selected International Processes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Institution/ Initiative	Brief description
<p>The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_aboutcsd.shtml</p>	<p>The CSD was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. CSD is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels.</p>
<p>UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development (UN DESA, DSD) http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/</p>	<p>Division for Sustainable Development promotes sustainable development as the substantive secretariat to the CSD and through technical cooperation and capacity-building at the international, regional and national level. Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns is one of the major areas of work at the DSD.</p>
<p>The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) www.unep.org</p>	<p>Established in 1972, UNEP is the leading environmental authority in the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including UN entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society. Resource Efficiency and SCP is one UNEP's six thematic priorities under its Medium Term Strategy for 2010-2013.</p>
<p>UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch (DTIE, SCP) www.unep.fr/scp</p>	<p>UNEP DTIE SCP Branch works to promote sustainable resource management in a life cycle perspective for goods and services produced and used by governments, business and civil society. The SCP Branch works with public authorities, international agencies, industry associations, and institutes to mainstream and support uptake and implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns, approaches, practices and policies.</p>
<p>The Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/index.shtml</p>	<p>The Marrakech Process is a global multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of SCP and the elaboration of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) to support the regional and national initiatives on SCP. UNEP and UNDESA are the leading agencies of this global process, with an active participation of national governments, development agencies, major groups, and other stakeholders. The first meeting devoted to developing the 10YFP took place in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2003, hence its name.</p>

<p>The 10-Year Framework of Programs (10YFP) http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/tenyearframework.shtml</p>	<p>The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, calls for the development of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, and to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by de-linking economic growth from environmental degradation. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has this 10YFP as one of its main themes for consideration during the current implementation cycle (18th and 19th sessions, 2010-2011).</p>
<p>The Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/bc.htm esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/tfsusbldings.shtml www.environment.fi/sbc</p>	<p>The Task Force, led by Finland, supported the development of local and national policies to secure the sustainability of construction, use and maintenance of the built environment. The responsibility for continuing its work was transferred to the United Nations Environment Programme's Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) in 2010, and the task force is now closed.</p>
<p>UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) www.unep.org/sbci/index.asp http://unep.org/SBCI/pdfs/SBCI-BCCSummary.pdf</p>	<p>UNEP-SBCI works to promote sustainable building practices worldwide. This is a joint effort with key stakeholders in this sector (industry, business, governments, local authorities, research institutions, academia, experts and NGOs.)</p>
<p>UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) www.scp-centre.org</p>	<p>The Centre provides scientific support to activities undertaken by UNEP and other organisations in the field of SCP. This support includes the development, testing, implementation and monitoring of concrete projects, especially in developing countries, which enables these countries to leapfrog to sustainable consumption and production patterns using life cycle thinking and regional perspectives as guiding principles.</p>
<p>The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), (ESD), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) www.unesco.org/en/esd/</p>	<p>UN Decade of ESD seeks to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, in order to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental problems we face in the 21st century. ESD promotes responsible citizenship and fights against the social and resource impacts of unsustainable lifestyle consumption habits.</p>
<p>YouthXchange: UNESCO-UNEP DTIE www.youthxchange.net./</p>	<p>YouthXchange (YXC) explains how lifestyle choices in more affluent countries and the situation in developing regions of the world are closely interrelated. Unless more responsible consumption patterns are promoted and adopted now, environmental and social.</p>
<p>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) www.oecd.org/env</p>	<p>OECD has long been examining policies to reduce the environmental impacts of consumption and production. It addresses household consumption, public procurement, environmental policy and corporate behaviour and technological innovation.</p>
<p>The European Commission Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/environment-action-plan/index_en.htm</p>	<p>The Action Plan includes a series of proposals on sustainable consumption and production that will contribute to improving the environmental performance of products and increase the demand for more sustainable goods and production technologies.</p>

V. Recent and forthcoming key events

Event	Dates/ Place
High-level CSD Intersessional Meeting on a 10YFP on SCP www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_scpp/scpp_tenyearframprog.shtml	13-14 January 2011 Panama City, Panama
Sustainable Tourism Policies and Strategies for a Green Economy First Annual General Meeting of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism	17-19 January 2011 San Jose, Costa Rica
Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Arab Region,	26-27 January 2011 Cairo, Egypt
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the nineteenth Session of the CSD www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19_ipm.shtml	28 February - 4 March 2011 New York
UNEP's Governing Council 2011 www.unep.org/gc/gc26	21-24 February 2011 Nairobi
UNEP Business and Industry Global Dialogue, Strengthening the role of the private sector in the transition to a Resource Efficient and Green Economy: on the road to RIO+20	21-22 March 2011 Paris
19 th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml	2-13 May 2011 New York
UNEP SBCI Annual General Meeting and Symposium on Sustainable Buildings	23-24 May 2011 Leverkusen, Germany