1st ROUNDTABLE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN THE ARAB REGION

Overview of the Marrakech Process and Guidelines for the Working Groups

17-19 March, 2008
Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates

This document was prepared by UNEP in cooperation with UNDESA
I. INTRODUCTION

The First Roundtable of Experts on Sustainable Consultation and Production in the Arab Region will take place in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates on 17-19 March in 2008. The Government of the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Federal Environmental Agency, is hosting this meeting, co-organised with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and in consultation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The main objectives of the meeting are:

- Identify key regional priorities on sustainable consumption and production that will contribute to develop a regional action plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
- Present ongoing initiatives on SCP in the region;
- Contribute to the Marrakech Process providing regional feedback on the elaboration of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP; and
- Build more cooperation between the region and the Marrakech Task Forces, and other stakeholders such as development agencies, business and NGOs.

This background paper has been prepared in order to facilitate the discussion and work during the meeting. It provides an overview of the Marrakech Process and guidelines for the working groups of the meeting.

The section II of this paper provides a short overview on the Marrakech Process and its work towards the elaboration of a 10-Year of Framework of Programmes on SCP. This section also provides as well a short introduction on why we need to change our current consumption and production patterns.

Section III contains a set of guiding questions for the working groups in Session Three, Six and Eight (please see agenda of the meeting). Each guideline contains: 1) Objectives of Session; 2) Description of Session Structure; 3) Timeline for discussion; as well as 4) Key questions to guide discussion.
II. THE MARRAKECH PROCESS -- TOWARD A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

II.1 why do we need to change current consumption and production patterns?

Promoting and adopting sustainable consumption and production patterns is a global concern. Today more than ever, in a context of climate change, it has become clear that our global community urgently needs to adopt more sustainable lifestyles to both reduce the use of natural resources and CO2 emissions. This is crucial in order to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation; as well as to create the "space" for the poor to meet their basic needs. The resource-intensive consumption and production patterns of the developed countries cannot be maintained or replicated worldwide. It has been estimated that we would require the resources of three planets to sustain these patterns but we have only one Earth.

Some projections reveal that by the year 2050 the world population will be 9 million. According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, two thirds of the natural resources and ecosystem services providing food, fibre, energy, water and climate stability are already being seriously degraded. The use of natural resources and levels of pollution and waste continue to grow despite gains with respect to cleaner production and eco-efficiency. Fossil fuels and global use of coal, oil and natural gas was 4.7 times higher in 2002 than in 1950. Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere in 2002 were 18% higher than in 1960; they are estimated to be 31% higher than at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution around 1750. About half the world’s original forest cover is gone while another 30% is degraded or fragmented. In 1999 the global use of wood for fuel, lumber, paper and other wood products was more than twice that in 1950.

In the aggregate and for most countries, changes in consumption levels in recent decades have led to substantial benefits. However, the price is paid in the form of degradation of many ecosystem services and the exacerbation of inequities and disparities between people (according to the World Resource Institute, 20% of the world wealthiest people use 80% of resources, while 80% of the world poorest live on 20%). In some countries satisfaction of basic needs, such as access to clean water, food and proper health services, is still an unresolved issue. Unless we decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, we will simply be unable to alleviate poverty and sustain proper quality of life levels.

During the decade of the 70s and 80s, it was suggested that the environmental problems could be solved by technological changes and eco-efficiency, promoting changes basically on the production side. However, it is clear today that the use of natural resources and the levels of pollution, CO2 emissions and waste continue to grow despite gains with respect to cleaner production and eco-efficiency (see figure 1). Hence, it has become clear that we need to take a holistic approach working on both sides: consumption and production.

In addition, it is necessary to highlight the links between SCP and climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that the changes in lifestyles and consumption patterns with resource conservation can contribute to low-carbon economy of equity as well as sustainability. Consequently, the aims and approaches of SCP move along the same line of the ones of IPCC and its climate change efforts.

II.2 What is Sustainable Consumption and Production?

One working definition of SCP is ‘the production and use of goods and services that respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while minimising the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, so as not to jeopardise the ability to meet the needs of future generations’ (Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Oslo Symposium, 1994).

It is important to highlight that SCP is a cross-cutting issue which requires the active involvement of all stakeholders (e.g. government, industry, business, consumers, NGOS, media, etc). As societies face very different social, economic, and environmental conditions, SCP requires a wide range of locally-adapted policy and market-based responses. SCP is highlighting not only environmental sustainability but also the social and economic aspects as SCP aims to meet basic needs of people in a sustainable manner. SCP activities are moving forward to resource efficiency and further true decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation while encouraging innovation and further leading a system shift.

Today it is quite clear that the overuse of natural resources and generation of high levels of pollution, CO₂ emissions and waste continues to grow despite the gains from cleaner production and eco-efficiency, hence it is necessary to look at both the demand and supply sides and adopt the lifecycle thinking in the industrial management, in the production and design of products and services, in the purchasing decision, etc.

II.3 What is the Marrakech Process?

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, contains commitments on changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (Chapter III), calling for action at all levels to encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes (10YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP). hence, the 10YFP is meant to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by de-linking economic growth from environmental degradation. The proposal for a 10YFP, which is one of ultimate outcomes of the Marrakech Process, will be presented and reviewed at the 2010-2011 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The Marrakech Process, named after the host city for the First International Expert Meeting, was launched in 2003. It refers to the international joint effort to develop the 10YFP on SCP.

Phases of the Marrakech Process

In the process of developing the 10 YFP, the Marrakech Process consists of the following phases, which work in parallel (see Figure 1):

a) Organising regional consultations to promote awareness and identify priorities and needs for SCP;

b) Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership, to be endorsed by the relevant regional institutions;
c) Implementing concrete projects and programmes on the regional, national and local levels to develop and/or improve SCP tools and methodologies, with the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue as the main implementation mechanisms;

d) Evaluating progress, exchanging information and encouraging international cooperation and coordination.

**Figure 1. Four phases of the Marrakech Process**

International review meetings are organised every two years under the Marrakech Process in order to report on progress, share experiences and coordinate international cooperation. To date, three international meetings have been organised.

1) **The First International Expert Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco (June 2003):**
   - Launching the Marrakech Process

2) **The Second International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP in Costa Rica (September 2005):**
   - Shifting its emphasis from consultation to implementation of concrete SCP projects;
   - Launching new mechanisms for implementation such as the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue with Development Agencies.
   - Guidelines to develop national programmes on SCP were requested.

3) **The Third International Expert Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden (June 2007):**
   - Discussion on the outline of the 10YFP and agreement that the 10YFP needs to be flexible and applicable to all regions according to their own regional/national priorities and needs.
   - Launching of two new mechanisms such as the Business & Industry Forum (facilitated by the WBCSD and ICC) and the NGO Forum
   - Establishment of an ‘Advisory Committee’ on the Marrakech Process was suggested
   - Endorsing another round of regional consultations to strengthen regional strategies/initiatives as well as to obtain feedback on the draft proposal on the 10YFP.

Between 2003 and 2007, UNEP and UN-DESA jointly organised various **regional consultations** in four different regions - Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America & the Caribbean- and one sub-regional meeting in the Baltic States, with support from host governments and donors. In the regional
meetings, SCP experts consulted on regional priorities and needs with regard to the development and implementation of regional SCP strategies/action plans. In addition to these regional meetings, three national SCP roundtables in China, India and Brazil have been organised to encourage SCP initiatives and programmes at the national level (see Figure 2). The followings are the main outcomes of these consultations.

- The “African 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP” was launched in May 2006 with the institutional support of AMCEN, NEPAD, the African Union, UN ECA and UNEP
- Latin America has also developed its regional Strategy on SCP and has officially set up a Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP supported by the regional Forum of Ministers of Environment
- MERCOSUR has joined the Marrakech Process, and launched its SCP Action Plan
- Asia-Pacific has launched a Regional Help Desk on SCP to assist governments in the region to take action on SCP
- The European Union included SCP as a priority issue in their revised Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) and is currently developing an EU Action Plan on SCP
- A Francophone network on SCP has been launched under the initiative of the Institut de l’Énergie et de l’Environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF). This network aims to mobilize French-speaking countries on SCP issues, open an SCP working space in the French language and coordinate with other existing francophone networks on national strategies for sustainable development and social responsibility.

Figure 2. Marrakech Process at national, regional and international levels

**Mechanisms of the Marrakech Process**
The Marrakech Process is a dynamic process which contains several mechanisms, some of them supporting the development of policy frameworks and SCP strategies and others supporting the implementation of SCP projects.
At the international and regional consultations SCP experts from governments and major groups discuss and identify SCP priorities, build cooperation, obtain political support and commitment and develop SCP initiatives and/or SCP frameworks/strategies at regional and national levels. The regional consultations, one of the key elements of the Marrakech Process, promote awareness and identify priorities for SCP in the region, and to build regional strategy and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership. Currently, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have developed their own SCP frameworks and regional councils.

Marrakech Task Forces (MTFs) are voluntary initiatives led by governments, which - in co-operation with various other partners from the North and the South - commit themselves to carrying out a set of concrete activities at a national or regional level that promote a shift to SCP patterns. The Task Forces are supporting the implementation of concrete SCP projects. The main objectives of the MTFs are: i) supporting the implementation of concrete SCP projects; ii) developing thematic or sector-specific best practices, tools and methodologies; and iii) strengthening North-South cooperation in the SCP implementation. To date, seven Task Forces are active on the following themes:

- Sustainable Lifestyles (led by Sweden)
- Sustainable Product Policies (led by United Kingdom)
- Co-operation with Africa (led by Germany)
- Sustainable Procurement (led by Switzerland)
- Sustainable Tourism (led by France)
- Sustainable Buildings and Construction (led by Finland)
- Education for Sustainable Consumption (led by Italy)

The Cooperation Dialogue is engaging development cooperation agencies & development banks, and SCP experts into a dialogue, aiming at enhancing their cooperation in order to implement development projects that promote SCP while also contributing to poverty reduction. Their main objectives are:

- Developing a better understanding of the needs and benefits of promoting SCP
- Highlighting the links between SCP and poverty reduction
- Better integrating SCP into the development plans of development agencies
- Providing policy recommendations to increase access to available development funds for development projects that promote SCP

The Business and Industry Forum aims at involving more actively the business and industry sector in the Marrakech Process; identifying the main lines of the SCP agenda for business and industry, facilitating business engagement in SCP initiatives at the regional level and with the Task Forces, and cooperating in the formulation of the 10YFP. The NGO Forum aims at increasing the participation of NGOs in the Marrakech Process, by building cooperation, working together in the implementation of SCP projects, and developing the 10YFP. Both forums were launched at the last international meeting in Stockholm.

All mechanisms above also contribute to the development of the 10YFP. Therefore, the 10 YFP will be the ultimate outcome of all activities under the mechanisms of the Marrakech Process, which will be reviewed at CSD 2010-11. Figure 3 shows the mechanisms of the Marrakech Process.
II.4 What is the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP?

As mentioned above, The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, (WSSD 2002) called for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes (10YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The proposal for a 10YFP will be presented and reviewed at the 2010-2011 cycle of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The 10YFP is meant to be a ‘Global Framework for Action on SCP identifying the role and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders in promoting SCP’. As well, in regard to the links to climate change and poverty alleviation, this ‘Global Framework for Action on SCP’ will promote the shift towards a sustainable and low carbon society and contribute to poverty alleviation and a better quality of life.

The 10YFP will consist of a number of key programmes, which are effective as well as flexible and applicable to all regions, responding to different economic, social and environmental conditions, priorities and needs. It will support the shift towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and towards sustainable economies and societies. However, the main challenge is to provide not only the key programmes of the framework, but also to ensure that the mechanisms for their implementation are available (financial support, capacity building, and technical assistance) as well as the identification of the key partners to be involved and probably also the indicators to measure progress. In this regard, it is important to highlight that the Marrakech Process has already begun to develop technical support (e.g. a range of SCP toolkits and methodologies) and partnerships for cooperation with implementation mechanisms.

At the third international meeting held in Stockholm, June 2007, it was also suggested that the 10YFP could be an instrument to bring together the demand for SCP support from countries and regions and the supply of technical and financial services from UN Agencies, development cooperation institutions and other partners (business, NGOs, Task Forces, etc) to support the implementation and promotion of SCP initiatives. The metaphor of a “brokering system” was used to suggest that the 10-Year Framework could facilitate the brokering of capacity building, technical and financial support, and information sharing to support the implementation and promotion of SCP. It was also suggested that a mapping of existing

---

5 Ibid.
initiatives, programmes and policies is required; this mapping could support the development and implementation of the 10YFP.

Figure 4 below illustrates the proposed outline/scheme for the 10YFP. The formulation/development of the 10YFP from now to 2010 will involve intensive consultation with key partners and stakeholders in the Marrakech Process, including: the Advisory Committee of the Marrakech Process; regional consultations including multi-stakeholder forums; the Marrakech Task Forces; UN agencies having SCP work programmes; development cooperation agencies, and SCP experts. In particular, regional consultations are critical in order to develop an effective 10 YFP flexible enough to accommodate regional differentiation in priorities and needs.

As mentioned above, one of the main objectives of the meeting is to identify key programmes that could be included in the 10YFP. The key programmes of the 10 YFP should support the key sectors of priorities and needs identified for the region.

During the Roundtable on SCP in the Arab region, participants at the working (session 8) will analyse and discuss the 10YFP and provide their inputs regarding the regional priorities and the key programmes and the global level that could support the implementation of solutions to move towards SCP patterns and reduce environmental impacts. See guiding questions in section III.3
III. Guidelines for the Working Groups

III.1 Guideline for Session Three of the Agenda: Parallel Working Groups

The main objectives of this session are to:

✓ Identify the role for each stakeholder in the promotion of SCP patterns
✓ Analyse the SCP priorities and needs for each stakeholder group
✓ Identify synergies and opportunities for cooperation in the region to promote SCP

The Participants will be divided into three Working Groups to discuss the following topics:

1) Business and Industry Partnership on SCP;
2) Role of Government in Promoting SCP;
3) Education and Sustainable Lifestyle and the Role of YouthXchange, NGOs, and Other Stakeholders in Promoting SCP.

Time for the working groups: 1hr 15 min.

Working Group 1: Business and Industry Partnership on SCP

Key questions to guide the discussion:

a) What is the role of business and industry in promoting SCP?
b) What are the priorities and needs for business and industrial sectors to promote SCP?
c) What are the existing SCP programmes/projects that business and industrial sectors are leading? In particular, what type of support do the existing programmes/projects provide (e.g. technical assistance, financial support, capacity building)? Who are the other key partners involved?
d) What are the recommendations for action to address the priorities and needs to promote SCP? How should take the lead?
e) Considering the 7 Marrakech Task Forces (MTF), what are the possible areas for cooperation with them to promote SCP in the region?
Working Group 2: Role of Government in Promoting SCP

Key questions to guide the discussion:
   a) What is the role of government in promoting SCP? More specifically regarding, sustainable public and private consumption, promoting resource efficiency and setting the adequate policy framework that enables changes towards SCP.
   b) What are the priorities and needs for governments to promote SCP?
   c) What are the existing programmes and policies that governments in the region are implementing to support the adoption of SCP patterns? In particular, how the technical assistance, financial support, and capacity building have been provided through those programmes/policies?
   d) To what extent the development of a national strategy and/or action plans on SCP can contribute to speed up the progress of SCP promotion in your country?
   e) Are some of the governments in the region working in the implementation of sustainable public procurement?
   f) In response to the priorities and needs identified, what are the recommendations for action with respect to opportunities to promote SCP in the region? who are the key actors/stakeholders that need to be involved?
   g) How can government stimulate partnerships with other stakeholders to create synergy and build cooperation to speed up the progress on SCP?
   h) Considering the 7 Marrakech Task Forces (MTF), what are the possible areas for cooperation with them to promote SCP in the region?
Working Group 3: Education and sustainable lifestyles and the Role of YouthXchange, NGOs and Other Stakeholders in Promoting SCP in the Region

Key questions to guide the discussion:

a) Lifestyles are intricately interwoven with and are based on past and current consumption and production patterns. What are these patterns of consumption and what are the driving forces in the region?
b) What are the key priorities and needs to promote sustainable lifestyles in the region?
c) In response to the priorities and needs identified, what are the recommendations for action with respect to opportunities to promote SCP?
d) For each recommendation for action, who are the stakeholders and what are their roles? In particular, what are the roles of NGOs, academia, educators, media, and general public?
e) Considering the work of YouthXchange as well as that of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles and the MTF on Education for Sustainable Consumption, what are the opportunities on SCP by engaging them? And how can we further strengthen cooperation with the MTFs and other institutions/partners under the Marrakech Process?
f) What are the other existing programmes/projects in the field of education, knowledge, and information for sustainable lifestyle? In particular, what types of support do the existing programmes/projects provide, e.g. technical assistance, financial support, capacity building? And who are the key institutions/partners involved and how to formulate further cooperation with them?
g) What is the role of youth and youth organizations in promoting sustainable lifestyles in West Asia?

The main objectives of this session are to:

- Identify the REGIONAL priorities, needs and challenges to promote SCP with particular focuses on energy, water, and waste related issues.
- Identify existing initiatives/projects on SCP in these three focal areas.
- Share the experiences and best practices in this areas and the benefits of integrating the SCP approach in these 3 sectors.
- Develop recommendation for action that could be reflected in the regional action plan on SCP.

The Participants will be divided into three Working Groups:
1) Energy efficiency and climate change mitigation;
2) Sustainable management of water resources; and
3) Sustainable waste management.

Time for the working groups: 1 hr and 45 min.

Key questions to guide the discussion:

a) What are the key challenges on SCP associated with each subject area of energy, water, and waste, both at national and regional levels?

b) What are the recommendations for action to address these challenges identified?

c) Who should be the leading actor(s) for the actions to tackle these challenges? And who are the other stakeholders and how they should address these challenges?

d) What are the existing SCP initiatives/projects in the sector (energy, water and waste)? In particular, what types of support do the existing programmes/projects provide in terms of technical assistance, financial support, capacity building? And who are the key institutions/partners involved and how to formulate further cooperation with them?

e) How can we create synergy from various stakeholders and ongoing initiatives in the region? What could be the effective mechanisms to optimise synergy generation?

In order to facilitate discussion of Session Six working groups and report its outcomes a template of regional chart has been prepared (see below), participants are expected to fill it up.
### ARAB REGION

#### STATUS OF SCP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEEDS AND PRIORITIES (DEMAND)</th>
<th>KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION</th>
<th>KEY ACTORS/STAKEHOLDERS &amp; THEIR ROLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Sectors:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Cross-cutting Issues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- * Key Sectors:
- * Key Cross-cutting Issues:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY INITIATIVES (SUPPLY)</th>
<th>KEY INSTITUTIONS/PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III.3 Guidelines for Session Eight of the Agenda: Working Groups on Elements of the 10YFP

Key elements to analyse:

✓ Identify the other key regional priorities for SCP besides energy, water and waste.
✓ Identify and agree on some key elements which, from the regional perspective, should be reflected in the 10YFP that is being developed under the Marrakech Process.
✓ Identify the technical, financial and institutional support needed, as well as the cooperation and commitment from key stakeholders that would be required, in order to achieve progress on SCP in the region.

Time available: 2 Hrs.

Taking into consideration the information given at the plenary sessions and the discussions and outcomes of the working groups during the meeting; and considering the information on the Marrakech Process and the ‘outline’ of the 10YFP” given in section II of this paper and the figure 4 in page 10, participants are requested to analyse the following set of questions:

A. Regional “DEMAND” on SCP

1. Based on the outcomes from the working groups in sessions 3 and 6, please report on the regional priorities identified and add some other regional priorities that might not have been discussed –especially in session 6 focused on energy, water and waste).
2. What are the recommendations for concrete action/cooperation to promote SCP in the region?

B. Regional “SUPPLY” on SCP

1. What are the international and regional organisation/institutions working on SCP in your region and/or sub-region?
2. What are the existing SCP programmes and policies that are being implemented by the governments in the region?
3. What are the existing SCP initiatives being implemented by business and industry?
4. What are the existing SCP projects and initiatives being implemented by civil society, trade Unions and NGOs?
5. Which financial institutions, banks and cooperation agencies are working in the region and could support the regional SCP strategy?
6. What activities of the Task Forces are priorities for the region? How can we build more cooperation with them?

C. Key PROGRAMMES for the 10YFP

What are the KEY programmes to be included in the 10YFP that could support the implementation of the regional SCP strategy?

Do you consider it important to have any of the programmes listed below in the 10YFP?
a) Program to support the development of national programmes/action plans on SCP?
b) Programme to support sustainable public procurement?
c) Programme on “green supply chains and sustainable products? 
d) Programme on sustainable buildings and construction?
e) Programme on sustainable tourism?
f) Education and sustainable lifestyles?
g) Which other programmes would be important?

For each of the programmes selected above, identify the organizations and stakeholders that could provide support for implementation and the organisation that needs to coordinate the programme:

a) Technical support and capacity building and technology support,
b) Financial support,
c) SCP indicators to measure progress,
d) Organization responsible for overall coordination.