

US Citizens Network for Sustainable Development Global Ecovillage Network

9th December 2009

First, the aim of the 10 YFP as given in the JPOI is not to “support regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production” as suggested on Page 5 in Draft 3 of the Input Paper. It is instead to actually “**develop a framework of programmes** that support regional and national initiatives”. In other words the charge from the JPOI is to actually create the programmes which are needed to support regional and national initiatives, which almost must be created. Thus the text should be changed accordingly.

In addition the 10YFP must identify and include a listing of programmes that **the international community** will continue to develop that is sufficient for achieving the goals set in the JPOI. It should not just be a listing of programmes that can be developed by nations and regions but instead that are **developed by the international community**, with financial support from developed countries. This should be made clear in the Input Paper.

I would also ask you to include the following phrase in parenthesis and bold at the bottom of Page 5: “The 10YFP should also provide incentives, **(including financial support,)** for all stakeholders to engage in and support concrete SCP-related actions.”

Then I do not understand why the Vision Statement from Draft 2 was removed in Draft 3. It was one of the strongest and most important parts of the paper and should be reinserted. After all the governments, interested stakeholders, and even the Advisory Committee will need something to start from in discussing and drafting a proposed Vision Statement. It had read and you could thus preface it by saying, “**The Vision Statement might include such things as follow:**”

“The world’s population meets at least its basic needs while living off *one* planet. This will be done by changing current unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including lack of access to products and services to meet basic needs, while achieving a more equitable distribution of resource consumption across the planet. The 10YFP will support the shift to policies, private sector management practices and consumer choice that promote the delivery and consumption of products and services which deliver more utility, while consuming fewer resources and causing less pollution. Through these measures the worsening social and ecological trends will be reversed, by a rapid transition towards *resource efficient economies* and *low carbon societies* within the carrying capacity of ecosystems.”

“The 10YFP will thus contribute to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and increasing the welfare of citizens, and in particular people living in poverty. As such the 10YFP can contribute to achieving the goals of other global processes, notably the UNFCCC and MDGs. The shift towards SCP could as well support the launching of an efficiency revolution, involving investment in sustainable infrastructure and development achieving a fairer distribution of wealth within and across borders.”

The proposed objectives that you have listed are good and should of course be included, but you should also offer some that are much more specific such as:

Achieving zero waste

Ensuring that all costs and externalities are included in the pricing of goods and services

Phasing out of the use of all harmful and toxic chemicals and substances

Ensuring producer responsibility for all products produced throughout their life cycle

Decoupling advertising which promotes unsustainable products, practices and consumption patterns from the financing of media.

Etcetra

Also the phrase that reads: “promote more sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles” should be changed to read: “**promote totally sustainable and low or carbon neutral lifestyles**”

Under 2.1.3 Main functions of the 10YFP, please add the words “and support” as inserted below:

“Encourage **(and support)** governments to:”

Additional functions that ought to be added under 2.1.3 would also be to:

Suggest specific means by which the 10YFPs can be integrated within or coupled with Local and National Strategies for Sustainability and that SCP can be introduced in all schools through participation in the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

Under 2.1.5 Evaluation and tracking progress , the objective should be a bit more specific. This could be accomplished by adding the following text, which I have again inserted in parenthesis:

“In ten years, it should be obvious that we have embarked on a clear transition **(and are well on our way)** towards **(establishing completely)** sustainable patterns of consumption and production.”

Then the following could be added towards the end of the paragraph, “and indicators for measuring progress **(towards making a rapid transition to full sustainability).**”

In addition the suggestion that, “A mid-term review of the progress accomplished could also be done at the end of the present CSD programme of work (2017)” is totally inadequate. Given the slow pace of progress and that it has been almost 20 years since work was to have begun on the 10YFP and the failure of other such 5 year review processes, a much more detailed and specific Review Process will be needed.

Some type of process such as the following should thus be suggested for discussion and consideration: “**Within 3 years an assessment should be done to ascertain that all countries are developing and have the resources needed to develop National 10YFPs and that all regions are making good headway in implementing Regional 10YFPs. Then at 5 years an assessment could be made as to whether the governments are on track towards achieving**

fully sustainable means of production and consumption, living within the carrying capacity of the earth, etc. Then at 7 or 8 years an assessment should be made as to whether the findings from the 5 year assessment are indeed being adequately dealt with, etc.”

Under Section 2.2 Building the Programs

Any combinations of the following could be part of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes:

- Education, training, awareness-raising, (**extension services**) and capacity-building
- Institutional capacity building
- Strengthening national legal frameworks and administrative or other measures of relevance and (**developing Socially Responsible Economic Indicators**)
- Participation of Major Groups, in particular women and local authorities in planning, decision-making and implementation
- Mobilization of financial resources from all sources, (**including by realigning subsidy policies**); (**tax policies and incentives**); provision of credit facilities; promotion of private investment; any innovative financing mechanisms
- Technology development, transfer and dissemination
- (**Extended Product Responsibility and adoption of Standards, Certification, & Labeling**)
- Application of existing technologies as well as indigenous knowledge and know-how
- Cooperative frameworks and partnership incentives for actions at all levels and for international and regional cooperation to promote SCP;
- Knowledge sharing, technology transfer, financing and capacity building for specific activities related to SCP with a special focus on the needs of developing countries;
- Support and incentives for countries and regions willing to set their own goals and priorities related to SCP.

Given that you have identified “Means of implementation” and “Institutional framework for sustainable development” as two of the topics for discussion at CSD, I think that something more should be said about the need to develop specific international programs, funding, support for and means of implementing the initiatives and activities that are identified and included in the 10YFPs. And in addition it should be specified that support is needed to assist all countries that have not yet developed an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development so that they may finally do so. And that specific proposals for developing and providing this support are thus needed.

Finally, I would suggest that you include a statement such as the following to ensure that countries understand their obligation to integrate and fulfill all of the international commitments that have already been agreed to:

“The 10YFPs on Sustainable Consumption and Production should be coupled and integrated with country participation in the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development; development and implementation of Local and National Strategies for Sustainability; the Rio Conventions; and all other international agreements and treaties.”

Thank you,

Rob Wheeler

Campaign for a Sustainable America
US Citizens Network for Sustainable Development
Global Ecovillage Network

1-717-264-5036

Robwheeler22@gmail.com