

Concept note for the Cooperation between the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa and other Marrakech Task Forces

I. The Marrakech Task Forces

The Marrakech Task Forces are part of the Marrakech Process, which includes regular regional and global meetings, the Task Forces and other activities to promote progress of the 10-Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). A Marrakech Task Force is an informal group of countries and organisations coordinated by a lead country that have decided to work collaboratively on a specific issue of SCP committed to carry out a set of activities which support the implementation of projects of the Marrakech Process. The Marrakech Task Forces can be broadly categorised into: region-specific Task Forces, policy tools and programmes Task Forces, sector-specific Task Forces and Task Forces on social and behavioural issues.

Region-specific Task Forces

1. **Cooperation with Africa** – the main aim is to encourage and support African countries in the integration of SCP in existing plans and programmes and in developing national sub-regional and/or regional action plans on SCP that allow them to leapfrog, reducing poverty while adopting sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the early stages. Under its current work plan, the Task Force focuses on eco-labelling for Africa and supporting national action plans on SCP.

Policy tools and programmes Task Forces

2. **Sustainable Products** – the main objectives are to raise awareness of product policy as a means of achieving international development and environmental objectives; to seek common priorities and opportunities for practical cooperation in encouraging more innovation on product eco-design; and to establish and participate in open and transparent processes for improving product performance.
3. **Sustainable Public Procurement** – the main objective is to promote and support the implementation of sustainable public procurement by developing tools and supporting capacity building in both developed and developing countries. The activities include the development of a practical toolkit to provide an easy start for the implementation of the concept of sustainable public procurement.

Sector-specific Task Forces

4. **Sustainable Tourism** – the main objective is the implementation of activities that promote sustainable tourism, providing supporting tools and existing initiatives that may inspire pilot projects and good practice in other countries. The Task Force focuses on three main topics: tourism and climate change, biodiversity, and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

5. **Sustainable Buildings and Construction** – the main aim is to develop local and national policies and legislation to secure the sustainability of construction, use and maintenance of the built environment. The Task Force addresses the question on how public policies and legislation can promote energy efficiency, energy savings and use of renewable energy in the built environment. The activities include mapping out the baseline condition and internal exchange of best and worst practices.

Social and behavioural issues

6. **Education for Sustainable Consumption** – the objective is to achieve progress in introducing sustainable consumption and production issues in particular into formal curricula with the aim of supporting the Marrakech Process through initiatives, activities and pilot projects in this sector. A special focus of the Task Force is on the Mediterranean region, sharing its experiences globally.
7. **Sustainable Lifestyles** – the main goal is to develop and support the implementation of sustainable policies and projects that enable the adoption of sustainable lifestyles. The main activities are to support the implementation of projects at the sub-regional and national level; to develop tools and capacity building on education and communication for sustainability; and to assemble results and inspiring examples on sustainable lifestyle.

II. The African 10-Year Framework Programme on SCP and the Task Force on Cooperation with Africa

The Development of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production was facilitated by UNEP and UN-DESA in close consultation with the Secretariats of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and the Secretariat of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) which has been established and supported by UNEP. The development of the African 10-Year Framework Programme was conducted in the following four stages.

- ***The First African Expert Meeting on the 10-YFP:*** this was held from 19-20 May in Casablanca, Morocco which identified the key issues that need to be addressed under a framework programme and identified four thematic focus areas.
- ***The Second African Expert meeting on the 10-YFP:*** this was held from 17-18 February 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya and it further deliberated on the four thematic areas identified by the First meeting and proposed the key activities that need to be undertaken under each area.
- ***Technical Segment of AMCEN:*** this was held from 19-20 February 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting deliberated on the draft framework document that was developed by the Experts Meeting and endorsed it for submission to AMCEN's Ministerial Session for approval.

- **AMCEN's Approval:** the Regional Framework Programme developed through the above technical forums was approved by AMCEN in March 2005 in Dakar, Senegal.

Throughout the development of the African 10-YFP, emphasis has been given to the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenges of meeting basic needs and provision of sustainable livelihoods, which are of high priority for the African region.

The African 10-YFP on SCP was officially launched in May 2006 through a high-level launch session that was jointly organized by the African Union (AU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNEP. A Regional Steering Committee that is co-chaired by AMCEN and ARSCP is constituted to facilitate the further development and implementation of the African 10-YFP. The Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-4) that was held from 29-31 May 2006 further identified the specific priority areas upon which the regional follow-up should focus. The African Ministerial Conference on Environment, which approved the African 10-YFP on SCP through its Dakar Declaration (March 2005) emphasised the importance of linking sustainable consumption and production with the challenges of meeting basic needs. It further called upon its development partners to provide support to the activities and programmes included in the approved African 10-YFP on SCP.

The Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa was formed as a follow-up to the programme development activities and in response to the call made by AMCEN's Dakar Declaration. The scope of the Cooperation with Africa Task Force is to support the African regional process on SCP, to share experiences between cooperation partners and African countries as well as among African countries, to encourage and support African countries in developing national or regional action plans on SCP, and to develop strategic partnerships for the implementation of concrete regional measures. Through its identified activities, the Task Force works closely with the African 10-YFP on SCP. The priority areas of that programme are energy, water and sanitation, habitat and sustainable urban development, and industrial development.

The First meeting of the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa identified the key follow-up areas for the Task Force of which the following are the major ones.

- a) *Development of an African eco-labelling scheme.* The overall objective of this project is to develop an African eco-labelling scheme that promotes appropriate environmental and health related standards within the design and production of African products and to promote better markets access for African products in regional and global markets. The project envisions that once the eco-label scheme is developed, industries and business operating in the region could use it in improving their product profile and increasing their market share.

b) *Review of opportunities for leapfrogging in African countries.* The objective of this activity is to undertake a preliminary review of the potential for promoting SCP through leapfrogging in Africa by identifying specific cases of applications and analysing the key elements of the enabling conditions (e.g. policies, technologies) that would facilitate such a transition in the region.

c) *Development of national/city-wide programmes on SCP.* The overall objective of this activity is to facilitate the development of SCP programme at national and city level in selected pilot countries and cities and to generate region-specific experience that could be replicated in other countries. The specific objectives are to promote better understanding and appreciation of the key issues related to SCP and to enhance institutional capacity at national and city level; to identify the key priority areas that need to be addressed at national and city level and to provide a framework for the development and implementation of specific activities that promote SCP; and to develop region-specific knowledge on how to develop and implement programmes and activities related to SCP.

III. Potential areas for inter-Task Force cooperation in Africa

The importance of developing linkages between the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa and the other Marrakech Task Forces was underlined by the first meetings of both the Regional Steering Committee for the African 10-YFP and the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa. As a first step along this line, the participation of the President of the ARSCP in the Joint Marrakech Task Force Meeting held in Wuppertal, Germany in November 2006 was facilitated. In December 2006, at the Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the African 10-YFP on SCP, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a concept note on partnerships with the Marrakech Task Forces from which activities the region could benefit as one of its follow-up activities for 2007.

In view of making the best out of the limited capacity that would be available within the Task Force, it has been agreed to initiate the cooperation with different phases by initially starting with three Task Forces. The selection of the Task Forces is to be based on the specific needs and priorities of the region and the relevance of the identified priorities of the Task Forces for the region. Based on the above consideration it has been suggested to explore the possibility of initiating the first phase cooperation with the Task Forces on Sustainable Public Procurement, Sustainable Buildings and Construction, and Sustainable Tourism.

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)

The Task Force is coordinated by Switzerland with participation from twelve other governments and six international agencies. The only African country thus far participating is Ghana, which is also co-chairing the working group

- The main objectives are to promote and support the implementation of sustainable public procurement by developing tools and supporting capacity building in both developed and developing countries

- The main activities are to develop a practical toolkit to ease the start for stakeholders to implement the concept of SPP; to carry out research and prepare background documents on SPP; to promote the implementation of SPP through pilot projects; and to facilitate the dialogue and work among countries and stakeholders interested in SPP

Sustainable Buildings and Construction (SBC)

The Task Force is coordinated by Finland with participation of eight other national and local governments. City of Cape Town, South Africa and State of Victoria are participants from the African region. In addition, there are observers from international agencies and a Finnish National Advisory Group

- The main objective is to develop local and national policies and legislations to secure the sustainability of construction, use and maintenance of the built environment; the priority objective is the question on how public policies and legislation can promote energy efficiency, energy savings and use of renewable energy in the built environment
- The main activities are mapping out the baseline condition for sustainable buildings and construction; internal exchange of best and worst practices; research projects on jointly determined issues; and dissemination of successful policies

Sustainable Tourism (ST)

The Task Force is coordinated by France with participation of fourteen other governments and eight international agencies. In addition, nine NGOs and business associations working in the areas of conservation and tourism are also participating in the Task Force

- The main objectives are to increase awareness of the links between tourism and climate change; to increase awareness of the impacts tourism has on the environment and biodiversity by focusing on prevention initiatives; and to protect and showcase the world's cultural and natural heritage
- The main activities include collection of good practices; development of an investment guide for local operators as well as on tourism and coastal zone management; review of existing labels, standards and certifications; promotion of natural and cultural heritage as assets for sustainable tourism development; providing countries with assistance to integrate sustainability in its tourism strategy; and development of a public website and communication campaign on sustainable tourism

The Task Forces on SPP, SBC and ST cover issues that are relevant for the African region and thus for the Cooperation with Africa Task Force. In general, they all aim to support the development of policies and projects related to sustainable consumption and production that enable sustainable development of regions. In that regard, cooperation between the Task Forces would strengthen the implementation of respective activities projects and policies.

Possible areas of cooperation

The following areas of cooperation are identified as possible joint activities on the basis of the specific objectives of the individual Task Forces and the existing need in the region.

Regional training of trainers on sustainable public procurement: The public sector in Africa is one of the major economic players accounting, on average, to more than 25% of the volume of procurement of goods and services. Besides the general economic and environmental benefits that could be achieved by adopting sustainable procurement practices, the public sector could be a significant instrument of positive influence in the transition toward more sustainable consumption and production patterns. In this context, conducting a regional training of trainers programme on sustainable public procurement through a joint cooperation with the Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement will lay the foundation for reorienting public procurement practices in the region.

Energy efficiency and savings in African urban centres: Africa's existing capacity of power generation is largely limited to the provision of electricity to the ever expanding urban centres. The access rate by households in most African urban centres is still below 50%. Even countries with a relatively high access rate have serious supply-side deficiencies, which have forced them to resort to load shedding. Hence, frequent power black-outs and use of generators to offset the shortage has become common in most countries in the region. African countries could make significant economic and environmental savings by employing a combination of demand-side management strategies that are aimed at promoting efficiency and energy saving. In this context, the promotion of energy efficiency and saving in African urban centres could be a useful joint programme that could be implemented with the Task Force on Sustainable Building and Construction.

Capacity building on tourism and coastal management in Africa: The development of the tourism sector has been identified as one of the key priority sectors by a large number of African countries and coastal tourism is one of the fastest growing sector in a number of African countries. Due to the unsustainable nature of these development undertakings, a growing share of the coastal region is being exposed to varieties of environmental pollution and degradation. Enhancing the capacities of coastal tourism and development planners on sustainable tourism and coastal management is a programme that could be jointly implemented with the Task Force on Sustainable Tourism.

Follow-up action

1. Conduct inter-Task Force consultation with the relevant Task Forces during the Third International Meeting on SCP to be held in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2007.
2. Develop the specific modalities of cooperation and the way forward on the basis of the outcome from the inter-Task Force consultation.