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**Conclusions and Recommendations of the V  
Meeting of Council of Government Experts on  
Sustainable Production and Consumption of  
Latin America and the Caribbean. Cartagena  
de Indias, Colombia, 16 to 18 September  
2009**



## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BY THE FIFTH EXPERT MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

*The Drafting Committee was made up of Arcelia Kivers (Panama), Travis Sinkleir (Barbados), Irma Suárez (Ecuador), César Buitrago (Colombia), Julio Baena (Brazil), Chantal Line Carpentier (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and Victoria Beláustegui (United Nations Environment Programme). The Recommendations of this document were discussed and approved in plenary session by all the delegates of the meeting's participant countries.*

**Considering** that the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg determined, as one of the goals of its Plan of Implementation, the promotion of a group of 10-year programmes supporting national and regional initiatives in order to speed up the change towards sustainable consumption and production patterns;

**Noting** that one of the priority action areas of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development (*Iniciativa Lationamericana y Caribeña para el Desarrollo Sustentable*, ILAC), where the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region will concentrate their efforts during the 2008—2012 period, will be the change towards patterns of sustainable consumption and production, in compliance with the decision made by the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region related to continue supporting the ILAC;

**Acknowledging** the need to recover the ancient Latin American and Caribbean philosophy related to sustainable lifestyles and understanding the quality of life as one of the key factors in the process of modifying sustainable consumption and production patterns and, therefore, as an opportunity to increase the population's acceptance and work towards a regional vision on the sustainability of consumption and production considering poverty reduction and the harmonization between humankind and nature as cross-cutting goals;

**Acknowledging** the work done by the Council of Government Experts of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Production and Consumption as an instance of agreement, exchange of experiences and information on this topic, the results of the previous Expert Meetings on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and the Decisions on SCP approved by the Forum of Ministers during their different sessions;

**Taking into account** that, the priority areas defined by the Forum of Ministers in their Decision 10/2008 to concentrate efforts in connection with common Sustainable Consumption and Production in all the region are: 1) participation contexts and processes with all the areas of society; 2) Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; 3) sustainable public procurement; 4) national SCP policies and programmes; and 5) the Regional SCP Information Network;

**Bearing in mind** the assessment carried out on the region's progress and challenges as regards the identified priorities, as well as the recommendations included in that document,<sup>1</sup>

**Considering** that, providing the process with continuity and in order to define the region's specific contributions to the 10 Year Framework Programme that will be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development during the 2010-2011 term of sessions, the United Nations Environment Programme, together with the Government of Colombia, the support of the Andean Community of Nations, the cooperation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held the V Meeting of Council of Government Experts of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Production and Consumption in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, during September 16-18, 2009.

**Acknowledging** the relevant participation and valuable contributions made at the Fifth Meeting of Government Experts for SCP by Subregional Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, the Net of Cleaner Production Centres, the academic sector, labour unions and business sector<sup>2</sup>.

**THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN PN SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN ITS FIFTH MEETING RECOMMENDS TO THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:**

1. To ratify and support the implementation of priority areas as a contribution from the region to the 10 Year Framework Programme, as indicated in Annex 1, concentrating the efforts on the following topics:

- a. **National Policies and Strategies on Sustainable Consumption and Production:**

- i. **To incorporate** and coordinate the SCP topic in development policies, programmes and strategies.
    - ii. **To strengthen** the information, education and training processes on SCP aimed at the population.
    - iii. **To quantify** the costs and benefits associated to the implementation of the SCP national and sub-regional action plans aimed at identifying the impact on the employment, poverty reduction and other social aspects, prioritizing sectors at the national and sub-regional level.
    - iv. **To prioritize** and promote a greater corporate environmental and social responsibility among the sectors producing mass consumption goods, which generate greater environmental and social impacts, incorporating to that effect concepts such as life-cycle assessment and extended producer responsibility.

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<sup>1</sup> See Report of the Progress Made on SCP in Latin America and the Caribbean in [www.redpycs.net](http://www.redpycs.net)

<sup>2</sup> See Annex II in this document.

b. **Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises;**

- i. **To prioritize** the sectors linked to environmental or ecosystemic services at the sub-regional level.
- ii. **To create** or strengthen economic mechanisms and instruments that may support the sustainability of the productive sectors and that may improve their productivity and competitiveness.
- iii. **To define** the SCP specific indicators within the framework of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean (*Iniciativa Lationamericana y Caribeña, ILAC*).

c. **Sustainable Public Procurement;**

- i. **To promote** a high level leadership that may boost sustainable public procurement and may involve and join the leading organization on national public procurement.
- ii. **To adopt** a gradually applicable strategy aimed at incorporating environmental and social criteria in the contracting processes of priority goods and services.
- iii. **To ensure** the inclusion and sustainability of small and medium-sized enterprises in SPP programmes by establishing policy measures and specific instruments.
- iv. **To create** a multisectoral mechanism that may facilitate the involvement, assessment and follow-up of sustainable public procurement.

d. **Sustainable Lifestyles**

- i. **To adjust** and apply policies that may promote the offer of sustainable goods and services at affordable prices for the entire community.
- ii. **To broaden** participation and involve the entire community in the action, development and execution of actions aimed at promoting sustainable lifestyles.
- iii. **To foster** the adaptation of a common SCP language and the implementation of communication strategies for the consumer.
- iv. **To foster** the firm inclusion of education for sustainable consumption in educational programmes.
- v. **To carry** out studies and apply measurement systematic mechanisms in order to identify and understand the region's consumption motivators.
- vi. **To make** an appeal to transnational corporations so that they may apply in the region the quality and environmental management standards they apply in their countries of origin or in countries with more stringent standards.

2. To promote the strengthening of the institutional areas responsible for SCP in each country and maintain an active participation of these organizations in the sub-regional and regional activities related to this issue.
3. To request UNDESA, in collaboration with UNEP, technical resources for the development of detailed application plans of the SCP sub-regional and regional action plans during the next 12 months.
4. To request the UN organizations, development agencies and funding organizations as the Global Environment Facility, as well as other inter-governmental organizations, including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, to identify and make available financial resources devoted to the support of the application of the proposal of regional and sub-regional actions in the 10YFP for LAC.
5. To ratify the new formation of the Council's Operating Committee for the 2009-2011 period, as indicated below:
  - a. **Representative of the Caribbean Subregion:**
    - i. Permanent: Barbados
    - ii. Alternate: Jamaica
  - b. **Representative of the Middle American Subregion:**
    - i. Permanent: Guatemala
    - ii. Alternate: Dominican Republic
  - c. **Representative of the Andean Subregion:**
    - i. Permanent: Colombia
    - ii. Alternate: Peru
  - d. **Representative of the Southern Cone Subregion:**
    - i. Interim: Brazil

## Annex I

### Contributions of the Council of Government Experts in SCP to the 10 YFP

As regards the general recommendations made during the Sessions on Policies and Instruments, Productive Sector, Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Public Procurement, the Council of Experts highlights the following as priorities to be included in the Recommendation to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean:

#### A. Policies and Instruments on Sustainable Consumption and Production

1. To incorporate and coordinate the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (*mainstreaming*) in development policies, regulations, programmes and strategies at the National level with other government areas, at the regional level, at the subregional level, in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), International Networks and Organizations (FAO, WTO, etc.), including the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
2. To inform and educate the population:
  - a. To examine the language and ways of transmitting the concepts aimed at an easy understanding and adoption of sustainable consumption and production initiatives
  - b. To broaden the participation of other organizations and actors of the civil society (consumer protection organizations,; youth; indigenous organizations, among others).
  - c. To use the Regional SCP Information Network as an instrument for the strengthening of the South-South Cooperation in the exchange of information, training and dissemination.
3. To quantify the costs and benefits associated to the implementation of the SCP national and sub-regional action plans aimed at identifying the impact on the employment, poverty reduction and other social aspects, prioritizing sectors at the national and subregional level.
4. To assign a specific priority to the mass production and consumption sectors with higher environmental and social impacts, including the concept of extended producer responsibility.

#### B. Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Productive Sector

1. The productive sectors linked to environmental or ecosystemic services are essentially relevant in Latin America and the Caribbean and should be part of the 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP. In this context, each subregion will define the priority sectors that should be included in the 10 Year Framework Programme before December 7, 2009.
2. To urge the governments to create the funding mechanisms and economic instruments for the promotion of the sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, linking the financial sector, and in coordination with the instruments connected to the SCP of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
3. To specifically include the indicators related to Sustainable Consumption and Production in ILAC's group of indicators, in coordination with ILAC's Task Force on Indicators.

### **C. Sustainable Lifestyles**

1. There is a barrier when looking for sustainable lifestyles and it is related to the difficulty in accessing sustainable products and services at adequate prices for society's all sectors.
2. Looking for the change of consumption patterns requires the decisive involvement of all the actors and interested stakeholders, and the actions should precisely undertaken from the community; therefore, the mechanisms of participation and action should include the government, the private sector, consumers' associations, distributors, the academy, indigenous organizations, young people, among others.
3. Communication plays a vital role from the consumer's point of view. It is necessary to define the means and adequate semantics so that the information reaching the consumer may actually guide him/her, and may not run the risk of sending mistaken messages.
4. Also, the dissemination of information on sustainable lifestyles is extremely important through all possible means and one of them is the promotion of environmental education and its firm inclusion in curricular programmes.
5. It should be understood what motivates people's consumption and this may be achieved by investigating from the social sciences perspective and the consumer's psychology. The life cycle approach and the Global Survey on Sustainable Lifestyles (GSSL) are recognized as valid mechanisms to understand the impact of how people consume and, also, it could be an instrument for the measurement and monitoring of the 10YFP implementation.
6. Transnational corporations should not decrease the quality and environmental management standards applied in the region for their processes and products in comparison to those applied in their countries of origin.



#### **D. Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)**

1. High level political commitment should exist, involving the organization that governs the system of sustainable public procurement.
2. A gradual approach should be adopted, including priority goods and services defined through a high level agreement and based on the information available and the market's response capacity.
3. The sustainable procurement process should include environmental and social criteria, framed in a life cycle approach.
4. Small and medium-sized enterprises should not be excluded and their context should be especially taken into account, as regards the time of transition and adaptation, as well as the generation of specific instruments and incentives for market adaptation.
5. An institutional mechanism of participation for interested stakeholders should be established, which may include the ministries of economy and finance, aimed at carrying out the follow-up and assessment of the SPP implementation.

## Annex II

### Contributions from the Productive Sector and Civil Society Organizations to the 10YFP

#### 1. Civil Society Organizations

These contributions were agreed by the members of the civil society group, which has gathered delegates from non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations, consumers' organizations and the academic sector.

#### Policies:

- We need to reestablish a regional platform on SCP, this would provide a basis for continuity and preserve the institutional history of the region for the process.
- We need to have member states adopt the principle of participation of all relevant stakeholders and facilitate the development of mechanisms of full engagement at all levels of dialogue.
- We need to communicate with other regional and international processes with the view of mainstreaming SCP into the global sustainable development agenda.
- We have to recognize and promote CSO networks on Corporate Social Responsibility (World Business Council for Sustainable Development).
- We should try to explore the synergies of the world plans of the regional and international networks.
- We have to identify CSO focal points to participate on the SCP council of experts.
- We need to have more CSO involvement on the Marrakesh taskforces.
- We have to use universities, CSO research networks, private sectors think tanks, as resources of information.

#### Productive Sector

- We need to recognize the potential of creating green jobs as one of the growing sectors.
- We have to identify what the private sector is able to bring to the table.
- We have to encourage the private sector to develop actions plans to achieve socio-economic sustainability.
- We have to establish standards and regulatory guidelines to promote monitoring and assessments and we should use positive incentive approach, more than punitive measures.

### **Education and Sustainable Lifestyles**

- We need to promote sustainable lifestyles examples by focusing on the philosophy and concepts rather than the cultural practices.
- We have to utilize the mass media to influence lifestyle choices, on a sustain basis to achieve the objective.
- We can learn from the different indigenous groups about living in balance with nature.
- We need to develop and promote indicators for sustainable development, including indicators for sustainable lifestyles. (Lot of this work is ongoing, there are examples of ecovillages)
- Item 10, we need to mainstream the consumption side
- Item 12, we need to identify trusted entities to support communication strategies.
- Item 14, we need to include socio-economic drivers.

### **Sustainable Public Procurement**

- There has to be some flexibility on the instruments and stakeholders have to be involved in the development phase.

## **2. Contributions of the Productive Sector**

The following considerations belong to the consensus reached by the task force members, which has gathered representatives of Centres of Cleaner Production, labour unions and representatives of business associations.

### **Preliminary Activities**

- Prepare a mapping related to the capacity and active institutions on issues related to SCP, by means of which it will be possible to identify the responsibilities for the following activities;
- Formalize the productive sector's participation in the Marrakech Process meetings under clear rules.

### **Training and Tool Development**

- To make available the methods and tools developed at the international level, through the RedPyCs platform;
- SCP conceptualization and its implication for the productive sector and development of the respective methodology. Definition of a package on what is SCP for businessmen;
- Strengthening of the existing institutions that have developed capacities on topics compatible with SCP, including National Centres on Cleaner

Production, offering them the necessary capacities, methodologies and techniques;

- Development of specific tools for SMEs that should be simple and easy to implement or even a general differentiated methodology for the productive sector.

### **Legal Framework**

- Generation of synergies between SCP and the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements for the productive sector; Through policies and guidelines that may create projects in which the institutions identified in section 1;
- Inclusion of SCP in the public procurement regulation, in order to ensure the conditions for the implementation of sustainable public procurement.

### **Awareness-Raising**

- Development of communication mechanisms to disclose the benefits of SCP implementation.
- Dissemination of the "Case of SCP Businesses" among businessmen.

### **Implementation in the Productive Sector**

- Support of the definition of the standardized indicators for SCP measurement, which may allow persuading the CEOs about the relevance of implementing SCP. Indicators will be used to measure baseline and periodic SCP impacts;
- Building of partnerships with providers for green purchases throughout the entire value chain; Integration of SCP in the already existing providers' development and productive chaining programmes;
- Promotion of the certification of the companies implementing SCP, within the framework of a regionally acknowledged scheme;
- Development of SCP pilot projects that may have a multiplier effect through dissemination and upscaling;
- Promotion of entrepreneurs' projects with SCP vision, using the institutional platform.

### **Funding Mechanisms**

- Development of financial capacities and mechanisms focused on SCP and simplification of the SMEs access to those mechanisms.

### **Sustainable Public Procurement**

- Incorporation of the SCP concept in the public procurement related to the development of infrastructure, creating the concept of Sustainable Public Works. Coordination between the Marrakech Task Forces on sustainable procurement and sustainable building and construction.