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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS
31 January to 1 February 2012

Report of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production

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Sustainable Consumption and Production

1. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been one of the most active regions in the implementation of initiatives and projects that promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP). A high-level commitment towards SCP has been demonstrated by the adoption of the regional SCP strategy, the conformation of the Regional Council of SCP government experts, and the celebration of six Regional Meetings¹ on SCP.
2. The region also has been adopting SCP policies at both the sub-regional and national levels, according to the four thematic priorities identified in the Fifth Regional Meeting on SCP, held under the framework of the Marrakech Process, in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), in 2009:
 - a. National Policies, Programmes and Strategies in SCP
 - b. Small and Medium Enterprises
 - c. Sustainable Public Procurement
 - d. Sustainable Lifestyles
3. These priorities were also recognized in the Regional Implementation Meeting organized by ECLAC in 2009 and ratified at the seventeenth meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers in 2010.
4. The four priorities of the agenda of SCP were also highlighted within the preparation process for Rio +20. This consideration is evident in the findings of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Santiago (Chile), 7 - 9 September 2011. The same relevance of the SCP agenda is reflected in the contributions prepared by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Rio +20 Summit.
5. Since the last meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers, held in Panama in April 2010, UNEP has continued to support the implementation of these SCP priority areas common to all sub-regions, as detailed in the following paragraphs.

National SCP policies, programmes and strategies

6. Within the LAC region, a significant effort has been placed by the countries in the identification of their policy frameworks for the promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production. This has materialized in the development of the below listed frameworks:
 - a. Mexico: "Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production"
 - b. Cuba: "National Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production and Resource Efficiency 2010-2015"
 - c. Dominican Republic: "National Policy for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Dominican Republic"
 - d. Ecuador: "Regional Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production in LAC - SCP in Ecuador"

¹ The 6th Regional Meeting in SCP was celebrated in Panama City (Panama) the 24-25 of November of 2011.

- e. Colombia: "National Policy for Sustainable Consumption and Production – towards a sustainable consumption and productive transformation culture"
- f. Peru: Eco-efficiency programmes
- g. Brazil: "National Action Plan in Sustainable Consumption and Production"
- h. St. Lucia: "Strategic planning for sustainable development in the Francophone Caribbean: a programme for capacity building in sustainable patterns of consumption and production - The status of sustainable consumption and production in Saint Lucia²"
- i. Dominica: "Strategic planning for sustainable development in the Francophone Caribbean: a programme for capacity building in sustainable patterns of consumption and production - The status of sustainable consumption and production in Dominica"
- j. Uruguay: "National Action Plan in Sustainable Consumption and Production 2010-2015"
- k. And Mercosur: "Policy for the Promotion and Cooperation in Sustainable Consumption and Production in MERCOSUR"

7. Efforts for the development of a national policy have been started by Honduras and it is worth highlighting that Brazil has just completed the process of revision of its national action plan for sustainable consumption and production, which was launched on 23 November 2011.

8. The above initiatives have been based on the implementation of the UNEP methodology of "Planning for Change" and the ten steps foreseen in its development.

9. In addition to the above, UNEP has recently started an effort to complement the existing international guidelines related to the identification of indicators to measure progress in the implementation of SCP action plans and strategy with a specific regional dimension and perspective. The initiative has been closely related with the effort promoted at regional level within the ILAC. Preliminary information on the results of the study has been shared during the 6th meeting of the Regional Council of SCP government experts, in November 2011.

Implementation of SCP in Small and Medium Enterprises

10. With the purpose of enhancing capacity for the implementation of resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production within SMEs, UNEP, with the support of UNIDO, has been developing the capacity of service providers in the region on the methodology PRE – SME (Promoting Resource Efficiency for Small and Medium Enterprises). The methodology has been tested in three countries of the region (El Salvador, Costa Rica and Cuba) and related case studies will be complemented in the material describing the methodological approach.

²The baseline studies in SCP conducted in Dominica and Saint Lucia were intended to form the basis for the formulation of national programmes that will encourage the integration of SCP approaches in national sectoral and multi-sectoral strategies.

11. Additional initiatives promoted in the region have been addressing the development of capacities in the countries of the region to work with the private sector in the measuring of the respective water footprint and carbon footprint, as well as in the compliance with requirements associated with existing regional and national eco-labels in a number of different sectors within the region.

12. In addition to the above, UNEP has been promoting the development of a better understanding of the impact associated with the use of resources and the environmental, social and economic benefits associated with its efficient use. The Latin American region has been involved in one of the first two studies identified as REEO – Resource Efficiency: Economics and Outlook. For the LAC region, the study was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the MERCOSUR Economic Research Network, the University of Concepción (Chile) and the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (México). Adopting an economic approach, the report addresses the importance of efficient resource use in achieving sustainable development. Water use, changes in land use, and energy and climate change are the three themes analyzed in the report. These issues are examined in light of various case studies on relevant policies and initiatives in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay.

13. Specific attention has also been given to assess the potential to further disseminate corporate social and environmental responsibility within the private sector of the region. In this perspective, a regional study was launched recently to explore challenges and constraints faced by companies and specifically SMEs in the implementation of CSER. The study does not only address the production process perspective, but opens to a market related and demand driven approach, embracing the growing requirements also from the finance sector to incorporate sustainability as a parameter to assess investment and enterprises.

14. With the purpose of promoting sustainability practices within the private sector, UNEP has been promoting sector specific initiatives within the region. These have been associated to:

- The launching of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, which took place in Costa Rica, in January 2011, with the participation of representatives of governmental institutions, private sector and civil society organizations active in the promotion of sustainability in the tourism sector in the region and at a global level;
- The establishment of an Agri-Food Task Force, aiming at engaging, enabling and encouraging relevant stakeholders to take action for the global transition to SCP in the agri-food sector by assembling best practices from ongoing work, as well as supporting the implementation of activities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.
- The consolidation of initiatives aimed at including sustainability in social housing, based on the experience already promoted by different countries of the region.

Sustainable Public Procurement

15. In 2009, the Swiss government and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) designed a project to roll out this approach in 14 countries worldwide. The project, entitled Capacity building for Sustainable Public Procurement in Developing Countries, is supported by the European Commission, Switzerland and the Organization of Francophone countries. It is currently being implemented by UNEP and piloted in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Mauritius, Tunisia and Uruguay.

16. All countries representing the LAC region in the implementation of the pilot project have already completed all steps required by the methodology or are close to their completion, having therefore ensured a good understanding of their legal framework, market readiness, and developed a SPP specific policy as well as its action plan.

17. The implementation of the SPP methodology in the region proved to ensure a very beneficial effect in terms of bringing together involved countries and fostering south-south cooperation, as well as involving additional cooperation agencies (including UNOPS and OAS) to ensure that the highest benefit could be achieved by the countries.

18. The current challenges highlighted by all the countries to ensure further development of the initiative include:

- a. Adapt the working tools to the needs and experiences developed by the region;
- b. Disseminate good practices in the region to promote sustainable public procurement;
- c. Extend the project to new interested countries, with the support of institutional partners;
- d. Promote the development of tools to strengthen the implementation of SPP;
- e. Preparation of requirements, together with the countries of the region, for the acquisition of sustainable goods and services;
- f. Strengthen the capacity of the private sector to respond to the needs of a market which demands sustainability criteria

Sustainable lifestyles

19. UNEP's work in the area of sustainable lifestyles has been closely coordinated with the Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL). PERL brings together educators and researchers from over 120 institutions in more than 50 countries—working to empower citizens to live responsible and sustainable lifestyles and it aims to advance education for responsible living by focusing on consumer citizenship, education for sustainable consumption, social innovation and sustainable lifestyles. PERL partners undertake research and debate, and develop teaching methods and materials.

20. In the LAC region PERL has been developing a Regional Network, with a targeted development plan, which is updated as the network evolves. The network already carried out its first two meetings:

- First Network meeting - Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 June - 1 July 2010
- Second Network meeting - San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, 17-20 January 2011

21. A number of activities are being promoted by the regional network, including specific projects in the area of education for sustainable consumption.

22. Despite an increasing international recognition, at the national or local level mainstreaming of education for sustainable consumption (ESC) and lifestyles in formal education curricula as well as in informal education remains a challenge. In developing and in developed countries, SCP is not yet considered a priority and ESC is still in the preliminary planning stages within formal education systems.

23. With the support of the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea, and in the framework of the Marrakech Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption, UNEP is developing a project on the institutional strengthening of ESC aimed at advancing ESC implementation and strategies at the national level. In the LAC region the project is being implemented in Chile, with the participation of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education and Consumers International. The main objectives of this project is to advance ESC within national sustainable development, SCP and education strategies and in education practices, organize national and multi-stakeholder consultations on ESC based on UNEP's publication *Here and Now! Education for Sustainable Consumption* to support the development, adaptation and implementation of recommendations for ESC at the national level.

24. As a response to the need of additional clarity around definitions associated to Sustainable Consumption and Production, UNEP developed the publication: ABC for SCP. The publication provides a clear understanding of the vocabulary used in and associated with the agenda of Sustainable Consumption and Production. It was originally prepared in English language and is currently being translated into Spanish and Portuguese for its dissemination in the region.

25. All the above activities have contributed to strengthen the institutional areas that are responsible for SCP in each country, and to maintain their active participation in the regional activities held on the subject. Additionally, promotion and support to the actions that aim at the coordination and integration of SCP, within the economic and social development plans and policies of the countries in the region, has been undertaken.

Stakeholders engagement

26. The region has also encouraged the active participation of subregional government bodies, NGOs, academia, trade unions, private sector, the National Centres for Cleaner Production and the civil society, in the process of implementation of the four regional priority areas of SCP.

27. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played a significant role in ensuring that SCP remains high on the government agenda in the region. By focusing their efforts on creating more educated and demanding consumers, CSOs are indirectly influencing the business models of companies, as they

develop new forms to comply with the demands of more stringent consumers. An example of the full commitment that some CSOs have given to SCP issues is the work of Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (the Brazilian Institute for Consumer Protection); or the development of online tools like Escuelas Virtuales de Consumo (Virtual Schools of Consumption) - implemented in Mexico by the Colectivo Ecologista Jalisco (CEJ), to educate consumers about the importance of their purchasing decisions and promote other CPS initiatives.

28. Additional details related to the role played by the different stakeholders in the promotion of the activities associated with SCP have been described while commenting specific activities occurred in the region.

SCP discussion during the UN CSD at its 18th and 19th sessions

29. The 10YFP on SCP was one of the five themes considered by the UN CSD at its 18th and 19th sessions (2010-2011). Delegations recognized SCP as a key area of action to achieve sustainable development and highlighted the readiness of the international community to take action.

30. At the CSD 18 and 19, the willingness of both developed and developing countries to have a 10YFP on SCP was clear. Governments recognized the progress achieved, notably through the work of the Marrakech Process, but also the fact that further progress in achieving SCP would require a more coherent and sustained approach to provide policies and tools for implementation, more cooperation to scale up and replicate successful SCP initiatives and activities as well as more information and capacity building for mainstreaming SCP at all levels.

31. As stated in the report of CSD19, full agreement was found on the whole of the text of the 10YFP (attached for reference). After two weeks of intense negotiations, consensus was achieved on most of the content of a CSD decision for the five themes, including full agreement on the 10YFP text. However, on the last day of negotiations, a small number of outstanding issues remained regarding the texts on chemicals, waste management, the preamble, and means of implementation. After long consultations, the CSD failed to adopt the decision due to these divergences and despite a strong momentum for SCP and the 10YFP.

32. The proposed text for the 10YFP would have established a 10YFP covering the period 2011-2021, and included a common vision, before detailing the functions of the 10YFP, its organizational structure, means of implementation and SCP programmes and more specifically:

- a.** It requested UNEP to serve as the secretariat, and to collaborate with relevant UN bodies, including through an interagency coordination group. Other features of the institutional structure included a multi-stakeholder board and national SCP focal points.
- b.** It requested the establishment of a trust fund to support the implementation of the 10YFP in developing countries to develop and implement projects.
- c.** Defined mechanisms for supporting cooperation including a global clearinghouse platform to share information and tools.

- d. The text agreed upon an initial and non-exhaustive list of programmes that would have built upon the experience gained through the Marrakech Process (consumer information, sustainable lifestyles and education, sustainable procurement, sustainable buildings and construction, sustainable tourism including eco-tourism).

Sixth meeting of the Regional Council of SCP Government Experts

33. The Sixth Meeting of the Regional Council of SCP experts "*Regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production and its Contribution to Resource Efficiency*" was held in Panamá City, Panamá on the 24 and 25 November 2011.

34. The meeting encouraged knowledge sharing and wider dissemination of the SCP programme and initiatives in Latin American and the Caribbean countries, built more cooperation and commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns for resource efficiency and poverty eradication, as well as contribute to the discussion associated with the Rio 2012 process. The meeting provided the opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the regional SCP strategy and other national SCP initiatives, to discuss options for resource efficiency, and to present examples of successful SCP initiatives and approaches on key thematic issues.

35. Details on the meeting can be found at:

http://www.pnuma.org/eficienciarecursos/Consultas%20Regionales_6reunion_expertos.php

36. The conclusions of the Sixth Meeting of the Regional Council of SCP experts are attached to this document as Annex I.

Annexes

Annex 1 Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Government Experts on SCP of Latin America and the Caribbean

ANNEX 1**Regional meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production and its contribution to Resource Efficiency****6th Meeting of the Regional Council of SCP Government Experts****24 and 25 November 2011, Panama City, Panama**

The Drafting Committee consisted of María José Castañeda (Chile), Carlos Ramírez (Colombia), Irma Suárez (Ecuador), Sylvia Treviño (México), Zacarías Navarro (República Dominicana), Adriana Zacarías and Elisa Tonda (United Nations Environment Programme). The recommendations in this document were discussed and approved in plenary by all the delegates of the countries participating in the meeting.

Considering the call of Agenda 21 for action to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production;

Recognizing that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 identified Sustainable Consumption and Production as an overarching objective of an essential requirement for sustainable development; and called on all stakeholders 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 to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems"*;

Considering the sustainable consumption and production plans and programmes promoted by the countries of the region to achieve progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of Agenda 21;

Considering that sustainable consumption and production is an important tool for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and to contribute to the reduction of desertification and the conservation of biodiversity;

Recognizing the high potential and leadership that the countries of the region have in adopting more sustainable consumption and production patterns, the work of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Latin America and the Caribbean as an instance to come to agreement, and to exchange experiences and information on the subject, the results of the previous Regional Meetings of Experts on SCP, and the Decisions on SCP adopted by the Forum of Ministers in its various sessions;

Recalling that the priority areas identified by the Forum of Ministers in its Decision 5/2010 to focus efforts on common SCP issues in the region are: 1) policies and national action plans on SCP, 2) SCP implementation in Small and Medium Enterprises, 3) sustainable public procurement, 4) sustainable lifestyles;

Recognizing the efforts from the United Nations Environment Programme, together with the CAF - Development Bank for Latin America, which, following

up in the process of implementation of the Regional SCP Strategy and encouraging the continued discussion on the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on SCP, conducted the Sixth Meeting of Government Experts on SCP in Latin America and the Caribbean, "Regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production and its contribution to Resource Efficiency" in Panama City, Panama, 24 25 November 2011;

Recognizing the significant participation and valuable contributions made at the Sixth Meeting of Government Experts on SCP by representatives of various Governmental institutions, Sub-regional Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, the Cleaner Production Centres, academia, business sector, experts in the field, and cooperation agencies and from the United Nations System:

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, IN ITS SIXTH MEETING, RECOMMENDS TO THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

1. To promote the adoption of the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
2. To reaffirm the four priorities, that are common to the countries in the region, recognizing the significant progress achieved in the implementation of activities in each one of them and, at the same time, highlighting the need of additional support to implement, replicate and disseminate successful experiences at national and regional level.
3. To mainstream SCP objectives into the design and implementation of State policies.
4. To integrate, in national development plans, actions that promote and strengthen SCP.
5. To urge inclusive participation of the different social sectors in the formulation, capacity building and implementation of SCP policies, action plans or strategies and foster SCP strategies in all development sectors, according to the national priorities of each country in the region.
6. To guarantee the allocation of national resources, in addition to external financial support, for SCP implementation.
7. To internalize social and environmental costs and opportunities in the formulation of public policies.
8. To take advantage of local and national capacities and potential to generate regional synergy with the objective of achieving greater

opportunities of supply and demand of sustainable goods and services which contribute to the promotion of SCP patterns.

9. To promote the life cycle approach as an instrument to build sustainability criteria, as well as transparent information in regards to sustainability attributes and characteristics.
10. To support the acceleration of research, innovation and technological development, with the intention of increasing resource efficiency.
11. To ask for the ratification of the Executive Committee members for the 2011 – 2013 period, as indicated below:
 - a. Representative Caribbean sub-region:
 - i. Representative: St. Lucia
 - ii. Alternate: Jamaica
 - b. Representative of the Mesoamerican sub-region:
 - i. Representative: Costa Rica
 - ii. Alternate: Cuba
 - c. Representative of the Andean sub-region³:
 - i. Representative: Ecuador
 - ii. Alternate: Colombia
 - d. Representative of the Southern Cone sub-region:
 - i. Representative: Argentina
 - ii. Alternate: Chile

³ Pending for confirmation until 15 January 2012.