

First Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production

13 to 15 October 2014

Summary and Conclusions

The First Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was held in Santiago de Chile from 13 to 15 October 2014 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Chile (see Annex objectives and meeting agenda). This first meeting of the Committee produced the following main conclusions:

Conclusions:

- **Global and regional 10YFP Progress:** the Secretariat presented a progress report. As relevant issues the need to highlight the coordination and interaction of the 6 programmes and the importance of strengthening the role of national focal points were mentioned as well as its relationship with major groups (stakeholders) and the 10YFP Board. A request was formulated in order to have the relevant documents available in Spanish.
- **SCP Regional Strategy:** The draft of the regional SCP strategy and the structure of its Action Plan were reviewed. The strategy is based on the pillars and the language of the mandates already adopted (Strategy 2003, decision of the Regional Forum of Ministers of Environment and decision Rio + 20 with the adoption of 10YFP). Committee members agreed on the structure of the document and the key points are:
 - To separate the action plan from the strategy in two different documents.
 - The strategy should be short and precise setting priorities and recommendations as agreed by governments within the strategic guidelines.
 - To highlight transversalities and synergies among the 9 priorities in the strategy, possibly presented in a matrix to identify the interactions between these priorities.
 - UNEP as Secretariat of the Regional Council and its Executive Committee, will prepare a new draft within three weeks (from October 15) which will be distributed to members of the Committee for further review and discussion prior to regional consultation.
 - Ideally to present the strategy and action plan reviewed for approval at the inter-sessional meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers next March.
- **Consultation process of the SCP Regional Strategy,** once the Committee has reviewed the new draft, it is proposed to send to all National Focal Points (NFPs) and focal points of interested parties

(stakeholders) to query, indicating which are the parts that can be modified and which are decisions already adopted by governments that cannot be changed. The consultation process will include subregional consultation with the support of the regional representatives of the Committee and the Secretariat, who can support the organization of webinars. Each country may also perform the national consultation on a voluntary basis.

- **Roles and responsibilities of the National Focal Points (NFP)**, committee members identified some of the challenges of the NFPs and the need to strengthen its role and provide them with more support were highlighted. This should provide institutional strengthening within each government, while the 10YFP Secretariat can highlight the political importance of these focal points as well as strengthen their work through webinars, workshops and a handbook on their role, guides and best practices. The need for more and better interaction with the 10YFP Board and Programme coordinators were also highlighted. Also, the need to interact with a greater number of social actors/ major groups at the national level was expressed. As next steps were agreed:

 - UNEP will organize more webinars with National Focal Points and focal points of the major groups. These webinars will provide information on the role of these focal points, support them by focusing on important areas such as the programs of the 10 YFP and other relevant aspects of the framework.
 - It is important that the NFP help create inter-ministerial cooperation / committees on SCP issues in their own countries.
 - At the next meeting of the Regional Council of SCP, a special workshop for national focal points for government and another one for focal points of the major groups will be developed.
 - UNEP as 10YFP Secretariat will develop a toolkit for NFPs in the next six months, which will also include best practices.
 - At the regional level, it was agreed that before and after the 10 YFP Board meetings, there will be a webinar / teleconference with the Executive Committee of the Regional Council or, if possible, with all the NFP in the region to discuss the agenda and get suggestions from the region, and then the results of the meeting will be shared.
 - The Secretariat, will facilitate the directory of National Focal Points, and will maintain a better flow of information.
 - It will be also better defined the communication mechanism between the Executive Committee, the Regional Council, the major groups focal points and the 10YFP Board. The Secretariat will prepare a draft.

- **Other regional priorities: waste and SMEs:** in addition to the agenda items of the 10YFP, the region has the issues of waste and SMEs as other key priorities. Different experiences were shared on these issues (Argentina, MERCOSUR and Chile) that could be included in the Action Plan. The importance of including, not just environmental, but social work in both areas was also highlighted.

- The region will continue their request for two additional programs within the 10YFP, one on SMEs and another one on integrated waste management. UNEP presented the requirements for additional programs. It was agreed to create a specific proposal to start the process to create these new programmes.
 - It was also agreed to develop a proposal with the support of UNEP, for the realization of a (partly virtual and physical) workshop on integrated waste management in the region.
 - The discussion of regional projects on SMEs and waste will continue as webinars and workshops, if there is interest, workgroups could be organized.
- **Funding Sources:** potential funding opportunities for implementation of SCP in the region were presented and discussed, particularly South-South cooperation like some National funding available from Chile and Argentina. Also the International 10YFP Trust Fund and other potential opportunities were explored with international cooperation agencies and funds (UNDA, GIZ, Japan, CAF, Spanish cooperation, among others). The opportunity to submit proposals for funding projects aligned with regional and national priorities to major donors such as the EU was raised. For this purpose, it was suggested to continue the dialogue at a webinar, in order to define the focus clearer and the working groups that could be in charge of exploring in more detail this possibility and elaborating a more concrete proposal.
 - **Survey** on SCP policies and initiatives, waste and indicators: participants were informed of the new initiative, the **Global Survey on SCP Policies and Initiatives** at global and regional levels to be developed by the 10YFP Secretariat. Also, information was given on the efforts on SCP related indicators by the Technical Group on Environmental Indicators from ILAC, and on the project on the Global Waste Outlook, which will have a regional chapter.
 - UNEP will share relevant information on progress and work plans of these projects to ensure synergy and coordination at national and regional levels.
 - **SCP Clearinghouse:**
 - All governments and major groups were invited to record their SCP initiatives in the portal.
 - Invitation for countries wishing to start developing their own specific SCP website "national profile" within the portal was launched. Countries interested can contact Jose Ramon Domenech (ROLAC).
 - It was agreed to take a virtual webinar / SCP Clearinghouse tour for NFPs in order for them to better understand the functions and benefits of the portal.
 - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):** the relevance of SCP and the 10YFP within the SDGs was presented and discussed, reflected in the goal number 12 and also within the other goals in a transversal manner.

- **Dialogue with ECLAC:** An interactive session was held with Mr. Jose Luis Samaniego from ECLAC. Mr. Samaniego presented an overview of the situation in the region and described the important work being done by ECLAC on SCP especially under the projects: Euroclima and green fiscal policy. This session brought the possibility of a joint work among ECLAC, UNEP and the Executive Committee that will be explored in the coming months on issues such as defining common indicators and standards within the 9 strategy priorities.
- **Joint meeting with the 10YFP Board,** the meeting was seen as extremely valuable to both parties. The Regional Committee members presented to the Global Council the progress in the region and its application for two new programs: 1) waste; and 2) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the need to strengthen the NFP and the participation of civil society. It was agreed to establish more clearly the mechanisms for regional and global cooperation. This pattern of meetings, joining regional committees and the 10YFP Board, was welcomed and has been proposed as a model in the next 10YFP Board meeting.
- UNEP, Committee countries and major groups that participated in this meeting, sincerely thank the Government of Chile (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Environment) for their warm hospitality, financing and excellent venue provided for the 1st meeting of the Committee.