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**Progress report on the implementation of decision SS.XII/7 on  
work by the United Nations Environment Programme on  
sustainable consumption and production**

**Report of the Executive Director**

*Summary*

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of Governing Council decision SS.XXII/7 of 22 February 2012, the report provides information on the implementation of the decision.

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## I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested by the Executive Director. The suggested action will be submitted separately to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in support of its preparation of draft decisions.

## II. Progress of work in the light of UNCED outcomes (Rio+20).

### A. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision SS/XII/7 of 22 February 2012, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

2. Sustainable consumption and production has been a core component of the international sustainable development agenda since the adoption of Agenda 21 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002, the international community recognized sustainable consumption and production as a main objective and essential requirement for sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for 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...". Since then, important progress has been achieved through numerous initiatives and partnerships, including the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, jointly coordinated by UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

3. In June 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) resulted in the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), as reflected in the paragraph 226 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document "The Future we Want". UNEP is requested to act as Secretariat of the 10YFP and to establish and administer a Trust Fund to support SCP implementation in developing countries. This is an encouraging signal of trust and recognition of UNEP's work and expertise on SCP.

4. The present report is organized according to the operative paragraphs of Governing Council decision SS.XII/7. It enumerates actions taken in response to the decision, and reflects among others national level activities, efforts from the private sector to shift to SCP, and other initiatives on sustainable consumption and production - with a focus on scientific and policy based knowledge - and preparations which contributed to the adoption of the 10 YFP at Rio+20.

### B. Progress of work

#### 1. Adoption of the 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

5. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the Heads of State reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for sustainable development. They also reiterated that fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development.

6. Furthermore at Rio+20, Heads of State strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). This is a very concrete and operational outcome of Rio+20. Paragraph 226 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document reads as follow:

"We adopt the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as contained in document A/CONF.216/5, and highlight that the programmes included in the 10-year framework are voluntary. We invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to designate a Member State body to take any necessary steps to fully operationalize the framework."<sup>1</sup>

7. The 10YFP responds to the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). It will build on the work of the Marrakech Process during the last 8 years, other SCP best practices and that of the national cleaner production centers, engaging a wide range of SCP stakeholders, practitioners and ongoing and new initiatives and partnerships.

8. The 10YFP is a global framework of action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards SCP, in both developed and developing countries. The main objectives of the 10YFP are as follows: 1) support the

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<sup>1</sup> "The Future we Want" Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012. (Paragraph 226).

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development of regional and national policies and initiatives contributing to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation through resource efficiency, while creating new market opportunities and contributing to poverty alleviation; 2) provide financial, technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries to support SCP implementation at the regional and national levels; 3) serve as a platform for information and knowledge sharing on SCP tools, initiatives and best practices, enhancing cooperation and development of new partnerships – including public-private partnerships.

9. The A/CONF.216/5 adopted document provides the vision, goals and values of the 10YFP as well as its functions, organisational structure, means of implementation, criteria for programmes design and an initial, non-exhaustive list of five programmes <sup>2</sup>

10. The adopted 10YFP text requested UNEP to act as Secretariat of the 10YFP and to establish and administer a Trust Fund to support SCP implementation in developing countries. This is an encouraging signal of trust and recognition of UNEP's expertise on SCP.

### **10YFP Organisations Structure**

11. The 10YFP organizational structure includes a Secretariat (hosted by UNEP), a smallboard, a UN Interagency Coordination Group, national focal points and a review/reporting body.

12. **Secretariat:** UNEP has been requested to serve as the 10YFP Secretariat, to fulfil the following functions: i) cooperate closely with and respond to Member States; ii) collaborate with all relevant United Nations bodies; iii) foster the active participation of key stakeholders; iv) contribute to the fulfilment of the functions of the 10YFP; v) organize and service relevant meetings on the 10YFP; and vi) report biennially to the body to be designated by UNGA 67 on the activities and vi) financial performance of the Trust Fund.

13. **UN Interagency Coordination Group:** the main objectives of this group will be to ensure UN cooperation in the implementation of the 10YFP identifying synergies and joint projects, and engaging the UN agencies in relevant 10YFP activities (e.g. programmes, research, meetings, national implementation).

14. **Small board:** it will be established with the following functions: i) guiding the secretariat; ii) assisting in securing funding, including contributions to the Trust Fund; iii) overseeing the secretariat's operation of the trust fund and ensuring neutrality, transparency and accountability; iv) reporting progress annually to the body designated by UNGA 67; v) convening international and regional meetings; vi) guiding preparations for the five-year review of the 10-year framework of programmes, among others. UNGA 67 is requested to consider the composition and nomination process of the board.

15. **National Focal Points:** will be nominated by member states with the objective to ensuring contact and coordination with the Board and the Secretariat and support the 10YFP implementation. Additionally, major groups and other stakeholders are also expected to identify focal points.

16. **Reporting Body:** Rio+20 requested the UNGA67 “to nominate the member state body to fully operationalise the 10YFP”. This refers to the body to which the 10YFP Secretariat and Board will report progress on a biannual and annual basis respectively.

*<ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION>*

### **10YFP Means of Implementation**

17. The means of implementation will be supported by financial contributions from all available sources, and a Trust Fund, which UNEP has been requested to establish and administer. Another implementation mechanism is the Global SCP Clearinghouse on SCP, which will serve as the main platform to share knowledge, tools and best practices on SCP.

18. **Trust Fund:** its main objectives are to receive and mobilize resources in a stable, sustained and predictable manner to develop and support SCP programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, mainly providing seed money for capacity building activities delivered through its programmes.

19. **The Global SCP Clearinghouse:** it will serve as the 10YFP information platform focused on policy-makers and the SCP community worldwide. The 10YFP Secretariat has been working on the design and development of a dynamic and interactive hub for the collection, dissemination and sharing of experiences, best practices and knowledge about SCP in all regions. The Global SCP Clearinghouse will offer the following features: an SCP initiatives database covering all related SCP themes, an SCP E-library, a news and events section including newsletters, and a cooperation module including an Experts directory and working groups and discussion forums. Seventeen thematic and regional communities will be hosted to facilitate quick and focused access to information -

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<sup>2</sup> Document A/CONF.216/5 is available at [www.unep.fr/scp](http://www.unep.fr/scp)

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Product Sustainability Information, Sustainable Food Systems, Cities and Buildings, Lifestyles and Education will be among the themes addressed. The official launching of the Clearinghouse is foreseen for the first quarter of 2013.

### **10YFP Programmes**

20. Programmes are at the core of the framework. They will bring together existing initiatives and partnerships, and allow scaling up and replication of policies and best practices on SCP. The 10YFP adopted text includes an indicative and open list of programmes building primarily on the experience gained through the Marrakech Process. The five initial programmes are: i) consumer information; ii) sustainable lifestyles and education; iii) sustainable public procurement; iv) sustainable buildings and construction; and v) sustainable tourism, including ecotourism. There is also the possibility to develop additional programmes, should countries demand them (e.g. CSR, agri-food, waste, transport, etc).

### **Cooperation with UN Agencies and SCP contribution to poverty alleviation.**

21. In support of the preparations for Rio+20, UNEP co-organized several international events and one regional one. An event that was particularly important from the perspective of future implementation of the 10YFP was the “*One UN for SCP*” side event which took place in March 2012 in New York. This event was organised with UN sister agencies including: FAO, Habitat, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNWTO, UNDESA. These agencies gave their perspectives on the priorities for achieving SCP patterns, and indications of the type of activities they will support under the 10YFP. At this side event UNEP and the European Commission also launched the “*Global Outlook on SCP Policies*”<sup>3</sup> available in the six UN official languages. This publication gathers 56 case studies around the world implemented by governments, private sector and civil society organizations.

22. SCP represents an important opportunity for poverty alleviation enabling countries to ‘do more and better with less’ through more efficient production processes, and leapfrog to sustainability, while also creating new market opportunities based on the growing demand for sustainable products, worldwide. At Rio+20, UNEP launched a report “*SCP for Poverty Alleviation*”<sup>4</sup>. This paper explores the linkages between the objective of achieving SCP patterns, and those of poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The paper constructs a theoretical framework which shows how natural resources and the environment underpin development efforts. It is illustrated by six case studies in key economic sectors, including energy, agriculture, waste management and urban development; identifying the economic, social and environmental gains secured by shifting towards SCP patterns. The paper’s conclusions highlight the economic and social gains for developing countries from the shift to SCP, which also sustains nature’s productive ecosystems.

## **2. Enhanced support for the development and implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme’s resource-efficiency and sustainable consumption and production sub-programme**

23. UNEP has continued to promote and support the implementation of the resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme, strengthening and scaling up its work with Governments, private sector bodies, researchers, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

24. Progress has been achieved on the strengthening of the scientific basis of resource efficiency, providing better understanding of how resource use and related environmental impacts correlate with our production and consumption patterns, and identifying development opportunities which flow from the sustainable management of natural resources, including through the reports of the International Resource Panel and technical reports on sustainable consumption and production and poverty alleviation.

25. As indicated above, an important achievement was the adoption of the 10YFP at the Rio+20 Conference (see Section 1). Furthermore, multi-stakeholder partnerships have been launched in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies, Governments and other stakeholders, including the Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative and the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities.

26. Ongoing activities to mainstream sustainable consumption and production at the regional level and in national and sectoral policies have been strengthened, including through the strategic partnership with the EC which has been reinforced, including for activities at the regional level. In the context of the SWITCH Asia project, the capacity of policy makers to develop and implement SCP policies has been strengthened through three seminars organised by UNEP in October 2012, building on a capacity needs assessment finalized earlier in 2012. The seminars covered North-East Asia in China; South-East Asia in the Philippines; and South Asia in Sri Lanka. Building on the good experience of SWITCH Asia, UNEP together with the Mediterranean Action Plan and Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CPRAC) have started in late 2012 to implement the SWITCH-Med project, which focuses on 9 countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Occupied Territories (POT) and

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<sup>3</sup> Global Outlook on SCP Policies, UNEP, 2012. Available at: <http://www.unep.fr/scp/go/index.htm>

<sup>4</sup> SCP for Poverty Alleviation, UNEP, 2012. Available at: [www.unep.fr/scp](http://www.unep.fr/scp)

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Tunisia). UNEP will also shortly launch the Green-EaP project, in collaboration with UNIDO, UNECE and the OECD, focusing on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine.

27. A sub-regional workshop was organized by UNEP and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in Dakar, Senegal, November 2012. The objectives were to undertake a peer review of SCP initiatives and activities implemented in the countries and to discuss the needs and opportunities for SCP post Rio+20, and to support design and implementation of relevant policies for ten Francophone West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinée, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo and Senegal).

28. Good progress was also made in working with the business and financial community and in promoting life-cycle approaches and methodologies including capacity building work on eco-labeling. In June 2012 at the Rio+20 Summit, UNEP organized and hosted *Inspire Invest Innovate* - a day of private sector side events held within the UN Global Compact sponsored Corporate Sustainability Forum. In order to accelerate the transition towards more resource efficient societies, this event placed particular emphasis on promoting the integration of environmental and social considerations in the management practices of banks, insurance companies and investors, as they are contributing to shaping our economy, through UNEP Finance Initiative. Target sectors also include food and agriculture, as well as the building and construction sectors, due to their high environmental impact as well as the services sector of tourism. Support to SMEs and their intermediaries through the joint United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)/UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme is given a new momentum with a 3 year programme focusing on eco-innovation which began in 2012. It will develop tools, make the business and policy cases for action, and also support centres and demonstration efforts in 47 countries.

29. To further promote more sustainable consumption patterns, guidelines, policy advice and support were provided to national public authorities to promote resource efficient management and the purchase of sustainable products with activities being carried out in 7 countries. These are currently being up scaled, in the context of the Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative launched in the margins of the Rio+20 conference.

30. Sustained support has also been provided to sister UN agencies to help them mainstream sustainability in their operations: more than half of the agencies have now finalized drafts of GHG Emissions reduction strategies through their procurement practices. This includes the support of the Sustainable UN initiative publications launched in 2012, as follows: "Moving towards a Climate Neutral UN" report; Sustainable Events Guide; and online training on sustainable procurement, "Buying for a Better World".

### **3. Support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements that focus on Sustainable Consumption and Production plans at the national level**

31. UNEP has contributed to analysis on the development of national action plans on sustainable consumption and production, including as a contribution to achieving Aichi Target 4 of Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>5</sup>. In 2012, related work in Europe consisted of a scoping study focusing on transport, tourism and energy efficiency of buildings in Montenegro, to be finalized by January 2013. Asia has seen a review on strengthening the legal framework for Resource Efficiency in Cambodia; the development of a national plan on SCP in Lao PDR as well as of a national Planning on SCP and Green Economy in the Philippines. In addition, as a follow up to the National Action plan developed last year in Vietnam, UNEP organized a National Dialogue on SCP, identifying policy options to integrate SCP into the action plans of each Ministry. UNEP also organised a national consultation workshop in Egypt, contributing to a national vision and road map on mainstreaming SCP and the Green Economy. In Africa, the second phase pilot countries under the African 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP, namely Burkina Faso, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia, have developed their own national SCP programmes, endorsed by their respective governments, and implemented some of the priority projects identified in the programmes.

32. Through the project SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component, UNEP has developed an assessment on policy support needs and capacity strengthening demands on SCP from Asian countries. It included 19 Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, DPR of Korea, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam). The assessment has been based on a review of the main policy documents addressing SCP, National Development Plans, and sectoral policies for housing, infrastructure, transport, energy and water.

33. Examining the way in which SCP policies and initiatives integrate the commitments embedded in major environmental conventions is also key. This was the objective of a study conducted by UNEP on product sustainability information tools, which will be presented in a workshop in 2013 with the participation of representatives from MEA secretariats as well as of major labelling and certification programmes.

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<sup>5</sup> Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

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#### **4. Efforts of government, private sector and other stakeholders to shift to sustainable consumption and production in sectors with high environmental and social impact, including through corporate environmental and social responsibility**

##### **a) Sustainability in the private sector**

34. UNEP has continued to engage businesses and industry in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns. In June 2012 at the Rio+20 Summit, UNEP organized and hosted *Inspire Invest Innovate* - a day of private sector side events held within the UN Global Compact sponsored Corporate Sustainability Forum. A high level tripartite dialogue -covered live on UN.org webcast- presented the *Business Case for the Green Economy* publication and provided several sector specific sessions. The report builds on research and case studies worldwide, translating the macroeconomic case established by the Green Economy Report into a viable business case. Building on the success of this event, UNEP and Global Compact with the support of Business for Social Responsibility developed a partnership to organize a series of yearly global business fora.

##### **b) Sustainability reporting**

35. The utility of sustainability reporting is set out in paragraph 47 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”. The paragraph supports the development of models for best practice and facilitates action for the integration of sustainability reporting. Four governments – Brazil, Denmark, France and South Africa – announced the creation of the ‘*Group of Friends of Paragraph 47*’ to advance corporate sustainability reporting, and invited UNEP and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) to act as Secretariat. In 2012, UNEP and GRI supported the Group in the preparation of their vision and in reaching out to stakeholders, establishing an international reference group and developing an inventory of best practices on the promotion of corporate disclosure. The Group also engaged in discussions at the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly, organizing a side event in New York on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

36. At Rio+20, UNEP together with Deloitte and the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa (University of Stellenbosch Business School) launched *Making Investment Grade: the Future of Corporate Reporting*. This publication brings together views of international leaders (in academia, government and the private and financial sectors) about the future of corporate reporting. It analyses crucial aspects of the issue such as the definition of integrated reporting, regulation, and governance issues involved in sustainability reporting, as well as the future potential of integrated reporting to contribute in delivering a resource efficient and green economy.

##### **c) SCP in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**

37. **Resource-efficiency and cleaner production** - The joint United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)/UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme strengthened its support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their intermediaries in the area of eco-innovation. In 2012, a three year partnership with the European Commission began, which will develop tools, make the business and policy cases for action, and also support centres and demonstration efforts in 47 countries. In addition, RECP activities at the national level in 2012 included activities in Albania and Rwanda under One UN support, and in Serbia, where the cleaner production centre implemented capacity building activities on sustainable rural tourism for energy efficiency and sustainable resource management.

38. **Safer Production** - UNEP has continued to disseminate (in English and French) and implement the “*Responsible Production Handbook- A Framework for Chemical Hazard Management for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises*” through partnerships with National Cleaner Production Centers in China, Egypt, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. In addition, in 2012, activities under the UNEP/International Council of Chemical Associations partnership that was established in 2010, included the design of two partnership project interventions - one in Vietnam and the other at the sub-regional level in Africa (East African and West African sub-regions), and a High-Level dialogue side-event at the SAICM ICCM3 (Nairobi, September 2012).

##### **d) Guidance for responsible and safer production**

39. An Expert Workshop on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) and Responsible Production (RP) took place in Bangkok, Thailand on 29 February - 2 March 2012. It aimed at building the capacity of Thai experts for the creation of a pool of trainers to further support SMEs in the adaptation and implementation of Responsible Production and APELL approaches. The workshop also brought together Responsible Production experts and practitioners from Asia, strengthening cooperation among UNEP’s regional networks of RP and APELL experts in China, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

40. UNEP has been implementing projects in Mali and Senegal under the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) throughout 2012, developing a Roadmap for Chemical Accident Prevention and Preparedness development (CAPP). In 2012, UNEP has started projects with similar objectives in Sri Lanka and Tanzania and provided support for the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Philippines in the preparation of project proposals for QSP funding.

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41. An *Implementation Support Package* to accompany the Flexible Framework Guidance was published to provide further guidance and materials to implement a CAPP Programme. The UNEP Flexible Framework Expert Working Group met for the 8<sup>th</sup> time, in Paris, in October 2012, bringing together representatives from relevant UN agencies, the European Commission, and regional and national expert organizations, along with independent experts.

42. UNEP launched the publication “*Commemorating 25 Years of the APELL Programme*” and a Video-documentary of the APELL Global 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum that took place in Beijing, China in November 2011. A partnership has been established with the Bahia Blanca University, Argentina and Tsinghua University, China, to establish APELL and Responsible Production Centers within the universities. Capacity building and south – south partnering on CAPP and APELL were promoted in Chile and Argentina (October 2012).

**5. United Nations Environment Programme activities on Sustainable Consumption and Production, taking into account those responsibilities identified in the draft text on the 10YFP elaborated by the Commission for Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session**

43. UNEP has continued its work promoting and supporting the implementation of sustainable consumption and production, strengthening and scaling up its work with Governments, private sector bodies, researchers, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. New initiatives and partnerships have been launched, training and capacity-building have increased in all regions, and information and awareness-raising activities have been strengthened.

**(a) Education and lifestyles**

44. In 2012, UNEP extended its work on education and training for young people on sustainable consumption (youthXchange) and lifestyles through two publications developed together with UNEP/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) : (1) the thematic *YouthXchange Green Skills and Lifestyles Guidebook*, designed to help young people familiarize themselves with the green economy and the skills needed to achieve it (e.g. social innovation and green entrepreneurship); and (2) the regional guidebook, the *YouthXchange training kit on responsible consumption for Africa*, consisting of local, national and regional case studies reflecting the realities of sustainable consumption and lifestyles in Africa. UNEP also supported and conducted training workshops and capacity-building activities targeted at children and young people, educators and policymakers in Africa, Europe and Asia, to support content adaptation, translation and targeted dissemination of the UNEP/UNESCO YouthXchange publications.

45. Activities have also taken place at the national and local levels in the area of education for sustainable consumption (ESC). Three pilot projects on ESC are being implemented in Chile, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania with the objective of mainstreaming ESC in formal education curricula and informal education. The projects contribute directly to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014, and are implemented with partners such as UNESCO and the Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL). In 2012, reviews and analysis of existing national policy frameworks relevant to ESC were conducted, multi-stakeholder national roundtable discussions with policy-makers and education experts were held to develop best approaches and tools for ESC, and ESC national guidelines and recommendations were developed and disseminated along with national implementation strategies.

**(b) Life cycle initiative**

46. UNEP is working towards internationally agreed life cycle methodologies and data to allow for a generation of science based information supporting decision-making and management processes on many levels.

47. Activities on Life Cycle Approaches included awareness raising and capacity building activities on life cycle assessments (LCA), footprinting indicators and life cycle management (LCM). More than 50 representatives from the private sector in Asia, Latin America and Africa were trained on ‘Environmental footprint of products and organizations and an LCM capability maturity model’. Training sessions took place in August 2012 in: Lima, Peru; in New Delhi, India for Indian business and suppliers (back to back with the First Indian LCM/LCA Conference organized by FICCI and the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative); in November 2012 in Lille, France; and in January 2013 in Mexico. In addition, 200 persons from national statistic offices, companies and academia were trained in 2012 on Global Guidance Principles for LCA Databases, during trainings in Bangkok, New Delhi, Lima, Beijing and Mexico. This responds to paragraph 76 (g) of the Rio+20 outcome document, on the promotion of the science-policy interface. Finally, a training session at the intermediate level on ‘Creation, strengthening and exchanging LCA databases in Latin America’ took place in Maringá, Paraná, Brasil back to back with the Third Brazilian Conference on Life Cycle Management of Products and Services, organized by UNEP and the Departamento de Engenharia Química DEQ/UEM, Maringá, Paraná, Brasil.

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48. A 'train the trainers workshop on carbon and water footprinting' was held in Paris (France) from 12 to 16 November and attended by 30 participants from 18 countries including India, China, Russia, South Africa, Mexico, Turkey, Malaysia, Thailand, Chile.

49. A report exploring a global framework for sustainability assessment along the life cycle was produced in 2012, entitled 'Towards a Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment'. In addition, the 'Greening the Economy through Life Cycle Thinking' publication, prepared for the Rio+20 conference, presents key messages on the benefits and importance of taking a life cycle approach, and describes a roadmap beyond 2012 to mainstream life cycle thinking worldwide.

**(c) Product information tools and labelling**

50. UNEP has completed a large technical project on product sustainability information (2007-2012) to enable developing countries to seize opportunities presented by eco-labels in reducing the environmental impact in manufacturing industries, while increasing international competitiveness and market access. The project was implemented in seven countries (Brazil, India, China, Ethiopia, Mexico, Kenya, South Africa) and focused on the following sectors; textiles, pulp and paper, footwear and electrical appliances. At the global level the project worked to promote greater cooperation, positioning eco-labelling as a market opportunity that can also bring resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact benefits, rather than create a "green trade barrier" for emerging economies. Overall interest has been generated within industry and governments.

51. UNEP has coordinated a follow-up regional cooperation process in the Southern Cone region of Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), in 2011-2012. The objective is to evaluate and advance on strategies towards the development of regional cooperation on ecolabelling and to promote sustainable public procurement.

52. An international workshop was organized in February 2012, involving mostly emerging economies, to discuss coordination strategies as well as addressing the challenges posed by the proliferation of ecolabels and problems such as greenwashing or unfair commercial practices. The workshop, funded by Germany, was a follow up to UNEP's engagement in evaluating the state of the art on product sustainability information around the world through research, mapping, surveys and extensive interviews.

53. A study on the retailers' role and current use of sustainability practices in influencing suppliers and consumers through product sustainability information was funded by France, the results of which were reviewed in November 2012.

**(d) Sustainable buildings and urban development**

54. At Rio+20 UNEP launched the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities (GI-REC). The GI-REC will provide decision makers with the mechanism to exchange experiences, share best practices, and establish a peer-review process on resource footprinting for cities. UNEP is undertaking a review of methodologies on resource flows at the city level, before defining a more coherent approach to resource use and efficiency in cities. The GI-REC builds on UNEP's joint work with other UN agencies (particularly UN-Habitat) and city networks like ICLEI. Its goal is to use UNEP's convening capacity to improve synergies of different groups working on resource efficient cities. In addition, UNEP has continued to successfully collaborate with key international organizations on its city work. Under the Joint Work Programme (JWP) between UNEP, Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat, and the World Bank, workshops were held in the Philippines (February 2012), Uganda (July 2012), and Ghana (September 2012) to train local city practitioners in mainstreaming environment in planning processes. Based on this, a methodology, to be completed in 2013, is being developed to improve the integration of environmental concerns and inform future projects of JWP members. Another key outcome of the JWP is the Knowledge Centre on Cities and Climate Change (K4C) launched last September 2012 at the Sixth World Urban Forum. UN-Habitat will be using the K4C as a platform for information exchange and knowledge hub for its Cities and Climate Change Initiative.

55. UNEP's Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) maintained its focus on promoting sustainable building policies and practices in all regions. In partnership with key stakeholders, UNEP-SBCI held dialogues in Sao Paulo, Brazil (June 2012, preceding Rio+20), and Singapore (October 2012, with the support of the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore- Centre for Sustainable Buildings, a centre collaborating with UNEP). As part of the SBCI activities, new Sustainable Social Housing Initiative (SUSHI) projects have started in India and Bangladesh in June 2012, to improve the sustainability performance of affordable housing units, and to raise awareness on sustainability in the building sector and train professionals. Two demonstration projects on Sustainable Building Policies for Developing Countries (SPoD) are ongoing in Burkina Faso and Kenya promoting the adoption of locally relevant policy instruments, assessment and implementation tools. Finally, the Common Carbon Metric (CCM) is being formulated through the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) process as the basis for an international standard to measure energy consumption and report Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (equivalent) from building operations. It has advanced to the stage of an approved Committee Draft and is expected to be finalized in 2014. A pilot test was conducted with UNEP-SBCI partners, and demonstration projects were implemented in Eastern European cities and in Malaysia.



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**(e) Sustainable food systems**

56. The Rio+20 outcome document, in its paragraph 110 recognises the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain. The FAO and UNEP have established an Agri-food Task Force on SCP in 2011 to develop, catalyse and implement a ‘Sustainable Food Systems Programme’ to provide a strategic framework for SCP activities in the agri-food sector. One of the key aspects to this programme is the assumption that more sustainable food systems will lead to more food security. In 2012, the Task Force has been set up around 4 activity clusters and started activities: (1) Increasing availability of information on sustainable production and innovative means of dissemination. (2) Providing consumer-related communications for SCP in Agri-food to consumers to make informed choices and adopt sustainable behaviour including reducing food waste. (3) Enabling conditions for the uptake of SCP in food systems at the national level. (4) Promoting market based approaches for supply chain actors, to ensure greater access to SCP tools and incentives to food supply chain stakeholders. UNEP has established supply chain partnerships to identify the environmental impacts along the supply chain and to develop roadmaps and activities to address sustainability hotspots. Based on two pilot projects on the rice sector (in Thailand) and on the fishery sector (in Brazil), modular methodology for establishing sustainable food supply chains was developed in 2012.

57. In 2012, the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP 7) held in May 2012 adopted a decision on the establishment of National Agri-food Roundtables on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa in collaboration with the FAO/UNEP Agri-Food Task Force. The objectives will be to primarily develop and promote the business case for SCP, facilitate the uptake of best practices at the national level and identify policy priorities for the promotion of more sustainable food systems. The countries identified for the initial roundtables are South Africa, Ghana and Mozambique, all of whom have either emerging or well established agri-food sectors and significant problems with food insecurity in rural and urban areas.

**(f) Sustainable public procurement**

58. In 2012, UNEP concluded a 3 year-project on “Capacity building for Sustainable Public Procurement”, aimed at assisting 7 pilot countries<sup>6</sup> in the development of their sustainable public procurement policies through the methodology developed by the Swiss-led Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement. Through this project, 132 experts from over 50 countries have been trained by UNEP on SPP. After the elaboration of National Action Plans on Sustainable Public Procurement and national inter-ministerial steering groups establishment in all countries, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile and Mauritius have started implementing their action plans and incorporating environmental and social criteria in their procurement systems. In 2012, the following outputs were produced: the Sustainable Public Procurement Guidelines publication; a Training toolkit for decision-makers, suppliers and procurers (SPP Training Toolkit) adaptable to national contexts; a study on the impacts of SPP; and a web-based SPP Knowledge Management Centre, that will be integrated in the SCP Global Clearinghouse. A scaled-up phase of this project started in late 2012, targeting 20 countries worldwide, with the support of the European Commission. An intensive seminar on sustainable public procurement for the Indian Railways was organised in August 2012 by UNEP in cooperation with the government of India, in New Delhi, and attended by more than 40 senior officials from the Indian Railway. The main output of the seminar was a concept paper describing an operational approach that the Indian Railways could take in order to advance sustainable public procurement, which could be of interest to other countries.

59. UNEP launched the International Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative (SPPI) at Rio+20 in June 2012, which has already been endorsed by 30 countries and organizations. As a follow up to the Marrakech Task-Force on SPP, this initiative fills a gap in terms of coordination of SPP implementation worldwide, and offers a global platform for interested stakeholders and SPP practitioners.

**(g) Sustainable Tourism**

60. The Rio+20 outcome document, in its paragraphs 130 and 131 encourages sustainable tourism development and the promotion of related financial investments. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism (GPST), launched by UNEP in 2011 responds to this call. It now has 87 registered partners. Reports on the sustainable tourism situation in the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and Southern Africa regions will serve as the basis for the annual report series: "Advancing Sustainable Tourism: Regional Progress Reports". The Caribbean and Asia-Pacific regions convened meetings in October and November 2012 respectively, in collaboration with key partners, to identify needs and priorities and develop proposals and secure finance for regional and national activities.

61. The Global Partnership, in collaboration with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), developed its sustainable tourism project screening criteria to assist partners in the better design, implementation, monitoring and measurement of sustainable tourism projects, focusing on its 7 priority themes. Reviewed by more than 40 technical experts from all over the world, the criteria will undergo testing until the end of 2012.

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<sup>6</sup> Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Tunisia, Lebanon and Mauritius

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62. A regional symposium was organized in November 2012 which established the Asia Pacific Network on Sustainable Tourism (Asia Pacific NEST) that aims to provide a cooperation framework on sustainable tourism in Asia and the Pacific.

63. UNEP also completed in 2012 a three year project on Sustainable Rural Tourism for Serbia, as part of a UN joint programme involving UNDP, UNWTO, FAO, and UNICEF. This aimed at supporting the development of rural tourism in Serbia as a boost to economic activity and increasing employment.

#### **6. Use of the scientific and policy knowledge base and relevant international science policy mechanisms, including the International Resource Panel**

64. Established in 2007, the International Resource Panel (IRP) has achieved in 2012 significant and far reaching progress, including the launching of an assessment report on Measuring Water Use, finalization and upcoming launches of reports on City-level Decoupling, Decoupling in Practice, Metals Environmental Impacts and Recycling Technologies, and development of upcoming reports on water efficiency Sustainable Land Management, and Trade-offs in Green-House-Gas Mitigation Technologies.

The Panel produced and presented a synopsis report launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio +20, in June 2012 (*Responsible Resource Management for a Sustainable World: Findings from the International Resource Panel*) (UNEP/GC.27/INF/13). The report presented the main conclusions of its first series of assessments, including *Decoupling Economic Growth from Environment Degradation*, *Metal Stocks in Society*, *Recycling Rates of Metals*, *Priority Products and Materials*, and *Assessing Biofuels*, highlighting the Panel's significant contributions to resource efficiency and environmental sustainability.

65. The Panel has also organized seminars on Resource Efficiency at the regional levels, and strengthened multiple partnerships. An International Seminar on Resource Efficiency and Decoupling Approach organised by the Panel in Bangkok in April 2012 gathered more than 45 high level policy makers and experts from the government, business, academic and research community. It provided an opportunity for scientists and experts to present policy makers with the key findings of the Panel and engage in an interactive dialogue on public policy for a better and more sustainable future in Asia. The IRP has also led substantive sessions during the World Resources Forum in October 2012 and European Resources Forum in November 2012, providing an opportunity for the expert members of the Panel to present policy makers with the key findings of the Panel, while exchanging ideas and experiences on policy-making for sustainable resource management.

### **III. Lessons learned on sustainable consumption and production**

66. The formal adoption of the 10YFP at Rio+20 has demonstrated the renewed willingness of the international community to achieve the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. This adoption also reflected clear interest for rapid implementation among countries. For instance, by September 2012, UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific had already received requests from 8 countries in the region to support them with the implementation of the 10YFP at the national level. Also in September 2012, Ministers of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the African Ministerial Conference for Environment (AMCEN) adopted a decision on SCP that includes the review of the African 10YFP on SCP to hasten the implementation of the globally adopted 10YFP.

67. While progress has been achieved in the development of regional strategies, more support is needed for the mainstreaming and implementation of SCP at the national level. For instance, the Arab Regional Strategy for SCP, adopted in 2010, identified priority sectors for the region. Implementation at the national level has not, however, progressed. Countries with no formal national cleaner production programmes or centres established have moved more slowly towards SCP. In Asia and the Pacific, where policies for SCP already exist, needs focus more on developing tools to support the implementation of those policies.

68. At the regional level, more resources need to be mobilized to respond effectively to the growing needs and interest expressed by countries to implement SCP policies and actions. Countries require sustained support and guidance in developing, testing, implementing new SCP policies at the national level, as well as for monitoring progress.

69. In this regard, there is a need to invest in methodologies, data generation and capacity building on SCP indicators. Those SCP indicators will necessarily incorporate economic and social aspects.

70. Since SCP is a complex and cross cutting issue involving many areas and all sectors, it requires more coordination. Thus, countries need to strengthen their capacity for inter-ministerial, cross-departmental and multi-stakeholder cooperation. This involves strengthening horizontal communication and collaboration. The nomination of National focal points on SCP, as requested in the text establishing the 10YFP, will facilitate such coordination.

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71. Effectively engaging the private sector in the transition to a resource efficient economy, based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, remains a critical priority. Although initial efforts to 'make the economic case for SCP' have taken place, setting out the evidence for economic and development gains from SCP, more remains to be done. Sustainability reporting is an increasingly visible area where UNEP can facilitate and measure improvements in resource efficiency and the shift towards SCP. It will also be necessary to build businesses capacities to produce sustainable products through innovative, integrated approaches. This includes the life cycle approach and initiatives addressing supply and value chains, which have been highlighted as best practices and need to be applied more widely through various work streams (e.g. sustainable products) and in key economic sectors, giving particular attention to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

72. Regarding UNEP's work on resource efficient cities, it has been shown, that in an increasingly urbanized world, cities provide important opportunities to realize economies of scale. At the sub-national level, implementation of existing SCP policies is both a challenge and an opportunity. Only limited data on resource consumption in cities is available, making it difficult for cities to integrate resource use and consumption in planning and socio-economic development. Proper implementation will require engaging with all relevant stakeholders (cities, private companies, utilities, academia and others) to motivate local decision makers to contribute to the design of and support implementation of regulations issued at the national level.

73. The building sector can play a driving role towards SCP. Greater integration of sustainable buildings and construction in urban development and infrastructure planning is necessary to fully capitalize on the sustainable development potential. Opportunities to achieve a greater scale of resource efficiency in the building sector through efforts in greening supply chains are also considerable.

#### **IV. Way forward**

74. The United Nations General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session (UNGA67), has been requested to look at two important elements of the governance of the 10YFP. The General Assembly is to designate a "Member State body" to take any necessary steps to fully operationalize the framework. This requirement refers to the body to which the Secretariat and Board of the 10YFP will report progress on a biannual and annual basis respectively.

75. The second decision that the General Assembly is considering is related to the composition and nomination process of the 10YFP Small Board. The numbers of members, regional representation, and process to nominate its members are not defined in the 10YFP adopted documents. The board will guide the organisation of the first international meeting of the 10YFP as well as regional ones, as well as the implementation of the 10YFP's programmes, and the administration of its Trust Fund, among other important functions.

76. While a small board will be designated to guide implementation, and a Member State body to receive reports on progress, UNEP, as the designated Secretariat of the 10YFP, is already engaging stakeholders and working with other UN agencies to identify areas where they could contribute to the fulfilment of the 10YFP functions. Those functions include promoting the added value of SCP, identification of SCP indicators to measure progress of the 10YFP, the integration of SCP in decision-making at all levels and the engagement of the private sector, fostering increased cooperation and networking, and facilitating access to technical assistance and other resources especially for developing countries. Fostering innovation and new ideas while making use of the scientific and policy knowledge base, supporting knowledge and information sharing, awareness-raising and education for SCP are also key functions.

77. In addition to its function as Secretariat, UNEP will further support the programmes of the 10YFP, starting with the ones initially identified by governments at Rio +20. Building on experience, work of the Marrakech Process Task Forces and other existing initiatives, UNEP's efforts will focus on consumer information, sustainable public procurement and sustainable tourism. When possible, UNEP will also provide inputs or guidance to the leading actor of the 10YFP programmes focused on other areas and sectors, currently identified as building and construction, and education and lifestyles. This will be done through an enhanced cooperation with other UN agencies, including the development and implementation of joint initiatives or activities on other themes. For instance, FAO and UNEP have a long term commitment to work in the area of Sustainable Food Systems. Further activities will be supported by the existing Agri-food Task Force on SCP during 2013, including a workshop on sustainability standards. Other programmes will be established, as required, in response to clear demand from governments and other stakeholders.

78. The Secretariat is also developing a consultative process for the design and launch the 10YFP programmes. Those programmes will be based on the criteria defined in the A/CONF.216/5 document. The Secretariat is developing the "common template for the programmes" as required by the negotiated text. The aim is to secure feedback from governments and major groups on the template, ensuring that while it captures all the agreed criteria for the programmes it is also simple and user-friendly.

79. UNEP will aim at creating more synergies among SCP programmes and projects through the 10YFP. Stronger links will be established with the development of joint activities. For example, a capacity building project on the combined use of Sustainable Public Procurement and eco-labelling in emerging economies will be implemented with the support of the European Commission.

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80. UNEP as the 10YFP Secretariat, will be pre-launching of the Global SCP Clearinghouse by the end of 2012. A teaser website will be established allowing all actors and stakeholders (governments, business, NGOs, etc.) to become members and register their SCP initiatives.

81. At the regional and national levels, UNEP's ongoing work includes the revision of the African 10-YFP on SCP as well as the establishment of the Partnership for SCP in Africa. In the Arab region, the 4<sup>th</sup> Arab Roundtable Meeting on SCP will take place in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013, with the support of UNEP, to develop a road map for implementation at the national level. In Asia and the Pacific, UNEP will continue to strengthen its activities, building on its work under the EU-sponsored SWITCH Asia programme, the Asia Pacific Roundtable on SCP and the ASEAN Forum on SCP. Tailor made technical and policy support will be provided to Asia-Pacific countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam). Activities will be implemented at the sub-regional level as well, such as the development of guidelines for national SCP indicators in South Asia countries. In Latin America the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP needs will be supported to strengthen regional implementation of the 10YFP, identifying synergies, generating new initiatives and partnerships and scaling up the shift towards SCP.

82. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and the 10YFP will be complementary but distinct initiatives at the global level, respecting the different situations in terms of mandates. At the national level, the delivery of UNEP's advisory and capacity building services will be fully harmonised and coordinated. UNEP's aim is to have technical teams working on green economy, SCP and eventually energy efficiency unified to better coordinate and deliver advice and support to countries.

83. UNEP will continue to focus on improving collaborative efforts on resource efficient cities and buildings through the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities (GI REC), The UNEP – Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) will work on identifying opportunities for and barriers to achieving greater resource efficiency and supply chain best practices, delivering economic, social and environmental benefits. UNEP will also assist several Asian countries (Indonesia, Thailand, The Philippines and Vietnam) to develop Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for the building sector.

84. Following up on the Rio+20 outcomes on sustainability reporting, UNEP and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) will assist a government-led initiative to reinforce the role of governments in enhancing corporate sustainability reporting. The engagement with the private sector will then focus on specific challenges faced by small and medium enterprises in developing countries, within the framework of a project funded by the European Union.

85. Rio+20 also recognizes the need to facilitate informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and, in this regard, to strengthen the science-policy interface. The International Resource Panel will contribute to this process, identifying key knowledge gaps and increasing the accessibility of scientific knowledge for decision-makers designing policies on sustainable resource management and achieving SCP.