Post-Rio to Post-2015 Think Piece
Sustainable Consumption and Production: So what next?

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Overview

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) sits at the heart of all debates on sustainable development and a green economy. Here, we summarize what Rio+20 achieved and point to potential follow up activities for stakeholders and governments to ensure implementation.

What is SCP?

Within the context of a weak agreement at Rio+20, the adoption of the 10 Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10 YFP) was a concrete and operational outcome. The 'Future We Want' mandates governments to develop national and regional programmes on SCP (see margin). However, that mandate is on a voluntary basis only.

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 framework will provide capacity building, technical and financial assistance to developing countries for this shift. The 10 YFP will encourage and support the implementation of SCP projects and activities responding to regional and national priorities and initiatives. The framework will also replicate and scale up SCP best practices worldwide, contributing to decoupling environmental degradation from economic growth, and promoting better quality of life for all.

The 10YFP builds on the work of the Marrakech Process and other SCP best practices. It will further support the implementation of regional SCP strategies, thematic SCP initiatives and partnerships which will contribute to the 10YFP programmes and will disseminate and scale up the use of existing SCP training tools and approaches to support implementation at both regional and national levels.

The 10YFP organizations structure includes: a Secretariat, a "small" Advisory Board, a UN Interagency Network, and national focal points. Means of implementation is through voluntary contributions from all sources, and a Trust Fund. Other mechanisms and activities of the 10YFP are the Programmes which are the core of the framework, international and regional meetings which will serve to share progress, best practices and challenges. A Global SCP Clearinghouse will serve as the information and knowledge sharing platform. The 10YFP adopted document (A.conf.216/5) in its paragraph 4.a requests the United Nations Environment Programme to serve, within its current mandate, as the secretariat of the 10-year framework.

In addition to the 10YFP the 'Future We Want' also links sustainable consumption to the Sustainable Development Goals which will be the subject of more work under the UN framework.

As well as the 10 YFP, the Future We Want also focused on changing fundamental 'consumption and production' systems (as above) including energy, transport, agriculture and cities.

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), received the most attention responding to the dual development needs of people without power, and those who rely on fossil fuel power. SE4All has 3 objectives:

1. Ensure universal access to modern energy services.
2. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
3. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture was another significant SCP theme at Rio+20, and the outcome document recognized the role of international cooperation and trading systems. It was emphasized that water and sanitation play a critical role in all aspects of sustainable development. Governments pledged support for the development of sustainable transport systems, particularly those energy efficient modes that used clean fuels. Member states committed to improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication.

As well as these system perspective cross-cutting themes were also tackled, which contribute to the context and outcomes of SCP: Poverty eradication, Health and population, Forests, Oceans and Seas, Biodiversity, Chemicals and waste, Education, Gender equality and women's empowerment, Finance, Climate Change.

Taken together, Rio+20 has helped to further the SCP agenda but implementation is going to require the active involvement of all stakeholders. Potential follow up activities, areas and initiatives for stakeholders and government cooperation might include:

- Education, training, awareness-raising, and capacity building
- Institutional capacity building on SCP policies and tools
- Developing Socially Responsible Economic Indicators
- Participation of relevant stakeholders and Major Groups, in particular women and local authorities in planning, decision-making and implementation,
- Mobilization of financial resources from all sources, (including by realigning subsidy policies); (tax policies and incentives); provision of credit facilities; promotion of private investment; any innovative financing mechanisms,
- Technology development, transfer and dissemination (Extended Product Responsibility and adoption of Standards, Certification, & Labeling),
- Application of existing technologies as well as indigenous knowledge and know-how
- Cooperative frameworks and partnership incentives for actions at all levels and for international and regional cooperation to promote SCP,
- Support and incentives for countries and regions willing to set their own goals and priorities related to SCP.
- Creation of new task forces or partnerships

The key questions for stakeholders:

1. What do you expect as concrete deliverables of the 10YFP in 5 years?
2. What should be the indicators to measure progress?
3. How can major groups contribute to the implementation of the 10YFP?
4. What are the programmes you would like to have in the 10YFP?
5. How could the 10YFP ensure and promote an active engagement and ownership of governments and major groups?
6. How do you see SCP reflected in SDGs? A cross cutting set of indicators or a specific set of goal under the SGDs?

What the text says:	

Paragraph 226	*"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 67th session (Sept 2012), to designate a Member State body to take any necessary steps to fully operationalize the framework"*
Paragraph 129	*"We note the launching of the initiative by the Secretary General on "Sustainable Energy for All"*
Paragraph 110	*"We resolve to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, including through improving the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation".*
Paragraph 113	*"We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition, and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people"*
Paragraph 119	*"We therefore reiterate the importance of integrating water in sustainable development and underline the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development"*
Paragraph 133	*"We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas":*
Paragraph 134	*"We commit to work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility".*

Key materials:

Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies
http://www.unep.fr/scp/go/pdf/UNEP_Global_Outlook_SCP_ExSum.pdf
Sustainable Consumption and Production for Poverty Alleviation
http://www.unep.fr/scp/go/pdf/DTIx1515xPA-SCPforPovertyAlleviation.pdf
Sustainable energy for all
http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/