

# **Summary of the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions<sup>1</sup>**

## **Prepared by the Session Co-chairs**

1. The Cooperation Dialogue Sessions were organized in order to engage development cooperation agencies and experts in sustainable consumption and production, from both developing and developed countries, in a dialogue intended to lead to the development, funding and implementation of sustainable consumption and production activities, and to explore how development agencies could become a mechanism of implementation for the Marrakech Process.

2. The Co-chairs of the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions were Mr James Riordan of Environment Canada and Mr Sherif Arif of the World Bank. Participating development agencies included the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Finnish Development Agency, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECA), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and the United Nations Division for Economic and Social Affairs (UN- DESA).

3. The Sessions resulted in the following main outcomes:

(a) Development agency representatives acquired a better understanding of sustainable consumption and production and how this approach can be an important part of national sustainable development plans. Some representatives agreed to expand the dialogue on sustainable consumption and production to their networks of development agencies;

(b) Experts on sustainable consumption and production from both developing and developed countries acquired a better understanding of how development agencies function and how sustainable consumption and production could fit into national development plans;

(c) Experts on sustainable consumption and production from developing countries acquired a better understanding of how to access development assistance, in particular by working through the national government and the national development plan of the recipient country.

4. Themes which emerged in the dialogues with regard to the focus of development agencies include:

(a) Poverty eradication is a priority, with a particular focus on the Millennium Development Goals;

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<sup>1</sup> The Cooperation Dialogue Sessions were held at the Second International Expert Meeting on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech Process), on San Jose Costa Rica, 5-9<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

(b) Development agencies are responsive to the objectives and priorities set by recipient governments in national development plans;

(c) Aspects of sustainable development and/or environmental sustainability are often included in national development plans, but there are generally no specific references to sustainable consumption and production;

(d) Engaging development agencies in the Marrakech Process can best be done by including sustainable consumption and production in national development plans.

5. During the dialogues, development agencies described the evolving development cooperation strategies, which include:

(a) Ensuring that ownership of development initiatives belongs to national governments;

(b) Focusing development assistance on a limited number of recipient countries, in particular the least developed countries;

(c) Focusing on a few national priority sectors in order to achieve efficiencies and improvements in effectiveness;

(d) Coordinating and harmonizing work with other development agencies to increase effectiveness and coherence of development assistance, for example by co-funding projects and sharing strategies and priorities;

(e) Giving priority to poverty eradication, capacity building, effective governance, and community development projects, for example by supporting policy and institutional reform, institutional strengthening, and private sector development;

(f) In some cases, such as the World Bank, there has been increasing emphasis on the involvement of other stakeholders, in addition to national governments, in the planning and implementation of development assistance activities. In addition, the World Bank has included environmental and social assessments in all of its activities.

6. Development agency representatives indicated that the Sessions were a good opportunity for dissemination of information about their priorities and objectives, how their agencies provide development assistance, and the evolution of their strategies and programmes. Some agencies were supporting projects related to sustainable consumption and production, but these generally do not have high visibility and are referred to in other terms.

7. Development agencies are already working on issues related to sustainable consumption and production, but generally through sectoral approaches; many agencies, for example, are working on energy efficiency, waste management, and water resource management and sanitation, issues which are linked to sustainable consumption and production.

8. Participants recognised the value of the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions as a good starting point for linking the Marrakech Process and development assistance programmes. In order to follow up on these Dialogues, UNEP and UN-DESA are

requested to review, describe and communicate the linkages between development assistance programmes and sustainable consumption and production, including priorities, mechanisms, opportunities and existing SCP-related projects supported by development agencies.

### **Panel Discussion**

9. A panel on the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions focused on the question “How can aid agencies become a mechanism of implementation for the Marrakech Process?” The panel was chaired by Mr Allan Flores, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, and included Mr James Riordan, Co-chair of the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions; Mr Sherif Arif, Co-chair and representative of the World Bank; Mr Taizo Tamada of JICA; and Ms Kathleen Abdalla of UN-DESA.

10. Mr Riordan summarised the outcomes of the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions, highlighting the importance of continuing engagement of development agencies in the Marrakech Process.

11. Mr Arif stressed the commitment of the World Bank to poverty reduction and helping people to help themselves, not only financially, but also with knowledge. For the World Bank, sustainable consumption and production is addressed through sectoral projects in such sectors as energy, agriculture, water and waste management. To work on the Marrakech Process with the World Bank, developing countries should take advantage of the funds available through the Clean Development Mechanism for projects that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. About \$600 million is available through the World Bank for purchasing carbon emission reductions from CDM projects in developing countries, and those funds could be used to leverage investments in sustainable development. He also stressed the need for a long-term view of sustainable consumption and production, in particular taking into account the impacts of trade liberalization and the “new oil boom,” which will require a review of long-term industrial strategies in both developed and developing countries.

12. Mr Yamada noted that before the expert meeting he was not aware of the Marrakech Process. In reviewing JICA projects, the agency found that it is already implementing some of the priorities of the Marrakech Process, including waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy. He stressed the need for support for south-south cooperation and for strengthening the work of NGOs. He also noted that preparation of an inventory of existing projects relating to sustainable consumption and production would be useful in monitoring progress on implementation.

13. Ms Abdalla noted that UN-DESA is not a typical donor but implements projects funded by funding agencies, particularly in the areas of energy, transport, water and natural resources. In particular, its efforts are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The work of UN-DESA in areas such as energy efficiency is promoting sustainable consumption and production.

## Conclusions

14. During the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions, the experts and the representatives of the development agencies identified the following challenges:

- (a) Developing and strengthening south-south cooperation with support from bilateral and multilateral donors;
- (b) Supporting regional projects;
- (c) Improving dissemination of information on the programmes and procedures of development agencies to experts working on sustainable consumption and production;
- (d) Highlighting the benefits and opportunities of sustainable consumption and production, and convincing governments to include the issues in national development plans;
- (e) Building capacity for the preparation of project proposals for submission to development agencies;
- (f) Coordinating and harmonizing work among development agencies, for example by co-funding projects and sharing strategies and priorities;
- (g) Taking advantage of funding from the Global Environment Facility for projects with global environmental benefits from sustainable consumption and production;
- (h) Preparing and implementing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects generating revenues from verified carbon emission reductions.

15. As a result of the Cooperation Dialogue Sessions, the following activities were recommended for follow up:

- (a) Undertake a review of existing SCP-related projects supported by development agencies as a basis for considering how better to integrate SCP in development plans and identify opportunities to increase access to available development funds. It is recommended that UNEP and UN-DESA lead the review and report results to the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech+4);
- (b) Technical assistance and support should be provided to developing countries for the preparation of CDM projects in order to take advantage of the funds available for the purchase of carbon emission reductions from the World Bank and industrialised countries, with the funds used to leverage investments in sustainable development;
- (c) Continue the dialogue between SCP experts and development agencies and organize similar sessions at the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech+4).