

Draft Workshop Summary

UNEP-OECD Workshop on SCP for Development, 10-11 June 2010, Paris

The first joint OECD-DAC/ENVIRONET - UNEP workshop on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) took place on 10 and 11 June 2010 in Paris. Participants welcomed this effort of OECD and UNEP to find synergies between existing work streams under the broad title of “SCP for development” and noted the progress that had been made in advancing the discussions on SCP in fora such as the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, the Marrakech Process, and in the preparations for Rio +20.

The workshop objectives were:

- building cooperation and exploring synergies between sustainable consumption and production (SCP)¹ capacity building activities and policies and development cooperation programmes;
- exploring ways to facilitate and mainstream the implementation of SCP/resource efficiency activities in development cooperation activities and support for policy making at country level;
- highlighting SCP contributions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including through green jobs initiatives, which contribute to poverty alleviation and the construction of a resource efficient, low carbon economy;
- exploring the linkages between SCP and green economy/green growth as well as between SCP and climate change in a development context.

Mr. Stephen Groff, Deputy Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, highlighted in his opening speech that sustainable consumption and production is one of the critical foundations for a greener economy, which ideally generates the supportive conditions for economic growth of the poor. As mandated in 2009, the OECD actively explores measures to reduce resource consumption and minimize the environmental consequences from consumption and production in its own member countries. At the same time, OECD sees an important role for donors to support partner countries in their efforts to achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production and pro-poor Green Growth. It has published a number of resource materials to that effect.

Ms. Khalida Bouzar, Deputy Director of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Division for Technology, Industry and Economics, underlined that a shift towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns is necessary to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and to sustain economic development from which human welfare gains flow. She noted that SCP can help achieving the Millennium Development Goals by delivering more goods and services, in a cleaner and safer way, using less materials and energy. Cooperation with governments on SCP has supported the creation and implementation of demand-driven regional and country level initiatives. UNEP is committed to building on these and looks forward to continuing the dialogue with OECD-DAC ENVIRONET and other partners to this end.

¹ “The use of goods and services that respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while minimizing the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.” Symposium: Sustainable Consumption. Oslo, Norway; 19-20 January 1994.

SCP, Green Economy, Green Growth and Sustainable Development

The workshop highlighted that achieving sustainable consumption and production is a prerequisite for sustainable development and that it is relevant to all economic sectors. Achieving SCP also requires the application of a wide range of policy tools which are also critical to building a green economy or achieving green growth. Participants recognized that various actors use different terminologies such as Green Economy, Green Growth and SCP and that clarifying concepts and terms is important. UNEP's publication entitled "ABC of SCP: Clarifying concepts on Sustainable Consumption and Production" was highlighted as an example of such clarification.

What distinguishes SCP is its focus on a life-cycle perspective. Most participants, however, also noted that the terms Green Economy, Green Growth and SCP represent different sides of the same coin at an operational level. They often focus on the same sectors and policy tools. While development cooperation agencies and some other organizations present at the workshop often do not use the term sustainable consumption and production on an operational basis, the workshop confirmed that key elements of SCP are present in their work. Sometimes SCP is a guiding principle or, more commonly, it is considered as a cross-cutting issue, given its importance in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

It was clear from the comments of many participants that all three approaches were perceived as including a social element as well, and that those respective policies and activities under them must contribute directly to poverty alleviation.

Sustainable consumption

Adopting more sustainable lifestyles is a key element in achieving sustainable development – action is required on the demand side to achieve more sustainable consumption patterns. However, it is necessary to develop policies and actions for sustainable consumption with a recognition that the basic needs, quality of life and fair working conditions are rights that must be attained by people in all countries.

It was noted that achieving sustainable consumption in a developing country context implies increases in material consumption, or at least more equal opportunities to participate in sustainable consumption. It was noted by some participants that developed countries should take the lead in both changing their own unsustainable consumption and production patterns, and in providing support to developing countries to do the same.

Achieving sustainable consumption must be seen through this lens, requiring empowerment of poor people. Relevant examples were provided on policies and support providing access to sustainable energy for poor communities, on legislation to prevent dumping of toxic waste in developing countries and on the need for adjustments to global commodity chains to ensure more sourcing of sustainable products from developing countries.

Some examples from the past and ongoing work of the Marrakech Taskforces on Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Tourism, including the latter's work on the Green Passport and the Tourism Sustainability Council were presented. Those latter initiatives were designed to encourage tourists to adjust their behaviour and make a choice of tourism products and services with reduced environmental

impacts and enhanced social benefits. The growing economic importance of tourism in emerging and developing countries was noted, as was the potential for the right kind of tourism to contribute to sustainable development.

The workshop recognized that education for sustainable consumption needs a multi-disciplinary approach, and should look across sectors. Future programmes, it was suggested, could focus on education, eco-labelling, and target specific sectors/resources such as waste, food and energy. Participants also called for projects which explicitly link the concerns of developing and developed countries and identify social and environmental hotspots, such as the production and disposal of computers and other electronic products.

SCP addressing climate change and the move towards a low carbon economy

It was underlined that unsustainable production and consumption patterns are at the very core of the societal activities that leads to CO₂ emissions. One participant noted that one way to deal with SCP and climate change was to develop a national climate change action plan first, and then develop the national SCP programme or strategy to achieve those climate change goals. Given the priority attached to tackling climate change, by national authorities and donor agencies alike, it was noted by several participants that SCP policies and capacity building activities should build in climate change mitigation and/or adaptation goals, to increase the likelihood of funding – and of success.

Many presentations covered both climate change and SCP. For example The Marrakech Taskforce on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) highlighted that while traditional procurement looks at immediate costs and benefits, sustainable public procurement looks at a wider scale such as long term costs and impact. Sustainable Public Procurement was recognized as a good driver for innovation along the supply chain. To date, a group of 120 experts from more than 30 countries has been trained in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the SPP approach was presented to multilateral development banks and regional procurement networks. A project on capacity building for SPP in developing countries has been launched with the support of the European Commission and the Swiss Government. The Marrakech Taskforce on Sustainable Buildings and Construction noted that by far the largest share of energy use (80-90%) occurs in the use phase of buildings, with only 10-20% occurring in the construction phase. The refurbishment of existing buildings offers opportunities to cut energy use dramatically in the use phase, but achieving that refurbishment still presents a major challenge.

The presentation of resource efficiency programmes and national cleaner production centres highlighted the need for different approaches in different regions and countries. Programmes seek to build in-country capacities and deliver focused support to enable the shift to more sustainable production practices at enterprise, national and regional levels. Impact assessments have helped to identify key areas where strengthening of the capacities of SMEs to move towards sustainable production is necessary. SMEs are drivers of growth and have great potential to contribute positively to poverty alleviation. Strengthened cooperation between development actors, business, and National Cleaner Production Centres is needed to provide the necessary resources, technology transfer and capacity building to achieve optimal results.

Design, implementation and integration of SCP policies

The need for donor agencies to respond to the needs and demands of developing countries for SCP was highlighted, as was the need for technical and financial support to shift to SCP. The importance of national ownership of policies applied to move towards sustainable consumption and production was stressed many times in presentations and interventions from the floor, as a key element in ensuring progress.

Many examples were given – from development cooperation agencies and national governments - of concrete activities and contributions to SCP in areas such as waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, transport, and forestry. Most importantly examples covered policies and activities influencing both demand/consumption and supply/production aspects in the whole life-cycle. One example was the EU's SWITCH-Asia programme that despite a relatively short life span already has reached an impressive amount of small businesses in the region. Another example was the Asian Development Bank's Sustainable Transport Initiative that develops more efficient mass transit systems in Asian cities.

Engaging actors in SCP for development

Further substantiating the economic case for SCP was considered important to secure the engagement of a broader range of actors (in more countries and ministries) in designing and applying these SCP policies and activities. Analysis is also required to allay concerns that the shift to SCP or a green economy could impact competitiveness.

The private sector and retailers in particular were identified as important actors for implementing SCP policies. The EU's Retail Forum was mentioned as an initiative that others could look at for inspiration. Participants called for clearer linkages between corporate social responsibility (CSR) actions and SCP policies. Forming partnerships, connecting people and organizations such as governments, local authorities, marketers, advertisers, and educators were stressed as important as SCP is a complex subject and partnership building takes time and effort.

It was noted that a balance of Marrakech Task Force Chairs between developing and developed countries would be highly desirable and task forces should include more civil society actors. The model of the expansion of the Sustainable Tourism Task Force into a broader "Global Partnership on Sustainable Tourism" was highlighted as one way of doing this.

The need for further collaboration between actors in order to ensure greater coherence between activities was highlighted, and opportunities for cooperation in some fields were highlighted. In this respect UNEP's Green Economy Initiative will continue working closely with the OECD's Green Growth team, while UNEP's SCP Branch and the Marrakech Process Secretariat will strengthen their collaboration with the relevant directorates at the OECD and with development cooperation agencies. Opportunities for further cooperation and sharing of best practices within or between regions or between countries facing similar issues were also noted. For example the experience of Mauritius in implementing SCP would be useful for Barbados and vice versa, and the desirability of replicating the EU's SWITCH Asia Programme

in other regions was mentioned. In that sense, a strong case was made for increased regional and South-South as well as triangular cooperation on SCP. Existing funding mechanisms have effectively supported a shift to resource efficiency and implementation of SCP policies. Participants noted, however, that a lot of work remains to be done within existing organizations for policy coherence. Making the best use of and scaling up successful models and financial support mechanisms, with documented results of development benefits, will help making the case for development actors to stay and get more engaged.

SCP Programmes in the 10 YFP and next steps

It was clear from the discussions that the current implementation cycle of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the Rio +20 process present opportunities that should not be missed to achieve something concrete on shifting to SCP and transitioning to Green Growth and a Green Economy. The draft 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP), to be discussed at CSD 19 in May 2011, should build on countries' needs, be bottom up and deliver on existing national and regional priorities.

The Marrakech Process was recognized as a successful multistakeholder initiative establishing priorities, building capacity and piloting policies, information tools and private sector and consumer action to make the shift to SCP. This was achieved with limited financial resources.

The workshop agreed that the process to provide a draft 10 YFP would benefit from a mapping of activities of all actors enhancing capacities for the shift to SCP, especially at country level. A database encompassing successful policies and projects with indicators of success, demonstrating the social, economic and environmental benefits of SCP could provide good input to the 10 YFP. The workshop noted that a 10 YFP should take into account the programmes that have been successful and need to include timelines and reporting criteria.

Participants were invited to consult within their organizations and suggest 5-6 programmes that they would like to see developed as input to the 10 YFP. The annexes of the background paper offer 6 sample programmes that participants and their respective organizations can use as a point of departure. Participants were requested to offer their selection of priorities from within these six, together with any modifications they consider appropriate, and to use the same template to develop other programmes that they consider a priority.

Those inputs will be used to further develop the input on the 10 YFP to inform its design at CSD 19, and at the intervening inter-sessional and Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings. The dialogue established at this workshop will be further developed through these meetings, and in other venues and where members of the OECD/DAC ENVIRONET and Marrakech Process stakeholders have the opportunity to collaborate.

Workshop website with agenda, presentations, background paper and other material available at: <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/dialogue/>

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