



# The Marrakech Process



Newsletter / February 2009

## **Towards a Global Framework for Action on Sustainable Consumption and Production**

***"We can no longer consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it" President Barack Obama during his inaugural speech.***

Although the current global economic crisis poses daunting challenges for governments, business and civil-society, it also creates new opportunities for rethinking fundamental development patterns including sustainable approaches to all sectors.

The promotion and implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns provides concrete solutions to tackle the financial and energy crises we are facing. Indeed, SCP is about encouraging resource efficiency, green infrastructure and jobs, energy efficiency and renewable energy. SCP is a major asset in building green economies and sustainable societies.

The Marrakech Process is a global multi-stakeholder process led by UNEP and UNDESA, aiming at supporting the implementation of SCP and the development of a "Framework for Action on SCP" so called the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP(10YFP). The process responds to the call of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002).

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***In this second issue of the Marrakech Process Newsletter, you will find information on the latest developments and activities worldwide. Major highlights include:***

[Special event on the Marrakech Process and Resource Panel at Governing Council meeting](#)

[First public draft of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for SCP](#)

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[Calendar of Events for 2009 is now Online!](#)

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## **Special event on the Marrakech Process and Resource Panel, 18 February, GC25**

A Special Event entitled "Building Resource Efficient Economies and Sustainable Societies" took place during the UNEP's Governing Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya (18 February 2009). This event explored the relevance of the Marrakech Process and the Resource Panel to the construction of solutions to the food, energy and water crises, and to address climate change. Main topics included best practices and policy frameworks needed for the transition to the green economy as well as regional SCP challenges and priorities (e.g. agriculture/food, energy and water). The needs in both developing and developed countries with regard to data, methodologies and capacity building on SCP were also discussed. See meeting [agenda](#) and [background document](#).

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## First public draft of 10YFP available to the public

One of the **main objectives** of the Marrakech Process is to develop a proposal of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) to be presented and reviewed at the **United Nations [Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD\)](#) during the 2010-2011 cycle**. The first public draft of the proposal for a 10YFP was released in September 2008. Valuable comments were received from the Advisory Committee, NGOs, business, and UN Agencies, including UNIDO. The Secretariat is working on a revised draft as well as a revised Framework for Action, which will be under consultation with all regions and stakeholders during the first half of 2009.

Key elements of the proposed 10YFP have been further developed: programmes, policies, tools, means of implementation, as well as a description of the leading actors and the measures of success.

Please [click here](#) to see the first draft. The second draft will be ready by April 2009.

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## Second meeting of the Marrakech Process Advisory Committee

The **Marrakech Process Advisory Committee** met for the second time in **October 2008 in Paris**, back to back to the Business and Industry Forum. One of the key elements of the agenda was to review the 10YFP first draft. The Advisory Committee is integrated by government representatives of each region, representatives of the [Marrakech Task Forces](#), Business and Industry, and NGOs. UNEP and UNDESA are the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee. The main objectives of the Advisory Committee are to provide **advice on the development of the 10YFP** and to bring more **political support** to the Marrakech Process. Read minutes of the [First](#) and [Second meetings](#).

The third meeting of the Advisory Committee will take place in May 2009, in parallel to the CSD.

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## Regional progress

At the regional level, important progress was achieved during 2008 in bringing more actors into the Marrakech Process and moving forward the implementation of SCP projects.

Regional consultations were held in:



**Africa:** The African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) was held in Johannesburg in June 2008. See [conclusions and recommendations](#)

[of the roundtable](#). The meeting was successful in building greater cooperation between the region and the Marrakech Task Forces. Concrete areas for collaboration with the Task Forces were identified on Sustainable Public Procurement, Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Building and Construction. The roundtable announced the launch of an [African Ecolabelling Mechanism \(AEM\)](#) under the general guidance of the African Union Commission and with a secretariat based at the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO). A working group reviewed the progress of on going national projects on SCP (in Mauritius, Tanzania and two projects at the City level in Cairo and Maputo). The next regional meeting will be held in June 2009. For further information on SCP in Africa, please [click here](#). You can also visit the [Task Force cooperation with Africa website](#).



Two sub-regional consultations were held in **Latin America:**

The 1st sub-regional meeting on SCP for Caribbean Countries (Trinidad & Tobago August, 2008) had the objective to identify the needs for capacity building on SCP

and strengthen SCP policies and activities in the region. Main outcomes of the meeting include the launch of a sub-regional status assessment on SCP process and initiatives and the creation of an Adhoc Caribbean Working Group. A Draft Action Plan on SCP for Caribbean countries is under preparation.

A Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) for Mesoamérica was held in Costa Rica (October 2008). Its goal was to train public procurement government officials and the SCP focal points for Central America on basic concepts, practices, and methodologies of SPP. The workshop discussed and evaluated the Mesoamerican SCP Action Plan and the first draft of the 10YFP.

The next regional meeting will be held in September 2009 in Colombia.

**The Arab Region** is developing its regional strategy as follow up of its first regional meeting on SCP in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (March 2008). The draft strategy was discussed at the 40th Meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) in December 2008, where the Arab countries were given until 31st January 2009 to submit their comments on the draft strategy in order to incorporate and circulate to members of the Joint Committee, and then to 41st Meeting of CAMRE for their approval. Priority implementation areas include energy for sustainable development, water resources management, waste management, rural development and alleviation of poverty, and education and sustainable lifestyles. The region expressed a particular interest in areas such as cleaner production, sustainable public procurement, eco-design and eco-labeling, life cycle analysis, corporate social and environmental responsibility, and environmental risk assessment.



**Europe:** “It is time to move to an energy and resource efficient society” mentioned Mr. Jan Dusk - Deputy Minister of Czech Republic- at the opening of the [European Regional Meeting](#) held in Prague (30 -31 October 2008). The objectives of the meeting were to assess the role and elements of the [EU-SCP Action Plan](#) as a key European contribution to the 10YFP. Working groups provided comments for both the EU SCP Action Plan and the draft 10YFP, suggesting that the 10YFP should build on the experience of existing regional plans, such as the EU SCP Action Plan, which is a key regional plan under the Marrakech Process. The meeting stressed the need for a clear communication strategy on SCP and supported the development of targets and indicators to help implement SCP policies. The importance to provide incentives for all stakeholders was also highlighted, particularly regarding Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). At the closing session Ms. Michèle Pappalardo, French Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development stated that ***the global economic crisis is an opportunity to change our consumption and production patterns and move towards a more sustainable model of development.***



**Asia and the Pacific:** The Third meeting of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG) and SCP for Climate Action, organized by UNESCAP, was held in September 2008 in Cebu, Philippines. It was held in parallel to the 8th Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP).

UNESCAP and the [Green Growth](#) formally embraced the Marrakech Process. The Green Growth Approach with its five tracks on green tax and budget reform, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable consumption, green business and ecological efficiency indicators could be strengthened to become the regional framework of programmes for SCP in the Asian and Pacific Region. For that purpose it was suggested to build further partnerships, including with businesses and with the Marrakech Process and Task Forces. See the [report of the meeting in Cebu](#). The next meeting on Green Growth and the Marrakech Process will take place in August 2009.



**North America:** The first North American Workshop on Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in Washington, D.C. from 6 to 7 November 2008. The workshop was a valuable opportunity to shape North

American needs and priorities for achieving SCP, as well as to identify success stories, best practices, lessons learned, and gaps. The US and Canada committed to explore increased involvement in the Marrakech Process, including fuller engagement in existing SCP Task Forces and North American leadership on additional sustainability topics that address priority needs of developing countries. Meeting report available soon!

**Mediterranean Region:** The “First Mediterranean



Roundtable on SCP and Resource Efficiency” (November 2008 in Barcelona, Spain) was organised by the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of the Mediterranean Action Plan (CP/RAC MAP). One of the main objectives was to build more cooperation with the Marrakech Process and to have an inter-regional discussion on SCP identifying main SCP priorities for the Mediterranean. During the three days roundtable, SCP was discussed from various perspectives, including the role of the private sector and civil society in shifting towards more sustainable models, reduction in resource consumption, companies’ green competitiveness, eco-design and eco-labelling, public procurement, green urban development, the relationship with climate change, environmental education and awareness raising on SCP. The region was also invited to participate in the Marrakech Task Forces and/or to launch new Task Forces or initiatives especially in the areas of waste, food and SMEs. To read the report of the Mediterranean roundtable, please [click here](#).

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## National activities on SCP

National and local SCP programmes have been developed within the Marrakech Process to promote concrete action at country level. These programmes are crucial for the implementation of SCP patterns, which contribute to improve the quality of life of all the citizens while improving the sustainability of the countries' production.

- Following up the publication of the [“Guidelines to Develop National SCP Programmes “Planning for Change”](#) demonstration projects have been implemented in Mauritius, Indonesia, Tanzania, Senegal, Cairo, and Maputo with the support of national and local governments, UNEP, UK-DEFRA, and the Task Force on cooperation with Africa. To complement this action, a new publication entitled [SCP indications for developing countries](#) has recently been launched.
- Two regional training workshops on **“National SCP Programmes”** were also conducted with the **Andean Community** in Latin America (Peru, April 2008) and with **South Asian Countries** (Katmandu, June 2008). A national workshop was held in Bhutan in January 2009.
- Likewise, following the project cooperation between UNEP and the European Commission two more National Roundtables were organized in 2008. An Expert Workshop on Green Public Procurement took place in **China (June 2008)**. The other roundtable was held in **South Africa (August 2008)**. One of the main recommendations by the Roundtable participants was that a lead department should be designated at national level to drive SCP forward in South Africa to promote SCP projects' ownership. During the meeting, participants defined national priorities: Energy and Climate Change; Integrated Waste Management and Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Building and Construction. See [meeting report](#).
- During 2009, three roundtables will take place in India, China, and Mexico.

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## News on the Task Forces

The work of the seven **Marrakech Task Forces** continues. Some highlights are:

- Building cooperation with the Indian government and the South Asian Countries: the Task Forces on Sustainable Public Procurement, Sustainable Lifestyles, Sustainable Products, and Sustainable Building and Construction met with the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests and held bilateral meetings with other relevant Ministries of the Indian Government with the main objective of promoting cooperation on SCP. They also participated at the Meeting “Marrakech Task Forces: building cooperation with South Asia” – (3 February 2009, New Delhi, India) attended by senior officials from the Governments of South Asian countries and Industry and Civil Society organizations from India and South Asia. The meeting strengthened the participation of South Asian countries in the Marrakech Process by identifying and sharing on going initiatives on SCP as well as promoting a dialogue between the Marrakech Task Forces and the South Asian region. It provided an excellent opportunity for India and South Asian countries to showcase their own achievements.
- A project entitled [“Capacity building for Sustainable Public Procurement \(SPP\) in Developing Countries”](#) has been designed by the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement and is being implemented in pilot countries, such as Argentina, Ghana, Mauritius, etc. The project seeks to help public purchasers and policy makers in developing countries understand how to address environmental, economic and social issues when buying goods and services used for their day-to-day activities.
- The launching of the [Global Survey on Sustainable Lifestyles \(GSSL\)](#). Its main objectives are: 1) to inspire young adults from all over the world and explore their views and aspirations with regards to lifestyles and sustainability; 2) to inspire policy-makers and other stakeholders in the design for solutions and policies that promote sustainable lifestyles. GSSL is a joint initiative of the Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles and UNEP.
- The [Green Passport Campaign](#). This Internet based initiative aims at raising tourists' awareness of their potential to contribute to sustainable development by making responsible holiday choices. The campaign is joint initiative of the Task Force on Sustainable Tourism and UNEP.
- The [Guidelines for Education on Sustainable Consumption](#) “Here and Now”. The guidelines provide policy makers and educators with an instrument to understand the importance of Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC) and give guidance on how to integrate ESC into existing educational

and sustainable development strategies.

- Side events on Sustainable Buildings and Construction on [“Construction counts for Climate Change”](#) were also organized in Poznan during the UNFCCC conference (December 2008).

A Table summarizing all existing [Task Forces' Tools and Methodologies for capacity building and Publications on SCP](#) is now available. For more information on the Marrakech Task Forces, please [click here](#).

## Stakeholders' engagement and contributions to the Marrakech Process



**UN Inter-Agency Network:** This network was launched in December 2008 with the participation of **12 UN Agencies (UNIDO, UNFCCC, UNITAR, UNDP, etc..)**. Its purpose is to increase awareness of the Marrakech Process and its activities among the UN Agencies; highlighting the potential role and the benefits of getting engaged in promoting and implementing SCP; and involving the UN Agencies in the formulation of the 10YFP. Some agencies are already working with one or more of the Marrakech Task Forces and others are implementing SCP programmes. The possibility of regular dialogue with SCP counterparts in other agencies was also welcomed. A number of activities were mentioned to support the Secretary General's initiative on a new Green

Economy. In particular, UNEP's efforts to spearhead this were deemed very useful. Such efforts could more closely link the SCP and climate change agendas. See [minutes of the first meeting](#).



**Cooperation with the business sector** was strengthened with the organization of **UNEP's Annual Meeting on Business and Industry**, in close cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce and with special focus on resource efficiency and the Marrakech Process. Participants discussed Business and Industry's views on sectoral approaches and climate change. The discussion assessed business perspectives and mutual expectations on the form of engagement and content of the Marrakech Process and its Task Forces (e.g. on sustainable products and lifestyles). Recurrent themes included the importance of building trust, the need to get the right

information to consumers, the importance of capacity building also by the private sector, and the need of recognised indicators and methodologies for measurement, communication and reporting.

During the meeting, UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said: “The credit crunch and the ecological crunch are timely reminders of the urgent need to move from a throw-away society and towards a resource-efficient society. Governments must be brave in agreeing on collective solutions, while business must be bold in introducing new business models that use our resources more sustainably.”

To read the meeting report and more detailed information on the Business and Industry Meeting, [click here](#). For further information on cooperation with Business, please see the [FAQ business role in the Marrakech Process](#)



**Cooperation with NGOs** continues in support of the shift towards SCP patterns and the development of the 10YFP. We would like to thank the NGOs and civil society organizations, the German NGO Forum Environment and Development and One Earth Initiative in particular, for providing us with feedback to the 10YFP first public draft to be presented at CSD 2010-2011. To visit the NGO Forum website, please [click here](#).

**The first Global Consumer Action Day**, organised by Consumers International and its member organisations on 15 October 2008, marked the importance of [Education for Sustainable Consumption \(ESC\)](#). More than 40 CI members and other consumer groups from 33 countries took part in activities on the day and generated great interest and coverage in the media, ranging from articles in newspapers and online, to TV and radio programmes. Members sent letters to their Ministries of Education and or Environment asking for their support in endorsing [the Here and Now Guidelines](#). Consumers International is the NGO major group representative at the Advisory Committee.

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For more information see:

[www.unep.fr/Marrakech](http://www.unep.fr/Marrakech) and <http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess>

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