

Meeting of the Marrakech Task Force leaders and experts Helsinki, Finland 8 – 9 September 2009

NOTES FROM THE MEETING

A meeting of all Marrakech Task Force (TF) leaders and representatives of the Marrakech Process (MP) secretariats took place in Helsinki. It was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland and the Finnish-led TF on Sustainable Buildings and Construction, in its capacity as one of the two TF representatives in the Advisory Committee (AC) of the MP. The informal discussions focused on two documents: the recently published 3rd draft of the 10YFP and a roadmap towards CSD18 and 19, where Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) will be on the agenda, both as a topic of its own and as a cross-cutting issue.

The TFs started with a brief account their most recent work. The review proved that the TFs have already by now come up with fresh ideas in defining what SCP can mean in real life, such as the *Green Passport* in promoting sustainability in tourism, an *All-African Eco-Labeling system*, or a *Toolkit to mainstream Sustainable Public Procurement*. More of these innovative ideas and tools will be needed as inspiring examples to learn from, adapt or replicate. As to their future, different TFs have different plans; some have established UN Partnerships, some will continue their work on their own, and some will try to transfer their knowledge and produced materials to existing UN organizations. The Secretariats are also looking into the possibility of launching new TFs.

The 3rd 10YFP draft was published a few days prior to the meeting. The TF leaders considered the draft 10YFP to be a good background document, which highlights some of the main characteristics of SCP, and describes where the concept originates from, namely Rio (1992) and Johannesburg (2002). However, the TF leaders found that some elements could be added to the present version, and decided to prepare a comment paper to be delivered to UNDESA and UNEP. The paper will discuss the implementation of the 10YFP and the substance and framework conditions of possible programs. A number of questions were raised, such as: What kind of a structure will be needed for the implementation of the 10YFP? Where should the follow-up of the implementation process be placed? Does the process need a steering body? Who does the monitoring, what deadlines? How to exchange best practices? Should one or several existing UN bodies be mandated to coordinate SCP issues and develop centres of expertise? What kind of incentives could encourage governments and other stakeholders to do more to implement SCP? What are the linkages between SCP and other global goals, such as the MDGs, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, or the Global Green New Deal?

The roadmap towards CSD18 includes regional expert meetings in all the five UN regions: Africa was in June, Asia (Manila), Arab countries (Cairo) and Latin America (Cartagena) will be in September, and ECE (Geneva) in November. The role of regional SCP meetings is focal while they serve as an expert clearing house to develop regional priorities. The expert meetings will produce short papers as input to the regional implementation meetings (RIMs), ideally with suggested programs from that particular region. UNEP works closely with the RIM secretariats trying to find a slot for SCP in the RIMs and to find key persons to deliver the SCP message. Even if TF leaders won't be able to participate in the RIMs, it is important to have messages sent from the different regional meetings to the RIMs. UNEP was asked to address SCP in different RIMs and to include in their presentations also references to the work of the Task Forces.

The Secretariat will also set up meetings with the WBCSD, ICC and other business actors to further involve the business sector after the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit, as well as to organise meetings with NGOs and other Major Groups before December. To the extent that funding is available, Major Groups should be invited to the RIMs.

The TFs are invited to prepare material for the CSD18, e.g. "an innovation brief", and provide input into the reports prepared by the secretariats. The TFs preliminarily decided to organise a side event during CSD18, and to share a desk at the UN to distribute materials and information. It would also be ideal to provide a platform for SCP Partnerships during CSD, but not parallel with the sessions. Why not organise a partnership day during the CSD?

The TF leaders dealt also with a number of practical issues, among them a possible rotation of the Task Force representation in the AC. However, they did not find the timing opportune for a change, which means that Italy and Finland will continue sharing this coordinating task.

The TF leaders and experts closed the two-day meeting with a sense of a common goal and a shared vision, eager to continue cooperation.

Notes taken by Taina Nikula and Kaarin Taipale on behalf of the host, Ministry of the Environment of Finland.