



## First meeting of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management

Budapest, 8 November 2007

### Meeting Highlights

The first meeting of the Resource Panel was held in Budapest, Hungary, 8 November 2007. Annex 1 provides a list of the participants.

#### **1. Opening**

Tibor Farago, Director-General for Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Water, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Hungarian government. Ernst von Weizsaecker highlighted that the Panel aims at preparing scientific reports with regard to sustainable resource management. Ismail Serageldin pointed out that the Panel's added value should be in addressing issues which are not yet covered by other international initiatives.

#### **2. Introduction**

The Secretariat informed the participants that individual invitation letters would in principle be sent out to all of them. A second round of appointments should include in particular participants from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as aim at improving the gender balance.

#### **3. Exploring elements of the work plan**

The Secretariat presented a background paper which identified potential elements of a future work plan.

In a roundtable discussion the participants commended the Secretariat for the quality of the paper. Remarks were made on the need to also address conceptual framework issues, including conditions for systemic improvements. Quantum leaps and 'out of the box' thinking would be necessary to achieve factor 4 or factor 10. It was suggested that the Panel look at dynamic, long-term questions on transition processes. The utility of resource use should also be addressed. Answering questions such as 'how much happiness can be derived from different resource use in different societies with different technologies' would bring in linkages to the work on psychological (behavioral) aspects, such as those carried out in the research area of Sustainable Consumption.

Linkages between poverty eradication and decoupling policies were considered important. Many developing countries are confronted with resource degradation which poses an obstacle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Panel could also play a role in building up evidence, for instance in certain areas where decoupling has already been achieved, and identifying research gaps. A first challenge would be to have a common understanding on the concept of decoupling and how it can be measured. It was suggested that the Panel develop a conceptual framework for decoupling. Awareness raising, institution building and social learning on sustainable resource management were also suggested.

## Conclusions

It was concluded that the Panel start working on the following seven topics:

1. Understanding of the concept of decoupling and resource productivity
2. Prioritisation of products and resources from a sustainability point of view
3. Scientific assessment of global metal flows from a sustainable management perspective
4. Scientific assessment of biofuels from a sustainable management perspective
5. Scientific assessment of freshwater from a sustainable management perspective
6. Institution building and social learning on sustainable resource management
7. Developing a conceptual framework for sustainable resource management and innovation.

### **4. Joint session with Steering Committee**

Timo Makela (European Commission, and co-chair of the Steering Committee) thanked the Panel for the progress made. He stressed that the Panel should be independent. Sylvie Lemmet (UNEP, the other co-chair of the Steering Committee) expressed her satisfaction with the first Panel meeting and to see the Panel in such capable hands.

### Roundtable discussion

Various Steering Committee members highlighted that the first test for the Panel would be when the first papers are published. The credibility of the scientists involved was crucial for the Panel.

Communication was considered important, in particular finding ways to ensure that the findings of the panel reach policy makers. One participant spoke about an "exciting and desperately needed initiative" and stressed that clear assessments on environmental problems and scientific independence would be key. The Panel would also be an important initiative for Africa. African countries are resource-rich, yet poor management of resources has led to sluggish economic growth. Achieving synergies with the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Initiative of the G8 was also mentioned.

### **5. Closing**

The chairs concluded that the Resource Panel would need to give a scientific underpinning of the fact that creation of wealth was possible with less resource use, and then to communicate its findings in clear language.

## **Annex 1: List of Participants**

<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1	<b>Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker</b> (Co-chair)	Germany	Dean and Professor, Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
2	<b>Ismail Serageldin</b> (Co-chair)	Egypt	Director, Library of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt
3	<b>Sanit Aksornkoae</b>	Thailand	President, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Thailand
4	<b>Stefan Bringezu</b>	Germany	Director, Material Flows & Resource Management, Wuppertal Institute, Germany
5	<b>Marina Fischer-Kowalski</b>	Austria	Director, Institute of Social Ecology, University of Klagenfurt, Austria
6	<b>Yvan Hardy</b>	Canada	Former Chief Scientist of Natural Resources, Canada
7	<b>Edgar Hertwich</b>	Norway	Professor, Dept. of Energy and Process Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
8	<b>Lea Kauppi</b>	Finland	Secretary General, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
9	<b>Ashok Khosla</b>	India	Founder & President, Development Alternatives, India
10	<b>Yuichi Moriguchi</b>	Japan	Director, Research Center for Material Cycles and Waste Management, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan
11	<b>Oleg Mitvol</b>	Russia	Deputy Head, Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources Management, Russia
12	<b>Yong Ren</b>	China	Deputy Director-General, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), China
13	<b>Anna-Bella Siriban-Manalang</b>	Philippines	Director, Centre for Lean Systems, De La Salle University, Philippines
14	<b>David Stanners</b>	UK	Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA) Denmark
15	<b>Mark Swilling</b>	South Africa	Professor, Sustainable Development Planning and Management, School of Public Management and Planning, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
16	<b>György Várallyai</b>	Hungary	Section of Agricultural Sciences Hungarian Academy and Sciences, Hungary
<b>Additional participants for the Joint Session</b>			
<b>National governments</b>			
17	<b>Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger</b>	Canada	Assistant Director, International Affairs Strategic Policy Sector, Natural Resources Canada
18	<b>Patricia E. Ockwell</b>	Canada	Counsellor, Science and Technology, Mission of Canada to the European Union
19	<b>Ruisheng Yue</b>	China	Deputy Director General, Division of International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation, State Environment Protection Administration (SEPA)
20	<b>Hatem Mohamed</b>	Egypt	Director, Directorate for International Environmental Policies Central Directorate for Cooperation, International Relations and Technical Support, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs
21	<b>Antero Honkasalo</b>	Finland	Director, Environmental Protection in Trade and Industry Ministry of the Environment

#	Name	Country	Affiliation
22	<b>Ulf Dietmar Jaeckel</b>	Germany	Head of Division "Product-related Environmental Protection, Standardisation" Bundesumweltministerium (BMU) Federal Ministry for the Environment
23	<b>Tibor Farago</b>	Hungary	Director-General for Strategic Affairs Ministry of Environment and Water
24	<b>Attila József Vajda</b>	Hungary	Department for Research, Education and Information Ministry of Environment and Water
25	<b>Paolo Soprano</b>	Italy	Directorate General for Development and Environmental Research, Head of Division for Sustainable Development Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
26	<b>Osamu Mizuno</b>	Japan	Senior Scientist, Minister's Secretariat Ministry of the Environment
27	<b>Herman Sips</b>	Netherlands	Senior Policy Coordinator Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment
28	<b>Igor Maydanov</b>	Russian Federation	Director, Department for International Co-operation, Ministry of Natural Resources
29	<b>Philip Kristensen</b>	Switzerland	International Affairs Division - Section Global Affairs Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)
30	<b>Mark J. Mwandosya</b>	Tanzania	Minister of State (Environment) Vice President's Office
31	<b>Joseph S. Qamara</b>	Tanzania	Private Secretary to the Minister of State (Environment) Vice President's Office
32	<b>Charlotte Middleton</b>	UK	Senior Policy Advisor Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
33	<b>David M. Stonner</b>	USA	Head, Europe Office National Science Foundation
<b>Civil society organisations</b>			
34	<b>Leah Goldfarb</b>	ICSU	Science Officer International Council for Science (ICSU)
35	<b>Brigitte Monsou Tantawy</b>	WBCSD	Director, Sustainable Value Chain World Business Council for Sustainable Development
<b>European Commission</b>			
36	<b>Timo Makela</b>	EC	Director, Sustainable Development and Integration, DG Environment
37	<b>Klaus Kögler</b>	EC	Head of Unit, Sustainable Production & Consumption, DG Environment
38	<b>Werner Bosmans</b>	EC	Policy officer, Natural Resources Strategy, Sustainable Consumption & Production, DG Environment
<b>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b>			
39	<b>Sylvie Lemmet</b>	UNEP	Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
40	<b>Arab Hoballah</b>	UNEP	Chief, Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP), Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
<b>Resource Panel Secretariat</b>			
41	<b>Bas de Leeuw</b>	UNEP	Head, Integrated Resource Management Unit Sustainable Consumption & Production, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
42	<b>Guido Sonnemann</b>	UNEP	Programme Officer, Sustainable Consumption & Production Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
43	<b>Inhee Chung</b>	UNEP	Programme Officer, Sustainable Consumption & Production Division of Technology, Industry and Economics