



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

19-20 May 2008, Rome, Italy

### Meeting highlights

The second meeting of the Resource Panel was held in Rome, Italy, 19-20 May 2008. *Annex 1* provides a list of the participants.

#### **1. Opening**

Paolo Soprano welcomed the participants on behalf of the Italian government. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker (co-chair) was glad to note the fact that the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) would address the issue of sustainable consumption and production in its next cycle, 2010-2011, where many issues to be addressed today would be discussed.

#### **2. Work Plan 2008 and beyond**

Ernst introduced the session on the work plan with the remark that there was common acceptance of the fact that the Panel should not work on too many topics at the same time. Biofuels and metals had emerged as priorities. Other issues to discuss would in particular be prioritization and decoupling. A few Panel members pointed out that there was a need to define the specific role and added value of the Panel and that clear definitions would be needed.

- Stefan Bringezu presented the draft ToR of the **biofuels** group and said that beyond 2008 a shift would be needed from stressing the problem to analyzing alternative scenarios. Comments from the participants included the call for an early Panel report and a suggestion to assess the key actors, in particular the private sector. It was also observed that 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels were an opportunity to use forest waste to produce biofuels, and that the promotion of biofuels should not divert away from 'consuming less' or slow down the development of resource-efficient engines. The Panel could come up with CSR guidelines with minimum standards that companies should adhere to, and could stress the need for a regulatory framework.
- Tom Graedel presented the draft ToR of the **metals** group and showed the results of a background study which was prepared for the group by Dr

Halada on projections of metal use through 2050. The metal issue was linked to safety and energy. It was recommended to carry out an actor analysis ("who are the movers, who are the shakers"), and it was stated that in particular the involvement of the mining and recycling industry could be relevant. Another suggestion was to pay attention to environmental impacts of recycling and management of e-waste in developing countries.

- Edgar Hertwich presented the draft ToR of the **prioritization** group and highlighted that in developed countries the most important consumption clusters were housing, mobility and food. The need to engage policy makers in defining the scope was mentioned, as well as the need to weigh environmental impacts like climate change and biodiversity. Some participants felt that the group should also look at the resource side for prioritization. Land productivity and the use of biological resources (forests, fisheries, biodiversity) should get more attention. There was a need to use the lessons learnt from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.
- Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker presented the draft ToR of the **decoupling** group and said that the group would assess the findings on definitions, indicators and methodologies. He foresaw that an increase of resource productivity would most probably be seen as the easiest measurable indicator for decoupling. The work would focus on understanding why there has not been much progress so far and suggest empirical data, projections and best practices in order to estimate the scope of the resource productivity (a minimum of factor 5, to be achieved with technologically proven means was considered likely). It was said that the discussion about decoupling was about non-material growth; the overall question was how much human wellbeing could be produced with the resources available. A clear need for synergies was identified with the OECD work on Material Flow Analysis (MFA). It would also be interesting to see which economic sectors have had the highest resource productivity gains and why.
- Mark Swillings presented the work on **institution building and social learning** and stressed that social learning was considered a crucial element in the transition to sustainable development. There was overall agreement that all groups should look at institution building and social learning as an integrated part of their work.



### 3. Exploring synergies

Bas de Leeuw (UNEP Secretariat) presented the potential linkages of the work of the Panel with UNEP's Medium Term Strategy, the joint OECD-UNEP International Conference on Resource-Efficiency and the related work by OECD and the G8, as well as the status of the Marrakech Process, to be addressed at the CSD in 2010/2011. The information was considered useful and the opportunities for presenting the work of the Panel were welcomed. A scientific assessment by the Panel on key sectors to support the Marrakech process would be appreciated.

### 4. Procedural issues

The Panel members discussed the **panel composition** and agreed to recommend to the Steering Committee to appoint additional Panel members, in particular from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Panel members provided their views on **working arrangements**. There was a shared vision that the work of the Panel should be policy relevant but not policy prescriptive.

After a broad discussion on possible future **peer review procedures**, it was decided to ask the Secretariat for a draft proposal.

### Joint meeting with Steering Committee

The co-chairs (Sylvie Lemmet, Timo Makela, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker and Ren Yong) opened the meeting. Corrado Clini welcomed the participants on behalf of the Italian government. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker presented the summary of the Panel discussion on 19 May 2008, after which an open exchange of information and views followed on the various issues.

### 1. Focus and status of the Panel

The need for communicating about the rationale and sense of urgency of the Panel was expressed, as well as the importance of getting clear definitions of sustainable resource management and of the rationale behind the priorities chosen. The Panel should avoid doing too much and too quickly. A lesson learnt from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was that early government 'buy in' was important for the impacts of the reports.

## **2. Working groups**

### **2.1 Biofuels**

One participant recommended to include palm oil in the work - this is where he believed that currently the biggest problems exist - and questioned the choice to focus on second generation. Other participants recommended to choose a reasonable level of ambition and called it a good idea to focus on second generation. Life cycle analysis was needed. Stefan Bringezu mentioned the need to get other experts involved and stated that there were diverging views on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels.

### **2.2 Metals**

There was some discussion on the importance of scarcity. It was suggested to include experts who do not believe that scarcity is an issue of concern. It would be worthwhile to assess which resources are needed for which products, and also to explore how to better include externalities in commodity prices. Recycling was welcomed as a topic, in particular including analyses of the practices in developing countries. Furthermore some participants suggested that design issues should also be considered, in particular assessing the potential of design for recycling on resource productivity. Full life cycle analysis was also considered to be important, including the phase of treatment of waste.

### **2.3 Water efficiency**

Participants expressed their wish to see a proposal, since it was one of the seven topics preliminary identified in the previous meeting. Water was incorporated in all other groups (decoupling, prioritisation, metals and biofuels), and the issue should be taken up in a next meeting.

### **2.4 Decoupling and prioritisation**

It was observed that analytical tools would have to be used with care. For example, input-output tables would not provide information on recycling, and material flow accounting (MFA) and LCA would not address biodiversity loss sufficiently. The Panel was seen as an adequate institution to harmonize ongoing work on indicators with regard to decoupling. Edgar Hertwich said that prioritizing both products and resources would be a challenge. His group would try to address the issue by a scoping workshop over the summer.

## **2.5 Conclusions on working groups**

The chairs asked the Secretariat to take the lead in asking the group leaders to reformulate the ToRs in the form of documents of 1-2 pages for the four working groups, taking the views expressed into account, as well as the recommendations from the Steering Committee meeting to be held in the afternoon.

## **3. Working arrangements**

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker said that scientific assessments would need to be based upon peer review and they would need to have policy relevance. The Panel should aim at rapid results, given the urgency of the problems, with a pragmatic review process. A 'proportionate' peer review was suggested. Some participants expressed their preference for a move towards an IPCC format. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker said that expectations for quick reports could not be satisfied at the same time as applying full scientific peer review. The Panel may wish to offer quick statements, responding to available information, which would not need peer review.

### **3.1. Conclusions on Working Arrangements**

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker concluded that it was important to have transparency and credibility; the process should however be proportional to the outcomes of the Panel. He would welcome a further discussion on this topic with the Steering Committee. The Secretariat would be asked to develop a proposal.

## **4. Closing**

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker invited the participants to attend the Santa Barbara meeting in November, 2008. Before the Panel meeting (19-20 November) and the Steering Committee meeting (20-21 November) he planned to organize an international conference on sustainable resource management focusing on the nexus of resource and energy productivity.

## Annex 1

**International Partnership for Sustainable Resource Management**  
**Second meeting of the Panel, including joint session with Steering Committee**

*Italian Geographic Society  
Villa Celimontano, Via della Navicella, 12, Rome  
19-20 May 2008  
Rome, Italy*

### Participant list

#	Name	M/F	Country	Affiliation
<b>Resource Panel</b>				
1	Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker	M	Germany	Dean and Professor, Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California Santa Barbara
2	Sanit Aksornkoae	M	Thailand	President, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
3	Stefan Bringezu	M	Germany	Director, Material Flows & Resource Management, Wuppertal Institute
4	Marina Fischer-Kowalski	F	Austria	Director, Institute of Social Ecology Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Klagenfurt
5	Yvan Hardy	M	Canada	Former Chief Scientist of Natural Resources Canada
6	Edgar Hertwich	M	Norway	Professor, Dept. of Energy and Process Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
7	Lea Kauppi	F	Finland	Secretary General, Finnish Environment Institute
8	George Varughese (for Ashok Khosla)	M	India	President, Development Alternatives
9	Yuichi Moriguchi	M	Japan	Director, Research Center for Material Cycles and Waste Management, National Institute for Environmental Studies
10	Anna-Bella Siriban-Manalang	F	Philippines	Director, Centre for Lean Systems, De La Salle University
11	Mark Swilling	M	South Africa	Professor, Sustainable Development Planning and Management, School of Public Management and Planning, University of Stellenbosch
12	Yong Ren	M	China	Deputy Director-General and Senior Research Fellow, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE), Ministry of Environmental Protection
13	Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel	F	France	Former Assistant Executive Director, UNEP

#	Name	M/F	Country	Affiliation
14	Thomas Graedel	M	USA	Professor, Industrial Ecology Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
15	Jeff McNeely	M	USA	Chief Scientist, The World Conservation Union (IUCN)
16	Pawel Kazmierczyk (for Jacqueline McGlade)	M	EEA	Project Manager, Sustainable Consumption and Production European Environment Agency
<b>Steering Committee</b>				
17	Timo Makela	M	EC	Director, Sustainable Development and Integration, DG Environment
18	Antero Honkasalo	M	Finland	Director, Environmental Protection in Trade and Industry Ministry of the Environment
19	Ulf Dietmar Jaeckel	M	Germany	Head of Division "Product-related Environmental Protection, Standardisation", <i>Bundesumweltministerium</i> (BMU) Federal Ministry for the Environment
20	Erzsébet Gergely	F	Hungary	Deputy Director-General for Strategic Affairs Ministry of Environment and Water
21	Paolo Soprano	M	Italy	Directorate General for Development and Environmental Research, Head of Division for Sustainable Development Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
22	Mimi Ishida-Nameki	F	Japan	First Secretary, Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD and Ministry for the Environment
23	Herman Sips	M	Netherlands	Senior Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment
24	Terje Kronen	M	Norway	Advisor, Ministry of Environment
25	Mark J. Mwandosya	M	Tanzania	Minister for Water and Irrigation, Government of Tanzania
26	Jürg Gerber	M	WBCSD	Chief Operating Officer World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
27	Bill Jackson	M	IUCN	Global Programme Team (GPT), IUCN-The World Conservation Union
28	Patricia E. Ockwell	F	Canada	Counsellor, Science and Technology, Mission of Canada to the European Union
29	Tidiane Ouattara	M	Canada	Senior S&T Policy Advisor, Office of the Chief Scientist, Natural Resources Canada (for Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger)
30	John Matuszak (Observer)	M	USA	US Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
31	Christian Averous (Observer)	M	OECD	Head, Environmental Performance & Information Division OECD - Environment Directorate
<b>Further participants</b>				

#	Name	M/F	Country	Affiliation
32	Corrado Clini	M	Italy	Director General Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea
33	Werner Bosmans	M	EC	Policy officer, Natural Resources Strategy, Sustainable Consumption & Production, DG Environment
34	Aldo Ravazzi	M	Italy	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
35	Pierluigi Manzione	M	Italy	Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
36	Andrea Innamorati	M	Italy	Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
<b>Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b>				
37	Sylvie Lemmet	F	UNEP	Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme
38	Arab Hoballah	M	UNEP	Chief, Sustainable Consumption & Production, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme
39	Bas de Leeuw	M	UNEP	Head of Secretariat, International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, Sustainable Consumption & Production, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme
40	Guido Sonnemann	M	UNEP	Programme Officer, Sustainable Consumption & Production Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme
41	Martina Otto	F	UNEP	Programme Officer, Energy Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. United Nations Environment Programme
42	Jaap van Woerden	M	UNEP	GEO & Earthwatch Data Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
43	Janet Salem	F	UNEP	Programme Officer, Sustainable Consumption & Production Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme