



Implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies



North-South, South-South and
East-West Partnerships

Informal expert meeting
Paris, France
6-7 May 2002

Meeting Report

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Introduction

One of the key challenges to be achieved in the coming decade – and overriding goals for promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns – is *de-coupling economic growth and environmental and social impacts*. Industrialized countries have a special responsibility to promote, facilitate and achieve this target. However, the gains of consuming and producing more efficiently (delivering quality of life with fewer natural resources and causing less pollution) will also be beneficial for eradicating poverty and creating business opportunities for developing countries. This is why industrialized countries should also actively promote the concept for developing countries and countries with economies in transition and put in place a capacity building programme, designed to raise awareness, inform and train decision-makers in governments and (small and medium sized) companies.

Interest among governments – industrialized, developing, economies in transition – in the subject is high. Changing consumption and production patterns is one of the priority areas of discussions in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), to be held in Johannesburg, August 26 – September 4, 2002. At the third preparatory meeting (PrepCom III), held in New York, March 25 – April 5, 2002, the European Union presented proposals for a ten-year work programme. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Consumers International (CI) presented preliminary results of a world-wide survey among all governments on the status of implementation of the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, section Sustainable Consumption (as adopted by the General Assembly in 1999, decision 54/449). A series of regional roundtables and workshops, organized by UNEP in Africa, Latin America, Asia Pacific and Europe, has shown increasing interest as well.

Eco-efficient practices to achieve a better quality of life for all, foremost those most in need, should in principle be a non-controversial issue (as this is

especially relevant in countries with scarce resources). However, lack of knowledge sometimes leads to a hesitant or slow uptake of the required policies.

This is why UNEP and CI – in liaison with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and supported by the European Union – organized an informal expert workshop on “Implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies”, in Paris, France, on May 6 - 7, 2002. The governments of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway sponsored the meeting. Among the 70 participants from 44 countries were governmental representatives from 33 countries: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malawi, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Poland, Senegal, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

The main workshop objectives were to:

- mobilize support for an international ten-year work programme to strengthen the implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies and identify elements of such a work programme;
- create necessary conditions for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to join the efforts and identify elements for a capacity-building programme.

This report presents the chair’s summary, which was presented to the participants and re-drafted to take their comments into account.

The participants of the meeting have worked together intensively, in an open and constructive atmosphere. They have expressed their hope that the “spirit of Paris” – which in part may be reflected by this report – will enrich the discussions at PrepComIV, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from May 25 to June 7, and will contribute to the emergence of a strong and common political will at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to take action.

Chair's summary

World leaders gathering in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg have to express a strong political will to strengthen the implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies, to be formulated and implemented in an open and transparent way – involving all countries and all stakeholders.

Key message:

Sustainable consumption and production is needed to:

- improve quality of life, particularly for those in need, and provide the basic needs for all, including access to food, shelter, health and education services;
- de-couple economic growth from environmental degradation to secure development while maintaining the carrying capacity of eco-systems.

Five main points for action :

1. Launch a ten-year work programme on implementing sustainable consumption and production patterns, including targets and indicators. Monitor the implementation of the work programme, including both intergovernmental commitments and partnership initiatives;
2. Improve understanding and implementation of an integrated approach of sustainable consumption and cleaner production, based on life cycle thinking, and including capacity building and technology co-operation. In this respect implement the recommendations of UNEP's 7th International High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production, held in Prague, April, 2002;

3. Improve governance and collaboration at all levels. At the international level better co-operation between international organizations. At regional, national and local levels better implementation of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (by 2004), capacity building, new partnerships, transparency, cohesion in policy making and attention to corruption;
4. Strengthen international initiatives to get the prices right by internalisation of environmental and social costs and by elimination of unsustainable subsidies;
5. Step up information and awareness campaigns directed to consumers and public worldwide: targeted, specific and tailored.

Proposals for next steps:

1. The World Summit on Sustainable Development should recommend that UNEP's Governing Council, at its next session, examine a proposal for a ten-year work programme with goals and targets and guidance on the organization of the work, with progress of implementation of the programme to be regularly presented to the CSD.
2. Governments and the private sector should initiate pilot projects for new production and consumption models based on local cultures.

Meeting report

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley (Director, Interface Inc. & Green Mountain Energy, USA) and Mr. Allan Asher (Director, Campaigns and Communication, Consumers Association, UK).

In the **opening session** visions were expressed on how Implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies can be strengthened as contribution to the Johannesburg process.

Mr. Per Bakken, Deputy Director, UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), welcomed the participants on behalf of UNEP and stated that it is time to strengthen the implementation of the policies, and time that all countries join the efforts, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

“Poverty, as our Executive Director, Klaus Toepfer, once has said, is the most dangerous toxic element that threatens our planet, as it is a major cause of environmental degradation. We have to eradicate poverty. It is ‘environment for development’ that binds us together.” (Per Bakken, UNEP)

The work so far has been mainly focused on improving efficiency in the production phase, said Mr. Bakken. The gains, unfortunately, have been more than offset by increasing consumption levels and thus we need to tackle both issues simultaneously. He identified a strong need to reach out to those who are still unfamiliar with the issues. Green procurement, a firm declaration of governments that they will consume socially and environmentally responsibly, could be one of the key sectors to focus on. According to Mr. Bakken, the industrialized world has a special responsibility to take action and should also assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in joining the efforts. He referred to UNEP’s Cleaner

Production programme, which held its seventh international high-level seminar on Cleaner Production (CP7) in Prague, and added that, “producing cleaner products is one thing, selling them and mobilizing support from the public for implementing policies is another”. That is why UNEP is increasingly integrating its production and consumption work, as two sides of the same “sustainability coin”. He expected concrete outcomes of this meeting and stated that many words have already been written down. In UNEP’s view, the world does not need many new documents. The world needs action.

Ms. Anna Fielder, Director, Office for Developed and Transition Economies, Consumers International, welcomed the participants on behalf of her organization. She warned that increasing and irresponsible consumption is putting a strain on the environment by causing pollution, destroying the ecosystem and undermining lifestyles.

“The effect of the development model that the ‘North’ follows, and the ‘South’ emulates, is potentially deadly.” (Anna Fielder, Consumers International)

It is essential that governments everywhere commit themselves to an extensive and time-bound action programme, that the business sector follows the same path and that consumers learn to manage their consumption patterns in a responsible and equitable manner. Frameworks for such policies, said Ms. Fielder, already exist – in the form of Agenda 21 and the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection. We now need the will to implement them. Consumers International has many years’ history of collaborating with the UN, actively supporting and promoting the implementation of the Guidelines. We were therefore happy to embark, last year, on a successful partnership with UNEP in order to investigate the extent of the awareness and

implementation of the sustainable consumption section. Our global outreach, representing the interests of billions of global consumers, adds value to UNEP's voice as the world's global environment authority. According to Ms. Fielder not much has been done since Rio to address the degradation of the global environment. The economies of the developed countries in particular have moved further away from sustainability since 1992. Little progress has been made in reforming taxes and subsidies to make them support the right goals. Governments should engage in an overall implementation framework programme to be launched at the WSSD. The programme should include clear commitments to implement the UN Guidelines, de-coupling and the phase-out of environmentally and socially harmful subsidies. Furthermore, any progress requires the active involvement of civil society. Such an involvement is only effective if civil society can participate in decision-making supported by the right to information and justice. Governments should support and address this in all of their decisions.

Ms. Viveka Bohn, Ambassador Johannesburg Secretariat, Sweden, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). She expressed her gratitude to UNEP and CI for their efforts to organize the meeting. The idea to arrange this meeting was only discussed four weeks ago, at the 3rd preparatory meeting for the WSSD in New York. She saw a strong need to advance implementation of sustainable production and consumption policies. A clear mandate and direction for further action by governments, business, civil society and international institutions, needs to be given by the WSSD in Johannesburg. Actions are needed to address the challenges to make the supply and demand of goods and services more sustainable. It is also painfully obvious that global sustainable development cannot be achieved without dealing with the widening gaps between the rich and poor, both between and within countries. Meeting the basic needs of the poor must be a priority. De-couple economic growth from environmental degradation is essential if we are to achieve the goal of protecting our natural resources to secure a prosperous life for future generations.

According to the Human Development Report 1,7 billion people lack access to clean drinking water and 90% of urban sewage in the developing world is discarded into rivers, lakes and coastal waters

without treatment. The cost of doing something about these problems are calculated: water and sanitation for all would cost 1,1% of the military expenditure. Providing basic education for all would cost 0,7% of the US \$ 800 billion that is annually spent on military expenditures. Adding 1,9% would get basic health and nutrition for all.

"Military expenditure shows signs of increasing again. At the same time, in the shade of September 11th, it is obvious that we cannot protect our citizens with military force. We need to come to the root of the causes of conflicts" (Viveka Bohn, Sweden)

Ms. Bohn pleaded for developing product-oriented environmental policies, which are needed to prevent and reduce the negative impact on human health and the environment and to achieve efficient use of natural resources throughout the life-cycles of products. These policies are intended to give consumers a fair chance to act in an environmentally conscious way. Consumers should have access to relevant and credible information. The role of different consumer groups, such as young people and women, as well as their cultural background, needs to be taken into account. Environmental costs caused by products should be reflected in the price. She hoped that the workshop would take us a step closer to agreement on a mandate to develop a global work programme with time-bound goals, measures and indicators for measuring results.

"We need to roll up our sleeves. We live in an interdependent world towards an interdependent future. Many words have already been written down. We now need the 'spirit of Paris' to make it happen" (Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, chair)

Session I:

Promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns: towards a global work plan

De-coupling economic growth and environmental and social impacts are to be achieved by concrete and time-bound activities involving sustainable consumption and cleaner production, assisted by monitoring and feedback. Developed countries have a special responsibility to take action and should also assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in joining the efforts and grasping the opportunities arising from consumers' increasing awareness of sustainability. This first

session of the meeting explored these key approaches and concepts.

Mr. Karsten Skov, Deputy Director General, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, presented – on behalf of the European Union – a proposal for a ten year work programme on implementing sustainable consumption and production policies. The EU has launched the idea of initiating such a programme to secure and promote further work on the issue and to ensure progress in policy-making, concrete initiatives and partnerships as an outcome of the WSSD.

He observed that, ten years after Rio, significant results in the area of sustainable consumption and production were lacking. In the industrialized world there has been progress in certain sectors in terms of energy efficiency and the introduction of Cleaner Production methods. There are, however, areas with alarming trends such as climate change, chemicals in the environment, loss of biodiversity and the increase in transportation and waste volumes. In the developing world difficulties in meeting the basic needs still remain, and the transfer of cleaner technologies has not been as significant as expected. After Rio, UNEP has been a focal point for initiating a large number of programmes and projects. The work of the OECD on sustainable development included a programme on sustainable consumption. However, a new focus is needed and is underway. Projections and scenarios in a 2020-year perspective suggest that a number of critical issues need urgent attention. The objective of de-coupling has been put forward as the key challenge for sustainable consumption and production patterns and the European Union is proposing to have de-coupling as an overriding goal for the work programme.

“There is not a single country to be found that is against growth. Everyone wants growth. So the growth has to be de-coupled from environmental degradation” (Karsten Skov, Denmark)

De-coupling, as Mr. Skov explained, implies the idea of separating economic growth from an increase in environmental pressure and an increase in the use of resources. It is based on the fundamental assumption that we need to re-think the relationship between the economy and the environment. So far efficiency gains have been outweighed by an increase in total volumes of production and consumption. It is within this perspective that the

targets of factor 4 and factor 10 should be considered. It has been suggested that achieving the factor 4/factor 10 targets would imply that during the next 50 years the environmental pressure from each produced unit should be reduced by 5% annually. The process has already started with the commitments made at the 2001 joint OECD Ministerial Council Meeting. According to Mr. Skov, de-coupling is a relevant challenge for all countries, since the economic costs of environmental degradation have been estimated at 4-8% of GDP annually in many developing countries.

De-coupling will imply a move from the cleaner production perspective to a broader approach focusing on influencing macroeconomic trends through sustainable innovation policies and through capacity-building and partnerships. Environmentally benign goods and services are increasingly recognized and rewarded on the marketplace by consumers. Consumer awareness therefore has to be stimulated and supported on a continuous basis.

He suggested a number of basic elements for the global work programme. The work programme should:

- be based on existing international processes, programmes and initiatives;
- contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Goals and reverse the current trends in loss of natural resources at the global and national levels by 2015, and promote more equitable access to natural resources and consumption to meet the basic needs of all;
- identify targets, measures and indicators to gauge progress at the global, regional and national level and for relevant sectors such as energy, agriculture, transport and industry;
- focus on key areas such as material flows, including chemicals;
- establish a framework for North-South, South-South and East-West partnerships.

Social and institutional innovation is necessary, said Mr. Skov. We need changes of behaviour and an increased use of economic instruments. We need high levels of protection for our environment and nature, improved information for consumers and improved involvement of business.

Next steps would be to formulate a global work programme on implementing sustainable consumption and production policies. This is,

said Mr. Skov, a task for UNEP and the OECD, in co-operation with financial institutions, consumer organizations, business and government representatives. Such a draft programme is the basis for establishing sufficient funding for the programme. At Johannesburg world leaders need to reconfirm their commitment. At the UNEP Governing Council in 2003 a first draft of the programme could be presented.

In the discussion the question was raised concerning which underlying assumption the distinction between developed and developing countries was based. It was concluded that in this respect one could say that all countries are developing. Or, like Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, put it "maybe we should talk about developed and over-developed countries". Furthermore, participants wanted to reflect on the question of who the main driving actors for such a work programme should be: governments, business or civil society.

Mr. Ken Ruffing, Acting Director, Environment Directorate, OECD, gave an overview of the work on household consumption, focusing on trends and policies in OECD countries. De-coupling environmental pressures from economic growth is one of the five priorities of the OECD Environmental Strategy. A recent report explored 31 de-coupling indicators over the period 1980-1998 and revealed that the phenomenon was widespread (relative de-coupling) or quite common (absolute de-coupling). Further de-coupling is possible. At the economy-wide level, de-coupling can be decomposed into scale, structural and technology effects.

"Changes in consumption patterns can reduce the burden which otherwise must follow on technology-oriented policies aiming at changing production, process and disposal methods. Both governments, through green public purchasing and households can help to achieve this" (Ken Ruffing, OECD).

Mr. Ruffing predicted that environmental pressures from consumption will intensify to 2020 and that in areas such as household energy use, travel and waste generation, material and efficiency gains have been outweighed by the absolute increase in the volume of goods and services that are consumed and discarded. He presented five general policy guidelines to promote sustainable consumption:

- provide consumers with a consistent set of signals (prices and information);
- use packages of instruments;
- ensure integrated, cross-sector policies;
- use an integrated approach that addresses environmental impacts throughout the lifecycle of products or services (priority to upstream intervention which can reduce the burden on consumers);
- promote and support voluntary initiatives by private sector and civil society.

Mr. Diego Masera, Industry Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, gave an overview of sustainable consumption activities in his region, which as he stated is the most unequal society in the world. The highest 20% segment of income group earns 19 times as much as the lowest 20%. He stressed the importance of sustainable product development, based on life cycle thinking and reflecting local cultures and values. An awareness-raising workshop on Sustainable Consumption held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 2001, has spurred a number of activities, including:

- a regional network of experts on Sustainable Consumption;
- activities targeted at young people (MTV campaign in Brazil, UNEP/UNESCO questionnaire on consumption and lifestyles);
- eco-design activities in Mexico;
- education campaign in Cuba;
- a short broadcast on sustainable consumption on CNN, who has agreed to do this for free.

"Some of our activities, promoting sustainable consumption in the region, are supported by companies, who make their money with promoting unsustainable consumption" Diego Masera, (UNEP)

Mr. Christian Loewe, Federal Environmental Agency, Germany, highlighted the fact that sustainable development plays an important role in society and scientific discourse, but less in public debate and market communication. At the household level sustainable development plays a minor role in day-to-day decision-making and communication. Driving forces for more attention would include the development of environmentally sound products and the inclusion of "culture" as a dimension to sustainability. Progress could be made in four areas: integrated product policy (IPP), consumer protection, education and local Agenda 21. As essential elements of a global work

programme he mentioned dissemination-strategies, stakeholder dialogues and coherent policy frameworks, complimented by capacity building and the institutionalization of global networking.

A common theme in the discussions, as Mr. Ralph Chapman (New Zealand) observed, is the need for a culture of change. Apart from “getting the prices right” there should also be strategies formulated and implemented to influence, mobilize and make use of the “social” consciousness of consumers. There needs to be a cultural change. Furthermore, as Mr. Jeffrey Barber (Integrative Strategies Forum, USA) said, rather than changing consumption patterns worldwide, there will in many cases be a need to preserve existing, sustainable patterns, which are threatened with disappearance under the influence of the global media. The media should apply corporate social responsibility programmes just as so many other businesses have done.

Session II:

National and regional implementation of UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection and integrated product policies

In this session the UNEP/CI status report on the implementation of the UN Guidelines was presented, followed by national and regional case studies. What has been done so far and what are priorities for an integrated implementation of sustainable consumption and cleaner production policies.

Mr. Bas de Leeuw, Co-ordinator, Sustainable Consumption Programme, UNEP, and **Mr. Bjarne Pedersen**, Senior Policy Officer, Consumers International, presented the upcoming publication “Tracking Progress: Implementing Sustainable Consumption Policies”, which is the report of a joint UNEP/CI survey on the status of the implementation of the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, sustainable consumption section, as adopted by the General Assembly in 1999.

UNEP’s sustainable consumption work is aimed at influencing production and consumption patterns in order to create “space for consumption” for all, as Mr. de Leeuw said. Examining underlying driving factors for consumption enables the identification of obstacles and opportunities for change. These findings are used by UNEP to help business improve products and services, to assist governments in

modernizing infrastructure and policy frameworks and to empower consumer groups and other non-governmental organizations to raise awareness and promote dialogue and the reflection of consumers about the relationship between their (material) consumption and quality of life.

“Results are highly needed, since only a change of our current production and consumption patterns will enable the world’s community to create the space for consumption for those most in need. Everybody a consumer, that is the challenge for the years to come” (Bas de Leeuw, UNEP)

The guidelines offer governments guidance on a mix of policies (regulation, economic instruments and social instruments), research on consumer behaviour, life-cycle design of products and services, environmental testing, green procurement and indicators to measure progress towards sustainable consumption at all levels. In partnership with Consumers International a questionnaire was sent to all governments, followed up by face-to face interviews. More than 51 governments – half of these were developing countries and countries with economies in transition – responded and eight national case studies were collected (Australia, Brazil, People’s Republic of China, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mauritius and Senegal).

As Bjarne Pedersen continued, Consumers International represents consumer groups and agencies all over the world, with a membership of over 250 organizations in 115 countries. The survey results included that 38% of all governments had not even been aware of the existence of the guidelines until the questionnaire was received. Government responses however indicated a strong interest and willingness to learn more about the ways to implement them. The majority (80%) of the responding governments stated that the guidelines are useful for policy-making, with only a minority requesting modifications. Only 52% however had monitored the national implementation of the guidelines themselves. He quoted a response of the Slovak Republic who stated, “we just want to say that we like the co-operation between UNEP and CI and would be happy if it could focus on concrete cases and studies. We would like to be a part of these activities”. Mr. Pedersen also presented the survey results on research, product testing, regulatory mechanisms, economic instruments, recycling, product policies, green procurement and measuring progress.

“Half full or half empty? Almost 50% of the responding governments have so far not specifically measured progress towards sustainable consumption.”
(Bjarne Pedersen, Consumers International)

Mr. de Leeuw called it a sign of hope that governments, in developed and developing countries and economies in transition, are interested and willing to implement. He found it encouraging that so many government officials are asking for information, training, good examples and advice, and he explained the UNEP/CI proposed partnership project to meet these needs through a three-year capacity-building programme. At present the survey is already a success, because it has increased awareness about the existence to a high degree, and it has furthermore brought government officials and consumer groups to work together. Recommendations in keywords include:

- raising awareness is essential;
- there is no need to modify;
- monitoring efforts must be upgraded;
- sustainable consumption information campaigns must be expanded;
- all countries need support.

Mr. de Leeuw quoted the government of Haiti, who has responded: “We sincerely hope that UNEP will be able to support the Ministry of Environment to reinforce its capacities in the field of sustainable consumption. We also hope that executives of the Ministry will be able to take part in future activities including possible training courses and other activities relating to the promotion of sustainable consumption.”

The report will be launched at PrepComIV, Bali, June 3rd, 2002.

Mr. Bethmahe Ruchira Lasanthi Perera, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, presented national experiences in implementing sustainable consumption and production policies. There have been significant policy developments towards Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption within the last decade. Examples include pollution management, identifying disposal sites, pollution prevention at the source, polluter pays principle and stakeholder interaction.

“Due to a lack of access to pollution related information, potential dangers of current consumption patterns across the entire society are not well known.”

This is an area which requires the immediate attention of policy makers and donor agencies” (Bethmahe Ruchira Lasanthi Perera, Sri Lanka)

A Sri Lanka National Cleaner Production Centre has been established, with the Ministry of Industrial Development being the implementing agency. An Organic Product Promotion Programme is set up to promote environmental conservation through economic development and poverty alleviation. In the long term it is expected to change consumption patterns and create a market for organic products. Planned activities include developing organic certification standards, establishing organic products export villages, developing model organic farms, training programmes for farmers and inspectors and awareness programmes for civil society groups. The efforts of NGOs have also provided, according Mr. Perera, some degree of satisfactory results. Sri Lanka has numerous programmes and initiatives in place to monitor implementation, such as industrial pollution reduction programmes, energy management and energy audit programmes. Some success has been achieved; the availability of information is the most problematic area. Capacity building activities are highly necessary.

The Polish approach to environmental policy, said **Mr. Jacek Jaskiewicz** (Adviser to the Minister of Environment, Poland), includes the problems of sustainable consumption and production. He presented the “National Strategy for Sustainable Development – Poland 2025”, which includes sustainable development as leading principle and holds measures to implement the precautionary principle, an integrating of environmental policy into sectoral policies and equal access to the natural environment.

“We want a limitation of the consumption pressure on the environment” (Jacek Jaskiewicz, Poland)

Practical steps that Poland is setting include developing an implementation plan, harmonizing Polish environmental laws with the EU, developing a system of voluntary initiatives, establishing a National Cleaner Production Centre, developing education programmes and a number of new acts (for example on packaging regulations).

Ms. Jo Kumala Dewi, International Environmental Analysis Department, Indonesia, said that Indonesia was aware of the Guidelines – because it had

received the information from UNEP – and considers these very useful for policy-making. However, it needs further planning and action to fully implement them. The guidelines do not need to be modified, but additional clauses might be considered, related to the role of mass media and to the goal of preserving existing traditional life-styles. Like in other developing countries, sustainable consumption and production is less socialized than in developed countries. This is due to the ignorance of the less educated and the low level of income of the population, which necessitates the government or other parties being more focused on improving the economic welfare of society, rather than coping with sustainable development issues. Among the sections of the Guidelines Indonesia has started to implement are economic instruments, information campaigns, re-use and recycling schemes and a sustainable forest certification programme. Traditional markets, disappearing due to supermarkets, have much better conditions for such recycling practices.

“We have to find ways to promote and facilitate the existence of traditional life-styles that could support sustainable consumption and production patterns” (Jo Kumala Dewi, Indonesia).

An eco-labelling scheme has been started as well. The implementation of Cleaner Production practices began in 1995. Almost all companies at least know about the programme and some big companies have started to implement. Indonesia is interested in green procurement (waste separation, good governance), but faces difficulties in finding suppliers and information. For the future there is a need to raise awareness, improve co-operation with consumer groups and the private sector, promote traditional life-styles and strengthen partnerships.

Mr. Antero Honkasalo, Director, Environmental Protection Trade & Industry, Finland, highlighted the role of the information society. One of the key areas of its Environmental Cluster Research Programme is sustainable development and the information society. The subjects covered are life-styles and cultural changes, consumption patterns and consumer networking. The Finnish information and communication industry has supported the approach. The interface between their products and Finnish society is considered important, especially the relationship between people’s way of life, consumer habits and information and technology products. A national innovation system should

ensure both a high level of environmental protection and a strong data technology expertise. He stressed the importance of integrated product policies (IPP), based on the life-cycle approach and market orientation.

“The main responsibility for the improvement of existing products and the development of new products lies with the companies manufacturing products. Society can support this development by means of innovation policy” (Antero Honkasalo, Finland).

Mr. Honkasalo furthermore gave an overview of Finland’s activities on regulations (including extended producer responsibility), eco-labelling (Nordic Swan and EU environmental label), product testing and product information. The Finnish Consumer Agency has a website for consumers and the Ministry of Environment has internet-pages targeted at citizens and consumers who wish to make environmentally responsible choices. Finland has initiated the foundation of a product panel for textiles, in which participants (from industry, trade, government and research) try to find ways to promote environmentally responsible production and consumption of textiles and clothes.

Mr. Stefan Larenas, Consumers International, Regional Office for Latin America, Chile, provided an update on the sustainable consumption activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the dissemination of a toolkit, education programme, eco-labelling schemes, product claims and the training of consumer organizations in Cuba, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. He stressed that the Guidelines have been very helpful in creating the necessary frameworks for action and should be implemented more widely in order to increase support for achieving the goals of sustainable consumption. Concrete indicators and monitoring are needed.

“When we started we believed that we were in ‘no-man’s-land’, because only a few people knew about the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection. Now we need a framework for going forward” (Stefan Larenas, Consumers International)

Mr. Larenas also presented, on behalf of **Ms. Alejandra Arratia Martinez**, Chilean National Consumer Service, the case-study of Chile, which has revealed a lack of co-ordination and information between the different agencies. Furthermore, there

is no instrument for an internalization of the environment cost regarding consumption. The main thing that is needed is training and advise on how to involve civil society. Chile considers it important to implement each of the Guidelines according to the specific possibilities of each country.

“More high-level coverage of Sustainable Consumption and the UN Guidelines is needed.”
(Alejandra Arratia Martinez, Chile)

Ms. Afifa Raihana, President of “Striving Towards Environmental Protection”, Bangladesh, commented on UNEP’s statement that “poverty is the most toxic element” by saying that poverty has some bright sides as well. Developed countries now seem to strive back to where we, developing countries, are. The “throw-away” society does not exist in Bangladesh. And in Bangladesh virtually everything can be repaired.

“We do not throw anything away. In Bangladesh everything is recycled. We cannot think of buying something and throw it out. Even refrigerators are used as boxes when they don’t run anymore. In developed countries every apple is wrapped in plastic. In Bangladesh we do not have the money nor the technology to do that.” (Afifa Raihana, Bangladesh)

Ms. Raihana, who is involved in UNEP’s Youth Advisory Council, stated that many young people seem to think that everything is well-managed in developed countries, but that she felt that they have more to learn from youth in developing countries than vice versa. She mentioned the need to also focus on corruption and the ways consumption patterns are influenced by bad governance, as well as on the effects of war and the post-war build up phase. She called for attention to the actual follow-up of multilateral agreements, protocols and treaties after their signature. Poor people do not need more signatures. They need good governance. For PrepComIV she recommended a short, simple and practical paper.

The discussion focused on the relationship between sustainable consumption and production policies and trade policies. Global trade rules are not conducive with sustainable development. Ms. Jeanette Ndhiovu (South Africa) highlighted the new partnership initiative for Africa (NEPAD), promoting good governance and fighting corruption. Africa is putting something on the table for the world – clean air and bio-diversity – and is

seeking partnerships. She criticized transnational companies who do not practice what they preach when they operate in developing countries.

The need to efficiently influence the process in Bali and Johannesburg to strengthen a manageable implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns was stressed by Mr. Amena Yauvoli (Fiji). He was pleased with the examples of economic and regulatory instruments as mentioned by Poland and Finland and expressed a need to maybe “borrow their models”.

Allan Asher, chair of this session, summarized the discussion by observing that much of what has been said is similar to what other forums have done as well. However, the chemistry of this meeting is bringing new dimensions together, which might take the debate further. The meeting should emphasize existing agreements and urge their execution, particularly the UN Guidelines, which were unanimously accepted by the General Assembly in 1999.

“Let us be looking at existing documents and existing commitments, rather than inventing new language. Just do it, chaps!” (Allan Asher, chair).

Session III:

On the road to Bali and Johannesburg

This session provided an overview of the current status of discussions on the intergovernmental process (“type I” outcomes of WSSD) and the partnership projects (“type II”), sustainable consumption and production elements in the PrepCom chairman’s paper and agenda for Bali and Johannesburg. Priorities, focus areas and information needs were discussed as well as networking and national coalition prospects.

Ms. Chikako Takase, United Nations Division for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) presented an overview of the current status of discussions of the Johannesburg process. Expected outcomes of the WSSD are:

- type I: a political declaration and a programme of action;
- type II: partnership initiatives.

The PrepComII meeting held in New York, 28 January – 8 February 8, 2002, has considered the

documents “Implementing Agenda 21” and “List of Issues and Proposals for Discussion”. Furthermore the Chairman’s Paper was presented, including “A Journey of Hope” and summaries of the Second Preparatory Session as well as the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Segment. In PrepComIII (held in New York, 25 March – 5 April, 2002) the delegates considered the Chairman’s Paper and negotiated on the basis of a “Compilation Text”. A “Chairman’s Revised Text for Negotiation” – under revision at the time of the Paris workshop – could include the following elements:

- changing consumption and production patterns
- energy
- transport
- waste
- chemicals and hazardous waste

Ms. Takase highlighted the importance of three guiding principles:

- the emphasis of the chairman’s paper must be on producing a workable and doable program that must learn from the experiences of the last decade, Rio+10;
- we must be able to work together in areas of commonality that bridge the differences between North and South, East and West;
- facing a turbulent world in this current decade, in these Preparatory Meetings we must be successful in drawing the map for a journey of hope to reach for the goal of a world without poverty in a humane and liveable environment.

She then explained the importance of the “type II” partnerships by saying that those are partnerships and initiatives that reflect commitments and action-oriented coalitions focused on deliverables. They would contribute in translating political commitments into concrete actions and specific initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21.

“Type II partnerships will not be negotiated by all, but only by those directly involved.” (Chikako Takase, UN DESA)

Ms. Takase mentioned that until now only one partnership on sustainable consumption and production patterns was proposed: a capacity building project by UNEP, with inputs from UNIDO and UNESCO, in partnership with Consumers

International, a small group of “most interested” governments, National Cleaner Production Centres and others. The draft proposal is to be found on the official WSSD website (www.johannesburgsummit.org).

According to **Ms. Jeanette Ndhlovu**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN, Johannesburg has to become a turning point in human development. WSSD has to be a summit of implementation. And the summit has to be followed by an “implementation decade”.

“Most of what the international community has promised to do in Rio, has not been implemented.” (Jeanette Ndhlovu, South-Africa)

Eradication of poverty should be the overarching goal. The summit should focus on concrete, time-bound targets to improve access to water, energy, education, health services, technology and increased food safety. There should also be a focus on the environmental agenda, ratifying existing conventions such as the ones on desertification and the Rotterdam Prior Informed Consent. She highlighted the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) that will promote good governance and combat corruption – essential building blocks for sustainable development in Africa.

Education, and an active private sector and civil society, should, according to Ms. Ndhlovu, be elements of an international campaign to fight global poverty, inequalities and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Clear targets and deliverables as well as monitoring mechanisms are vital for success.

Mr. Tzvetan Spassov, Youth Adviser for Europe and WSSD Youth Representative, Bulgaria, presented the activities on sustainable consumption of UNEP’s Youth Advisory Council, a network of 12 youth leaders working closely with UNEP and supporting the organization in enhancing environmental awareness of young people worldwide. Several meetings, training sessions, a handbook, a joint UNEP/UNESCO research project and a Global Youth Forum, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2002, were among the activities. The Global Youth Vision on Sustainable Consumption wants to empower youth to make individual life-

style choices to reduce consumption and resist media campaigns that promote excessive consumption. It also recognizes the consumer power of youth and promotes the responsible use of its buying power to support the purchase of fair trade products.

“Youth is ready to reduce its ecological footprints.”
(Tzvetan Spassov, UNEP YAC)

In Bulgaria, Mr. Spassov added, there is corruption, a lack of resources and co-ordination and communication between institutions, and no recognition of existing documents. A Bulgarian Sustainable Consumption Working Group has been established to mobilize the political process and to develop and monitor the implementation of a national strategy, as part of UNEP’s outreach programme Sustainable Consumption Opportunities for Europe (SCOPE). He said that he had personally made sure that the Minister of Environment was aware of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection and the upcoming Bali meeting. The Bulgarian National Commission for Sustainable Development, created in 1996, had according Mr. Spassov, never met, but due to his lobbying will now meet for the first time in June this year.

UNEP’s SCOPE programme was further explained by **Ms. Rie Tsutsumi**, UNEP, Regional Office for Europe, Geneva. The mission is to promote opportunities for all in Europe, especially for governments, business and citizens in transition countries, from sustainable consumption through:

- creating awareness and debate;
- establishing national stakeholder coalitions;
- promoting regional consensus.

Opportunities for governments are reaching a more efficient and profitable economy and more satisfied citizens. Industry benefits from more efficient and profitable production (by waste minimization and reduction of production costs) and a better relationship with customers. Consumers will be able to consume better products and services. Citizens and society will see nature better-protected, a cleaner environment and better health. National workshops have been held in Bulgaria, Estonia and Yugoslavia. Hungary, Poland, UK, and other European countries will follow.

“An important element of our work includes identifying how existing knowledge, expertise and experiences in the region can be used” (Rie Tsutsumi, UNEP).

Mr. Patrick Rabe, European Commission, stated that the Commission does not have specific sustainable consumption and production policies in place. He outlined three key areas with relevant activities:

- EU labelling-schemes, including making developing countries aware and increase their market access to European countries;
- EMAS (Environmental Management and Accounting System), which is additional to ISO programmes and requires industry to conduct consultations, report and comply with national laws;
- IPP (Integrated Product Policy). This strategy focuses on the phases of product choice, product use and product disposal.

He stated that there seems to be not enough political will at a high level to pursue sustainable development, therefore mobilizing support will be the main task for the WSSD. In order to achieve tangible results we should “get the prices right” and make IPP work in a global context. Mr. Rabe congratulated UNEP with the organization of the event and recommended to also bringing in UNDP, UNIDO and ILO, in order to increase the social element of sustainable consumption and production.

The discussion focused on how the meeting could help the WSSD process to achieve clear and concrete outcomes. Mr. Santiago Wins (Uruguay Mission to the UN) suggested including the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection in the WSSD Programme of Action. Mr. Mame Baba Cisse (Senegal Mission to the UN) suggested clarification of the issue of the decision-making process of the proposed ten-year work programme. Who will outline the work programme, by when, and what will happen between now and Johannesburg? Mr. Ariel Gustavo Carbajal (Argentina) emphasized UN Guideline 44, with recommendations on a whole range of governmental policies (especially regulatory). Ms. Helen Agren (Sweden) commented by referring to the EU proposal and added that there should indeed be a clear timetable. Identifying next steps and responsibilities for the process should be achieved in Johannesburg.

Session IV:

Building a global work programme on implementing sustainable consumption and production policies

Participants worked in groups to identify key elements for ways forward in building a global work programme for implementing sustainable consumption and production policies, including capacity building.

The **first group** recommended that care should be taken with difficult and technical wording (such as “de-coupling”) and proposed as an overall goal for the working programme: “Eradicate poverty by changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, allowing the poor to get access to products, services, information and technology”. In other words: “increase consumption and production in such a way that it does not contradict with sustainable development”.

Obstacles for achieving this goal include:

- a coherent and integrated sustainable consumption policy approach does not exist;
- market failures (prices that do not reflect environmental and social costs, subsidies that promote unsustainable activities);
- a lack of political will;
- a lack of proper international governance;
- national governments do not sufficiently implement the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection;
- a lack of technology transfer and capacity building;
- a lack of partnerships;
- unsustainable patterns of consumption from the North are copied to the South;
- there are different challenges for developing countries (capacity building) and developed countries (de-coupling).

The group proposed ten key actions:

- 1 improve access to technology and information;
- 2 decrease unsustainable subsidies;
- 3 integrate the concept of sustainable consumption and production policies in ministries and agencies (including those for Finance and Economic Affairs);
- 4 promote product testing and labelling;
- 5 strengthen consumer organizations;
- 6 implement the UN Guidelines for Consumer

Protection, section sustainable consumption. Set a clear date, for instance 2004 (which is five years after the endorsement of the General Assembly Decision);

- 7 promote a better understanding of integrated product policies, product chain responsibility and life-cycle thinking (including promotion of national product panels);
- 8 “get the prices right”: internalise costs on international level;
- 9 link the work programme with the International Labour Organization (ILO) activities on promoting the creation of decent jobs;
- 10 make sure there is compliance with existing regulations.

The group recommended a joint outreach activity of consumer organizations, governments, companies, UN institutions and, most importantly, the participants of the Paris workshop themselves.

“We, ourselves, have to be the ambassadors for change from now to Bali and Johannesburg.” (Saskia Werners, Netherlands)

According to the **first group**, in Johannesburg a task force should be established to develop a global work programme. A number of concrete actions should be carried out as well.

The second group had identified the following barriers to change:

- lack of information about sustainable consumption and production patterns, on which solid policies could be based;
- short-term planning policy making;
- lack of political will;
- predominant model for development supports increased consumption;
- deficit in governance (corruption etc.);
- lack of cohesion in policy making and implementation;
- lack of coherent institutional structure and coherent tools;
- lack of proper focus on the demand side issues.

Resulting from these obstacles, the group then identified six solutions:

- 1 Political will: Deal with the obstacles in an open and transparent way, including all stakeholders. There is also a need for public awareness-raising in order to get sustainable consumption and

production on the agenda in policy-making processes. Build partnerships for change and apply a differentiated approach in relation to developing and developed countries;

- 2 Information: Better information dissemination is required – targeted, specific and based on recognition that “one size does not fit all”. Improved implementation of the UN Guidelines is a specific measure that would facilitate this.
- 3 New market: Transforming the predominant model for development, which implies increased consumption. A number of tools are available, using market forces and economic tools, including the “informal market”. Encourage debate on different kinds of wealth. The ten-year work programme should deliver alternatives to and transform the current models;
- 4 Governance: The ten-year work programme should focus on the links to capacity- building, introduce new partnerships, promote transparency, openness and attention to corruption;
- 5 Cohesion in policy-making and implementation: The ten-year work programme should link the issues of trade and other areas with clear reference to integrated national policy frameworks;
- 6 Demand side issues: Sequencing and coherence of policies is crucial to address the lack of attention to demand side issues. Therefore outcomes of a ten-year work programme should be clearly related to the demand side. Internalization of costs is crucial, and so is establishing support structures for consumers to enable change. Green procurement is crucial as well. Governments should use their consumption patterns to drive the demand side of the market.

In the following discussion between the two groups it was quickly decided to merge the two sets of actions. As some observed, many of the proposed actions are in fact already agreed to in the various forums and Agenda 21. The main message has to be that so far these have not been implemented and that they should be implemented. Johannesburg, rather than coming up with new actions, should concentrate on the mechanisms for implementation. As Ms. Pernille Soerensen (Denmark) added, the new element should be the setting of goals, targets and measuring and monitoring. A solid ten-year work programme, including monitoring, was seen as a crucial condition to achieve results. One participant objected to too specific a reference to the ILO and wanted to broaden the scope of that

proposed action to include social elements of sustainable consumption and production, assisted by the relevant international organizations.

The meeting then discussed how to merge the two lists of actions, which resulted in the following five main priorities, preceded by a general statement on political will and general message:

- 1 getting the prices right, abolish unsustainable subsidies;
- 2 integrated approach of production and consumption policies;
- 3 governance, co-operation international organizations and implementation of UN Guidelines (by 2004);
- 4 information and awareness of consumers and civil society;
- 5 capacity-building and training activities, for both the North and the South, including type II partnerships. A first “work in progress” report should be delivered by 2003.

It was stated that the so-called “type II” partnerships will probably have the best chance of achieving tangible results in the short term. Participants also stressed the importance of referring to existing policies, to learn from successful programmes, to include firm goals and targets for developed countries, to focus on capacity building for developing countries, to use indicators and to include other stakeholders, such as local governments and the scientific community. Pilot programmes on new production and consumption models should be tested after which lessons learnt could be included in other forums. Furthermore, the need was identified to establish a training and networking centre which could assist in the transfer of ideas and new models of production and consumption.

Session V:

Key messages to WSSD

This session provided a summary of the two-day discussion, and insights from the participants. A draft chair’s summary was presented and discussed. Concrete follow-up activities were identified.

A “pre-view” of the chair’s summary was distributed, which called for “a strong political will” to be expressed in Johannesburg, to “strengthen the implementation of sustainable consumption and

production policies in an open and transparent way". Its key message was that poverty has to be eradicated to ensure that those most in need get access to products, services (including health and education), information and technology. The five main points for action were: an international initiative to get the prices right by internalization of environmental and social costs and eliminating unsustainable subsidies; improving understanding and implementation of an integrated approach to production and consumption policies, based on life-cycle thinking; improving governance at the national, regional and international level; stepping up information and awareness campaigns; and monitoring the implementation of a work programme with targets and indicators. The next steps, according to the draft summary, should be that in Johannesburg a task force is established to develop a work programme with aims and process

steps, to be discussed at UNEP's Governing Council in 2003 and at a "CSD11" meeting.

In the discussion the element of "quality of life" was added to the key message. Furthermore, an action point was added to carry out pilot projects to experiment with new models of production and consumption.

After the meeting, a small drafting committee consisting of Dianne Dillon-Ridgley (chair), Allan Asher (chair), Helen Agren (Sweden), Pernille Soerensen (Denmark), Marjo Nummelin (Finland), Bjarne Pedersen (Consumers International), Anna Fielder (Consumers International), Ms. Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel (UNEP), Mr. Fritz Balkau (UNEP) and Bas de Leeuw (UNEP), incorporated those comments into a final version of the chair's summary, as follows (copied in chapter 2 of this report):

Chair's summary

World leaders gathering at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg have to express a strong political will to strengthen the implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies, to be formulated and implemented in an open and transparent way – involving all countries and all stakeholders.

Key message:

Sustainable consumption and production is needed to:

- improve quality of life, particularly for those in need, and provide the basic needs for all, including access to food, shelter, health and education services;
- de-couple economic growth from environmental degradation to secure development while maintaining the carrying capacity of eco-systems.

Five main points for action:

- 1 Launch a ten-year work programme on implementing sustainable consumption and production patterns, including targets and indicators. Monitor the implementation of the work programme, including both intergovernmental commitments and partnership initiatives;
- 2 Improve understanding and implementation of an integrated approach of sustainable consumption and cleaner production, based on life-cycle thinking, and including capacity

building and technology co-operation. In this respect implement the recommendations of UNEP's 7th International High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production, held in Prague, April, 2002;

- 3 Improve governance and collaboration at all levels. At the international level better co-operation between international organizations. At regional, national and local levels better implementation of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (by 2004), capacity building, new partnerships, transparency, cohesion in policy-making and attention to corruption;
- 4 Strengthen international initiatives to get the prices right by internalization of environmental and social costs and by elimination of unsustainable subsidies;
- 5 Step up information and awareness campaigns directed to consumers and public world-wide: targeted, specific and tailored.

Proposals for next steps:

1. The World Summit on Sustainable Development should recommend that UNEP's Governing Council, at its next session, examine a proposal for a ten-year work programme with goals and targets and guidance on the organization of the work, with progress of implementation of the programme to be regularly presented to the CSD.
2. Governments and the private sector should initiate pilot projects for new production and consumption models based on local cultures.

The chair, Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, reminded the participants in the closing session about the “spirit of Paris” which she had witnessed, and stressed the importance of bringing the message to all personal networks.

Mr. Bas de Leeuw, UNEP, announced that the chair’s paper would be finalized before May 17th, 2002. He mentioned the various contact persons who are ready to answer queries from participants and other interested parties, regarding either the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection survey or the ways to bring the message of this Paris workshop to Bali and mobilize support. UNEP DTIE’s office in Paris can be contacted (sc@unep.fr) as well as the various UNEP Regional Offices. The Consumers International offices worldwide are ready to assist as well. All participants of the meeting will receive an e-mail version of the meeting report of this meeting before Bali. Mr de Leeuw stressed, however, that informing others about the outcomes could start right after the meeting, since the preview of the chair’s summary was already distributed and participants had already received background material.

Mr. Bjarne Pedersen, Consumers International, announced that the outcomes of the meeting will be incorporated in the planned side-event on the 3rd of June in Bali, launching the UNEP/CI UN Guidelines survey. He saw more possibilities to spread the news through the multi-stakeholder dialogue and through alerting the various caucuses (including youth, women).

Ms. Pernille Soerensen, Denmark, informed the participants that the Nordic countries are considering organizing a side-event in Bali to present the outcomes of the meeting. A Ministerial Forum on the issue is also under consideration. She expressed her gratitude to UNEP and Consumers International for organizing the event.

Mr. Fritz Balkau, Head, Production and Consumption Branch, UNEP, thanked and congratulated the participants on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Klaus Toepfer, and on behalf of Ms. Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere, Assistant Executive Director and Director of UNEP’s Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). He was satisfied with the concrete outcomes, which, as he said, the world community has been looking for over recent years.

“The results of this meeting will move us from the stages of rhetoric to action.” (Fritz Balkau, UNEP)

Appendix 1: Agenda of the meeting

6 May 2002

8:30

Registration and coffee

9:30 Opening

Opening Session

Visions on how Implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies can be strengthened as contribution to the Johannesburg process.

Introduction and Welcome:

Mr. Per Bakken, Deputy Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP

Ms. Anna Fielder, Director, Office for Developed and Transition Economies, Consumers International

Ms. Viveka Bohn, Ambassador Johannesburg Secretariat, Sweden

Introduction of participants, organization of the work and adoption of agenda

Chairpersons:

Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, Director, Interface Inc. & Green Mountain Energy, USA, and **Mr. Allan Asher**, Director, Campaigns and Communication, Consumers Association, UK

10:30 Session 1

Promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns: towards a global work plan

De-coupling economic growth and environmental and social impacts are to be achieved by concrete and time-bound activities involving sustainable consumption and cleaner production, assisted by monitoring and feedback. Developed countries have a special responsibility to take action and should also assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in joining the efforts and grasping the opportunities, arising from increasing awareness of consumers about sustainability.

Chairperson:

Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley

Introductory Remarks (20 minutes):

Mr. Karsten Skov, Deputy Director General, Danish Environmental Protection Agency

11:00

Coffee

11:30 Session 1 ctd. *Key note address (20 minutes):*
Mr. Ken Ruffing, Acting Director, Environment Directorate, OECD

Panellists (10 minutes presentations):
Mr. Diego Masera, Industry Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean, Mexico
Mr. Christian Loewe, Federal Environment Agency, Germany

Discussion

13:00 **Lunch**

14:00 Session 2 **National and regional implementation of UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection and integrated product policies**
 Presentation of UNEP/CI status report and national and regional case studies. Report of outcomes of UNEP's seventh High Level Seminar on Cleaner Production. What has been done so far and what are priorities for an integrated implementation of sustainable consumption and cleaner production policies.

Chairperson:
Mr Allan Asher

Introductory remarks (20 minutes):
Mr Bas de Leeuw, Coordinator, UNEP, and **Mr. Bjarne Pedersen**, Senior Policy Officer, Consumers International

Panellists (10 minutes presentations):
Mr. Bethmahe Ruchira Lasanthi Perera, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
Mr. Jacek Jaskiewicz, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Poland
Ms. Jo Kumala Dewi, International Environmental Analysis, Indonesia

Discussion

15:30 **Coffee**

16:00 Session 2 ctd. **Mr. Antero Honkasalo**, Director, Environmental Protection in Trade & Industry, Ministry of Environment, Finland
Mr. Stefan Larenas, Consumers International, Regional Office for Latin America, Chile
Ms. Alejandra Arratia Martinez, National Consumer Service, Chile
Ms. Afifa Raihana, Striving Towards Environmental Protection, Bangladesh

Discussion

17:30 **Wrap up first day**

Chairperson:
Mr. Allan Asher

18:00 **Champagne cocktail hosted by the government of Finland**

7 May 2002

9:00 Session 3

On the road to Bali and Johannesburg

Overview of current status of discussions on “type I” and “type II” process, sustainable consumption and production elements in PrepCom chairman’s paper and agenda for Bali and Johannesburg. Priorities, focus areas and information needs. Networking and national coalition prospects.

Chairperson:

Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley

Introductory Remarks (20 minutes):

Ms. Chikako Takase, United Nations/Division for Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)

Panellists (10 minutes presentations):

Ms. Jeanette Ndhlovu, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission to the UN, South Africa

Mr. Tzvetan Spassov, Youth Adviser for Europe, WSSD Youth Representative, Bulgaria

Ms Rie Tsutsumi, Programme Officer, UNEP, Regional Office for Europe, Geneva

Mr. Patrick Rabe, Environment Directorate, European Commission

Discussion and introduction of group work

11:00

Coffee

11:30 Session 4

Building a global work plan on implementing sustainable consumption and production policies

Participants will identify:

- elements for global work plan on implementing sustainable consumption and production policies;
- issues to address in capacity building programme for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Themes of work groups are tentative; alternative or additional groups or themes can be identified on basis of status of discussions.

Group A: Elements global work plan

Moderator: Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley

Group B: Capacity building programme

Moderator: Mr. Allan Asher

13:00

Lunch

14:00 Session 4 ctd.

Group presentations**Discussion**

15:30

Coffee

16:00 Session 5

Key messages to WSSD

Chairperson: Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley

Summary of the 2-days' discussions and insights from the different stakeholders.

Open discussion to identify elements for chairman's summary:

- overview of opportunities for strengthening implementation sustainable consumption and production policies;
- tentative list of elements for global work plan: goals, sectors, key areas;
- tentative list of gaps in knowledge and skills to be addressed in capacity building programme

Discussion

17:00 Closing

Closing session

Concluding remarks, follow up actions, comments and suggestions participants

Chairperson:

Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley

Mr Bas de Leeuw, Coordinator, UNEP

Mr. Bjarne Pedersen, Senior Policy Officer, Consumers International

Ms. Pernille Soerensen, Head of Section, Environmental Protection Agency, Denmark

Mr. Fritz Balkau, Head, Production and Consumption Branch, UNEP

17:30

End of meeting

Appendix 2: List of participants

Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social

Mr. Ariel Gustavo Carbajal
Director de Tecnologia, Procesos y Servicios Ambientales
San Martin 459
Buenos Aires
Argentina
E-mail: Acarbajal@medioambiente.gov.ar
Tel: 54 11 4348 8273
Fax: 54 11 4348 8592

Embassy of Australia in France

Ms. Elizabeth Ambrose
Research Assistant
4 rue Jean Rey
75724 Paris Cedex 15
Australia / France
E-mail: elizabeth.ambrose@dfat.gov.au
Tel: 33 1 40 59 33 38
Fax: 33 1 40 59 34 16

Striving Towards Environmental Protection (STEP)

Ms. Afifa Raihana
President / UNEP Associate Youth Adviser for Asia and the Pacific
House 28, Road 8, Sector 3, Uttara
Dhaka-1230
Bangladesh
E-mail: step@dhaka.agni.com
Tel: 880 2 891 59 28
Fax: 880 2 980 18 82

European Commission

Mr. Patrick Rabe
Administrator, Environment Directorate General
rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium
E-mail: patrick.rabe@cec.eu.int
Tel: 32 2 299 24 39
Fax: 32 2 296 9558

Brazil Embassy in France

Mr. Orlando Scalfo
First Secretary, Political Affairs
34 cours Albert 1er
75008 Paris
Brazil / France
E-mail: scalfo@bresil.org
Tel: 33 1 45 61 82 70
Fax: 33 1 45 61 63 00

UNEP Youth Advisory Council

Mr. Tzvetan Spassov
Youth Adviser for Europe
10 Narodno Sabranie Sq., room 302
1000 Sofia
Bulgaria
E-mail: tpassov@icon.bg / naunyc@scas.acad.bg
Tel: 359 88 24 04 74
Fax: 359 2 987 22 85

Servicio Nacional del Consumidor

Ms. Alejandra Arratia Martinez
Jefa de Gabinete Direccion Nacional
Teatinos 120, Piso 11, Of.26
Santiago
Chile
E-mail: aarratia@sernac.cl
Tel: 56 2 351 9513
Fax: 56 2 671 8095

Consumers International

Mr. Stefan Larenas
Environment Officer
Las Hortensias
2371 Santiago
Chile
E-mail: stefanl@consint.cl
Tel: 56 2 3351695
Fax: 56 22310773

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning

Ms. Nevenka Preradovic
Senior Adviser, Economic Incentives Dept, Division of General Env. Policy
Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb
Croatia
E-mail: nevenka.preradovic@duzo.tel.hr /
nevenka.preradovic@mzopu.hr
Tel: 385 1 610 65 69
Fax: 385 1 611 20 73

Ministry of Environment – Environmental Strategy Dept

Mr. Dagmar Sucharovova
Deputy Director
Vrsoviccka 65
100 10 Prague 10-Vrsovice
Czech Republic
E-mail: dagmar_sucharovova@env.cz
Tel: 4202 6712 2784
Fax: 4202 6731 0340

UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Mr. Diego Masera
Regional Co-ordinator, Industry Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean
Blvd.de Los Virreyes 155 – Lomas de Virreyes
CP 11000 Mexico
D.F. Mexico
E-mail: dmasera@rolac.unep.mx
Tel: 52 5202 4841 / 52 5202 6394 ext. 514
Fax: 52 5202 0950

Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Nis Christensen
Head of Section
Strandgade 29
1401 Copenhagen K
Denmark
E-mail: Nic@mst.dk
Tel: 45 3266 0100
Fax: 45 3257 6265

Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Karsten Skov
Deputy Director General
Miljoministeriet, Miljostyrelsen, Strandgade 29
1401 København K.
Denmark
E-mail: kas@mst.dk
Tel: 45 32 66 04 80
Fax: 45 32 66 04 25

Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Pernille Soerensen
Head of Section
Strandgade 29
1401 København.k
Denmark
E-mail: ps@MST.DK
Tel: 45 32 66 02 30
Fax: 45 32 57 35 77

Ministerio del Ambiente del Ecuador

Ms. Irma Suarez G.
Coordinadora Nacional Proceso Produccion mas Limpia
av. Amazonas y av. Eloy Alfaro Edif. Mag. 7mo Piso
Ecuador
E-mail: isuarez@ambiente.gov.ec
Tel: 593 2 256 3492
Fax: 593 2 563 492

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohamed Aly El Karakasy
Department of Environment and Sustainable Development
40 A Bagdad Street, Heliopolis 11341
Cairo
Egypt
E-mail: mkarakasy@hotmail.com
Tel: 202 5747847
Fax: 202 291 1007

Fiji Mission to the UN

Mr. Amenatave Yauvoli
Deputy Permanent Representative
630 3rd Avenue, 7th floor
NY 10017
Fiji/USA
E-mail: ayauvoli@hotmail.com
Tel: 1 212 687 4130
Fax: 1 212 687 3963

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Mr. Ilkka Cantell
Commercial Counsellor
PO Box 32
FI-00023 Government, Helsinki
Finland
E-mail: ilkka.cantell@ktm.fi
Tel: 358 9 1606 3531
Fax: 358 9 1606 2670

Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Antero Honkasalo
Director, Environmental Protection in Trade & Industry
PO Box 35
00023 Valtioneuvosto
Finland
E-mail: antero.honkasalo@ymparisto.fi
Tel: 358 9 1603 9345
Fax: 358 9 1603 9453

Ministry of the Environment

Ms. Marjo Nummelin
Senior Adviser
PO Box 35
00023 Valtioneuvosto
Finland
E-mail: marjo.nummelin@ymparisto.fi
Tel: 358 9 1603 9746
Fax: 358 9 1603 9602

United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Per Bakken
Deputy Director, Division of Technology, Industry and
Economics
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: per.bakken@unep.fr
Tel: 33 1 44 37 76 19
Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74

United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Fritz Balkau
Head, Production & Consumption Branch
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: fritz.balkau@unep.fr
Tel: 33 1 44 37 14 39
Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74

United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Bas de Leeuw
Co-ordinator, Sustainable Consumption Programme
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: bas.deleeuw@unep.fr
Tel: 33 1 44 37 30 09
Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74

United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Sue Kikwe
Programme Assistant, Sustainable Consumption
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: susan.kikwe@unep.fr
Tel: 33 1 44 37 14 34
Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74

United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Solange Montillaud-Joyel
Project Co-ordinator, Sustainable Consumption
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: solange.montillaud@unep.fr
Tel: 33 1 44 37 76 20
Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Mr. Kenneth Ruffing
Acting Director, Environment Directorate
2 rue André Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
France
E-mail: kenneth.ruffing@oecd.org
Tel: 33 1 45 24 93 10
Fax: 33 1 45 24 78 76

United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Anne Solgaard
Professional Officer, Sustainable Consumption
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: anne.solgaard@unep.fr
Tel: 33 1 44 37 14 66
Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Ms. Adriana
Zacarias Farah
Consultant
2 rue André Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
France
E-mail: Adriana.farah@oecd.org
Tel: 33 1 45 24 13 80
Fax: 33 1 45 24 78 76

Federal Environment Agency

Mr. Christian Löwe
Researcher
PO Box 33 00 22, Bismarckplatz 1
Berlin 14191
Germany
christian.loewe@uba.de
Tel: 49 30 8903 3025
Fax: 49 30 8903 3099

Ministry of Environment & Science

Mr. Rudolph S. Kuuzegh
Deputy Director
Box M232
Accra
Ghana
E-mail: mest@africaonline.com.gh
Tel: 233 21 673336
Fax: 233 21 666828

Guyana Mission to the UN

Mr. Garfield Barnwell
First Secretary
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 555
NY 10017
Guyana/USA
E-mail: gbarnwellg@netscape.net
Tel: 1 212 527 3232
Fax: 1 212 935 7548

Ministry of Environment

Mr. Jean-Pierre Moïse
Climate Change Programme Co-ordinator and National Ozone
Focal Point
181 Haut Turgeau
Port-au-Prince
Haïti
E-mail: moisejp8@hotmail.com
Tel: 509 245 9309
Fax: 509 245 7360

State Ministry of Environment

Ms. Jo Kumala Dewi
International Environmental Analysis
Diorita Batam Building (B) 4th floor, Jl. DI. Panjaitan Kav. 24
Jakarta Timur
Indonesia
E-mail: jokdewi@yahoo.com
Tel: 62 21 859 09533
Fax: 62 21 858 0111

Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Mordechai Sela
Director, Business Licensing Division
5 Kanfei Nesharim, POB 34033
Jerusalem 95464
Israel
E-mail: motis@environment.gov.il
Tel: 972 2 655 3770
Fax: 972 2 655 3763

Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Technology

Ms. Beverley Rose-Forbes
Divisional Director
38 Trafalgar Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica
E-mail: styrell@met.gov.jm
Tel: 876 960 1622
Fax: 876 754 55 22

Ministry of Natural Resources and Env. Protection

Ms. Svetlana Kolesnikova
Expert on Int. Environmental Conventions, Programme
"Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development"
Satpaev str. 1
Kokshetau 475 000
Kazakhstan
E-mail: Svetlana.Kolesnikova@neapsd.kz
Tel: 7 316 22 55 44 2
Fax: 7 316 22 555 37

Ministry of Natural Resources & Env. Affairs

Mr. Aloysius M. Kamperwera
Deputy Director
Environmental Affairs Dept, Private Bag 394, Lingadzi House,
City Centre, Lilongwe 3
Malawi
E-mail: aloysius@sdpn.org.mw
Tel: 265 771 111
Fax: 265 773 379

**Environmental Youth Network of Yucatan .C.
(member of National Youth E. Network)**

Ms. Linabel Segovia Sarlat
President, Youth Adviser
Calle 17-B Num 105-L entre 24 y 22-A Boulevares de Chuburna
Merida, Yucatan
Mexico CP 97200
E-mail: linabel@prodigy.net.mx
Tel: 52 999 9 81 15 93
Fax: 52 999 927 64 75

Ministry of Environment

Mr. Ralph Chapman
Manager, Strategic Policy
Wijnkade 8
3011 VZ Rotterdam
New Zealand / The Netherlands
E-mail: chapmanr@clear.net.nz
Tel: 31 10 2141 321

Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the UN

Mr. Luis A. Molina
First Secretary, in charge of Second Committee Issues
820 Second Avenue, Suite 801
NY
Nicaragua/USA
nicaragua-1secretary@un.int
Tel: 212 490 7997
Fax: 212 286 0815

The Consumer Council of Norway

Ms. Line Andersen
Advisor/Environment Officer
Postboks 4594, Nydalen
N-0404 Oslo
Norway
line.andersen@forbrukerradet.no
Tel: 47 23 40 05 53
Fax: 47 23 40 05 03

Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Jacek Jaskiewicz
Adviser to the Minister
Wawelska 52/54
00-920 Warsaw
Poland
E-mail: jacek.jaskiewicz@mos.gov.pl
Tel: 48 22 5792 656
Fax: 48 22 5792 795

Ministry of Economy, Economic Strategy Dept

Ms. Aleksandra Ufnal
Administrative Assistant
Plac Trzech Krzyzy 3/5
00-507 Warszawa
Poland
E-mail: aleufn@mg.gov.pl
Tel: 48 22 693 56 12
Fax: 48 22 693 40 25

Senegal Mission to the UN

Mr. Mame Baba Cisse
Counselor
238 East 68th Street
NY 10021
Senegal / USA
E-mail: babafass@aol.com
Tel: 1 212 517 90 30
Fax: 1 212 517 90 32

National Consumers Forum (NATCOF)

Ms. Françoise Dupres
Executive Director
PO Box 1410, Premiere Building, Victoria
Mahe
Seychelles
E-mail: Natcof@seychelles.net
Tel: 248 225941
Fax: 248 226 093

Ministry of Economy

Ms. Adriana Lehotska
Specialised Official
Mierova 19
82715 Bratislava 212
Slovak Republic
E-mail: lehotska@economy.gov.sk
Tel: 421 2 4854 1508
Fax: 421 2 4854 3818

Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN

Ms. Jeanette Ndhlovu
Deputy Permanent Representative
333 East 38 Street
10016 NY
South Africa/USA
E-mail: soafun@worldnet.att.net
Tel: 1 212 692 2463
Fax: 1 212 692 2498

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Bethmage Ruchira
Lasanthi Perera
Research Assistant, Environmental Economics and Global Affairs
Division
N° 104 A, Central Environmental Authority, Parisara Piyasa,
Robert Gunawardene Mawatha
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka
E-mail: envecon@sltnet.lk
Tel: 94 1 887 452
Fax: 94 74 410 236

Permanent Mission of Sudan to the UN

Mr. Mustafa Anas
First Secretary
655 Third Ave., Suite 500-10
NY 10017
Sudan/USA
E-mail: mustafaanas@hotmail.com
Tel: 1 212 573 6033
Fax: 1 212 573 6160

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Helen Agren
Principal Technical Officer
10648 Stockholm
Sweden
E-mail: Helen.Agren@naturvardsverket.se
Tel: 46 8 698 1417
Fax: 46 8 698 1253

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms. Viveka Bohn
Ambassador, Johannesburg Secretariat
103 33 Stockholm
Sweden
E-mail: viveka.bohn@foreign.ministry.se
Tel: 46 8 405 34 95
Fax: 46 8 10 38 07

Ministry of Justice, Consumer Policy Division

Ms. Carin Wahren
Special Adviser
10333 Stockholm
Sweden
E-mail: carin.wahren@justice.ministry.se
Tel: 46 8 405 43 87
Fax: 46 8 21 96 25

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Mr. Gerald Rebitzer
Researcher and Group Co-ordinator
Institute of Environmental Science and Technology
Lausanne
Switzerland
gerald.rebitzer@epfl.ch
Tel: 41 21 693 55 26
Fax: 4121 693 57 60

UNEP Regional Office for Europe

Ms. Rie Tsutsumi
Programme Officer
15, chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine, Genève
Switzerland
E-mail: rie.tsutsumi@unep.ch
Tel: 41 22 917 8504
Fax: 41 22 917 8024

The Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED)

Mr. Sander Van Bennekom
Programme Officer Sustainable Production & Consumption
PO Box 59030
1040 KA Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E-mail: svbennekom@anped.org
Tel: 31 20 4751742
Fax: 31 20 4751743

Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

Ms. Saskia Werners
Policy Adviser
PO Box 30945
2500 GX The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: saskia.werners@minvrom.nl
Tel: 32 70 339 30 20
Fax: 32 70 339 13 06

Uganda Consumers Protection Association (UCPA)

Mr. Henry Richard Kimera
Chief Executive Officer
GPO Box 23783
Kampala
Uganda
ucpa@monitor.co.ug
Tel: 256 41 234002 / 256 77 502 441
Fax: 256 41 234002

Consumers' Association

Mr. Allan Asher
Director of Campaigns and Communications
2 Marylebone Road
London NW1 4DF
UK
E-mail: allan.asher@which.co.uk
Tel: 44 207 770 76 79
Fax: 44 207 770 8679

Consumers International

Ms. Anna Fielder
Director, Office for Developed and Transition Economies
24 Highbury Crescent
London, N5 1RX
UK
E-mail: afielder@consint.org
Tel: 44 207 226 6663
Fax: 44 207 354 0607

McCann-Erickson Europe

Mr. Mike Longhurst
Senior Vice President, Business Development
36 Howland Street
London W1A 1AT
UK
E-mail: mike_longhurst@europe.mccann.com
Tel: + 44 207 580 6690
Fax: +44 207 312 6428

Consumers International

Mr. Bjarne Pedersen
Senior Policy and Representation Officer, Food, Health & Environment
24 Highbury Crescent
London, N5 1RX
UK
E-mail: bpedersen@consint.org
Tel: 44 207 226 6663, ext. 209
Tel: 44 207 354 0607

Cabinet Office, UK Government

Mr. Shane Tomlinson
Economist
Rm 4.16 Admiralty Arch, The Mall
London, SW1A 2WH
UK
E-mail: Shane.tomlinson@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 44 207 276 1458
Fax: 44 207 276 1408

Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN

Mr. Santiago Wins
Second Secretary
866 UN Plaza, Suite 322
NY 10017
Uruguay/USA
E-mail: uruguay@un.int
Tel: 1 212 752 8240
Fax: 1 212 593 0935

Integrative Strategies Forum

Mr. Jeffrey Barber
Executive Director
11426 Rockville Pike, Suite 306
Rockville, MD 20852
USA
E-mail: jbarber@isforum.org
Tel: 1 301 770 6375
Fax: 1 301 770 6377

Interface Inc. & Green Mountain Energy Company

Ms. Dianne Dillon-Ridgley
Director
3815 Capital of Texas Highway South, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78704
USA
E-mail: ddrwater27@aol.com / rubydog27@yahoo.com
Tel: 1 800 336 0225 ext. 0637
Fax: 512 319 338 2090

Toxics Use Reduction Institute, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production

Mr. Jack Luskin
Senior Associate Director
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
MA 01854
USA
E-mail: Jack_Luskin@uml.edu
Tel: 978 934 3262 / 978 934 3275
Fax: 978 934 3050

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Division for Sustainable Development

Ms. Chikako Takase
Programme Officer
United Nations, DSD/DESA, Rm. DC2-2244
NY 10017
USA
E-mail: takase@un.org
Tel: 1 212 963 8774
Fax: 1 212 963 4260

Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health and Social Care – Env. Dept

Ms. Svetlana Ristic
Senior Adviser
Federation Palace
Belgrade
Yugoslavia
E-mail: svetlana@hera.smrnzsv.gov.yu
Tel: 381 11 311 11 70
Fax: 381 11 142 564

Consumers International Office for Africa

Ms. Nessie Golakai
Programme Officer
31 A Lincoln Rd, Belgravia
Harare
Zimbabwe
E-mail: ngolakai@ci-roaf.co.zw
Tel: 263 4 302283 / 263 91 377501
Fax: 263 4 303092

Appendix 3:

Background material

EU suggestion for a 10 year work programme on sustainable consumption and production

Why a work programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production?

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without fundamental changes in the ways societies produce and consume. Concrete progress in this area is crucial for a successful outcome of the WSSD and should be pursued by all countries, with the developed countries taking the lead. Moving the global economy onto a more socially responsible and resource productive path will offer benefits to society, the environment and economy in all countries.

The WSSD should reaffirm the high level political commitment to changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns in order to strengthen implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio principles, UNGASS 1997 and decisions from especially CSD3 and CSD7 on changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns (SCPP).

To strengthen the ongoing work on SCPP there is a need to establish a new, focused work programme for the coming decade, with medium and short term goals. This should lead to strengthened efforts to speed up the implementation of agreed commitments in order to achieve measurable results, as well as to prioritisation and focusing on key areas.

The goals of the work programme should be to:

- contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- reverse current trends in loss of natural resources at the global and national levels by 2015

- de-couple economic growth from environmental degradation
- promote more equitable access to natural resources and consumption to meet the basic needs for all

Why these goals?

Sustainable development in all countries is based on the expectations of economic growth. However economic growth depends on maintaining the carrying capacity of eco-systems. There are certain critical limits to our use of nature in the sense that the sources, sinks, services and space that nature provides have limits. So de-coupling is the challenge for sustainable development because we need economic growth and social development, in particular in developing countries. Therefore the EU suggests that all countries commit themselves to the goal of reversing current trends in loss of natural resources at the global and national levels by 2015.

Developing countries should benefit from the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns and technological innovations in the developed part of the world. Thus, de-coupling should be accompanied by technology exchange and capacity building to secure that the achievement of sustainable consumption and production will be beneficial at the global level, and provide the progress needed for a more equitable access to natural resources and consumption to meet the basic needs for all. Getting more from less by promoting eco-efficiency is beneficial for all.

In May 2001 the ministers of finance/economy and the ministers of environment from the 30 OECD member states agreed that the OECD should integrate indicators for sustainable development and decoupling in the OECD reviews. The ongoing process in the OECD will contribute to the further

development and use of a common framework of indicators for measuring sustainable development and de-coupling.

Suggested focus of the work programme:

The work programme should identify priorities and measures to be taken at all levels and at relevant sectors with substantial environmental and social impact (energy, agriculture, transport, industry and service sectors including tourism).

The work programme should also address key areas such as substance, material and energy flows, economic instruments, capacity building, partnerships, including work-place based partnerships, and awareness raising. Further development and use of policies and tools e.g. environmentally related product policy, resource productivity and innovation, land use and infrastructure planning should be part of the work programme.

Follow-up/measuring progress:

The work programme should be an integral part of the follow-up of the Summit, and coordinated by the body responsible for it. All stakeholders should be invited to contribute actively in the work with the elaboration of the work programme.

Further develop and use a common framework of indicators for measuring the social, economic and environmental impact of consumption and production, including those for measuring progress in de-coupling economic growth from environmental degradation should be part of the programme.

The process of developing the work programme

Further elaboration of the process to develop a work programme is needed before the WSSD. The Summit should endorse the goals, sectors and key areas for the programme, as well as identify the next steps, including the adoption of the work programme and asking for input from all relevant stakeholders.



Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Global Status 2002

A contribution to WSSD



UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

Moving Towards Sustainability: Changing Production and Consumption Patterns

The concept of Sustainable Development, proposed in 1987 to steer *Our Common Future*, addresses the socio-economic aspects as well as the environmental impacts of our global production and consumption patterns. Cleaner Production provided a practical way to convert the conceptual framework of sustainable development into action and is extensively referred to in Agenda 21. Agenda 21 is equally emphatic in addressing Sustainable Consumption. It is not enough to produce "more goods and services" in a cleaner fashion. The resource extraction, use of products and services, and discarded products also exert environmental pressure on the planet.

Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption are both inextricably related waypoints on the road to *sustainable development*. The overall aim of Cleaner Production is to minimize the environmental impact in manufacture and use of a product. Sustainable Consumption's pursuit is to combine maximum consumer need satisfaction with least environmental impact of a product (or service). Thus, the two approaches converge on the same target, the product, from opposite directions: Cleaner Production starting from production, Sustainable Consumption starting from consumption.

The challenge we face is to establish a framework for action in which producers and consumers can move together along the road to *sustainable development*.

The objective of Cleaner Production is to shift the thinking

from 'producing more and more' to an idea of doing 'more with less' – that is more consumer satisfaction, more production with less input, and less impact. Many manufacturing organizations have already taken steps towards such an integrated approach. Their challenge is also to reduce material and energy consumption within their operations and products. The necessity to 'dematerialize' and 'de-energize' by a factor of 4 to 10 is well recognized as the basic business strategy for the 21st century. Only by adopting a 'preventive' environmental management approach throughout the product life cycle – product design, manufacture, use and discard – can we move towards this objective of doing 'more with less.'

Sustainable Consumption implies that consumers will move away from 'consuming more and more products' to 'satisfying needs with products that are fewer in number and are less environment- and resource-intensive'. They will be more conscious of the importance of making informed and balanced decisions about the environment as part of the purchasing process.

An improved quality of life does not mean the ability to consume more resources. It means greater satisfaction of consumer needs with minimum consumption of resources. Industrial development policy must take account of the impact of and relations between newer and more products, and changing consumer lifestyles. Policy framework must be supportive of development, production, and consumption of environmentally preferable products and services.

The last 10 years since the Earth Summit have seen significant achievements in Cleaner

Production and Sustainable Consumption. A global awareness has been created, demonstration projects have been conducted, National Cleaner Production Centres – reflective of capacity building have been established, and an International Declaration on Cleaner Production launched. A voluntary agreement exists with the advertising sector to promote Sustainable Consumption. The support of consumer groups and youth has been mobilized and consumer research reports published. A number of international fora and institutions like regional roundtables and national seminars have started addressing the issue of sustainable production and consumption in a holistic manner. Even so, for all that has been achieved, much more remains to be done.

UNEP has taken small, yet important initial steps toward bringing a holistic approach to Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption to the fore. The Global Status Reports on Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption take stock of what has been achieved so far, the lessons learnt, and propose future courses of action. These reports are a reference for guiding and assisting various stakeholders engaged in the process of changing the current patterns of production and consumption to more sustainable levels.

These reports will provide significant input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in determining the environmental agenda of the next decade by placing greater emphasis on the preventive approach for tackling global as well as local environmental problems.

Download a consultation version of the Global Status Reports from the CP7 Website
<http://www.unepdtie.org/cp7>

UNEP DTIE is soliciting comments from participants at CP7 on the Global Status Report drafts. Please forward your comments to:

CLEANER PRODUCTION Global Status

Mr. Surya P. Chandak
surya.chandak@unep.fr

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION Global Status

Mr. Bas de Leeuw
bas.deleeuw@unep.fr

and

Fax: +33 1 44 37 14 74

Cleaner Production ~ Global Status Report 2002

Executive Summary

Cleaner Production is a logical extension of our desire to conserve materials and reduce waste. It enables people to examine ways to increase productivity; reduce resource inputs, generate less waste, and most importantly, lower the risk to the environment. Cleaner Production is not just an environmental initiative; it supports implementation of other productivity - oriented programs and strategies.

UNEP's Cleaner Production Programme was launched in 1989. Cleaner Production found mention at the Earth Summit as an important strategy to take forward the concept of sustainable development and was a prominent element in Agenda 21. The immediate task then was to create awareness of the concept, build institutional capacities and demonstrate its benefits to foster sustainable development. Today, Cleaner Production is a flagship programme of not just UNEP DTIE, but also of several other organizations in the world that have adopted and adapted it. It has truly become a global movement.

Significant achievements of the Cleaner Production programme to date include:

- ① The International Declaration on Cleaner Production has enabled visible and public commitment to the strategies and practice of Cleaner Production by over 300 senior level decision makers from governments, industries, trade associations and other organisations.
- ② A network of more than 100 Cleaner Production Centres operating in all regions have enabled delivery of technical assistance, training and information dissemination services at the local and national level.
- ③ Cleaner Production Roundtables -- Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean and North America have facilitated information dissemination

and exchange of experience between and across the regions.

- ④ Over 100 educational institutions offering courses on Cleaner Production have educated thousands of students as well as in-job professionals.
- ⑤ Over 1000 Cleaner Production demonstration projects conducted in different countries have undeniably proven the tremendous scope of reducing material and energy intensity in production processes and thus reducing waste and pollution.
- ⑥ Establishment of institutional mechanisms for transfer and adoption of Cleaner Technologies has helped a greater uptake of such technologies.
- ⑦ Establishment of Cleaner Production financing programs including Cleaner Production related technical assistance and financing programs by development financing institutions has led to practical implementation of Cleaner Production measures. Many major companies have installed safer and cleaner technologies.

Despite the progress made in the last decade, there is still considerable scope to further strengthen and mainstream Cleaner Production. Strategies proposed to enable this include:

- ① Establishing a formal integration between Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption to facilitate adoption of an approach that covers the entire life cycle of product by expanding the horizon from production facilities to product use and post product use phase
- ② Integrating Cleaner Production with national and local development planning process and policy framework.
- ③ Continuous expansion of the network of Cleaner Production Centres and Institutions including their role and capabilities.

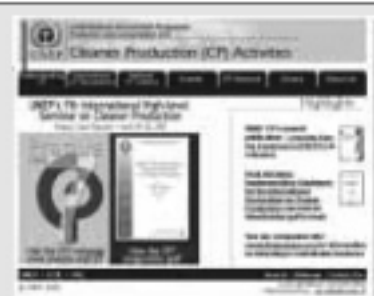
- ④ Linking other contemporary issues like implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, energy efficiency, health & safety, environmental management systems.
- ⑤ Increasing the outreach to specifically help small and medium enterprises in implementing Cleaner Production.
- ⑥ Encouraging greater participation of private sector in the areas of technology development and cooperation, financing of Cleaner Production investment and market building

Cleaner Production is a vital part of the development agenda and contributes to poverty alleviation, improving health and safety at work place and promotes environmental stewardship. The concept of Cleaner Production is expanding and much still needs to be done to enable application to all areas of development process. Many of the above mentioned interventions are interrelated. It will be necessary to develop a situation-specific operational framework by outlining possible stakeholders, prerequisites and possible barriers. An expanded vision of Cleaner Production along with Sustainable Consumption will perhaps show the way - by obtaining commitments at all levels and by setting new partnerships between government, business and communities - to take forward the agenda of sustainable development.

For more information about
UNEP's Cleaner Production activities:

<http://www.uneptie.org/cp>

Download UNEP's Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption publication brochure under "Library"



Sustainable Consumption ~ Global Status Report 2002

Executive Summary

The growing attention to sustainable consumption is a natural outcome of extensive work on cleaner production and eco-efficient industrial systems. Action focused on consumption has highlighted the need to address the creation of new systems of production and consumption, that will enhance the quality of cultural, social and physical existence for all people.

Since the Rio Summit in 1992, the issue of unsustainable consumption has been addressed through a series of meetings, dialogues, research and publications from CSD, UNEP, OECD, UNDP and other business, consumer and research organisations. The UN has added elements on sustainable consumption to the consumer protection guidelines. The implementation of these is being surveyed by UNEP. UNEP has developed programs and projects working closely with three key groups – Consumers and consumer organisations; Advertising and communications industry; Youth – and has been able to link the issue of consumption patterns into its programs of capacity-building in sustainable production and products.

Industry (eg through the WBCSD) has approached sustainable consumption as an extension of eco-efficiency approaches to include technological and social innovations to improve quality of life, as well as to provide improved consumer choice. The Industry Sector Reports to the WSSD show good awareness and attention to reducing resource consumption in production and products and to providing information to consumers, to improve the effectiveness and quality of product use. Reducing end-of-life waste (usually through recycling) is also a common feature of product stewardship programs across many industry sectors.

After the UNEP/ CDG Berlin

Business Forum in 1999 ("Creating opportunities in a changing world"), UNEP initiated a series of consultations in Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, North America and Latin America and the Caribbean. UNEP recognises that industrialised countries have a special responsibility to promote, facilitate and achieve sustainable consumption. However, consuming and producing more efficiently will be fundamental to any strategies for eradicating poverty and creating business opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Consumption patterns everywhere appear to be moving in ways that continue to threaten sustainable development. In particular, there is:

- ① Growing disparity in levels of consumption between rich and poor countries.
- ① Growing disparity in levels of consumption within developing countries.
- ① Total growth in consumption of resources (particularly water, food and energy) in developed countries such that technical (eco) efficiency improvements are being regarded.

A number of conclusions arise from a review of the past ten years' work on sustainable consumption:

- ① Progress towards sustainable consumption has to emerge from industrialised countries, where the dominant models and aspirations for patterns of consumption are generated. Different aspirations for sustainable prosperity need to be widely and visibly embraced within developed countries if they are to become a global pattern.
- ① Action in developed countries has to be relevant also to the conditions and needs of developing countries, and open to solutions and approaches derived from the experience and practice of developing economies.
- ① Approaches to consumption

have been valuable to the analysis of current conditions and have promoted novel strategies for future development. This has exposed the limitations of isolated production-focused strategies. What is needed is to change the systems of production and consumption – urgently.

Six strategic areas are discussed which address various problems in current work on SC. Taken together, they aim to bring about a greater integration of sustainable consumption and cleaner production. They are:

- ① Clarifying the various (and often confused) meanings of the term consumption.
- ① Developing better feedback - indices to measure consumption pressure and quality of life, and putting them to use.
- ① Finding a more appropriate conceptual framework for describing systems of production and consumption, to allow for more complexity of elements and interactions but still simple enough to assist analysis and intervention.
- ① Supporting and enhancing local campaigns of action to transform consumption of targeted resources or goods and services.
- ① Focusing production and consumption-oriented action on improved functionality and environmental efficiency of products and services.
- ① Developing and promoting the idea of 'leap-frog' change as a radical shift in existing product, services and business sectors.

**For more information about
UNEP's Sustainable Consumption activities:**

<http://www.uneptie.org/sustain>

Information on the Life Cycle Initiative, work with
advertisers, youth, UN Guidelines for Consumer Production,
and WSSD contribution





United Nations Environment Programme
**7th International High-level Seminar on
Cleaner Production**

Prague, Czech Republic ~ April 29-30, 2002

Draft recommendations

Making it Happen

UNEP's seventh international high-level seminar on Cleaner Production was held on April 29-30 in Prague, hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. The seminar brought together over 350 senior level participants from 85 countries to review progress in promoting and implementing Cleaner Production worldwide and to make recommendations to promote cleaner production and sustainable consumption.

The recommendations put forward and endorsed by all participants include the following:

- 1 Further strengthen Government policies and continue strategies to build institutions for mainstreaming Cleaner Production (CP), with particular emphasis on enhancing the institutional, technical and managerial capacity of the UNEP/UNIDO-sponsored National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) and other national cleaner production centers (CPCs).
- 2 Expand the scope of CP to address sustainable consumption with particular attention to the rebound effect of unsustainable consumption. This expanded definition of CP should be integrated into sustainable consumption thinking. The UNEP/SETAC (Society on Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Life Cycle Initiative that was launched at the Seminar should provide an opportunity to communicate the expanded definition of CP and sustainable consumption.
- 3 Continue development of CP oriented policies, planning and strategies to achieve both environmental and social objectives. Create conducive economic and political frameworks at the national, regional and international levels. Promote the International Declaration on Cleaner Production (IDCP) and obtain further commitments. Mainstream CP in environmental governance and national economic development policies and programmes.
- 4 Develop a synergy between CP and the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Define the specific needs and linkages of various MEAs with respect to CP. The NCPCs/CPCs should be encouraged to play an expanded role in establishing such linkages and building the dialogue. Clearinghouses and centers for excellence for technology development and transfer related to various MEAs should be set up within NCPC/CPC activities.
- 5 Promote CP in investments and obtain commitment of the private financial sector. Encourage CP funding through local financing institutions as well as multilateral development banks. Raise the capacity of local financial institutions, strengthen the funding mechanisms and, better target the small and medium enterprises and local governments, particularly in the newly industrializing countries.
- 6 Promote application of CP to other sectors such as services and infrastructure using complementary approaches including clean energy sources, energy efficiency, safer production, resource protection, and clean

product design. Expand the base of stakeholders such as consumer related organizations, media, and market players such as retailers, vendors, suppliers and government purchasing units.

- 7 Increase trade linkages and business-to-business Interactions through networks such as the UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiated Sustainable Alternative Network (SANet). While continuing to promote technology transfer from industrialized to industrializing countries, recognize the potential of local technology development.
- 8 Increase the demand for CP related information by moving beyond information networking to knowledge management and counseling. Improve the context, relevance and user-friendliness of existing CP information systems to developing countries. Strengthen the capacity of national information nodes (NCPCs/CPCs) for effective delivery of information.
- 9 Promote innovative partnerships with other international/national bodies, between business-civil society business-government and emphasize the role CP can play in addressing social issues such as human rights and poverty eradication.
- 10 Emphasize and integrate workplace related health and safety issues, gender issues and labor rights in implementation of CP.
- 11 Continue efforts of CP promotion to small- and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in developing countries, through approaches such as supply-chain management involving trade, contracting, information and technology transfer.
- 12 Continue efforts on capacity building in CP by seeking to integrate CP into university and public educational programs and by using “train the trainer” strategies to build CP capacity amongst private-sector professionals and government agents.

In order to implement the above recommendations, UNEP should continue to play a leadership and catalytic role, in partnership with other international bodies, especially UNIDO, ILO and the multilateral and regional development banks.

These recommendations should be taken as an input to the Johannesburg 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Appendix 4:



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The mission of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is to help decision-makers in government, local authorities, and industry develop and adopt policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer;
- make efficient use of natural resources;
- ensure adequate management of chemicals;
- incorporate environmental costs;
- reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), with the Division Office in Paris, is **composed of one centre and five branches**:

- The International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka), which promotes the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies with a focus on the environmental management of cities and freshwater basins, in developing countries and countries in transition.
- Production and Consumption (Paris), which fosters the development of cleaner and safer production and consumption patterns that lead to increased efficiency in the use of natural resources and reductions in pollution.
- Chemicals (Geneva), which promotes sustainable development by catalysing global actions and building national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety world-wide, with a priority on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC, jointly with FAO).

- Energy and OzonAction (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and promotes good management practices and use of energy, with a focus on atmospheric impacts. The UNEP/RISØ Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment supports the work of the Unit.
- Economics and Trade (Geneva), which promotes the use and application of assessment and incentive tools for environmental policy and helps improve the understanding of linkages between trade and environment and the role of financial institutions in promoting sustainable development.
- Coordination of Regional Activities Branch, which coordinates regional delivery of UNEP DTIE's activities and ensures coordination of DTIE's activities funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of information, building capacity, fostering technology cooperation, partnerships and transfer, improving understanding of environmental impacts of trade issues, promoting integration of environmental considerations into economic policies, and catalysing global chemical safety.

For more information contact:

UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
39-43, Quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15, France
Tel: 33 1 44 37 14 50; Fax: 33 1 44 37 14 74
E-mail: unep.tie@unep.fr; URL:
<http://www.uneptie.org/>
UNEP TIE/Division Office

Appendix 5: About Consumers International

What is Consumers International?

Consumers International (CI) supports, links and represents consumer groups and agencies all over the world. It has a membership of over 250 organisations in 115 countries. It strives to promote a fairer society through defending the rights of all consumers, including poor, marginalized and disadvantaged people, by:

- supporting and strengthening member organisations and the consumer movement in general
- campaigning at the international level for policies which respect consumer concerns.

The organisation was founded in 1960 as the International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) by a group of national consumer organisations. The group recognised that they could build upon their individual strengths by working across national borders. The organisation rapidly grew and soon became established as the voice of the international consumer movement on issues such as product and food standards, health and patients' rights, the environment and sustainable consumption, and the regulation of international trade and of public utilities.

Consumers International is an independent, non-profit organisation. It is not aligned with or supported by any political party or industry. It is funded by fees from member organisations and by grants from foundations, governments and multilateral agencies.

Consumers International's Head Office is based in London, as is its office for Developed and Transition Economies. Regional Offices are located in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Santiago (Chile) and Harare (Zimbabwe).

Rights And Responsibilities

Consumer policy promotes the establishment of legislation, institutions and information that improve quality of life and empower people to make changes in their own lives. It seeks to ensure that basic human rights are recognised and promotes understanding of people's rights and responsibilities as consumers. These are:

- The right to satisfaction of basic needs
- The right to safety
- The right to be informed
- The right to choose
- The right to be heard
- The right to redress
- The right to consumer education
- The right to a healthy environment.

Consumers have the responsibility to use their power in the market to drive out abuses, to encourage ethical practices and to support sustainable consumption and production. Developing and protecting consumers' rights and their awareness of their responsibilities are integral to:

- eradication of poverty
- good governance
- social justice and respect for human rights
- fair and effective market economies
- protection of the environment

Campaigns & policy issues

Consumer Protection Laws

Consumer Education

Environment

Food

Trade

Technical Standards

E-commerce

Health

Public Utilities

Institution and capacity building

Corporate Social Responsibility



www.unep.org

United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 621234
Fax: (254 2) 623927
E-mail: opinfo@unep.org
web: www.unep.org



Consumers International
24 Highbury Crescent
London N5 1RX, UK
Tel: +44 020 7226 6663
Fax: +44 020 7354 0607
e-mail: odte@consint.org
www.consumersinternational.org

United Nations Environment Programme
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
39-43 Quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France
Tel: +33 1 44 37 14 50
Fax: +33 1 44 37 14 74
e-mail: unep.tie@unep.fr
www.uneptie.org