

# SwitchMed and Arab SCP Roundtable



## Arab Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production

The Arab Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production is a well established forum for addressing specific themes and challenges facing the Arab region, recommend solutions and serve as a platform for engaging all relevant stakeholders in an open dialogue to discuss issues, challenges and solutions to SCP in the region. The 1st Roundtable Meeting was held on 17-19 March 2008, in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates and the 6th Arab Roundtable held during 9-10 October 2019 in Cairo, Egypt.



The SCP Arab roundtables are part of the regional response to the SDGs and in-line with the One Planet network. They are organized by the United Nations Environment Program in partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS), the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) and the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)



The 6th roundtable meeting was benefited from the participation of around 40 participants representing government officials, SwitchMed national and 10YFP focal points, industry and civil society representatives, academics, and NCPCs' representatives, international experts and United Nations agencies.

The objectives of the 6th Roundtable were to address the existing programmes, initiatives, challenges and opportunities for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region with a focus on the outcomes of 4th Session of the UN Environment Assembly to reach a unified understanding on the status of implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production at the national and local levels in the Arab region and to assess potentials for engaging the private and financial sectors to find innovative and sustainable solutions for sustainable consumption and production and transition towards a circular economy. SwitchMed approach, methodology and partners intervened in several session to present concrete examples from the various SwitchMed countries and components.



UNEP gave an overview of the SwitchMed programme followed by presentations from SwitchMed county representatives highlighting their experiences with developing and implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action plans. Egypt presented their SwitchMed demonstration projects on green and sustainable public procurement and reducing plastic bags consumption. Egypt further presented the Egyptian Pollution Abatement Program III which provides a financial package to support public and private industries in improving their environmental status.



SwitchMed Programme is funded by the European Union



SDG 12



6 Roundtable sessions



22 Countries

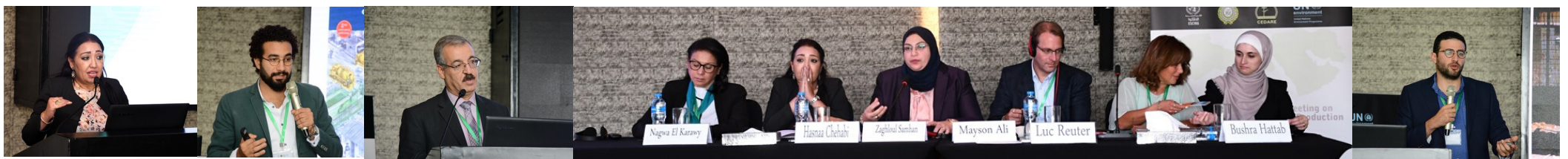


40 Participants

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The Environment Quality Authority of Palestine focused on the importance of replicating similar SCP projects in the Arab region, sharing knowledge and expertise, bridging the gap with the private sector and ensuring smooth cooperation between the different countries of the region. Morocco presented their experiences of preparing the national strategy to develop the waste value systems, adopting a law that bans the consumption of plastic bags, launching a study to promote sustainable initiatives including SCP patterns and conducting awareness sessions on SCP in the radio. EDAMA Association for Energy, Water and Environment from Jordan focused on presenting their SwitchMed project in Aqaba city, which mainly concentrated on improving solid waste management in the hotel industry, in addition to developing a national solid waste management training program for relevant stakeholders.



1st Roundtable	17-19, March 2008 Al-Ain, UAE	Call for the development of an Arab Regional SCP Strategy.
2nd Roundtable	27-29, Sept. 2009 Cairo, Egypt	Arab Strategy on SCP approved by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment.
3rd Roundtable	26-27, Jan. 2011 Cairo, Egypt	Arab SCP Strategy as platforms and tools to enhance capacity-building and information sharing, multi-stakeholder partnerships and project implementation.
4th Roundtable	17-18, June. 2013 Cairo Egypt	Development and approval of the Arab Road Map for the regional implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.
5th Roundtable	17-19, Dec. 2017 Cairo, Egypt	SDG 12 and three pillars: Developing SCP policies and tools; Implementing SCP policies and tools at the national and cities levels and Financing SCP, challenges and opportunities.
6th Roundtable	9-10, Oct. 2019 Cairo, Egypt	Innovative solutions and address the theme of SCP in the Arab Region – Actions for Moving Forward.



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## UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.



The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. [www.switchmed.eu](http://www.switchmed.eu)