

## EU and its 27 Member States interventions at the CPR Subcommittee meeting on 22 September 2022

### Agenda Item 2: Briefing on a Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production

- The EU and its MS thank the Secretariat for sharing the fourth draft of the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- We consider the preparation process and the final adoption of a global strategy for SCP as very important tool that will have an impact on addressing the triple planetary crisis as well as current other current economic and social problems (e.g. energy crisis). It is of high importance to have a common, ambitious, clear and action-oriented direction/guidance for global collaboration on SCP. The Global SCP strategy will be an important step forward, and we will actively support its finalization and consequent implementation.
- The EU and its MS would like to underline the need to ensure that the implementation on the ground will be facilitated through this strategy, urging all international lead actors involved in the 10YFP to work closely with national and regional actors, both public and private.
- The EU and its MS believe that the strategy could assist in setting the direction of what actions are needed at all levels. Mindful of the need for developed countries to take the lead we would emphasize that the strategy, as stated in the vision part, provides opportunities and solutions for everyone, including governments at all levels, businesses, workers, youth and civil society. We also consider the pillar IV as an important part of the strategy to enhance the multi sectorial, multi-stakeholder character of SCP. We also emphasise the Operationalization Principles in the strategy and welcome further plans for its operationalisation.
- The European Union and its member states would like to underline that the references to “underconsumption” and to “biobased approaches”, “biodiversity-based products” and “bioeconomy” were not included in the previous versions of the Strategy, this is a new language. The concept of bio-based approaches and bioeconomy are unclear and should not be promoted together with circular economy and resource efficiency, given the lack of definition and knowledge on the sustainability of such approaches. In particular, the European Union and its MS underline that nor the UNEA resolution 5/11 on circular economy, nor the UNGA resolution 76/202 extending the mandate of the 10YFP include the references to these concepts. Similarly the term underconsumption is not well defined, and there is no agreed language from other multilateral sources. All of these terms should not be used in the new strategy. We trust that these views of the EU and its 27 MS will be taken into account before the strategy is submitted for the final consideration of the 10YFP Board.
- The EU+MS oppose the language ‘nature-based solutions *or* ecosystems-based approaches’. The “or” implies a hierarchy between the two concepts which is factually wrong and undermines internationally agreed language in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Environment Assembly (see UNEP/EA.5/Res.5). This should be revised: the correct formulation is ‘*nature-based solutions and ecosystems-based approaches*’.

- We are pleased with the information we have received that a reference to GEO as a tool for the Science Policy Interface will be included in the next version of the Global strategy.

### **Agenda Item 3: Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/11 on Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production**

#### General comments:

- The EU and its MS highly appreciate UNEP activities in the area of circular economy. We see the concept of circular economy as one of the instruments to achieve sustainability in the upcoming years (circular economy being namely an integral part of SDG No.12 – Sustainable production and consumption).
- In the EU, the key piece of the legislation on circular economy is the Circular Economy Action Plan, an integral part of the European Green Deal – the European strategy for sustainable growth.
- The EU and its MS appreciate the action UNEP is taking on used and end of life vehicles. Developing the reporting mechanism is the necessary first step in creating effective measures. We believe it would be useful to approach the problem from the perspective of waste shipment. It is known practice that end of life vehicles are exported in a form of waste and in the place of import they are again used without fulfilling the emission or safety standards. There is therefore a need for regulatory measures of waste shipment on the side of exporting countries and for the countries of import.
- The EU and its MS very much appreciate the inclusion of stakeholders in the UN processes, we believe that stakeholders should be a part of policy development on all stages.
- The EU and its MS especially appreciate actions UNEP is taking in developing countries in Africa and Latin America through the GO4SDGs and UNEP FI initiatives. We believe that facilitation and financing of the processes leading towards circular economy goals are especially needed in these regions and will create linkages that can promote circular economy and sustainability in future development.
- On reporting research and analysis, EU+MS appreciate the outcomes of the International Resource Panel, the overall magnitude of data processed in the Global Resources Outlook document points at how important role UNEP plays in the endeavour of sustainable policymaking on global scale.

Specific comments and suggestions for the possible improvement of the document “Update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/11 on Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production”:

- We would like to specify the criteria for point 3 paragraph 7: The criteria proposed by UNEP in the ongoing project, a valid and recent periodical technical inspection, as well as minimum EURO 4 and no missing parts as criteria to allow export, could be useful to determine when vehicles are waste and when vehicles can be exported as used vehicles.
- In paragraph 11, first sentence, the EU+MS suggest: "In 2022, in the support of the intergovernmental process set out in Resolution 5/14 adopted by UNEA-5, in particular the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC), GACERE members have also worked on circular economy and plastics."

- The EU+MS suggest new paragraph 19: UNEP, through the International Resource Panel (IRP) and with the support of the Federal Government of Germany, published the report ‘The Weight of Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Future Resource Requirements and Potential Courses of Action’ which aims to support countries in the region to pursue resource efficient urban planning. It includes recommendations in four axes – transport and sustainable mobility, efficient and sustainable buildings, waste, and water and sanitation – to reduce resource consumption, waste, environmental damage, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. [Insert link to webpage: <https://www.unep.org/es/resources/informe/el-peso-de-las-ciudades-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe-requerimientos-futuros-de>]
- The EU+MS suggest new sentence at the end of paragraph 22: Furthermore, the IRP continues to support G7- and G20-presidencies by providing state-of-the-art scientific insights on global resource use trends, related environmental damages and options to reduce the environmental footprint of global resource use.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Briefing on the UNEP Inclusive Wealth Report 2022**

- The EU and its MS thank the Secretariat for sharing the Inclusive Wealth Report 2022, which follows the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025.
- This latest report is the fourth iteration of the Inclusive Wealth series. The EU and its MS appreciate the engagement of UNEP in this important process that also demonstrates efficient cooperation between UNEP, World Bank and other institutions and stakeholders at global, regional and national level.
- The report clearly indicates that future economic possibilities depend on the current management of all forms of wealth. This includes human health and skills, physical infrastructure, sustainable natural resource and ecosystems management (including air quality, biodiversity, and climate systems), social interactions, and the quality and efficiency of democratic institutions.
- The EU and its MS would like to get a better understanding under which mandate the series of inclusive wealth report is developed and how it is shared or communicated with other organisations or the general public. It may be useful for the next UNEA to have a discussion how to mutually interlink the process of elaboration Inclusive Wealth Report with GEO process and other reports (e.g. IPCC, IPBES, etc.).
- The EU and its MS would like to know more about how it interacts with other similar reports, such as the UNDP Human Development Report and the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.
- The EU and its MS would like to mention that throughout the process leading up to the international meeting Stockholm+50, held in June 2022, the stakeholders emphasised the importance of new measures of welfare. Moreover, among the ten recommendations for action stemming from Stockholm+50, recommendation 3 highlights the need to adopt system-wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet, among others through defining new measures of progress and human well-being.