

NGO INPUT ON SCPS IN MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE 5

By listening to some of the representatives of the developing countries I understand that the situation is difficult. As some southern countries are saying, renewables are too expensive, and oil is too cheap, especially if you can produce it yourself. And if you cannot, then that creates other kinds of problems. (Oil is cheap, because the cost of climate change is not included, and because of massive fossil fuel subsidies.

A solution to this could be environmental taxation/ ecological fiscal reform: shifting taxation from labour to natural resource consumption and overconsumption and abolishing harmful fossil fuel subsidies. Of course, this by itself would make energy even more expensive. So, where will the money come from? One solution would be corporate taxation: there has been a lot of discussion about how companies avoid taxes in the international economy. E.g., The Economist has estimated that it is in the range of 20 trillion USD in tax avoidance (20 and 12 zeros). Stopping this tax avoidance could be one of the SDGs and would be a step towards sustainable production.

Also, the NGOs agree with the local authorities: the public sector should lead the way in green public procurement. Just as one example, if there is a need for a new kind of energy efficiency solution, the public authorities can commit themselves into buying a considerable quantity of this product for a certain price if some company develops it. These kind of solutions would foster innovation. Another important programme among the SCP programmes is the programme on buildings.

To sum up, thank you for the idea of having these two sessions combined, one on SDGs, one on SCPs. It is justified to combine these two. In our opinion, SCP should be one of the sustainable development goals. It is measurable, time-bound, and socially and economically sustainable. In addition, both SDGs on a UN level and the SCP on a national or sub-national level should have one common goal: to reduce the overusage and wastage of raw materials. This is what they should aim at in order to be sustainable.