



Distr.: General
22 December 2012

Original: English



**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

**Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 18–22 February 2012
Items 4 (a) and 5 of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: state of the environment

**Follow-up to and implementation of
the outcomes of United Nations summits
and major intergovernmental meetings,
including the decisions of the Governing
Council**

**Progress in the implementation of decision SS.XII/7 on work by
the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable
consumption and production**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report provides information on the implementation of Governing Council decision SS.XII/7, as requested in paragraph 7 of the decision.

* UNEP/GC.27/1.

I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested by the Executive Director. The suggested action will be submitted separately to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its use in the preparation of draft decisions for consideration by the Council.

II. Progress of work in the light of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

A. Introduction

2. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision SS/XII/7, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

3. Sustainable consumption and production have been at the core of the international sustainable development agenda since the adoption of Agenda 21 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002, the international community recognized changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production as a main objective and essential requirement for sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems. Since then, important progress has been achieved through numerous initiatives and partnerships, including the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, jointly coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. Since its establishment in 2003, that global, multi-stakeholder process has supported the implementation of sustainable consumption and production in all regions and has played a key role in providing inputs for the elaboration of the 10-year framework of programmes called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

4. The 10-year framework of programmes was considered by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development during its 2010–2011 implementation cycle, and in June 2012, heads of State and Government gathered at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns,¹ as reflected in paragraph 226 of the Rio+20 outcome document, entitled “The future we want”.²

5. UNEP is requested to act as secretariat of the ten-year framework and to establish and administer a trust fund to support its implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This is an encouraging signal of trust and recognition of UNEP and its work and expertise on sustainable consumption and production.

6. The present report is organized according to the operative paragraphs of decision SS.XII/7. It enumerates actions taken in response to the decision and reflects, among other things, national-level activities, efforts by the private sector to shift to sustainable consumption and production and other initiatives, with a focus on scientific and policy-based knowledge. It also discusses the preparations that contributed to the adoption of the ten-year framework of programmes at Rio+20.

B. Progress of work

1. Adoption of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

7. At Rio+20, heads of State and Government reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production was one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. They also reiterated that fundamental changes in the way that societies consumed and produced were indispensable for achieving global sustainable development.

¹ A/CONF.216/5, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

8. They also strengthened their commitment to accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns with the adoption of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. This was a very concrete and operational outcome of Rio+20. Paragraph 226 of the Rio+20 outcome document reads as follows:

We adopt the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns [as contained in document A/CONF.216/5], and highlight the fact that the programmes included in the framework are voluntary. We invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to designate a Member State body to take any necessary steps to fully operationalize the framework.³

9. The ten-year framework of programmes responds to the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. As requested by Member States, the ten-year framework document provides that the “framework should draw on valuable aspects of such experiences as the Marrakech Process, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and national cleaner production centres. The ongoing activities of the Marrakech Process, such as the task forces, should be considered for integration into the structure of the 10-year framework of programmes”.⁴

10. The ten-year framework of programmes is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries. The main objectives of the framework are to support the development of regional and national policies and initiatives contributing to the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation through resource efficiency while creating new market opportunities and contributing to poverty alleviation and social development; to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries to support sustainable consumption and production implementation at the regional and national levels; and to serve as a platform for information and knowledge-sharing on sustainable consumption and production tools, initiatives and best practices, enhancing cooperation and development of new partnerships – including public-private partnerships.

11. The framework document provides the vision, goals and values of the framework as well as its functions, organizational structure, means of implementation, programme criteria and an initial, non-exhaustive list of five programmes. It also requests UNEP to act as secretariat of the framework and to establish and administer a trust fund to support implementation of sustainable consumption and production in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

(a) Organizational structure of the framework

12. The organizational structure of the ten-year framework includes a secretariat (UNEP), a small board, a United Nations inter-agency coordination group, national and stakeholder focal points and a Member State body to receive reports from the Board and Secretariat and review the ten-year framework at the end of five years.

(i) Secretariat

13. The functions of UNEP as the framework secretariat are to cooperate closely with and respond to Member States; to collaborate with all relevant United Nations bodies; to foster the active participation of key stakeholders; to contribute to the fulfilment of the functions of the framework; to maintain a current list of active programmes and initiatives under the framework; to organize and service relevant meetings on the framework; and to report biennially to the body to be designated by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session⁵ on the activities and financial performance of the framework trust fund.

(ii) United Nations inter-agency coordination group

14. The main objectives of the inter-agency coordination group will be to ensure United Nations cooperation in the implementation of the framework, identifying synergies and joint projects and engaging United Nations bodies in activities relevant to the ten-year framework, such as programmes, research, meetings and national implementation.

³ Ibid., para. 226.

⁴ A/CONF.216/5, annex, para. 2 (b) (available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>).

⁵ On 21 December 2012, the General Assembly decided to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and secretariat as elaborated in the ten-year framework and to review this ad interim arrangement at its sixty-eighth session (resolution 67/203).

(iii) Small board

15. The functions of the small board will be to promote the framework; to guide the framework secretariat; to assist the secretariat in securing funding for the framework, including voluntary contributions to the trust fund for programmes; to oversee the secretariat's operation of the trust fund and its project approval process to ensure neutrality, objectivity, transparency, accountability and regional balance in the allocation and use of fund resources; to review annual progress reports by the secretariat on programmes under the framework; to report annually to the body designated by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session; to convene international and regional meetings; to guide preparations for the five-year review of the framework; and to invite representatives of United Nations bodies and major groups to participate in its deliberations.

16. The General Assembly subsequently decided to establish a 10-member board consisting of two members from each United Nations regional group, further decided to nominate, no later than 31 January 2013, the members of the board for an initial two-year term and requested the secretariat of the ten-year framework to elaborate a proposal on the duration of the subsequent terms, to be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.⁶

(iv) National and stakeholder focal points

17. National focal points will be nominated by Member States with the objective of ensuring contact and coordination with the board and the secretariat and supporting implementation of the framework. Other stakeholders are also expected to identify focal points.

(v) Member State body to receive reports and review progress

18. In "The future we want", the heads of State and Government assembled at Rio+20 requested the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to nominate a Member State body to fully operationalize the framework. The General Assembly subsequently decided to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and secretariat as elaborated in the ten-year framework and to review this ad interim arrangement at its sixty-eighth session.

(b) Means of implementation of the framework

19. The means of implementation of the framework will be supported by financial contributions from all available sources and a trust fund that UNEP has been requested to establish and administer. Another implementation mechanism will be a global clearing house on sustainable consumption and production, which will serve as the main platform for sharing knowledge, tools and best practices on sustainable consumption and production.

(i) Trust fund

20. The main objectives of the trust fund are to receive and mobilize resources in a stable, sustained and predictable manner to develop sustainable consumption and production programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as appropriate, and to promote the transparent allocation of resources. The fund will be used to support the implementation of the ten-year framework in developing countries, for example by providing seed money for the development and implementation of programme proposals.

(ii) Global sustainable consumption and production clearing house

21. The global sustainable consumption and production clearing house will serve as the ten-year framework "one-stop" information hub. It will focus on policymakers and the sustainable consumption and production community worldwide. UNEP, as the framework secretariat, has been working on the design and development of a dynamic and interactive hub for the collection, dissemination and sharing of experiences, best practices and knowledge about sustainable consumption and production in all regions. The clearing house will offer the following features: a sustainable consumption and production initiatives database covering all sustainable consumption and production themes, an e-library, a news and events section, including newsletters, and a cooperation module including an experts directory and working groups and discussion forums. Seventeen thematic and regional communities will be hosted to facilitate quick and focused access to information. Product sustainability information, sustainable food systems, cities and buildings and lifestyles and education will be among the themes addressed. The official launch of the clearing house is foreseen for the first quarter of 2013.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 67/203, para. 5.

(iii) Programmes of the ten-year framework

22. Programmes are at the core of the framework. They will bring together existing initiatives and partnerships working in similar areas, building synergies and cooperation between stakeholders to leverage resources to achieve mutual objectives and minimize duplication of existing efforts. Framework programmes will contribute to meeting the goals and functions of the framework, responding to national and regional needs, priorities and circumstances. They will encourage the involvement of Governments, business, civil society and all relevant stakeholders. The programmes will use a mix of policy instruments and have clear objectives, activities and indicators of success. The framework text includes an indicative and open list of such programmes. The list builds on the experience gained through the Marrakech Process, including those areas identified in the regional sustainable consumption and production round tables, strategies and action plans. The five initial programmes are in the areas of consumer information; sustainable lifestyles and education; sustainable public procurement; sustainable buildings and construction; and sustainable tourism, including ecotourism. There will also be the possibility of developing additional programmes, should countries demand them, in areas such as corporate social responsibility, agri-food, waste, transport and others.

(iv) Cooperation with United Nations entities and the contribution of sustainable consumption and production to poverty alleviation

23. In support of the preparations for Rio+20, UNEP co-organized several international events and one regional one. A side event of particular importance from the perspective of the future implementation of the framework, on the theme “One United Nations for sustainable consumption and production”, was held in New York in March 2012. The event was organized with United Nations entities, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. Those entities gave their perspectives on the priorities for achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as indications of the type of activities they would support under the ten-year framework. At the side event, UNEP and the European Commission launched *Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies: Taking Action Together*,⁷ available in the six official languages of the United Nations. That publication gathers 56 case studies from around the world implemented by Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations.

24. Sustainable consumption and production represents an important opportunity for poverty alleviation by enabling countries to do more and better with less through more efficient production processes and to “leapfrog” to sustainability, while creating new market opportunities based on the growing demand for sustainable products worldwide. At Rio+20, UNEP launched a report, *Sustainable Consumption and Production for Poverty Alleviation*,⁸ which explores the linkages between achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The report presents a theoretical framework that shows how natural resources and the environment underpin development efforts. It is illustrated by six case studies in key economic sectors, including energy, agriculture, waste management and urban development, which identify the economic, social and environmental gains secured by shifting towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. The conclusions of the report highlight the economic and social gains for developing countries resulting from a shift to sustainable consumption and production, which also sustains nature’s productive ecosystems.

2. Enhanced support for the development and implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme

25. UNEP has continued to promote and support the implementation of its resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme, strengthening and scaling up its work with Governments, private-sector bodies, researchers, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

26. Progress has been achieved in strengthening the scientific basis of resource efficiency, providing better understanding of how resource use and related environmental impacts correlate with production and consumption patterns and identifying development opportunities that flow from the

⁷ Available at <http://www.unep.fr/scp/go/index.htm>.

⁸ Available at <http://www.unep.org/resourceefficiency/Portals/24147/scp/nap/pdf/DTIx1515xPA-SCPforPovertyAlleviation.pdf>.

sustainable management of natural resources, including through the reports of the International Resource Panel and technical reports on sustainable consumption and production and poverty alleviation.

27. As indicated above, the adoption of the ten-year framework at Rio+20 was an important achievement. In addition to that achievement, multi-stakeholder partnerships have been launched in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies, Governments and other stakeholders, including the Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative – with the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and over 40 partners, including Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations – and the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities – with the support of UN-Habitat, the World Bank, Governments and city networks.

28. Activities to mainstream sustainable consumption and production at the regional level and in national and sectoral policies have been strengthened, for example through a strategic partnership with the European Commission, including in the context of the SWITCH-Asia programme. The SWITCH-Asia policy support component, which UNEP is implementing, has strengthened the capacity of policymakers to develop and implement sustainable consumption and production policies through three seminars held in October 2012, building on a capacity needs assessment finalized earlier in 2012. The seminars were held in Beijing, Manila and Colombo, covering North-East Asia, South-East Asia and South Asia, respectively. Building on the good experience of SWITCH-Asia, UNEP, together with the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, started in late 2012 to implement the SWITCH-Med project, which focuses on Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNEP will also shortly launch the Green-EaP project, in collaboration with UNIDO, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), focusing on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

29. A subregional workshop was organized by UNEP and the International Organization of la Francophonie in Dakar in November 2012. The objectives were to undertake a peer review of sustainable consumption and production initiatives and activities implemented in the countries of the subregion and to discuss the needs and opportunities related to the shift to sustainable consumption and production post-Rio+20 and to support the design and implementation of relevant policies for 10 francophone West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Togo and Senegal).

30. Good progress has also been made in working with the business and financial community and in promoting life-cycle approaches and methodologies, including capacity-building work on eco-labelling. At Rio+20, UNEP organized and hosted a day of private-sector side events on the theme “Inspire, invest, innovate”, held under the auspices of the Corporate Sustainability Forum and sponsored by the United Nations Global Compact. In order to accelerate the transition towards more resource-efficient societies, those events placed particular emphasis on promoting the integration of environmental and social considerations into the management practices of banks, insurance companies and investors, as they are contributing to shaping our economy, through the UNEP Finance Initiative. Target sectors also include food and agriculture, as well as the building and construction sectors, owing to their high environmental impact, as well as the services sector of tourism. Support for small and medium-sized enterprises and their intermediaries through the joint UNIDO/UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme is given a new momentum with a three-year programme focusing on eco-innovation that began in 2012. The programme will develop tools, make the business and policy cases for action and support national cleaner production centres and demonstration efforts in 47 countries.

31. With a view to further promoting more sustainable consumption patterns, guidelines, policy advice and support were provided to national public authorities to promote resource-efficient management and the purchase of sustainable products, with activities carried out in seven countries. Those activities are currently being scaled up in the context of the International Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative launched in the margins of Rio+20.

32. Sustained support has also been provided to sister United Nations entities to help them to mainstream sustainability in their operations: more than half of them have now finalized drafts for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from procurement practices. This includes support for the Sustainable United Nations initiative publications launched in 2012: *Moving towards a Climate Neutral UN*; a sustainable events guide; and online training on sustainable procurement, “Buying for a better world”.

3. Support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements that focus on sustainable consumption and production plans at the national level

33. UNEP has contributed to analysis on the development of national action plans on sustainable consumption and production, including as a contribution to achieving Aichi Target 4 of the Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁹ In 2012, related work in Europe, to be finalized by January 2013, consisted of a scoping study focusing on transport, tourism and the energy efficiency of buildings in Montenegro. Asia has seen a review on strengthening the legal framework for resource efficiency in Cambodia, the development of a national plan on sustainable consumption and production in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and national planning on sustainable consumption and production and the green economy in the Philippines. In addition, as a follow-up to the national action plan developed in Viet Nam in 2011, UNEP organized a national dialogue on sustainable consumption and production, identifying policy options for integrating sustainable consumption and production into the action plan of each government ministry. UNEP also organized a national consultation workshop in Egypt, contributing to a national vision and road map on mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production and the green economy. In Africa, the second-phase pilot countries under the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production –Burkina Faso, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia – have developed their own national sustainable consumption and production programmes, endorsed by their respective Governments, and implemented some of the priority projects identified in the programmes.

34. Through the SWITCH-Asia project policy support component, UNEP has developed an assessment on the policy support needs and capacity-strengthening demands of Asian countries in relation to sustainable consumption and production. The assessment includes 19 Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam). It is based on a review of the main policy documents addressing sustainable consumption and production, national development plans and sectoral policies on housing, infrastructure, transport, energy and water.

35. Examining the way in which sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives integrate the commitments embedded in major environmental conventions is also key. This was the objective of a study conducted by UNEP on product sustainability information tools, which will be presented in a workshop in 2013 with the participation of representatives of convention secretariats and major labelling and certification programmes.

4. Efforts of government, private-sector and other stakeholders to shift to sustainable consumption and production in sectors with high environmental and social impact, including through corporate environmental and social responsibility

(a) Sustainability in the private sector

36. UNEP has continued to engage businesses and industry in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns. In June 2012 at the Rio+20 Summit, UNEP organized and hosted a day of private-sector side events on the theme "Inspire, invest, innovate" (see para. 29 above). A high-level tripartite dialogue – webcast live on the United Nations website (un.org) – presented a report, *Business Case for the Green Economy*, and included several sector-specific sessions. The report builds on research and case studies worldwide, translating the macroeconomic case established by the "Green economy report" series into a viable business case. Building on the success of the event, UNEP and the Global Compact, with the support of Business for Social Responsibility, have developed a partnership to organize a series of yearly global business forums.

(b) Sustainability reporting

37. The utility of sustainability reporting is acknowledged in paragraph 47 of "The future we want". The outcome document supports the development of models for best practice and the facilitation of action to integrate sustainability reporting. Four Governments – those of Brazil, Denmark, France and South Africa – announced the creation of the "Group of friends of paragraph 47" to advance corporate sustainability reporting and invited UNEP and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) to act as secretariat. UNEP and GRI supported the group in preparations related to its vision and in efforts to reach out to stakeholders, establishing an international reference group and developing an inventory of best practices on the promotion of corporate disclosure. The group also engaged in

⁹ Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

discussions in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, organizing a side event in New York on 1 November 2012.

38. At Rio+20, UNEP, together with Deloitte and the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa (University of Stellenbosch Business School), launched *Making Investment Grade: The Future of Corporate Reporting*. That publication brings together views of international leaders in academia, government and the private and financial sectors on the future of corporate reporting. It analyses crucial aspects of the issue, such as the definition of integrated reporting, regulation, and governance issues involved in sustainability reporting, as well as the potential of integrated reporting to contribute to the delivery of a resource-efficient and green economy.

(c) Sustainable consumption and production in small and medium-sized enterprises

(i) Resource efficiency and cleaner production

39. The joint UNIDO/UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme strengthened its support for small and medium-sized enterprises and their intermediaries in the area of eco-innovation. A three-year partnership with the European Commission, which will develop tools, make the business and policy cases for action and support centres and demonstration efforts in 47 countries, was begun in 2012. At the national level, activities under the Programme were carried out in 2012 in Albania and Rwanda, in the context of the United Nations “Delivering as one” initiative, and in Serbia, where the national cleaner production centre implemented capacity-building activities on sustainable rural tourism for energy efficiency and sustainable resource management.

(ii) Safer production

40. UNEP has continued to disseminate (in English and French) and implement the *Responsible Production Handbook: A Framework for Chemical Hazard Management for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises* through partnerships with national cleaner production centres in China, Egypt, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. In addition, activities in 2012 under the UNEP/International Council of Chemical Associations partnership, established in 2010, included the design of two project interventions – one in Viet Nam and the other at the subregional level in Africa (in the East African and West African subregions) – and a high-level dialogue side event at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Nairobi in September 2012.

(d) Guidance for responsible and safer production

41. An expert workshop on awareness and preparedness for emergencies at the local level (APELL) and responsible production was held in Bangkok from 29 February to 2 March 2012 with the aim of building the capacity of Thai experts to create a pool of trainers to further support small and medium-sized enterprises in the adaptation and implementation of responsible production and APELL approaches. The workshop also brought together responsible production experts and practitioners from Asia, strengthening cooperation among UNEP regional networks of responsible production and APELL experts in China, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

42. UNEP has been implementing projects in Mali and Senegal under the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme throughout 2012, developing a road map for chemical accident prevention and preparedness. In 2012, UNEP has started projects with similar objectives in Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania and has provided support for Cambodia and the Philippines in the preparation of project proposals for Quick Start Programme funding.

43. An implementation support package to accompany existing guidance on implementation of the UNEP Flexible Framework for Chemical Accident Prevention was published to provide further guidance and materials on the implementation of the Flexible Framework. The UNEP Flexible Framework Expert Working Group met for the eighth time, in Paris in October 2012, bringing together representatives from United Nations agencies, the European Commission and regional and national expert organizations, together with independent experts.

44. UNEP launched the publication *Commemorating 25 Years of the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) Programme* and a video-documentary on the Global APELL Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Forum, held in Beijing in November 2011. A partnership has been established with Bahia Blanca University in Argentina and Tsinghua University in China to establish APELL and responsible production centres within the universities. Capacity-building and South–South partnering on chemical accident prevention and preparedness and APELL were promoted in Chile and Argentina (October 2012).

5. United Nations Environment Programme activities on sustainable consumption and production, taking into account those responsibilities identified in the draft text on the ten-year frame work elaborated by the Commission for Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session

45. UNEP has continued its work to promote and support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production, strengthening and scaling up its work with Governments, private sector bodies, researchers, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. New initiatives and partnerships have been launched, training and capacity-building have increased in all regions and information and awareness-raising activities have been strengthened.

(a) Education and lifestyles

46. In 2012, UNEP extended its work on education and training for young people on sustainable consumption (youthXchange) and lifestyles through two publications developed together with UNESCO: the thematic *YouthXchange Green Skills and Lifestyles Guidebook*, designed to help young people familiarize themselves with the green economy and the skills needed to achieve it (e.g., social innovation and green entrepreneurship); and the regional guidebook, *YouthXchange Training Kit on Responsible Consumption for Africa*, consisting of local, national and regional case studies reflecting the realities of sustainable consumption and lifestyles in Africa. UNEP also supported and conducted training workshops and capacity-building activities targeted at children and young people, educators and policymakers in Africa, Europe and Asia to support content adaptation, translation and targeted dissemination of the UNEP/UNESCO YouthXchange publications.

47. Activities have also taken place at the national and local levels in the area of education for sustainable consumption, strengthening the work of the Marrakech Process Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption (led by the Government of Italy) and the work of the Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles (led by the Government of Sweden). Three pilot projects are being implemented in Chile, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania, with Consumers International, YPB-Sustainable Development Foundation and the National Environment Management Council, respectively, as implementing partners. The main objective of the project is to mainstream education for sustainable consumption in formal education curricula and informal education. The projects contribute directly to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014 and are implemented with partners, including UNESCO and the Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living. In 2012, reviews and analysis of existing national policy frameworks relevant to education for sustainable consumption were conducted, multi-stakeholder national round-table discussions with policymakers and education experts were held to develop best approaches and tools, and national guidelines and recommendations were developed and disseminated along with national implementation strategies.

(b) Life-cycle initiative

48. UNEP is working to develop internationally agreed life-cycle methodologies and data to allow for the generation of science-based information to support decision-making and management processes at many levels.

49. Activities on life-cycle approaches have included awareness-raising and capacity-building relating to life-cycle assessments, footprinting indicators and life-cycle management. More than 50 representatives from the private sector in Asia, Latin America and Africa were trained on the environmental footprint of products and organizations and a life-cycle management capability maturity model. Training sessions were held in August 2012 in New Delhi, for Indian businesses and suppliers (back to back with the first Indian conference on life-cycle management and assessment, organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the UNEP/Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Life Cycle Initiative, and in Lima; as well as in November 2012 in Lille, France. Another session is planned for the first half of 2013 in Mexico City. In addition, 200 people from national statistics offices, companies and academia were trained in Bangkok, New Delhi, Lima, Beijing and Mexico City in 2012 on global guidance principles for life-cycle assessment databases. Those undertakings represent a response to paragraph 76 (g) of “The future we want”, on the promotion of the science-policy interface. Finally, a training session at the intermediate level on the creation, strengthening and exchange of life-cycle assessment databases in Latin America was held in Maringá, Brazil, back to back with the Third Brazilian Conference on Life Cycle Management of Products and Services, organized by UNEP and the Department of Chemical Engineering, Maringá.

50. A train-the-trainers workshop on carbon and water footprinting was held in Paris from 12 to 16 November and attended by 30 participants from 18 countries, including Chile, China, India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey.

51. A report exploring a global framework for sustainability assessment throughout the life cycle of products, entitled “Towards a life-cycle sustainability assessment: making informed choices on products”, was produced in 2012. In addition, the publication *Greening the Economy through Life Cycle Thinking*, prepared for Rio+20, presents key messages on the benefits and importance of taking a life-cycle approach and describes a road map beyond 2012 for mainstreaming life-cycle thinking globally. This work is contributing to increasing national capacity for the development of indicators of progress for sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

(c) Product information tools and labelling

52. UNEP has completed a large technical project on product sustainability information, under way since 2007, to enable developing countries to seize opportunities presented by eco-labels to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing industries while increasing international competitiveness and market access. The project was implemented in seven countries (Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa) and focused on textiles, pulp and paper, footwear and electrical appliances. At the global level, the project worked to promote greater cooperation, positioning eco-labelling as a market opportunity that can improve resource efficiency and reduce environmental impacts rather than create a “green trade barrier” for emerging economies. The project has generated interest within industry and Governments.

53. UNEP coordinated a follow-up regional cooperation process in the countries of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) in 2011–2012. The objective was to evaluate and make progress on strategies for regional cooperation on eco-labelling and to promote sustainable public procurement.

54. An international workshop was organized in February 2012, involving mostly emerging economies, to discuss coordination strategies, the challenges posed by the proliferation of eco-labels and problems such as greenwashing or unfair commercial practices. The workshop, funded by Germany, was a follow-up to UNEP engagement in evaluating the state of product sustainability information around the world through research, mapping, surveys and extensive interviews.

55. A study on the role of retailers and the current use of sustainability practices in influencing suppliers and consumers through product sustainability information was funded by France. The results of the study were reviewed in November 2012.

(d) Sustainable buildings and urban development

56. At Rio+20, UNEP launched the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities. The Initiative will provide decision makers with a mechanism for exchanging experiences, sharing best practices and establishing a peer-review process on resource footprinting for cities. UNEP is undertaking a review of methodologies on resource flows at the city level, before defining a more coherent approach to resource use and efficiency in cities. The Initiative builds on UNEP work with other United Nations entities (in particular UN-Habitat) and city networks such as ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability. Its goal is to use the convening capacity of UNEP to improve the synergy of groups working on resource-efficient cities. In addition, UNEP has continued to successfully collaborate with key international organizations on its city work. Under the joint work programme between UNEP, the Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat and the World Bank, workshops were held in the Philippines in February 2012, in Uganda in July 2012 and in Ghana in September 2012 to train local city practitioners in mainstreaming environment in planning processes. Based on this, a methodology, to be completed in 2013, is being developed to improve the integration of environmental concerns and inform future projects of the entities participating in the joint work programme. Another key outcome of the joint work programme is the Knowledge Centre on Cities and Climate Change (K4C), launched in September 2012 at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum. UN-Habitat will be using K4C as a platform for information exchange and a knowledge hub for its Cities and Climate Change initiative.

57. The UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) has maintained its focus on promoting sustainable building policies and practices in all regions. In partnership with key stakeholders, dialogues were held under the auspices of the Initiative in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in June 2012, preceding Rio+20, and in Singapore in October 2012, with the support of the Centre for Sustainable Buildings of the Singapore Building and Construction Authority, which collaborates with UNEP. In addition, new projects under the Sustainable Social Housing Initiative were launched in Bangladesh and India in June 2012 to improve the sustainability performance of affordable housing units, to raise awareness of sustainability in the building sector and to train professionals. UNEP-SBCI assumed the work of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Building and Construction, which was led by the Ministry of Environment of Finland. The Task Force effort has led to two demonstration projects on sustainable building policies for developing countries in Burkina Faso and Kenya,

promoting the adoption of locally relevant policy instruments, assessment and implementation tools. Finally, the Common Carbon Metric is being formulated through the International Organization for Standardization as the basis for an international standard by which to measure energy consumption and report greenhouse-gas emissions from building operations. The metric has advanced to the stage of an approved committee draft and is expected to be finalized in 2014. A pilot test was conducted with Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative partners, and demonstration projects were implemented in Eastern European cities and in Malaysia.

(e) Sustainable food systems

58. In “The future we want”, heads of State of Government, recognized the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain.¹⁰ In 2011, FAO and UNEP established an agri-food task force on sustainable consumption and production to develop, catalyse and implement a sustainable food systems programme to provide a strategic framework for sustainable consumption and production activities in the agri-food sector. One of the key aspects of this programme is an assumption that more sustainable food systems will lead to more food security. The task force was set up in 2012 around four activity clusters and started activities on increasing the availability of information on sustainable production and innovative means of dissemination; providing consumer-related communications on sustainable consumption and production in the agri-food sector to consumers to enable them to make informed choices and adopt sustainable behaviour, including reducing food waste; enabling conditions for the uptake of sustainable consumption and production in food systems at the national level; and promoting market-based approaches to ensuring greater access to sustainable consumption and production tools by, and providing incentives to, food-supply-chain stakeholders. UNEP has established supply-chain partnerships aimed at identifying environmental impacts along the supply chain and developing road maps and activities to address sustainability hotspots. A modular methodology for establishing sustainable food supply chains was developed in 2012 on the basis of two pilot projects, in the rice sector in Thailand and the fishery sector in Brazil,

59. In May 2012 the participants at the seventh meeting of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production adopted a decision on the establishment of national agri-food roundtables on sustainable consumption and production in Africa in collaboration with the FAO/UNEP Agri-Food Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The objectives of the roundtables will be primarily to develop and promote the business case for sustainable consumption and production, facilitate the uptake of best practices at the national level and identify policy priorities for the promotion of more sustainable food systems. The countries identified for the initial roundtables are South Africa, Ghana and Mozambique, all of which have either emerging or well-established agri-food sectors and significant problems with food insecurity in rural and urban areas.

(f) Sustainable public procurement

60. In 2012 UNEP concluded a three-year project on capacity-building for sustainable public procurement aimed at assisting seven pilot countries¹¹ in the development of sustainable public procurement policies through a methodology developed by the Swiss-led Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement. Through this project, 132 experts from more than 50 countries have been trained by UNEP on sustainable public procurement. After the elaboration of national action plans on sustainable public procurement and the establishment of national inter-ministerial steering groups in all of the countries, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mauritius started implementing their action plans, incorporating environmental and social criteria into their procurement systems. The following outputs were produced in 2012: sustainable public procurement guidelines; a training toolkit, adaptable to national contexts, for decision makers, suppliers and procurers; a study on the impacts of sustainable public procurement; and a web-based sustainable public procurement knowledge management centre that will be integrated into the sustainable consumption and production global clearing-house. A scaled-up phase of this project started in late 2012, targeting 20 countries around the world, with the support of the European Commission. An intensive seminar on sustainable public procurement for Indian Railways was organized in August 2012 by UNEP in cooperation with the Government of India; it was held in New Delhi and was attended by more than 40 senior officials from the Indian railway system. The main output of the seminar was a concept paper describing an operational approach that Indian Railways could take to advance sustainable public procurement, which could be of interest to other countries.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 110.

¹¹ Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Mauritius, Tunisia and Uruguay.

61. At Rio+20, UNEP launched the international Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative, which has already been endorsed by 30 countries and organizations. As a follow-up to the work of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement, this initiative fills a gap in the coordination of sustainable public procurement implementation worldwide and offers a global platform for procurement practitioners and other interested stakeholders.

(g) Sustainable tourism

62. In “The future we want”, heads of State or Government encouraged sustainable tourism development and the promotion of related financial investments.¹² The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, launched by UNEP in 2011, seeks the same goals. The partnership was launched as the successor to the former Marrakech International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development in order to continue and expand the successful work and build on its work and momentum. The Global Partnership currently has 87 registered partners. Reports on the sustainable tourism situation in the regions of the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and southern Africa will serve as the basis for the annual regional progress report series on advancing sustainable tourism. The Caribbean and Asia-Pacific regions convened meetings in October and November 2012, respectively, in collaboration with key partners, to identify needs and priorities and develop proposals and secure financing for regional and national activities.

63. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, in collaboration with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, developed screening criteria for sustainable tourism projects to assist partners in the better design, implementation, monitoring and measurement of sustainable tourism projects, focusing on seven priority themes. Reviewed by more than 40 technical experts from all over the world, the criteria will undergo testing until the end of 2012.

64. The Asia Pacific Network on Sustainable Tourism (Asia Pacific NEST), organized at a regional symposium in November 2012, aims to provide a cooperation framework on sustainable tourism in Asia and the Pacific.

65. UNEP also completed in 2012 a three-year project on sustainable rural tourism for Serbia as part of a United Nations programme involving UNDP, UNWTO, FAO and the United Nations Children’s Fund. The project was aimed at supporting the development of rural tourism in Serbia as a boost to economic activity and employment.

6. Use of the scientific and policy knowledge base and international science policy mechanisms, including the International Resource Panel

66. Established in 2007, the International Resource Panel achieved in 2012 significant and far-reaching progress, including the launching of an assessment report on measuring water use, the finalization and upcoming launches of reports on city-level decoupling, decoupling in practice, metals environmental impacts and recycling technologies and the development of forthcoming reports on water efficiency, sustainable land management and trade-offs in greenhouse gas mitigation technologies.

67. The Panel produced a synopsis report that was launched at Rio+20, entitled “Responsible resource management for a sustainable world: findings from the International Resource Panel” (see UNEP/GC.27/INF/13). The report presented the main conclusions of the Panel’s first series of assessments, including on the subjects listed in the preceding paragraph, thus highlighting the Panel’s significant contributions to resource efficiency and environmental sustainability.

68. The Panel has also organized seminars on resource efficiency at the regional level and has strengthened multiple partnerships. An international seminar on resource efficiency and the decoupling approach organized by the Panel in Bangkok in April 2012 was attended by more than 45 high-level policymakers and experts from the Government and from the business, academic and research communities. It provided an opportunity for scientists and experts to present policymakers with the key findings of the Panel and engage in an interactive dialogue on public policy for a better and more sustainable future in Asia. The Panel also led substantive sessions during the World Resources Forum in October 2012 and the European Resources Forum in November 2012, providing an opportunity for the expert members of the Panel to present policymakers with the key findings of the Panel while exchanging ideas and experiences on policymaking for sustainable resource management.

¹² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paras. 130 and 131.

III. Lessons learned on sustainable consumption and production

69. The formal adoption of the ten-year framework at Rio+20 demonstrates renewed willingness by the international community to achieve the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. It also reflects clear interest in rapid implementation among countries. For instance, by September 2012 the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific had already received requests from eight countries in the region for support for their implementation of the ten-year framework at the national level. Also in September 2012, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session adopted a decision on sustainable consumption and production that calls for a review of the African 10-Year Framework Programme to hasten the implementation of the global ten-year framework.

70. While progress has been achieved in the development of regional strategies, more support is needed for the mainstreaming and implementation of sustainable consumption and production at the national level. For instance, the Arab Regional Strategy for sustainable consumption and production, adopted in 2010, identified priority sectors for the region. Implementation at the national level has not, however, progressed. Countries with no formal national cleaner production programmes or centres have moved relatively slowly towards sustainable consumption and production. In Asia and the Pacific, where sustainable consumption and production policies already exist, needs focus more on developing tools with which to implement those policies.

71. At the regional level, more resources need to be mobilized to respond effectively to the growing needs and interest of countries with regard to implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies and actions. Countries require sustained support and guidance in developing, testing and implementing new sustainable consumption and production policies at the national level, as well as in monitoring progress.

72. There is a need to invest in methodologies, data generation and capacity-building with regard to indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable consumption and production, resource efficiency, decoupling and sustainability. Indicators must incorporate economic and social aspects. UNEP is already working on sustainable consumption and production, resource-efficient and green economy indicators, including through cooperation with other initiatives carried out by OECD, the World Bank and the European Environment Agency, among others. This includes cooperation through the Green Growth Knowledge Platform. These efforts will support the identification of relevant indicators for tracking progress and measuring results of the ten-year framework at the global, regional and national levels.

73. Sustainable consumption and production is a complex and cross-cutting issue involving many policy areas and all economic sectors, and it requires multi-stakeholder cooperation and effective coordination. Countries therefore need to strengthen their capacity for inter-ministerial, cross-departmental and multi-stakeholder cooperation. This involves strengthening horizontal communication and collaboration. The nomination of national focal points on sustainable consumption and production, as called for in the ten-year framework text, will facilitate such coordination.

74. Effectively engaging the private sector in the transition to a resource-efficient economy based on sustainable consumption and production patterns remains a critical priority. Although initial efforts to make the economic case for sustainable consumption and production have set out the evidence for economic and development gains from sustainable consumption and production, more remains to be done. Sustainability reporting is an increasingly visible area where UNEP can facilitate and measure improvements in resource efficiency and the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. It will also be necessary to build the capacities of businesses to produce sustainable products through innovative, integrated approaches, including the life-cycle approach, and initiatives addressing supply and value chains, which have been highlighted as best practices and need to be applied more widely through various work streams (for example, sustainable products) and in key economic sectors, giving particular attention to support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

75. Only limited data on resource consumption in cities is available, making it difficult for cities to integrate resource use and consumption into planning and socioeconomic development. Regarding UNEP work on resource-efficient cities, it has been shown that in an increasingly urbanized world, cities provide important opportunities to realize economies of scale. At the subnational level, the implementation of existing sustainable consumption and production policies is both a challenge and an opportunity. Proper implementation will require engaging with all relevant stakeholders (cities, private companies, utilities, academia and others) to motivate local decision makers to contribute to the design of and support implementation of regulations promulgated at the national level.

76. The building sector can play a driving role towards sustainable consumption and production. Greater integration of sustainable buildings and construction in urban development and infrastructure planning is necessary to capitalize fully on the sustainable development potential. Opportunities to achieve a greater scale of resource efficiency in the building sector through efforts in greening supply chains are also considerable. UNEP is also working closely with and engaging more actively green building councils and local authorities.

IV. Way forward

77. While a small board will be nominated by 31 January 2013 to guide the implementation of the ten-year framework, UNEP, as the designated framework secretariat, is already engaging stakeholders, identifying national focal points and working with other United Nations entities to identify areas where they could contribute to the fulfilment of the framework's functions. Those functions include promoting the added value of sustainable consumption and production, identifying sustainable consumption and production indicators for measuring progress in implementing the framework, integrating sustainable consumption and production into decision-making at all levels, engaging the private sector, fostering increased cooperation and networking and facilitating access to technical assistance and other resources, especially for developing countries. Fostering innovation and new ideas while making use of the scientific and policy knowledge base and supporting knowledge and information sharing, awareness-raising and education on sustainable consumption and production are also key functions.

78. In addition to acting as secretariat, UNEP will further support the programmes of the framework, starting with those initially identified by Governments at Rio+20. Building on experience, work of the Marrakech Process task forces and other existing initiatives, UNEP efforts will focus on consumer information, sustainable public procurement and sustainable tourism. When possible, UNEP will also provide inputs and guidance to the leading actors in the framework programmes focused on other areas and sectors, currently identified as building and construction and education and lifestyles. This will be done through enhanced cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and major groups, including Governments, businesses, consumer organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations, and United Nations entities, including the development and implementation of joint initiatives or activities on other themes. For instance, FAO and UNEP have a long-term commitment to working in the area of sustainable food systems. Further activities will be supported by the existing Agri-food Task Force on sustainable consumption and production during 2013, including a workshop on sustainability standards. Other programmes will be established, as required, in response to clear demand from Governments and other stakeholders.

79. As secretariat, UNEP is also developing a consultative process for the design and launch of framework programmes. Those programmes will be based on the criteria set out in the ten-year framework document. UNEP is developing the "common template for the programmes" called for in the document. The aim is to secure feedback from Governments and major groups on the template, ensuring that while it captures all agreed criteria for the programmes, it is also simple and user-friendly.

80. Important challenges for the implementation of the framework will include increasing the political commitment to sustainable consumption and production, encouraging and facilitating the active engagement not only of Governments but also of the private sector, civil society and all major groups; defining a clear set of indicators for measuring progress; securing sustained and predictable funding; and communicating more clearly the economic and social (sustainable) development secured by a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns.

81. UNEP will aim to create more synergies among sustainable consumption and production programmes and projects through the ten-year framework. Stronger links will be established through the development of joint activities. For example, a capacity-building project on the combined use of sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling in emerging economies will be implemented with the support of the European Commission.

82. UNEP, as the framework secretariat, has launched a ten-year framework website and communication strategy and is preparing the pre-launch of the global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse by January 2013. A teaser website will be established allowing all actors and stakeholders (Governments, business, non-governmental organizations, etc.) to become members and register their sustainable consumption and production initiatives.

83. At the regional and national levels, continuing UNEP work includes the revision of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as the establishment of the partnership for sustainable consumption and production in Africa. In the Arab

region, the fourth Arab roundtable meeting on sustainable consumption and production will be held in the first quarter of 2013, with the support of UNEP, to develop a road map for implementation at the national level. In Asia and the Pacific, UNEP will continue to strengthen its activities, building on its work under the EU-sponsored SWITCH-Asia programme, the Asia-Pacific roundtable on sustainable consumption and production and the Association of South-East Asian Nations forum on sustainable consumption and production. Tailor-made technical and policy support will be provided to Asia-Pacific countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam). Activities will be implemented at the subregional level as well, including the development of guidelines for national sustainable consumption and production indicators in South Asian countries. In Latin America, the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production Needs will be supported in connection with efforts to strengthen regional implementation of the ten-year framework, identifying synergies, generating new initiatives and partnerships and scaling up the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

84. At Rio+20, countries affirmed “that green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should ... promote sustainable consumption and production patterns” and that they would “continue efforts to strive for inclusive, equitable development approaches to overcome poverty and inequality.”¹³ This provides important guidance for UNEP on the themes of sustainable consumption and production and the green economy. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy and the ten-year framework are complementary but distinct initiatives at the global level, with different mandates. At the national level, the delivery of UNEP advisory and capacity-building services will be fully harmonized and coordinated in order to benefit from the complementarities inherent in the two approaches. UNEP aims to have technical teams working together on the green economy, sustainable consumption and production and eventually energy efficiency in order to better coordinate and deliver integrated advice and support to countries.

85. With a view to promoting resource efficiency and eco-innovation, UNEP is working in the public and private sectors to demonstrate and communicate the economic, social and environmental benefits of mainstreaming eco-innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises and reinforcing national policies. Specifically, policy and technical capacities will be enhanced in both the public and private sectors. Activities will be implemented through intermediaries who work with these sectors such as the UNIDO-UNEP resource efficiency and national cleaner production centres. These are well positioned between national Governments and local businesses to support policy mainstreaming and foster a more informed public-private sector dialogue. Activities will raise awareness and make the case for how to practically improve the integration of eco-innovation into policy frameworks. Policymakers and the private sector will also benefit from a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with eco-innovation.

86. UNEP will continue to focus on improving collaborative efforts on resource-efficient cities and buildings through the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities. The UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative will work on identifying opportunities for and barriers to achieving greater resource efficiency and supply-chain best practices delivering economic, social and environmental benefits. UNEP will also assist several Asian countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) in developing nationally appropriate mitigation actions for the building sector.

87. Following up on the Rio+20 outcomes on sustainability reporting, UNEP and the Global Reporting Initiative will assist a Government-led initiative to reinforce the role of Governments in enhancing corporate sustainability reporting. The engagement with the private sector will then focus on specific challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, within the framework of a project funded by the European Union.

88. Rio+20 also recognized the need to facilitate informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and, in this regard, to strengthen the science-policy interface. The International Resource Panel will contribute to this process, identifying key knowledge gaps and increasing the accessibility of scientific knowledge for decision makers designing policies on sustainable resource management and achieving sustainable consumption and production.

¹³ Ibid., para. 58, subparas. (o) and (p).