



Distr.: General
20 September 2017
Original: English



**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third session**

Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Performance of the programme of work and budget,
including implementation of the resolutions of the
Environment Assembly**

**Progress made pursuant to resolution 2/8 on sustainable
consumption and production**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

At its second session, held in May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, following the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

Subsequently, the United Nations Environment Programme supported its implementation by means of programmatic activities, as the secretariat of the International Resource Panel, as the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and through direct involvement in the implementation of all six programmes of the 10-Year Framework.

Those efforts were aligned with the resource efficiency subprogramme as set out in the programme of work for 2016–2017, within an increased emphasis on transversal collaboration across units.

The present report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of resolution 2/8.

* UNEP/EA.3/1.

I. Introduction

1. In May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production, following the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 12. The present report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

II. Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/8

2. Countries of the Group of 7 and Group of 20 recognized the importance of resource efficiency, supported by the findings of the report “Resource Efficiency: Potential and Economic Implications”, prepared at the request of the Group of 7 by the International Resource Panel.¹ By analysing four scenarios, the International Resource Panel found that smarter use of natural resources could add \$2 trillion to the global economy annually, while offsetting the cost of ambitious climate change action. Following the interest generated by those findings, the G7 has now requested the International Resource Panel to further assess the potential greenhouse gas reductions of resource efficiency policies.

3. The efforts to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns have been further strengthened in the following ways:

(a) Developing its monitoring and evaluation framework with common success indicators across all six programmes and by launching a pilot reporting system;

(b) Strengthening partnerships and identifying best practices through the enhanced Global Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse online platform;

(c) Further enhancing online sharing platforms, including the Global Life Cycle Assessment Data Access network, to strengthen the application of life cycle approaches, supported by databases on eco-innovation;²

(d) Supporting projects on the ground: the trust fund of the 10-Year Framework is currently supporting 33 such projects;

(e) Facilitating cooperation and networks through global conferences, such as the World Circular Economy Forum, at which the International Resource Panel and the 10-Year Framework hosted a joint session on sustainable consumption for a circular economy.

4. The implementation of the six programmes of the 10-Year Framework has progressed significantly since they were made operational in 2015 and their achievements are set out in the progress report to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.³ New partners have continued to join the programmes and total membership now exceeds 540 partners across the six programmes. Potential joint financing of projects was explored in a South-South cooperation conference in Brasilia, which engaged five development banks, nine bilateral development cooperation agencies and all six programmes.

5. Key outputs of the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme included the provision of 89 knowledge resources and technical tools and 179 outreach and communication activities. The Sustainable Tourism Programme has continued to serve as a collaborative platform to bring together existing initiatives and partnerships and facilitate new activities further strengthened by its international symposium on advancing sustainable tourism in a changing climate. Key highlights included 38 knowledge resources and over 10,000 person-days of training. The Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme was focused on project implementation and communication, and key highlights included 31 outreach and communication activities. The key activity of the Consumer Information Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production consisted of the development of the guidelines for providing product sustainability information and 10 changes in practice and the creation of 20 knowledge resources and technical tools. The Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme focused on project implementation through the issuance of three trust fund calls for proposals, including those supported by the Government of Japan. Key points included 8 communication and outreach activities and 11 knowledge resources and technical tools. The

¹ UNEP (2017) Resource Efficiency: Potential and Economic Implications. A report of the International Resource Panel. Ekins, P., Hughes, N., et al. Available at: www.resourcepanel.org/reports.

² See: www.lifecycleinitiative.org.

³ “Progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns”, available at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/63.

Sustainable Food Systems Programme focused on building its operational capacity and fostering collaboration between its actors. Outputs of particular note included more than 12,000 person-days of training and the engagement of 161 partners from governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations in its first year of operation. Enhanced engagement with the private sector is being sought by all programmes and that has been reflected in changes in the membership of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committees of certain programmes.

6. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns reported that some \$80 million has been made available by partners in its programmes up to December 2016. Sustainable Development Goal 12 was allocated \$90 million across the United Nations system in 2016, with the Environment Programme providing the most significant contribution. The report of the 10-Year Framework to the high-level political forum on sustainable development highlighted the high demand for support (more than 600 eligible projects were submitted to the trust fund, although only 33 could be financed).

7. Integrated resource assessment by the International Resource Panel demonstrates potential multiple benefit outcomes of resource efficiency to sustainability objectives. An International Resource Panel assessment entitled “Assessing Global Resource Use: a Systems Approach to Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction” will be available in December 2017 as an information document for the Assembly, in accordance with its resolution 2/8. The analysis will be expanded in a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its fourth session in 2019.

8. The Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities connected institutions to promote systems approaches towards low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient cities. Its reports on linking resource efficiency and resilience and on urban metabolism and infrastructure transitions informed the New Urban Agenda.

III. Recommendations and suggested action

9. The centrality of sustainable consumption and production in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has only partially contributed to the leveraging of adequate resources. Sustainable Development Goal 12 is the least well-resourced of all the Goals. However, there are high expectations that the United Nations will play an important and catalytic role. Systems-based approaches, such as the circular economy, offer interesting opportunities for achieving higher engagement on the part of both the public and private sectors, and these have been pursued in 2017. The recommendations and suggested action for consideration by the Assembly are as follows:

(a) Member States and stakeholders should increase their engagement and support, including increased financial resources, for the delivery of Sustainable Development Goal 12 and implementation of all programmes under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and for the work of the International Resource Panel;

(b) Member States and the Environment Programme should strengthen the engagement of the private sector and finance communities through enhanced collaboration at all levels: national, regional and global;

(c) All member States should actively contribute to measuring and reporting their progress towards the achievement of Goal 12, in particular target 12.1 on the implementation of the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.