



Distr.: General
11 January 2021
English only



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

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

Nairobi (online), 22–26 February 2021*
Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

**International environmental policy and
governance issues**

**Information on the implementation of paragraph 12 of
resolution 4/1, adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly at its fourth session**

Note by the Executive Director

Introduction

1. The present note introduces the report entitled “Catalysing science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production: the value-chain approach and its application to food, construction and textiles”.
2. The report was prepared in response to the request made at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in its resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.1 on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production. In paragraph 12 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director “to establish, within the scope of existing resources and building on work already undertaken, without duplication of effort, a time-limited task group comprising the International Resource Panel and the One Planet Network, to provide insight into the management of natural resources and raw materials in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and explore the potential offered by the different pathways towards sustainable consumption and production and, taking into account national circumstances, to identify technical tools, best practice, policy options, sustainable technologies, innovative business models and finance flows in that regard.” In addition, it requested “that the task group complete its work in time to present the outcome to the Environment Assembly at its fifth session”.
3. The task group was composed of practitioners implementing sustainable consumption and production in the One Planet network and scientists working on natural resources in the International Resource Panel. It took a sectoral focus and applied the value-chain approach to catalyse science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production, thereby providing actionable

* In accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly held on 8 October 2020 and at the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Assembly is expected to adjourn on 23 February 2021 and resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

** UNEP/EA.5/Rev.1.

insights into the management of natural resources in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. The value-chain approach identifies where the greatest opportunities for improvement lie and shapes corresponding actions by building on existing knowledge and available data. In its report, the task group provides an overview of the approach and its methodology. It demonstrates the benefits of using the value-chain approach to define sustainable consumption and production action, informed by science, by applying it to three prioritized sectors: food, construction and textiles. The task group highlights five value-adding features of the value-chain approach: holistic, systemic, relatable, actionable and replicable. The report concludes by providing recommendations on the ways in which the science-policy interface can be strengthened, both to inform and guide action.

5. The full report is available at the following link: <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/34702>.
