

## Building an ambitious scenario for multilateral cooperation on SCP after 2022

### Visioning workshop

#### 10YFP Board and the Group of Friends for SCP

A visioning workshop was held on 2-3 November 2020 with the Board and other lead Member States of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), assembled in the recently established Group of Friends for SCP, at the initiative of Argentina and Switzerland (Chair and Vice-chair) with the support of the Secretariat. The objective of the workshop was to build an ambitious vision for multilateral cooperation on SCP after 2022. This report summarizes the key messages forged and next steps.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist, Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation, Argentina and Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director of Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme. The first online session was dedicated to developing a shared vision, the second session to assets and opportunities for SCP.

### 1. Introductory remarks

Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist:

- The current crises - depletion of natural resources and biodiversity, climate change and increasing pollution - come with unbearable social and economic costs. They jeopardize every country's prospects for sustainable development. Reversing that trend requires a profound, equitable transformation in the way we consume and produce.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, which poses an unprecedented challenge to humankind, also offers a window of opportunity to explore new development models founded upon SCP.
- Our commitment and willingness to collectively develop an ambitious vision for multilateral cooperation on SCP beyond 2022 is instrumental and extremely meaningful. We have a chance to build on all that has been achieved since the adoption of the 10YFP, and even before that, to make sure SCP stands at the core of our global efforts for sustainable development.
- The objective today is to discuss our ambition, our vision for SCP, to be forward looking, constructive, inspired by what we and our numerous partners from all sectors of society, at the global, regional, national or local levels, have achieved so far. Let us also agree on how to best promote that vision internationally, and take it to the broad international community. We will have many opportunities to consider: UNEA 5, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2021, where SDG 12 will be reviewed and of course Stockholm +50 in 2022.

Ms. Ligia Noronha:

- UNEP believes that the elements, instruments and partnerships the world needs are in place to support and launch a global movement on SCP.
- UNEP hopes to build such a movement with the One Planet Network to serve as a hub (700 plus partners including public and private partners, UN agencies and 140 national focal points) and with other partnerships and alliances on circularity and SCP. Together they can contribute to a networked, distributed multilateralism in support of SCP.
- We can firstly strengthen and broaden the current work of the 10YFP on SCP, building on lessons learnt, experience, tools and partnerships of the One Planet Network, by means of 5 key actions: alignment with political frameworks and multilateral environmental agreements, engaging through UN country teams and UN agencies at the national level through focal points; integration of SCP in COVID-19 stimulus packages; more long-term actions by mainstreaming SCP and circular approaches, building on existing initiatives and partnerships; strengthening the science-policy-actions interface between the International Resource Panel and One Planet Network; working to align finance and the real economy towards SDG12.

- Secondly, we can deepen our SCP work by leveraging global and regional trends on engaging and center-staging youth; leveraging the power of women; aligning existing and emerging platforms on public-private partnerships such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the World Circular Economy Forum, the Global Alliance on Buildings and Construction and the new Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency of the EU; leveraging regional and national leadership (government and business) on circular alliances, learning and engaging with other epistemologies and local knowledge for a freshening of our discourses.

Following introductory remarks, inspirational insights on SCP, development and well-being were provided by Dr. Mamphela Aletta Ramphela, Co-President of the Club of Rome and Prof. Tim Jackson, Economist, University of Surrey.

## 2. Main messages

### Importance of a framework for multilateral cooperation on SCP to address global crisis

- Consensus on the need to strengthen the multilateral cooperation framework on SCP. The next 18 months offer the opportunity to forge a new ambition and vision, taking SCP to the next level through science, strategic policy decisions, cooperation and broader stakeholder engagement.
- The 10YFP is a universal multilateral cooperation framework adopted by the United Nations to support the shift to SCP, recognized as a prerequisite and overarching objective of sustainable development since 2002 (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation). The existence of a global framework has proven essential to institutionalizing and strengthening multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation on SCP both at international and national levels. It has contributed to the adoption of SDG12 under Agenda 2030, the implementation of the framework being the first target of that goal. To date, 140 Member States have nominated a 10YFP National Focal Point, and many have started monitoring and reporting on national policies contributing to SCP (reporting on target 12.1).
- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns are broadly recognized as a key driver of the environmental challenges addressed by existing multilateral agreements and conventions. By focusing on the root causes, a renewed multilateral framework on SCP is a key instrument to connect such agreements and conventions, boost the achievement of established targets, as well as break silos and bring communities of practice together.
- However, the use and management of natural resources, production and consumption patterns, are not sufficiently integrated in any of the conventions. The opportunity to engage in a convention on the use and management of natural resources in the context of economic development could also be considered, as a legal instrument for achieving global sustainability. Such an initiative would be challenging, given the current state of multilateralism, and may distract attention from the need for action. The process however might be more valuable than the final agreement itself.
- The inclusion of SCP language in key forthcoming conferences and their outcomes like UNFCCC COP 26 in 2021 and the stock take of progress under the Paris Agreement; 15th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and others such as the UN Ocean Conference and Food Systems Summit at which an SCP approach could contribute to sustainable management of resources, conserving biodiversity and reducing pollution.

## SCP at the core of the transformation required for sustainable development

- Achieving sustainability requires an economic development model in which: people can live well and better based on more equitable use of resources; metrics of economic development and success are based on efficiency and enhanced human well-being, rather than increased consumption as a societal aspiration. The transformation towards SCP must also address the huge disparity between the consumption patterns of the poor and the rich in the world. For example, transitioning to sustainable food systems is a necessary condition to halting biodiversity loss and deforestation as well as water and soil resources degradation. While avoiding food waste and changing diets underlines the importance of efforts to shift consumption patterns in support of environmental and climate objectives.
- SCP enables the re-shaping of our economies from both the supply and demand sides. Circular approaches are also key, which depends on re-orienting the current linear and extractive production and consumption model. Adopting value chain approaches in high-impact sectors, engaging the business sector to mainstream sustainability into the global economy through life cycle thinking, circularity and resource efficiency, local and resilient value chains, is essential.
- The value chain approach could contribute to a global discussion on resource use targets and of consumption patterns and the behaviours which drive them, while facilitating a global understanding of resource flows, the impacts of consumption and production. This will contribute to enhancing transparency on how these flows are driven by economic frameworks (e.g. trade policies), and how they can be governed by more integrated economic and environmental policies. Working towards a reform of the financial system, moving from short-term to longer-term risk management and resilience building strategies is also key, as is a shift to more localized systems of production and consumption and ones which create more green jobs.
- However, a transformational shift to SCP requires drivers and antagonistic forces to be addressed, and strong political will: the Covid-19 pandemic has made the urgency of a civilizational shift in the way we live more visible than ever before. However, most of the funds allocated to pandemic recovery plans are dedicated to supporting the “traditional” economy, with a few notable exceptions among developed and developing countries.
- There is a need to ensure strengthened political support for multilateral cooperation on SCP, as well as better integration in existing agendas, such as G20 and the G7. The UK expressed interest in continuing the discussion in their role as G7 Presidency in 2021.

## Supporting strategic prioritization and implementation on SCP

- SCP discussion and implementation need to be strengthened at regional and national levels, and the network of National Focal Points better mobilized for sharing best practices in engaging the national level actors, for developing regional priorities for SCP, and to further strengthen the implementation of the programmes. The implementation on the ground should also be regularly reviewed as well as interconnections among SCP Programmes at country level. A discussion with the National Focal Points of the 10YFP on operationalization and how to strengthen coherence at national level is needed, to better understand enablers and obstacles to SCP implementation at that level.
- Scientific knowledge on the impacts of consumption and production patterns, including the use of natural resources, needs to be further translated into more actionable targets and objectives for public and private decision makers to stronger commit and engage on this agenda. Similarly to the IPCC synthesis report for decision makers, it would be extremely useful to deliver a regular summary of scientific knowledge on the benefits of SCP for decision makers.

- In this perspective, the science – policy interface should be strengthened, focusing on high-impact sectors and value chains. This could be done through deepening the relationship between the International Resource Panel and the One Planet network, building on the work of the task group established at the request of UNEA 4. This could prioritize high-impact sectors, and understanding these through value chains, to ensure a scientific foundation for policies as well as to anchor natural resource use and environmental impacts in economic activities of production and consumption.
- Building coherence across the sustainable development agenda can be done at national level through the next generation of Common Country Assessments and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, leveraging on the UN reform which enables increased support also through organizations that are not necessarily country based. A coherent approach to SCP at national level should also apply to the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their translation into national policies and commitments (such as Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement).
- At UNEP level, there is a need for better interconnected actions to support, accelerate and scale up a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, as required in the new Medium-Term Strategy designed to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. That commitment at the highest level from UNEP is key when establishing a next phase of implementing SCP more coherently.
- The framework should be broader yet more concrete, taking all actors on SCP into account and combining their own comparative advantages, as additional actors such as the International Resource Panel, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform and other “non-UNEP” actors.
- Strengthening coherence and integration also requires more investments, which echoes one of the recommendations made to HLPF 2020, to make financial resources available and accessible to support actions that are transformational at scale. Those investments should be aligned with existing policies and frameworks which support the transition to SCP and must contribute to the provision of a flexible and effective way of supporting countries in promoting sustainable development.

### 3. Conclusions and next steps

- Next workshop at the end of February 2021
- Develop a roadmap for action to ensure a formal UN mandate beyond 2022, develop consultatively the future of the framework, its strategic priorities after 2022, as well as the key elements required to operationalise the strategy. The roadmap will include recommendations captured in this report and will engage the multi-stakeholder network, including National Focal Points.
- The process and steps towards a renewed mandate for multilateral cooperation framework for SCP includes the proposed actions and timelines:
  - Explore and initiate preparation of a joint declaration to be issued at UNEA 5 at the 2021 or 2022 session. Suggested text and wording could be elaborated by the Board and Group of Friends for SCP.
  - HLPF 2021 and the review of SDG 12, along with eight other SDGs: an opportunity to ensure the continued anchoring of SCP in Agenda 2030.
  - Stockholm +50 in 2022: can provide a platform for launching the renewed multilateral cooperation framework on SCP. Sweden is aiming for a UN conference at the highest possible political level, with an action-oriented outcome (e.g. political declaration) and will be tabling a resolution in the first quarter of 2021 at the UN General Assembly. Support from the 10YFP Board and Group of Friends for SCP is required.

## Annex

### List of representatives

Visioning Workshop of the 10YFP Board and Group of Friends for SCP (2-3/11/2020)

Country / institution	Representative
Argentina (Chair of the 10YFP Board)	Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist, Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Innovation, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Costa Rica	Roberto Azofeifa, Chief of Sustainable Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
	Faviana Scorza Aguero, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Denmark	Rasmus Boldsen, Special advisor on SCP and circular economy, Ministry of Environment
European Commission	Hugo-Maria Schally, Head of unit for “Multilateral environmental cooperation”, Directorate for “Global Sustainable Development”, DG Environment
Finland	Annika Lindblom, Director for International and EU Affairs, Secretary General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment
	Taru Savolainen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Environment
France	Anne Pluinage–Nierengarten, Head of the global affairs unit, Ministry for ecological transition
Germany	Ulf Jaekel, Head of Division ‘Sustainable Consumption, Environmental Product Policy, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Hungary (Board)	Zita Geller, Chief Strategic Coordinator, Department of Environmental Development and Policy, Ministry of Agriculture
	Eszter Doma, Environmental expert, Ministry of Agriculture
Indonesia	Noer Adi Wardoyo, Head of Standardization of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Japan (Board)	Hideyuki Mori, Special Policy Advisor, Institute for Global Environment Strategies
Netherlands	Arthur Eijs, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
	Philip Drost, Coordinator of Circular Economy Policies, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
Nigeria (Board)	Akinremi A. Bolaji, Plenipotentiary, Director at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations
South Africa	Ndivhuho Raphulu, Director of National Cleaner Production Centre, Department of Trade and Industry
	Devina Naidoo, Senior Policy Advisor: International Sustainable Development and Trade, National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Sweden	Eva Ahlner, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection Agency
	Sofia Tingstorp, Ministry of Environment

Switzerland (vice-Chair of the Board)	Martine Rohn-Brossard, Head of Europe, Trade and Development Cooperation Section and Deputy Head of International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
	Sebastian König, Senior Policy Advisor on International Environmental Policy, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
United Kingdom	Maya De Souza, Head of Circular Economy Policy and International Engagement Team, Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs
International Resource Panel	Janez Potočnik (Chair)
	Isabella Teixeira (Chair)
Secretariat	
UNEP	Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division
UNEP	Steven Stone, Chief, Resource and Markets Branch, Economy Division
UNDESA	Birgitte Bryld, Senior Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals
UNEP / 10YFP Secretariat	Charles Arden-Clarke, Head of the 10YFP Secretariat
UNEP / 10YFP Secretariat	Cecilia Lopez y Royo, Coordinator
UNEP / 10YFP Secretariat	Fabienne Pierre, Programme Officer
UNEP / 10YFP Secretariat	Andrew Schmidt, Knowledge management