

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

GENEVA | 1-2 March 2018

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Successful approaches to delivering on sustainable consumption and production by 2030



Roundtable No. 4

1 March 2018, 3-4.30 p.m.

Lead organizers: UNECE and UN Environment

Room 4 (with interpretation En/Fr/Ru)

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

Note as at 15 February 2018

Objective

The roundtable will focus on prerequisites and enabling conditions for national economies to shift towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns, including governance, institutional and policy approaches and through the design and implementation of specific instruments (e.g., finance and investments, education and awareness-raising, research, development and technology). Good practices and case studies based on initiatives related to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) and commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) will be presented as part of the interactive discussion among participants. The roundtable discussion aims to:

- ✓ Provide a mutual learning space where policymakers can interact with peers and stakeholders to exchange experiences, propose solutions to address identified problems and anticipate future developments
- ✓ Identify main lessons and compile good practices that can be shared with a wider audience.

Core questions

- (a) Are the prerequisites for SCP – the governance, institutional and policy approaches used in implementing SCP – in place? Are they effective? Who is taking the lead in SCP?
- (b) Are the enablers for SCP – technology, financing, investment, education and awareness-raising, etc. – in place? What are the approaches used? Are they effective in supporting SCP?
- (c) How are the private sector and civil society engaged to bring about behavioural change?
- (d) What are the bottlenecks and challenges? What is the way forward?

Case studies

- ✓ [Establish national SCP strategies and plans or include SCP in green economy policies](#), Romania
- ✓ [SCP in the national policy landscape and multi-stakeholder participation](#), Sweden
- ✓ [Green public procurement](#), Latvia
- ✓ [Phosphorous recovery and reuse from wastewater and organic fractions](#), Switzerland
- ✓ [International Center for Green Technology and Investment](#), Kazakhstan

Target audience

The roundtable on SCP targets governmental officials, policymakers and experts, representatives of business, non-governmental organizations, academia, media, consumer associations, intergovernmental organizations and development cooperation agencies.

Format

This roundtable offers a unique peer learning opportunity. While short introductions to selected case studies will be used to provide examples of how countries have addressed specific problems, all participants are expected to contribute to the discussion by sharing their own experiences, reflecting on challenges and suggesting possible solutions. More information on case studies will be distributed to participants in advance.

Co-Moderators: Mr. Marco Keiner, Director of UNECE Environment Division and Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Head, 10YFP Secretariat, UN Environment Economy Division

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrea Innamorati, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy

Background

SCP is about promoting resource and energy efficiency and sustainable infrastructure, as well as providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty. SCP aims at “doing more and better with less,” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution throughout the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life. It involves various stakeholders, including business, consumers, policymakers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media and development cooperation agencies. It requires a systemic approach and cooperation among actors operating in the supply chain, from producer to final consumer. It involves engaging consumers through awareness-raising and education on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, providing consumers with adequate information through standards and labels and engaging in sustainable public procurement, among others, while encouraging public and private actors to invest massively in the transition.

The need for a shift to sustainable consumption and production systems has been recognised at the highest political level for at least three decades culminating with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the need for “fundamental changes” in the way society produces and consumes goods and services. Under SDG 12, the commitment calls for the implementation of 10YFP, a global initiative adopted by the international community at Rio+20 in 2012 to accelerate the shift towards SCP at regional and national levels. The objective is “to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation by improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries, through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries”.

With a network of more than 600 partners including governments, business and civil society organizations, 10YFP supports the integration of SCP in decision-making at all levels and aims at generating collective impact through multi-

stakeholder programmes that develop, replicate and scale up SCP policies and initiatives. The 10YFP also fosters SCP knowledge and experience sharing, and facilitates access to technical and financial resources for developing countries. UN Environment serves as the 10YFP Secretariat.

The United Nations and its Member States have been actively engaged in the 10YFP since its adoption. They have also been working towards embracing “green economy” approaches, which emphasize financing the shift towards SCP through green investments, stimulus packages, income and employment. One exemplary initiative to support the transition towards a green economy built on sustainable consumption and production patterns is the voluntary Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, endorsed by Ministers in the pan-European region at their 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016). The operationalization by 2030 of the Strategic Framework, is supported by the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) that consists of voluntary commitments by countries and organizations in the form of green economy actions contributing to SDGs. Thus far, 122 commitments have been submitted by 27 countries and 13 organizations. BIG-E remains open for more stakeholders to join. UNECE and UN Environment jointly provide the secretariat and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform promotes BIG-E.

Linkages with other SDGs

The transversal and vital role of sustainable consumption and production in the 2030 Agenda has been clearly reaffirmed with the inclusion of a stand-alone SDG – Goal 12. Twelve other SDGs also include targets that integrate and orient future actions and policies towards achieving SCP patterns. The central role of 10YFP in this shift is recognized in a specific target (12.1) calling for its implementation.

The objective of securing SCP patterns is transversal in nature, in the context of both economic sectors and SDGs. Actions and policies required to achieve this objective seek to enhance resource efficiency and decouple economic growth from resource use and a range of other impacts on the environment and their associated effects on poverty eradication and shared prosperity. As such, though the 2030 Agenda includes a separate Goal 12 on “ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns”, SCP can be seen as an enabler for the implementation of a range of other Goals and their targets. This relationship between SCP and other SDGs is expressed explicitly through the SDG targets that link economic growth and education directly to SCP and through the effective duplication of these two targets in Goal 12. These duplicated (or linked) targets are 4.7 and 12.8, on education and sustainable lifestyles, and targets 8.4 and 12.2, on decoupling and sustainable resource management, respectively.

The high-level political forum on Sustainable Development will be reviewing SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 in 2018. The implementation of 31 targets¹ within these six Goals is contingent upon SCP and their attainment will rely on broad and yet focused partnerships, backed by appropriate policies, actions and investments. Out of these 31 targets, **14 targets** can be seen as key targets for which policies and other efforts on SCP make a direct contribution,² with the relevant, associated targets in SDG 17 being cross-cut. These SCP-related targets can be grouped into three subsets, based on their relevance to: resource efficiency; environmental impact; and human well-being. Information on these is summarized below. While those subsets are a technical categorization, in designing policies and other actions to implement the goals it will be possible to identify clusters of targets across these three categories, which are attained by the same measure, or package of measures.

Resource efficiency targets: Focusing on the efficient use of natural resources (e.g., material footprint, waste management, water-use efficiency and energy use efficiency) there is a subset of SDG targets across SDGs 6, 7, 11 and 12 that together reinforce and help scale up SCP implementation. The subset consists of the following targets: 6.4 on water-use efficiency; 7.3 on energy efficiency; 11.B on resource efficiency for disaster risk management; 12.2 on natural resource management; 12.5 on waste prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; and 12.7 on sustainable public procurement.

Environmental impact targets: Enhancing resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation is essential for the implementation of the SDGs and is enabled through the implementation of effective policies and tools on SCP. Focusing on greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, biodiversity and sustainable land-use, this subset consists of eight targets across the five Goals under review: 6.3 on water quality; 7.2 on the use of renewable energy; 11.6 on environmental impact of cities; 12.3 on global food waste; 12.5 on waste prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; 15.1 on the sustainable use of ecosystems; 15.3 on the restoration of degraded land; and 15.9 on biodiversity and ecosystems in national planning.

Human well-being targets: SCP not only connects resources, environment and economic growth, but also links directly to the improvement of human well-being. Looking at the relationship of SCP to gender equality, decent jobs and lifestyles and pollution-related diseases, there are seven SDG targets which contribute to human well-being. These are: 6.3 on water-quality; 6.4 water-use efficiency; 7.2 on the use of renewable energy; 11.6 on the environmental impact of cities; 12.5 on waste prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; 12.B on sustainable tourism; and 15.3 on the restoration of degraded land.

Background material

- ✓ [10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns \(10YFP\)](#)
- ✓ [Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy](#)
- ✓ [Batumi Action on Green Economy \(BIG-E\)](#)

¹ SDG targets 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.A, 7.2, 7.3, 7.A, 7.B, 11.2, 11.3, 11.6, 11.B, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.9, 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.19 and all eleven in SDG 12.

² SDG targets 6.3, 6.4, 7.2, 7.3, 11.6, 11.B, 12.2, 12.3, 12.5, 12.7, 12.B, 15.1, 15.3 and 15.9.