



Reference: I493-0347

Swiss comments on the third draft of the 10YFP on SCP

Switzerland welcomes the third draft of the proposed input on the 10YFP on SCP prepared by the Marrakech Process Secretariat of UNDESA and UNEP and wants to express its appreciation of the effort relied to this project. We believe that a 10YFP can contribute substantially to a change in the consumption and production patterns in a more sustainable manner and can therefore influence our everyday life in the future.

Being the leading country of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement Switzerland attaches great importance to this process and the inclusion of the sustainable public procurement programme in particular. Furthermore, while we generally support the comments to this third public draft coming out of the meeting of MTF leaders and SCP experts in Helsinki from September 8-9 2009, we are not convinced that the present "Task Force" structure should be continued after the adoption of the 10YFP. Perhaps, a more "centralized" approach that allows for better and more effective overview and coordination might be more effective once the 10 YFP has been adopted.

Additionally, we would like to highlight the following general comments to the third draft:

- **Structure of the 10YFP:** the third draft seems to propose a two tiers structure for the 10YFP, with first a declaration or decision outlining the vision, objectives, functions and monitoring mechanisms and second a series of programmes which seem to be developed in a flexible and dynamic manner. According to this structure, the core 10YFP would be outlined in the decision or declaration to be adopted by the CSD while the second tier would include a set of programmes and possible activities that could be implemented by the relevant actors.

We are not convinced that this two-tiers structure is clear and strong enough to provide an effective 10YFP. Especially, we are not convinced that a declaration / decision is the right instrument to provide the framework. We would have proposed a slightly different approach:

1. a decision / declaration which adopts the 10YFP.
2. the 10YFP which contains:
 - a) A policy document outlining a vision, objectives and functions; establishing the concrete political commitments; and establishing the institutional structure to allow for the overview, further development, monitor implementation and review of the 10YFP. This policy document might be referred to as "10YFP" or as "Overarching Strategy for a 10YFP".
 - b) A Series of Programmes or Action Plan which would include concrete activities which can be undertaken to implement the policy document.

While the decision / declaration would be negotiated and adopted by the CSD, the 10YFP as such could be prepared within the Marrakech Process as an input into the CSD.

- **Vision and objective:** In order to guarantee maximum impact and visibility, the 10YFP should formulate a clear, overarching vision and specific and measurable objectives for sustainable consumption and production. The document should also highlight the importance of the support of all stakeholders in this process. Furthermore, we think that the vision in section 2.1.1 and the global objectives described in section 2.1.2 in the draft should be formulated less technical and more "political" to facilitate the understanding of the concept and to reach a

broader public. The next draft should formulate a concrete proposal for such a vision rather than outlining how this vision should be developed, as it is written in the document now.

- **Functions of the 10YFP:** The functions as described in the 3rd draft are too technical and too much oriented towards the specific content and structure of a 10YFP. The main function of the 10YFP should be to express and strengthen the political commitment to SCP and to establish a political and institutional framework for SCP-policies.
- **Commitment to SCP:** We are of the view that the 10YFP should be a document that is expressing a strong common commitment. Namely, it should contain a clear and concrete political commitment for each of the areas to be covered by the 10YFP.

The 10YFP should also outline a roadmap with elements and steps how to achieve SCP. It will have to be decided later whether this outline of a roadmap should be included in the policy document or in introduction to the document outlining concrete actions / programmes.

- **Institutional framework:** A clear institutional framework is needed to allow for the overview, further development, monitor implementation and review of the 10YFP.
- **Indicators** should be defined to allow measuring the achievement of the objectives and the success of the programs. To be able comparing the development among different countries and regions, a uniform and internationally agreed methodology should be applied. Such an approach would create more transparency and give strong signals and incentives to the countries to increase their efforts for more sustainable SCP. Indicators could be included into or attached as an annex to the policy document.
- **Review mechanism:** A review mechanism should not only be set in place for the 10YFP itself but also for the programs. This would contribute to the most efficient use of resources by countries to establish SCP policies. This again would need an institutional settlement of the 10YFP. Furthermore, in line with the comments from the MTF leaders, criteria should be developed for the identification of programs and activities that should be included in the 10YFP. Moreover, the concrete contribution of these programs and activities to the overarching goals of SCP should be highlighted.
- **Need for innovative programs:** The 10YFP shall create incentives for new and innovative programs and activities or strengthen already existing successful programs by strengthening the political commitment to SCP. And by serving as a platform for exchange of experiences and medium for new ideas for all stakeholders, especially for NGOs and business. Efforts for further developing and concretizing the 10YFP by establishing additional programs and activities should be actively supported by the 10YFP. For example a program for the elaboration and implementation of comprehensible and verifiable methods to evaluate environmental impacts of goods and services and thus enhance the transparency of markets.
- **Identify the gaps:** The 10YFP should highlight the need for programs in areas that are not covered by other programs and that are identified of global interest such as food and agriculture, water, energy, climate, mobility, housing and greening the economy.
- **Flexibility for programs:** In the context of the developing and adopting additional programs and activities, we support the dynamic approach of the 10YFP that allows for change in programs in time and space.
- **Series of Programmes or Action Plan:** The Series of Programmes or Action Plan should cover the main areas of SCP. It should cluster possible concrete activities in a thematic manner. As such, it should be a tool-kit that helps actors to identify, implement, monitor and review concrete activities promoting SCP

Thereby, one option could be to follow a life-cycle perspective. The programmes / activities could thus be clustered in the main themes "Product Design", "Product Production", "Distribution / Marketing", "Consumption", "Recycle and Re-use", and "Disposal". These different themes could be further structured, e.g. by including "Sustainable Public Procurement" in the Theme "Consumption".

Another approach could be to take a thematic approach identifying the main areas where SCP is relevant, such as food, energy, mobility, tourism, housing, public procurement, methods to evaluate environmental impacts of goods and services and thus enhance the transparency of markets.

At this stage, we have the impression that the second approach, while conceptually not entirely pure, could politically be the more promising approach as it would cluster themes into activities along the normal responsibilities and thus be easier to implement.

Switzerland supports the inclusion of the already existing initiatives coming out of the Marrakech Task Forces in the 10YFP. We believe that the drive from these programs must be taken into the next step and that these initiatives do serve as good examples for further good and efficient tools for creating SCP. Switzerland, as leader of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement, expects that Sustainable Public Procurement will be included as an important programme / activity.

At the same time, it is not sufficient to continue the work in the areas that have been covered by existing Marrakech Task Forces. Important areas such as the elaboration and implementation of comprehensible and verifiable methods to evaluate environmental impacts of goods and services and thus enhance the transparency of markets should also be included in the Series of Programmes / Action Plan of the 10YFP.

ANNEX: Suggestion for possible programs

Switzerland, as leader of the MTF on Sustainable Public Procurement, is ready to prepare together with the Task Force a concrete proposal for a possible program for SPP. This can be included in the Annex of the MTF leaders' document

At this stage, we would like to share with you the following first draft for such a proposal:

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- Goal or Scope of the Programme
 - o to enable public authorities to implement sustainable public procurement practices by establishing an enabling political and institutional framework and through concrete capacity building for all relevant stakeholders (policy makers, procurement officers, business) in order to lead by example, spend tax payers money in a responsible way, to lead the market towards more sustainable products and the producers to more sustainable, resource efficient production methods
- A short description of how the program promotes SCP, e.g.
 - o The Program will lead public authorities to leading by example. This will influence also private consumers and suppliers will be engaged in delivering more sustainable products to the market and adopt more resource efficient productions methods whilst providing decent working conditions.
 - o The MTF Approach to SPP takes into account the special needs and priorities set by different regions of the world.
 - o The Approach takes into account the whole life cycle of goods and integrates also life-cycle costing.
- Elements and deliverables of the program (including measurable and verifiable targets as well as a timeline with interim deliverables, and deadline of the implementation)
 - o The MTF's approach to SPP (SPP toolkit) consists of different elements:
The SPP outline with the public procurement principles and the country implementation plan. The country implementation plan includes the following elements/steps:
 - A status assessment (online questionnaire) that allows a country/organisation to identify what's happening on SPP
 - A report on legal and institutional framework to assess readiness of public procurement in the country to embed sustainable procurement practices

- A market readiness review allows to identify which sectors are offering more sustainable products/solutions and in which sectors are opportunities to improve.
- SPP policy or strategy
- Training. The training material provides different stakeholders in the procurement process an easy start to implement the concept of SPP.
- Implementation of SPP
- Linkages to other programs, e.g.
 - o The MTF on SPP elaborated a so called “umbrella approach”. The idea is to collaborate with similar activities and take advantage of the synergies. Collaboration has been started with the EC on the GPP toolkit, with the IGPN and ICLEI-Procure+ campaign.
- Actors who are committed to the implementation of the programme, and their roles, including a local lead actor, e.g.
 - o Governments have a role in leading by example and also to move private consumption and production towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. They need to collaborate with suppliers and keep them informed. Governments should spend taxpayer’s money in a responsible way.
 - o Manufacturer’s role is to meet the governments demand for more sustainable goods and services, to create innovation and to adopt more sustainable production methods. in providing sustainable products and services on the market together with appropriate information to meet our needs, as well as to work with a lifecycle perspective and cooperate along the whole value chain with suppliers, national, regional and local agencies etc.
- Committed resources (human, technical and financial), e.g.
 - o Person hours in the Ministry ... / 2 years
 - o Person hours in the Building and Planning Departments of the five cities ... / 2 years each
 - o Local in-kind contributions (e.g. space and accommodation for workshops and training sessions, experts undertaking legal review, filling in the status assessment)
 - o External experts, ... days / 2 years (market readiness analysis, delivery of training)