

# Creating Solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production

**A Background Paper prepared for  
The Expert Conference on the Marrakech Process**

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## Introduction

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This paper is written as a background paper for the Expert Conference on the Marrakech Process – Creating Solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production, which takes place on 22-23 November 2006 in Wuppertal, Germany. The paper consists of three chapters, each of which provides pertinent information for discussions during the conference.

**Chapter 1** provides an overview of the international and regional level development of the Marrakech Process from its inception in 2003 until 2006, including Marrakech Task Forces and Cooperation Dialogue.

**Chapter 2** gives background information on each of the three overarching themes that Marrakech Task Forces are tackling and identifies key points for discussions during the conference.

**Chapter 3** first provides a brief overview of the next steps in the Marrakech Process from 2007 till 2011. Following, this section contains the results of telephone interviews with experts about their views and expectation regarding the Process, and identifies the challenges and gaps the Process needs to address in the coming years.

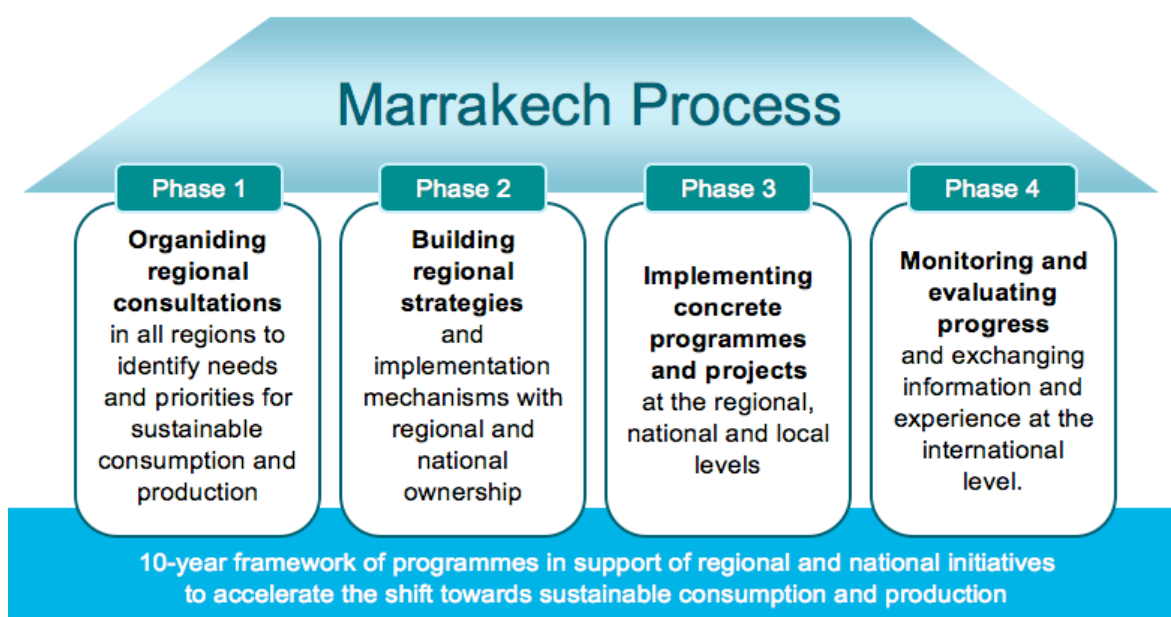
# 1 Progress in the Marrakech Process

## 1.1 What is the Marrakech Process?

In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation signed at the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, all governments were called upon to “change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production” (Chapter 3). In order to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP), the Plan called for them to promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on SCP (10YFP).

The international collective effort to develop the 10YFP is named the “Marrakech Process” as the First International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP took place in Morocco in 2003. The proposition for the 10YFP will be presented and reviewed at the 2010-2011 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) are the coordinators for the development of this framework.

**The “Marrakech Process” is an international collective effort to develop the 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP.**



The four phases of the Marrakech Process

The implementation of the Marrakech Process towards formulating the 10YFP involve the following four phases<sup>1</sup>:

- Phase 1:** Organising regional consultations in all regions to promote awareness and identify priorities and needs for SCP
- Phase 2:** Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership
- Phase 3:** Implementing concrete projects and programmes on the regional, national and local levels
- Phase 4:** Monitoring and evaluating progress, as well as exchanging information and experience at the international level

The current activities of the Marrakech Process are tailored to address the development of SCP strategies at different levels, including concrete projects developed by expert groups on different SCP issues. These activities mainly constitute the following:

- Expert meetings and roundtables held at the international, regional and national levels
- Development of SCP frameworks, strategies and action plans at the international, regional and national levels
- “Marrakech Task Forces” led by governments with focus on specific SCP issues
- “Cooperation Dialogue” that engages development agencies into SCP activities



**Main components of activities under the Marrakech Process**

<sup>1</sup> “Phases” do not necessarily imply a chronological order. The activities related to those phases need to be implemented in parallel in the Marrakech Process.

The next sections explain the achievements in the development of the Marrakech Process at international and regional levels, as well as that of Marrakech Task Forces and Cooperation Dialogue in detail.<sup>2</sup>

## 1.2 Progress in the Marrakech Process

### 1.2.1 International Expert Meetings

Under the Marrakech Process, two international expert meetings have been held to report progress, share experiences and coordinate international cooperation in regard to SCP. The first meeting was held in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2003 and the second in San José, Costa Rica in September 2005.



The Second International Expert Meeting in Costa Rica (September 2005)

*Photo: Earth Negotiation Bulletin*

### The Marrakech Meeting

The First International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (hereafter referred to as the Marrakech meeting) was held to encourage a first step towards developing the 10YFP. It was agreed upon that follow-up activities at international level would mainly consist of the coordination of regional and national SCP initiatives. The meeting also recommended that informal task forces or roundtables to promote the implementation of SCP policies and strategies be established. Concrete recommendations at international level include the following:

- UN-DESA and UNEP were asked to expand the Survey of International Activities on Consumption and Production Patterns that was compiled by UN-DESA, in order to make it more comprehensive and accessible to all countries.
- Establishment of mechanisms that encourage and support information and experience sharing, network building, and dissemination of best practice through interactive websites and expert meetings on specific issues.

<sup>2</sup> The background information and meeting summaries of the Marrakech Process are available from [www.unep.org/PC/sustain/10year/home.htm](http://www.unep.org/PC/sustain/10year/home.htm) and [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Y.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Y.htm)

- UN-DESA, together with UN-HABITAT, was invited to prepare a report on the actions needed at international level in order to support national actions in waste, transportation, construction, water and sanitation sectors. This report will indicate the agencies and institutions that should be involved in each action.

### The Costa Rica Meeting

The Second International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (hereafter referred to as the Costa Rica meeting) reviewed the conclusions reached through consultations in regional expert meetings. In addition, the meeting established new ways to improve international cooperation and assistance on the implementation of “priority issues and needs” (see 1.2.2). The working group break-out sessions during the meeting explored the needs and priorities for actions in the following topics or sectors:

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**2 International Expert Meetings were held with participation of 265 experts around the world. The 3rd meeting will take place in Stockholm in June 2007.**

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a) production process and industrial development, b) urban planning and waste management, c) sustainable consumption and product development, d) regional and national strategies on SCP, and e) energy, climate change and air pollution.

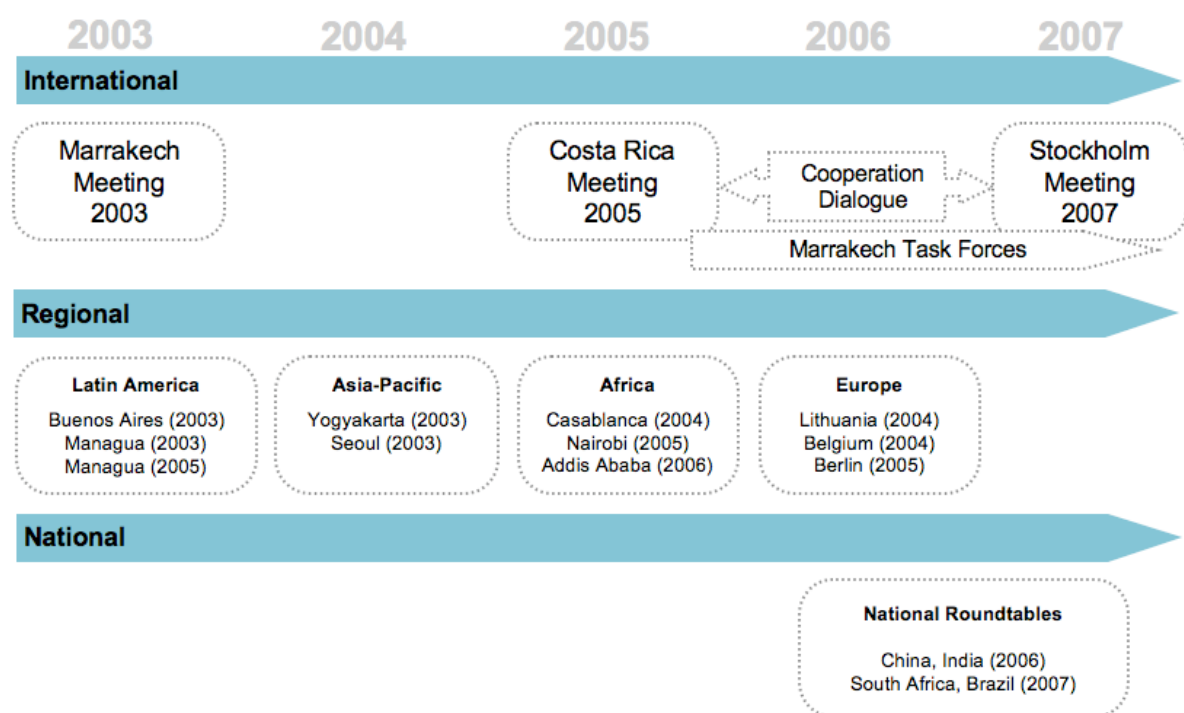
The meeting emphasised the importance of linking the work on SCP to poverty reduction, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It was decided that SCP policies should be developed and integrated into national sustainable development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) where applicable. The other concrete

recommendations from this international meeting include the following:

- Further work on the development and application of methods necessary to estimate the benefits of SCP policies, as well as the costs of inaction.
- UNEP and UN-DESA were requested to develop non-prescriptive guidelines to support the development of national strategies for SCP.
- Further dialogue between SCP experts and development cooperation agencies in order to identify funding opportunities for SCP activities.
- UN-DESA was requested to maintain and develop the database on international activities on consumption and production patterns.

At the Costa Rica meeting, the “consultation phase” (Phase 1) of the Marrakech Process was closed and an agreement was reached to move towards the implementation of regional strategies and concrete projects on SCP. In this meeting, the establishment of four Marrakech Task Forces (Sustainable Lifestyles, Sustainable Products, Sustainable Procurement, and Cooperation with Africa) was announced (see 1.3).

The Third International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP will be take place in Stockholm, Sweden on 27-29 June 2007 (hereafter referred to as the Stockholm meeting) and will review the progress of the Marrakech Process.



International, regional and national meetings under the Marrakech Process

## 1.2.2 Progress at the Regional Level

Since 2003, eleven regional expert meetings on the 10YFP, jointly organised by UNEP and UN-DESA with support from host governments and donors, have been held in four regions. These four regions are Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Europe, as well as one sub-regional meeting in the Baltic States. In total, over 600 governmental experts and stakeholders from around the world participated in these meetings. In the regional meetings, experts were consulted on regional priority issues and needs, in regards to the development and implementation of regional SCP strategies.

In order to provide an overview of the progress in the Marrakech Process, this section briefly summarises the findings from those meetings, and lists the activities, with achievements, in each region according to the four phases of the Process (see 1.1).

### Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean region, three regional expert meetings on the 10YFP have been held, one in Buenos Aires in April 2003 and the other two in Managua, Nicaragua in October 2003 and August 2005. In these meetings, the majority of attendees were government representatives, SCP experts and international development partners.

## Identifying Thematic Priority Areas and Needs (Phase 1)

In Latin America, the participants of the regional expert meetings have identified the regional priorities in the thematic areas on SCP. The need for capacity building, as well as technical and financial assistance for implementing SCP policies and activities was pointed out. Below are the identified priority areas listed in accordance to the priority rating they received.

### [High priority]

- Economic issues: competitiveness, trade and market access, economic diversification, energy efficiency and cleaner production, economic instruments and patterns in consumption and production
- Water resources: watershed management, coasts and coastal resources management, inland water quality and freshwater supply
- Institutional issues: environmental education, training and capacity building, social participation and empowerment, promotion of public-private partnerships, inclusion of environmental dimension into economic and social processes, evaluation and development of indicators

### [Medium priority]

- Environmental degradation and vulnerability: land-use planning, air and water pollution, solid waste, vulnerability to natural and anthropogenic disasters, risk management and climate change
- Social issues: health, equity and poverty, job creation and micro-enterprise development

### [Low priority]

- Biodiversity: increase the land area of forests and protected areas, genetic resources and marine biodiversity

## Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms (Phase 2)

The Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP was established after the first two meetings at the 14th Forum of Environment Ministers in November 2003, with UNEP Regional Office in the Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) presiding as secretariat. The main objective of this Council is to identify and propose efficient mechanisms in order to integrate policies, strategies and programmes promoting SCP patterns. The Council, consisting of one government expert from each country in the region, will meet at least once a year.

Government experts also developed the Regional Strategy on SCP, which defines concrete actions and specific pilot projects. This was also approved also at the 14th Forum of Environment Ministers. The Regional Strategy emphasises the importance of strengthening governmental institutions' capacity, as well as the capacity of the productive and financial sectors to implement SCP-related policies and activities. The Strategy states that such capacity building should be accomplished through workshops, training, knowledge and technical assistance, as well as environmental awareness campaigns and the implementation of pilot projects.

As a result of the third meeting, the Regional Council recommended as strategic components the following points:

- Development of policies, national strategies and action plans for SCP in every country of the region
- Inclusion of SCP in the national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Creation of multi-stakeholder National Consultative Councils on SCP that consist of representatives from the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organisations for participatory development of policies, strategies and action plans

The Argentinean government is currently conducting a project to develop its National Strategy on SCP by 2007, with support from UNEP and the Swedish government. The project is expected to encourage the development of national SCP strategies in other countries from the Latin American region.

### **Implementing concrete programmes and projects (Phase 3)**

The recommendations at the third meeting include that the following concrete actions, among others, be implemented in the region:

- Inclusion of the concept of SCP in the syllabuses for all levels of education
- Design and implementation of a cooperative programme among the countries within the region, focused on capacity building, training and technical assistance in regards to SCP
- Reinforcement of the Ministries of Environment to promote the voluntary agreements with private companies, as well as other tools to promote environmental management
- Improvement in knowledge systems at the Ministries of Environment to include SCP information and/or the establishment of specialised information centres on this subject
- Implementation of sustainable procurement and environmental public administration programmes within the Ministries of Environment
- Implementation of a recognition system to facilitate access to credit and/or social recognition for businesses that make advancements in the implementation of SCP
- Organisation of thematic meetings and workshops, at regional and sub-regional level, on relevant SCP aspects

The above recommendations also include the need to strengthen the technical and financial capabilities of the Council's secretariat. This is expected to provide adequate monitoring and support for the future execution of the Regional Strategy and of national and sub-regional initiatives.

UNEP launched a two-year project "Implementation of a Regional Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean" in May 2006. This project aims at supporting the governments in the region with the goal of developing and implementing concrete SCP policies and projects. This project consists of eleven independent activities that target the following areas:

- Development and adoption of national SCP strategies

- Support for the design and implementation of integrated waste management systems
- Improvement in the knowledge base and capacities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) on environmentally friendly technologies
- Support by governments for the implementation of sustainable public procurement programmes
- Increase in environmental awareness pertaining to SCP
- Strengthening of the Regional Council

In early 2007, the first national level roundtable in the region will be organised in Brazil with an aim to encourage national initiatives and concrete activities pertaining to SCP.

#### **Monitoring and evaluating progress (Phase 4)**

The impacts of these SCP-related activities will be evaluated and monitored according to the Regional Strategy and future national SCP strategies. Included in the recommendations from the third meeting was the idea that the Regional Council should organise working sessions every six months to monitor and revise the Regional Strategy. The participants also recommended the inclusion of SCP indicators into national statistics.

#### **Asia and the Pacific**

The Asia-Pacific region organised two regional expert meetings both of which took place in 2003. The first meeting was in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in May and the second in Seoul in November. Experts attended these meetings from a wide range of constituencies in the region, as well as international agencies.

#### **Identifying Thematic Priority Areas and Needs (Phase 1)**

The participants of the two regional expert meetings raised a number of priority issues and needs. These issues were identified in terms of means to promote SCP, rather than topics or sectoral issues within SCP. The following issues are particularly notable:

- Mainstreaming SCP in regional bodies: Integration of SCP issues into the programmes of regional organisations such as ESCAP, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Agency (SACEP)
- Development of networks and partnerships: Collaboration with centres of excellence to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, in order to support and promote efforts for capacity building and technology transfer
- Capacity building: Training is needed to develop different types of policies and policy instruments including legislation, regulations, economic instruments and social policies.
- Guidelines on tools: Preparation and dissemination of guidelines on tools for SCP including life cycle assessment (LCA) and environmental management accounting

## **Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms (Phase 2)**

These two meetings discussed the development of a Plan of Action for Promoting SCP Patterns within the region. Preliminary ideas on a Regional Strategy were developed while keeping in mind indications on needs and priorities. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) Committee on Managing Globalization endorsed the resolutions from the second meeting and incorporated the work on the Regional 10YFP into its medium-term work plan.

The EU-funded project “Capacity Building for Implementation of UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection (sustainable consumption) in Asia” (SC.Asia) contributed to building the capacity of Asian governments and other stakeholders by guiding them in the implementation of the UN Guidelines and by sharing experiences on sustainable consumption practices between Asia and Europe. As part of this project, a training exercise instructing governmental officials about specific sustainable consumption tools and how to draft national action plans was held by UNEP during the Regional Cross-Learning Seminar on Sustainable Consumption in Manila in March 2005. The main result of this project was a guideline manual entitled *Advancing Sustainable Consumption in Asia*, which provides Asian governments with practical tools for developing national action plans. It contains step-by-step guidance on how national action plans may be developed, with a special focus on product information, waste prevention and minimisation, sustainable government practices, and awareness, education and marketing for SCP.

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**In 4 regions, 11 Regional Expert Meetings were held since 2003. Over 600 governmental experts and stakeholders worldwide participated and identified regional priority issues and needs for SCP.**

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In the region, two national level roundtables were organised in 2006, one took place in Beijing in May and the second in Mumbai in September. The government from each respective country hosted the roundtables. The national roundtables aim to encourage host countries to start their own national initiatives to attain SCP, as well as to identify their own SCP priority issues.

## **Implementing concrete programmes and projects (Phase 3)**

As a response to the request made at the second regional expert meeting, UN-ESCAP and UNEP jointly established the Regional Help Desk for SCP in May 2006. The mission of the Help Desk is to assist governments within the region in taking actions for changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Hosted by the China Standard and Certification Centre, main activities of the Help Desk include the following: information sharing through the Internet and expert networks, studies to identify tools and case studies on SCP, knowledge dissemination through training, policy dialogues and forums, and the facilitation of demonstration activities.

## **Monitoring and evaluating progress (Phase 4)**

The second regional meeting called for the need to define evaluation and monitoring mechanisms in order to examine the regional progress made in regards to the Marrakech Process.

## Africa

Three regional expert meetings were organised in Africa, one in Casablanca in May 2004, the second in Nairobi in February 2005 and the third in Addis Ababa in May 2006. The participants, who mainly consisted of governmental representatives, identified the regional and sub-regional SCP priorities and needs in Africa. In addition, they discussed the regional framework for the promotion of SCP and potential pilot projects for short-term implementation in the region.

### Identifying Thematic Priority Areas and Needs (Phase 1)

As a result of the regional meetings, the following four thematic priority areas for SCP were identified: 1) energy, 2) water and sanitation, 3) habitat and sustainable urban development, and 4) industrial development. Each thematic priority area was considered in the context of the Environmental Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and regional poverty reduction priorities. The following specific actions were also proposed under each thematic area:

#### Energy

- Identification of best practices in renewable energy technologies and implementation of related projects for rural agriculture, with direct assistance to local communities
- Promotion and development of mini-hydropower for small rural enterprises
- Campaigns for environmental education and information on sustainable use of energy

#### Water and sanitation

- Knowledge management of best practices in Africa and technology transfer in water and sanitation
- Regional awareness raising and education on SCP in regards to water and sanitation
- Replication of successful experiences in safe reuse of wastewater

#### Habitat and sustainable urban development

- Promotion of integrated solid waste management
- Formulation and implementation of policies on sustainable urban development

#### Industrial development

- Strengthening of the capacity of the African Roundtable on SCP (ARSCP) and its members.
- Exploration of the expansion of the value chains of agricultural products and by-products by expanding their industrial uses.
- Improvement in markets for sustainable goods and services to ensure competitiveness irrespective of destination.

### **Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms (Phase 2)**

Africa is a good example to other regions because, a region, they have won high-level political commitment and created dynamic development in regional SCP policies. At the first regional meeting in May 2004, the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) was institutionalised with support from the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The overall objective of the ARSCP is to facilitate the development of national and regional capacities for SCP and promote effective implementation of SCP policies and activities.

At the third expert meeting in May 2006, the African 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP was launched with an official support from the African Union and the AMCEN. Africa is the first region that has developed its own 10YFP, and also has uniquely incorporated the existing regional roundtable into the formal Marrakech Process. The third meeting was held as the 4th African Roundtable on SCP.

In early 2007, the first national roundtable to encourage national initiatives and concrete activities for SCP in the region will be held in South Africa.

### **Implementing concrete programmes and projects (Phase 3)**

Based on the outcome of the regional meetings, the ARSCP started with two pilot projects on:

- SCP for plastics as a demonstration of integrated solid waste management
- A regional training and awareness programme on life cycle assessment (LCA) as a planning and decision-making tool

The ARSCP also co-chairs the “Cooperation with Africa” Task Force together with the German government, with the AMCEN as one of the Task Force members. The Task Force aims to assist African countries to implement the African 10YFP through “leapfrogging” in consumption and production patterns (see 1.3.2).

### **Monitoring and evaluating progress (Phase 4)**

Africa has been the most advanced region in developing and implementing regional strategies, but a concrete set of indicators has yet to be developed for monitoring and evaluating the regional progress in the Marrakech process.

## **Europe**

In Europe, two regional expert meetings have thus far been organised under slightly different titles and focuses from other regions. The European Stakeholder Meeting on SCP held in Ostend, Belgium, in November 2004 was the first of these meetings and was jointly organised by UNEP and the European Commission. The meeting discussed priorities for further work on SCP for all key actors in Europe, and considered how Europe could cooperate with other regions to promote SCP.

The European Conference on Sustainable Energy Consumption held in Berlin in December 2005 was the second regional expert meeting. The specific focus of this meeting was on the production and use of energy-using products. The positive impact of small and inexpensive improvement measures was em-

phasised and intensified promotion of green public procurement was proposed as a positive example to effect much-needed changes in consumer behaviour.

A sub-regional meeting of the Baltic States was organised earlier in Vilnius, Lithuania in June 2004. This meeting aimed to raise awareness of SCP issues and share best practices, as well as to identify sub-regional and national priorities for SCP.

### **Identifying Thematic Priority Areas and Needs (Phase 1)**

The following outlines the wide range of measures emphasised by experts during the regional consultations:

- Energy efficiency measures: The issues of both energy efficiency and energy poverty were stressed in the second regional expert meeting in Berlin in December 2005. It was proposed to conduct a product panel on light bulbs at the European level as lighting is considered a “low-hanging fruit” for energy efficiency improvements.
- Green public procurement: The influence of green public procurement was emphasised as a positive example to effect the much-needed change in consumer behaviour.
- Policy integration and coherent strategic framework: Developing better coordination, integration and coherence between various strategies. Recognising the different situations in old and new EU member states and wider Europe.
- Making the market work for SCP: Marketing strategies for sustainable products and services and for sustainable lifestyles.
- Investment for sustainability: Identified key priority sectors in need of investment as waste management, water and sanitation, urban transport and energy. It was recommended to promote the development of codes of conduct and training on responsible investment for entrepreneurs, bankers and project developers.
- Development of sustainable products and services: More research and development for sustainable products and services should be promoted jointly with industry. Economic instruments that foster innovation, acceptance and dissemination of sustainable products need to be considered.

### **Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms (Phase 2)**

In June 2006, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy revised their priority areas of action to include SCP. The European Commission was requested to develop an EU Action Plan on SCP by 2007, improving synergies between the existing policies and tools and addressing the potential gaps.

At the same time, within EU, five member countries (Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Sweden and UK) have independently developed or are developing national initiatives on SCP. These national level initiatives are diverse in nature, including national frameworks, programmes, action plans and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The Nordic Ministers of the Environment established a Nordic Ad Hoc Group on SCP in 2003 to assist the Marrakech Process by promoting partnerships, showcasing concrete exam-

ples and raising public awareness of SCP. The Ad Hoc Group has organised two Nordic Roundtables on Business Relations and SCP.

### Implementing concrete programmes and projects (Phase 3)

All of the existing seven Marrakech Task Forces are organised and coordinated by European countries. The Task Forces have been developing concrete projects for their own specific topics and sectoral issues, particularly supporting the implementation of SCP policies and measures in other regions through North-South cooperation.

### Monitoring and evaluating progress (Phase 4)

The participants of the first regional meeting recommended the creation of a forum of governments and stakeholders to monitor progress on SCP and the establishment of a fund to support SCP activities.

The following provides a summary of the Marrakech Process meetings and outcomes between June 2003 and September 2006.

#### List of the Marrakech Process meetings and main outcomes

##### International

Date & Location	Title of Event	Main Outcomes
June 2003 Marrakech	International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed that the international follow-up process would consist of the coordination of regional and national SCP initiatives.</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of informal task forces or roundtables to promote the implementation of SCP policies and strategies.</li> </ul>
September 2005 San José, Costa Rica	2nd International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified regional priority issues and needs. Closure of the "consultation phase".</li> <li>4 Task Forces were launched.</li> <li>1st Cooperation Dialogue Session was held.</li> </ul>

##### Regional

Date & Location	Title of Event	Main Outcomes
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>		
April 2003 Buenos Aires	1st Meeting of Government Experts on SCP in Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a regional platform for the implementation of Chapter 3 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</li> <li>Proposed the creation of the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP</li> <li>Recommended the key elements for regional and national SCP strategies</li> </ul>

October 2003 Managua, Nicaragua	2nd Regional Governments Expert Meeting for the Elaboration of a Regional Strategy on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the Regional Council</li> <li>Developed the Regional Strategy on SCP</li> <li>Identified policy framework and instruments, main actors, and means of implementation for SCP strategies</li> </ul>
August 2005 Managua, Nicaragua	3rd Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended the development of policies, national strategies and action plans for SCP in every country of the region</li> <li>Recommended the inclusion of SCP in the national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction</li> <li>Recommended the creation of National Consultative Councils on SCP</li> </ul>
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>		
May 2003 Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Asia Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting SCP Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed preliminary ideas on a regional strategy</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of Business Development Centres to support SMEs</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of UNEP regional help desk on SCP</li> </ul>
November 2003 Seoul	2nd Asia-Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended the integration of SCP issues into the programmes of other regional organisations</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of a secretariat or network to assist initiatives at the national level</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of national forums on SCP</li> </ul>
<b>Africa</b>		
May 2004 Casablanca	1st African Expert Meeting on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed the regional framework for the promotion of SCP</li> <li>Statement on SCP submitted to and approved by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)</li> <li>Institutionalised the African Roundtable on SCP (ARSCP)</li> </ul>
February 2005 Nairobi	2nd African Expert Meeting on the 10YFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcome endorsed by AMCEN 2005 Technical Segment is to be used as the basis for the development and implementation of a regional 10YFP on SCP.</li> <li>Developed project proposals in the areas of energy, water and sanitation, habitat and sustainable urban development and industrial development</li> <li>Decided three pilot projects to monitor to evaluate SCP regional strategies</li> </ul>
May 2006 Addis Ababa	High-level Launch of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African 10YFP was launched.</li> <li>Established five technical committees to operate under the ARSCP Secretariat</li> <li>Decided the support for concrete environmental pilot projects that, if successful, are to be implemented elsewhere</li> </ul>

## Europe

June 2004 Vilnius, Lithuania	Baltic Sub-regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended establishing a high-level multi-stakeholder body at the national level to help promote SCP</li> <li>Recommended the introduction of SCP and environmental criteria into public procurement</li> <li>Recommended the convergence of eco-labels with the goal of establishing one EU-wide eco-label system</li> </ul>
November 2004 Ostend, Belgium	European Stakeholder Meeting on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended the creation of a forum of governments and stakeholders to monitor progress on SCP</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of a fund to support the SCP activities</li> </ul>
December 2005 Berlin	Sustainable Energy Consumption – European Conference on SCP under the Marrakech Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended the development of international standards for domestic energy consumption</li> <li>Recommended the creation of eco-design centres to promote sustainable products</li> <li>Recommended the establishment of renewable energy help centres in every EU country</li> </ul>

## National

Date & Location	Title of Event	Main Features
May 2006 Beijing	National Roundtable on SCP in China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73 experts from government agencies, local industry and NGOs, international experts and media members participated.</li> <li>Co-organised by UNEP and the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection (EDC).</li> </ul>
September 2006 Mumbai	Indian Roundtable on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted by Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests, UNEP and Safety Action Group.</li> <li>4 sessions were held: international framework and national priorities, sectoral issues, e-waste management, and tools for sustainable consumption.</li> <li>Participants included government officials, representatives from research institutions, NGOs and industry sectors.</li> </ul>

## 1.3 Marrakech Task Forces

### 1.3.1 What are Marrakech Task Forces

Under the Marrakech Process, “Marrakech Task Forces” (MTFs) have been created with participation of experts from both developed and developing countries. The main objectives of MTFs are threefold:

1. Support the implementation of concrete projects for SCP (Phase 3 of the Marrakech Process)
2. Focus SCP activities on specific themes or sectors
3. Strengthen North-South cooperation in the SCP implementation

This concept of developing informal task forces on specific issues was agreed at the Marrakech meeting in 2003. These Task Forces are voluntary initiatives led by countries or groups of countries that – in

cooperation with other partners – commit themselves to carrying out a set of activities that support the implementation of specific SCP projects. To date, seven Task Forces have been initiated and are active on the following themes:

- **Cooperation with Africa** (hosted by Germany)
- **Sustainable Products** (hosted by the UK)
- **Sustainable Lifestyles** (hosted by Sweden)
- **Sustainable Public Procurement** (hosted by Switzerland)
- **Sustainable Tourism** (hosted by France)
- **Sustainable Buildings and Construction** (hosted by Finland)
- **Education for Sustainable Consumption** (hosted by Italy)

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**Marrakech Task Forces are government-led voluntary initiatives with focus on specific SCP issues to support the implementation of concrete projects.**

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There are no specific rules or obligations for the Task Forces as they are purely voluntary initiatives. However, they are expected to be output-oriented with the aim of showing added value of practical approaches or strategies for very specific product categories (i.e. meetings and publications should not be the core output). Ideally, a Task Force should have around 5-10 interested governments with a geographical balance. The objectives and the current status of each Task Force are introduced below.

### 1.3.2 “Cooperation with Africa” Task Force

#### Objectives

The “Cooperation with Africa” Task Force was created to help African countries to support the implementation of the African 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP which aims to assist African countries to “leapfrog” towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The specific objectives of the Task Force are:

- Strengthen relevant institutions to promote SCP in Africa
- Implement concrete SCP projects in the areas of eco-labelling, waste management and bio-fuels.
- Integrate and mainstream environmental education in schools and universities
- Promote sustainable procurement in cooperation with Sustainable Procurement Task Force

#### Coordination & participants

The Task Force was created by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and is chaired together with the African Roundtable on Sustainable Con-

sumption and Production (ARSCP). Currently, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), African Union, governments of Germany and Belgium and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are also among its members.

The German government is providing funding for a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) that will work in the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA) and support the secretariat and work of this Task Force.

### **Main activities**

In the Task Force's kick-off meeting in June 2006, the following four main areas of activities were agreed upon. The work plan is yet to be finalised between BMU, UNEP-DTIE and UNEP-ROA.

- Develop an eco-label for Africa based on existing expertise and experience.
- Support the development and implementation of SCP action plans at the national and local levels, contributing to the development of a manual on SCP strategies
- Collect best practice on SCP projects by development agencies and developing new project proposals for cooperation
- Support the development of networks and knowledge-based information tools in selected fields of action (e.g. waste management and recycling, bio-fuels, drinking water)

### **Meetings & events**

- The first Task Force meeting took place in Addis Ababa in June 2006 with nine participants from ARSCP, BMU, the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNEP.
- The second Task Force meeting will be held in Arusha, Tanzania on 13 December 2006.

## **1.3.3 Sustainable Products Task Force**

### **Objectives**

The International Task Force for Sustainable Products (ITFSP) aims at increasing the product performance in terms of energy, waste and other aspects of eco-design. To achieve this goal, the Task Force will work mainly to:

- Raise awareness of product policy as means of achieving international development and environmental objectives
- Seek common priorities and opportunities for cooperation in encouraging more innovation on product eco-design
- Establish and participate in open and transparent processes for improving product performance

### **Coordination & participants**

The primary coordinator for this Task Force is the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) with participation from 13 countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Repub-

lic, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, UK and USA) and four international agencies.

### **Main activities**

At the first Task Force meeting in November 2005, it was decided that the Task Force should concentrate initially on globally traded products, energy, and increasing collaboration between developing and developed nations. The topics addressed in the Task Force will be three areas: science, policy, and mechanisms to develop standardised test procedures to measure energy performance and to introduce harmonised energy efficient labels and standards.

At the second meeting in June 2006, Task Force members developed the concept of creating Global Sustainable Products Networks (GSPNs) in key products and related subjects. These networks aim to bring together the expert communities working on the issues and encourage sharing of expertise and experience with the goal of achieving greater international cooperation. So far, three GSPNs have been established for lighting, home entertainment and electric motors, and plans are in place to develop GSPNs for additional products and subjects.

### **Meetings & events**

- The Task Force was officially launched in November 2005 in London with the participation of 18 delegates.
- The second meeting was held in London in June 2006.
- The third Task Force meeting was held in Australia in November 2006.

## **1.3.4 Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force**

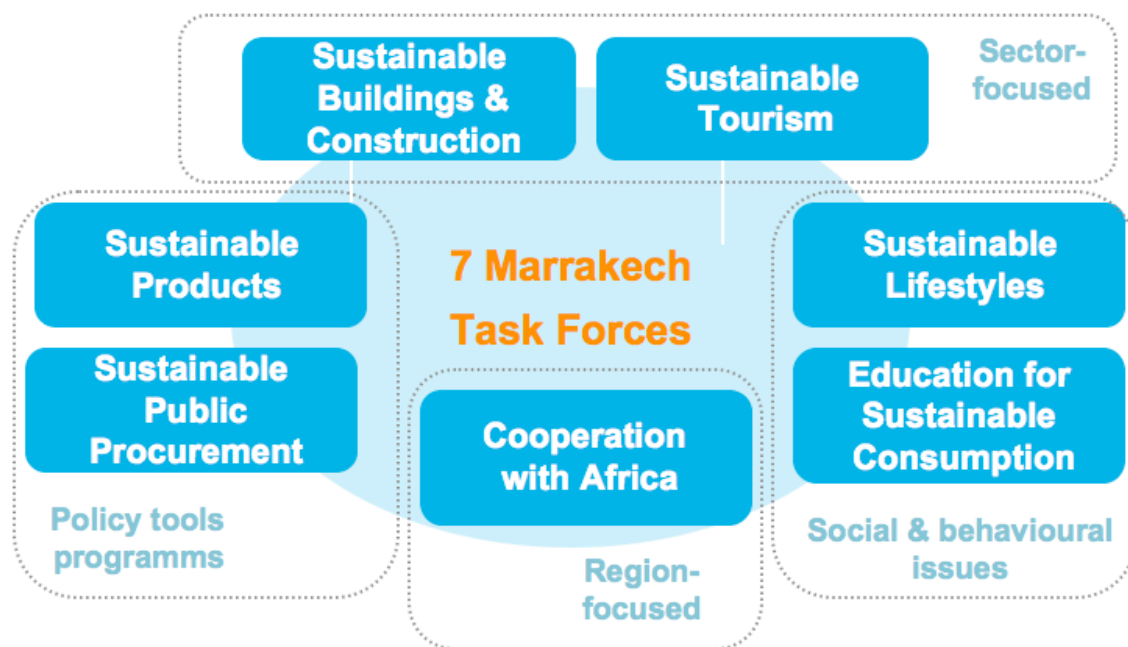
### **Objectives**

The International Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles focuses on exploring actions that individuals can take to modify their lifestyles to fit a more sustainable pattern of consumption. Its main objectives are:

- Develop and support tools, policies and initiatives that enable the adoption of sustainable lifestyles
- Strengthening the Marrakech Process by building North-South cooperation on demonstration projects supporting sustainable lifestyles

### **Coordination & participants**

Sweden is the sponsoring country of this Task Force with the Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development acting as the primary coordinator. Participating in the Task Force are an additional five governments (Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Italy and UK) and two international agencies (OECD and UNEP). In addition to the public sector, seven NGOs and research institutes from both developed and developing countries are among the Task Force members.



Seven Marrakech Task Forces and their diverse nature

### Main activities

The Task Force is planning to support the implementation of the five demonstration projects including:

- Sister classrooms between USA, Mexico and Costa Rica on life-cycle based sustainable consumption and global citizenship
- Training sessions in China and Brazil to assist governments, local authorities as well as NGOs and consumer associations with development of communication strategies and sustainability awareness campaigns
- Workshops to develop creative communities for sustainable lifestyles in emerging urban economies
- Website expansion and regional workshops of the UNEP/UNESCO YouthXchange programme
- Development of the UNEP Creative Gallery on Sustainability Communications

In addition, the Task Force is planning to develop materials for education and communication on sustainable consumption including a website, manuals and guidelines.

### Meetings & events

- A meeting of the Task Force steering group was held in June 2005 to prepare the Task Force.
- The first Task Force meeting was held in Paris in April 2006.

- The next Task Force meeting is planned for November 2006 in Wuppertal, Germany, to coincide with the upcoming Expert Conference on the Marrakech Process.

### 1.3.5 Sustainable Public Procurement Task Force

#### Objectives

The overall objective of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement is to promote and support the implementation of sustainable public procurement (SPP), by developing tools and supporting capacity building in both developed and developing countries.

#### Coordination & participants

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is coordinating the effort with participation from twelve other governments (Argentina, Austria, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Indonesia, Ghana, Norway, Philippines, UK and USA) and six international agencies.

#### Main activities

The Task Force aims to fulfil the above objectives through:

- Developing a practical toolkit to give an easy start to implement the concept of SPP to the different stakeholders in the procurement process
- Carrying out research and preparing policy papers on SPP
- Promoting the implementation of SPP through pilot projects
- Facilitating the dialogue and work among different countries and stakeholders interested in SPP

#### Meetings & events

- The first meeting of the Task Force took place in Jongny sur Vevey, Switzerland in March 2006.
- The second meeting was held in Barcelona in September 2006.
- The third meeting was organised in Hamar, Norway in November 2006.
- The fourth Task Force meeting is planned in Turin, Italy in early 2007.

#### Expected outcomes

In the Task Force meetings, it was agreed that the outcomes of the Task Force's work should include:

- Clarification on the legal framework of SPP (national regulations, multilateral and bilateral trade rules, labour standards, etc.)
- A SPP toolkit including needs assessment
- A paper on accounting for the value of SPP (innovation, system cost regulation vs. non-action, fair competition, social and environmental benefits, etc.)
- A plan for implementing the toolkit in pilot countries
- Joint work and support to other MTFs, especially Sustainable Products Task Force

### 1.3.6 Sustainable Tourism Task Force

#### Objectives

The role of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism is to develop and promote actions that encourage sustainable tourism, since this sector has a significant but often overlooked impact on the natural environment. This will be realised through activities such as sharing good practices, development of policy tools and strategies, capacity building, and awareness raising. The focus areas of the Task Force are climate change, biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage, and local development.

#### Coordination & participants

The primary coordinator of the Task Force is the French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development. Fourteen other governments (Bahamas, Brazil, Cambodia, Cape Verde, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Germany, India, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Norway and USA) and seven international agencies have become the members. In addition, seven NGOs and business associations working in the areas of conservation and tourism are also participating in the Task Force.

#### Main activities

Main activities proposed in the Task Force programme of work include:

- Collection of good practices
- Development of an investment guide for local operators
- Review of existing labels, standards and certifications
- Capacity building and training for local actors
- Development of a guide on tourism and coastal zone management
- Promotion of corporate social and environmental responsibility and partnership with the private sector
- Provide a country with assistance to develop a sustainable tourism strategy
- Development of a public website and communication campaign on sustainable tourism

#### Meetings & events

- The first Task Force meeting was held in Paris in September 2006.
- The second meeting is planned in Paris in March 2007.

### 1.3.7 Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Force

#### Objectives

The main objective of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction is to develop national and local policies and legislation to secure the sustainability of construction, use and maintenance of the build environment. The first focus area is energy saving – improvement of energy efficiency and increase in the use of renewable energy in buildings and construction.

### **Coordination & participants**

The Task Force is coordinated by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment with participation from eight other national and local governments (China, France, Lithuania, Mexico, Sweden, USA, City of Cape Town, South Africa and State of Victoria, Austria). There are also observers from international agencies and the 15-strong Finnish National Advisory Group. Each participating government is encouraged to form a national support team consisting of interested stakeholders.

### **Main activities**

The Task Force aims to fulfil the above objectives through:

- Mapping out the baseline condition for sustainable buildings and construction (document research)
- Initiating research projects on jointly determined issues
- Publishing best policy practices

The Task Force has thus far delivered two outputs:

- In preparation for the first Task Force workshop in June 2006, a study on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and construction was completed.
- Recommendations for policy action points were made.

### **Meetings & events**

- An informal meeting was held during the CSD-14 in New York in May 2006.
- The first workshop of the Task Force took place in Helsinki in June 2006, bringing together experts and moving forward on the agenda.

### **Expected outcomes**

At the first workshop, it was agreed that the Task Force should focus its energies on two main outcomes:

- Compilation of a list of joint policy recommendations to be published in time for the CSD-15 in spring 2007. The document will explore the use of policy mechanisms to promote sustainability issues involved in new construction, refurbishment of existing buildings, and maintenance and operation of buildings.
- The publication of a document on best policy practices in time for the Stockholm meeting in June 2007

## **1.3.8 Education for Sustainable Consumption Task Force**

### **Objectives**

The Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption was created in May 2006 with the purpose of developing strategies for introducing SCP issues into educational curricula, particularly in formal edu-

cation but without disregard for informal educational activities. The overall goal of the Task Force is to facilitate a coherent, extensive and solid awareness of the sustainability concept and issues in the mindsets of individuals.

The Task Force will support initiatives, activities and pilot projects on SCP education at the regional and national levels, with a specific focus on the Mediterranean region.

### **Coordination & participants**

The main coordinator for the Task Force is the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory with participation of the country's other governmental departments and research institutes. The coordinator is currently looking for members from other countries.

### **Main activities**

The Task Force is still in its formulation phase and its work plan is under development.

## **1.3.9 Analysis of MTF activities**

Because most Task Forces launched operations between late 2005 and mid-2006, they are generally in a very early stage of development and consequently an evaluation of progress to date would be premature. Some key characteristics of the Task Forces will be analysed in this section in light of their role as important mechanisms under the Marrakech Process, and in terms of their potential contribution to the development of the 10YFP.

As voluntary initiatives without specific rules or obligations set up according to the interest areas of leading governments and members, the seven task forces are diverse in the composition of their membership, the scope of activities, and their objectives and goals. As the number of actual outputs from the activities of Task Forces is to date limited, this section provides a generic overall analysis of the working areas, geographic scope and activities of Task Forces in terms of concrete contributions to the Marrakech Process. The analysis aims to identify the gaps to be filled in coming years, such as SCP priorities and sectors as well as areas likely not covered by existing Task Forces, based on the available information and feedback on a CSCP survey of Task Force coordinators.

### **Working areas**

The working areas of the seven Task Forces cover a wide and diverse range of topics and issues – some Task Forces focus on specific sectors (sustainable tourism, sustainable buildings and construction) while others deal with policy tools and programmes (sustainable products, sustainable public procurement), social and behavioural issues (sustainable lifestyles, education for sustainable consumption) or focus on a specific region (cooperation with Africa).

Through this diverse selection of topics the seven Task Forces are generally considered to have covered a wide range of key SCP issues, each responding to priorities and needs identified in the regional consultations and international expert meetings. However, there remain some gaps that are not well covered by existing Task Forces. Notable among these are:

### An overview of Marrakech Task Forces

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<b>Cooperation for Africa</b> (host: Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen institutions to promote SCP in Africa</li> <li>Implement SCP projects (eco-label, waste, bio-fuels)</li> <li>Integrate and mainstream environmental education in African schools and universities.</li> <li>Promote sustainable procurement in cooperation with Sustainable Procurement TF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an eco-label for Africa</li> <li>Support implementation of SCP action plans and contribute to a manual on SCP strategies</li> <li>Collect best practice on SCP projects by development agencies</li> <li>Develop networks and knowledge-based information tools in the selected fields of action</li> <li>Research on opportunities for Africa to leapfrog to sustainability</li> </ul>	ARSCP (co-chair) AMCEN Africa Union  Germany Belgium  UNDP	June 2006: 1st meeting, Addis Ababa  December 2006: 2nd meeting, Arusha, Tanzania
<b>Sustainable Public Procurement</b> (host: Switzerland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote and support sustainable public procurement (SPP), by developing tools and supporting capacity building in both developed and developing countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a practical toolkit to give to the different stakeholders</li> <li>Carry out research and prepare policy papers on SPP</li> <li>Promote the implementation of SPP through pilot projects</li> <li>Facilitate the dialogue and work among different countries and stakeholders interested in SPP</li> </ul>	Argentina Austria, Brazil China Czech Republic El Salvador Ghana Indonesia Norway Philippines Switzerland, UK USA  UN-DESA, UNEP ILO, OECD, EC ICLEI	March 2006: 1st meeting, Jongny sur Vevey, Switzerland  September 2006: 2nd meeting, Barcelona  November 2006: 3rd meeting, Hamar, Norway  Early 2007: 4th meeting, Turin, Italy
<b>Sustainable Products</b> (host: UK) <a href="http://www.ITFSP.org">www.ITFSP.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness on product policy as a means of achieving international development and environmental objectives</li> <li>Seek common priorities and opportunities for cooperation in encouraging more innovation on product eco-design</li> <li>Establish and participate in open and transparent processes for improving product performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of Global Sustainable Products Networks (GSPNs):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lighting</li> <li>home entertainment</li> <li>electric motors</li> <li>(others tbc)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Australia, Austria Canada, China Czech Republic France, Germany Ghana, Italy Japan Netherlands, UK USA  International Energy Agency (IEA) UN-DESA UNDP, UNEP	November 2005: 1st meeting, London  June 2006: 2nd meeting, London  November 2006: 3rd meeting, Australia

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<b>Sustainable Buildings &amp; Construction</b> (host: Finland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policies for sustainable buildings &amp; construction</li> <li>First focus area: save energy, improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewables in buildings and construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping out baseline condition (document research)</li> <li>Initiating research projects</li> <li>Publishing best policy practices</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs so far:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on energy use and GHG emissions in construction &amp; buildings</li> <li>Recommendations for policy action points</li> </ul>	China, Finland France, Lithuania Mexico, Sweden USA State of Victoria (Australia) City of Cape Town (South Africa)	May 2006: Information meeting during CSD-14, New York  June 2006: 1st workshop, Helsinki
<b>Sustainable Lifestyles</b> (host: Sweden)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop tools, policies and initiatives to promote sustainable lifestyles.</li> <li>Strengthen North-South cooperation on demonstration projects supporting sustainable lifestyles</li> </ul>	Support the implementation of 5 demonstration projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sister classrooms between USA, Mexico and Costa Rica on sustainable consumption &amp; global citizenship</li> <li>Training sessions for communicating sustainability in China and Brazil</li> <li>Workshops on creative communities for sustainable lifestyles in the emerging urban economies</li> <li>Extension of the UNEP/UNESCP YouthX-change programme</li> <li>UNEP Creative Gallery on Sustainability Communications</li> </ul> <p>Develop material on education and communication for sustainable lifestyle</p>	Argentina (co-chair) Brazil Czech Republic Italy, Sweden, UK  OECD, UNEP  <b>NGOs and academia:</b> Futerra (UK) Politecnico Milano (Italy) CEE Network (Central & Eastern Europe) IIIIEE, Lund University (Sweden) Harvard School of Public Health (USA) Eco Global Advisors (Costa Rica) CSCP (Germany)	June 2005: meeting of steering group  April 2006: 1st meeting, Paris  November 2006: 2nd meeting, Wuppertal, Germany

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<b>Sustainable Tourism</b> (host: France) <a href="http://www.veilleinfo-tourisme.fr/01941191/0/fiche___pagelibre/">www.veilleinfo-tourisme.fr/01941191/0/fiche___pagelibre/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage actions that promote sustainable tourism through sharing of good practices, development of policy tools and strategies, capacity building, awareness rising, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Focus areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>climate change</li> <li>biodiversity</li> <li>cultural &amp; natural heritage</li> <li>local development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection of good practices</li> <li>Investment guide for local operators</li> <li>Review of existing labels, standards and certification</li> <li>Capacity building and training for local actors</li> <li>Guide on tourism and coastal zone management</li> <li>Promotion of CSER and partnership with the private sector</li> <li>Assist a country to develop a sustainable tourism strategy</li> <li>Public website and communication campaign on sustainable tourism</li> </ul>	Bahamas, Brazil Cambodia Cape Verde China Costa Rica Croatia, France Germany, India Madagascar, Mali Morocco, Norway USA  UNCTAD, UNEP UNESCO, WTO OECD, EC Central American Integration System (SICA)  <b>NGOs &amp; private sector:</b> IUCN, WWF International Bureau of Social Tourism (BITS) International Ecotourism Society (TIES) Tourism Concern Ecotrans International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH&RA)	September 2006: 1st meeting, Paris  March 2007: 2nd meeting, Paris
<b>Education for Sustainable Consumption</b> (host: Italy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce SCP issues in formal curricula</li> <li>Support initiatives, activities and pilot projects on SCP education at the regional and national levels (special focus on the Mediterranean)</li> </ul>	(to be determined)	(under construction)	

- Water and sanitation: The improvement in the management of water resources and sanitation was raised as a priority both in Latin America and Africa but is not covered by existing Task Forces.
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy: Energy issues are addressed particularly in Africa and Europe. While some relevant issues are included within the discussions on Sustainable Products, Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Forces, additional work or a new task force may be needed to systematically address energy efficiency and renewables as strategies for tackling climate change. To provide a coherent strategy or input for energy efficiency to the 10YFP, strengthening cooperation among all the Task Forces could be of value.
- Urban development: Latin America and Africa in particular emphasised the need to tackle the issues caused by rapid development of urban areas, which include waste management, transport, and urban and spatial planning, though these issues are partly included within the scope of Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force. The State of Victoria in Australia has expressed its interest in leading a task force on sustainable cities.
- Food and agriculture: The promotion of sustainable agricultural methods, the improvement in market access for agricultural products and the expansion of use of agricultural products are among the topics African participants in the consultation proposed as specific actions during the consultation. However, it is also important to consider the substantial environmental and social impacts that result from agricultural activities and food consumption.

Other important aspects for all Task Forces to consider as cross-cutting issues are:

- Economic and social integration: It was emphasised particularly in Latin America that the improvement in environmental performance needs to be integrated into the process of economic and social policy development.
- Development of financial mechanisms: The needs of financing SCP-related projects were highlighted in all regional consultations as well as in international expert meetings, the utilisation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as an example.

## Output

Most of Task Forces define their deliverables or outcomes from their meetings and other activities mainly as research publications or capacity building activities including:

- Developing research documents, best practice manuals, educational materials, toolkits, etc.
- Providing training and pilot-testing of the produced manuals and toolkits
- Developing policy tools and mechanisms

On the other hand, some Task Forces aim to incorporate more concrete actions and projects in their activities. The Cooperation with Africa Task Force is planning to develop an eco-label for Africa, while the Sustainable Products Task Force is establishing expert networks of specific product categories or

topics. The Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force is supporting the implementation of five concrete demonstration projects.

### **Member profiles**

As stated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, developed countries need to take a lead in promoting SCP and the 10YFP as it is in these countries where consumption and production levels are greatest. Leading roles for developed countries also provides benefits through encouraging North-South cooperation through a transfer of knowledge and experience to developing countries. In this sense, the enthusiastic response from Europe, with all seven Task Forces led by European governments, can be seen as encouraging.

Given that all the Task Forces have made great efforts for engaging a wide range of regions, the Task Forces are diverse in terms of number of members, geographic representation and constituency. Most of the Task Forces include developing countries among their members and Cooperation with Africa and Sustainable Lifestyles Task Forces chair their groups jointly with counterparts from developing countries. Nonetheless, the membership of nearly half of the Task Forces is European.

Some Task Forces, Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Tourism Task Forces in particular, are actively engaging stakeholders other than representatives from governments and international agencies. Stakeholders being engaged include NGOs, research institutes, business and technical experts working in their areas. On the other hand, there are also Task Forces where participation is limited to the public sector.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the above analysis and observations on the development of the Task Forces, it is recommended that the Task Force coordinators and the governments engaged under the Marrakech Process take the following into consideration:

- Critical topics not currently covered within an existing Task Force should to be taken up either by expanding the mandate of an existing Task Force or, alternatively, by establishing one or more new Task Forces.
- More cooperation and information sharing between different Task Forces will avoid overlapping work among the different Task Forces as well as potentially achieve synergistic benefits.
- As voluntary initiatives Task Forces are not bound by any rules or obligations, however, their role within the Marrakech Process needs to be commonly understood and accepted among involved governments and stakeholders. Indicators or criteria that define and measure their success may be needed, while more consistency in the format and content of deliverables could be considered.
- To ensure a diversity of countries and stakeholders participating in the Task Forces, there is a need for financial mechanisms that support less wealthy participants. For example, some coor-

minating countries have not allocated funds to cover costs for participation of Task Force members from developing countries. Since one country tends to be perceived as leading a Task Force, sufficient financial support has not been provided by other developed countries.

- There is a need for greater participation of development agencies and involvement of these actors should be encouraged. For example, the Sustainable Products Task Force is preparing a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project proposal together with UNDP and UNEP. The Cooperation with Africa Task Force is striving for the increased involvement of development agencies in SCP-related projects and activities.
- More active engagement of developing countries in organising and operating the Task Forces is necessary to achieve a good regional balance. It is a good step that a few Task Forces already have their co-chair from the South.
- As is practised by some Task Force coordinating countries (e.g. France in the Sustainable Tourism Task Force), involving more than one ministry in the Task Force should be encouraged, rather than having only environmental ministries. Governments should strengthen coordination and collaboration between different departments.
- The structures of the Task Forces are diverse – some are very formal having participants only from the public sector, while the others rely on voluntary participation of groups including non-governmental stakeholders and the private sector. Task Forces should be encouraged to jointly discuss their experiences and strive for coherence in their operations to strengthen the Marrakech Process.
- Lastly, the ultimate goal of the Task Forces is to provide inputs to the 10YFP by bringing tested policy tools, and methodologies and best practices to promote and deliver SCP. All Task Forces need to keep these objectives in focus when developing their work plans and activities.

## 1.4 Cooperation Dialogue

The Cooperation Dialogue was set up as an activity under the Marrakech Process to engage development cooperation agencies, development banks and experts in SCP from both developed and developing countries in a dialogue intended to lead to the development, funding and implementation of SCP-related activities in developing countries as defined under Phase 3 of the Marrakech Process. It explores how development agencies and banks could become an implementation mechanism for the Process.

The main objectives of the Cooperation Dialogue are to:

- promote a better understanding of the needs and benefits of adopting SCP patterns;
- highlight the links between SCP and poverty reduction;
- better integrate SCP in the development plans of development agencies; and

- provide policy recommendations to increase access to available development funds for development projects that promote SCP.

### **Current Status**

The first Cooperation Dialogue Session was held during the Costa Rica meeting in September 2005 and was co-chaired by representatives from Environment Canada and the World Bank. Participating agencies included: the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Finnish

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**The Cooperation Dialogue aims to engage development agencies into more SCP-related activities in developing countries as an implementation mechanism of the Marrakech Process.**

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Development Agency, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECA), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and UN-DESA.

The information exchange resulted in a better mutual understanding of the concept of SCP and how the SCP approach could be integrated as an important part of national development plans of recipient countries. As a result of the first sessions, the following activities were recommended:

- Undertake a review of existing SCP-related projects supported by development agencies as a basis for considering how to better integrate SCP into development plans and identify opportunities to increase access to available development funds. It is recommended that UNEP and UN-DESA lead the review and report results to the Stockholm meeting in June 2007.
- Technical assistance and support should be provided to developing countries for the preparation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in order to take advantage of the funds available for the purchase of carbon emission reductions from the World Bank and industrialised countries, with the funds used to leverage investments in sustainable development.
- Continue the dialogue between SCP experts and development agencies and organise similar sessions at the Stockholm meeting.

### **A review of existing SCP-related projects**

UNEP conducted a survey review of development agencies with the main objectives being to identify their SCP-related projects, find mechanisms for cooperation and identify means to achieve better integration of SCP into development programmes. The results of the survey were encouraging with 76% of contacted agencies responding to the survey. The review revealed that development agencies carry out activities linked to SCP, even if they are not always labelled as such. A majority of agencies are supporting projects on energy and resource efficiency, waste management and water and sanitation. One third of agencies support activities related to organic agriculture and fair trade.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The report of this review is available on [www.unep.fr/sustain/10year/Cooperation%20Dialogue.htm](http://www.unep.fr/sustain/10year/Cooperation%20Dialogue.htm)

The review also identified best practices from development agencies. Among them, the “Bolsa Amazônia” is a good case as it supports local communities to make recycled seats for cars based on coconut fibre and has created new jobs benefiting some 5,200 people (see 2.2.4). The Equator Initiative, implemented by UNDP, is promoting environmentally sound technologies supporting local markets in rural areas. Other best practices are identified in the area of organic agriculture and fair trade. However, these projects remain limited in scale. There is a need to increase awareness of SCP benefits in both recipient and donor countries. This is indispensable for a real integration of SCP into development plans.

### **Benefits of integrating SCP into Development Plans**

Development agencies are aware that SCP could provide benefits. Most of them perceive that SCP could help to reduce future costs, contribute to poverty reduction and overcome major environmental challenges. Half of the agencies believe that SCP could contribute to better access to basic services and enable more cost-effective industrial practices, as well as provide new market opportunities and enabling developing countries to leapfrog into sustainability. Only 11% of the agencies think that SCP could help reduce the cost of public administration.

Key recommendations stemming from the review are:

- i) Provide information and training on SCP. Provide information on SCP and its benefits for development plans and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (this information should be given to both donor and recipient countries); and design training on SCP for development agency staff.
- ii) Strengthen cooperation between development agencies and SCP experts, this could be done by 1) facilitating the communication and exchange of expertise (e.g. a database of best practices, newsletters, creating a network of interested development agencies), 2) promoting capacity building on SCP in the design and implementation of development projects, and 3) jointly implementing demonstration projects to show the benefits of SCP in alleviating poverty (MDGs).
- iii) Integrate SCP objectives into development agency agendas, if possible in the operational guidelines for relevant sectors and issues.
- iv) Raise awareness and political support among senior managers in both recipient and donor countries, possibly by introducing the SCP concept into the debate on aid effectiveness.
- v) Initiate new types of projects in developing countries such as credit lines dedicated to sustainable consumption and production.

Next steps for the development of the Cooperation Dialogue are to:

1. Set up a steering committee with representatives of development agencies and SCP experts with the objective of developing a work plan to implement the recommendations listed above (i-v). Possible co-chairs for the steering committee are UNEP and UNDP. Multilateral and bilateral agencies such as UNDP, UNIDO, HABITAT, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) among others will be invited to join the steering committee.



2. Revise, publish and disseminate the review on SCP and development agencies.
3. Establish formal cooperation with multilateral and bilateral agencies to start joint implementation of demonstration projects.
4. Invite key agencies to co-chair the second Cooperation Dialogue Session at the Stockholm meeting in June 2007, where policy recommendations for better cooperation for and implementation of SCP will be discussed among development agencies, national governments, SCP experts and inter-governmental organisations.

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## 2 The Latest SCP Policy Development & Discussions

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### 2.1 Three Themes of Marrakech Task Forces

Marrakech Task Forces was further developed after the Costa Rica meeting in 2005 to include a focus on specific SCP issues, as well as to implement concrete projects. Both of which are expected to provide useful inputs for the development of the 10YFP. Since the working areas of some Task Forces involve common issues, creating synergies between them in order to make the most of their activities are encouraged. For this purpose, the upcoming Expert Conference on the Marrakech Process in Wuppertal will discuss the work of Task Forces in three thematic categories: 1) mainstreaming sustainable products and services, 2) on the road to sustainable lifestyles and 3) cooperation for implementing SCP.

The first category includes Sustainable Products, Sustainable Public Procurement and Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Forces. The Sustainable Products Task Force links to the Sustainable Public Procurement Task Force since both are trying to identify possibilities for creating the market for sustainable products and services. The Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Force similarly explores ways of increasing supply and demand for sustainable products and services in a particular sector. In this regard, these three Task Forces may be able to develop complementary activities and joint policy recommendations.

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**The Expert Conference in Wuppertal discusses the work of Marrakech Task Forces by categorising them into 3 thematic categories.**

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The second thematic category includes Sustainable Lifestyles, Education for Sustainable Consumption and Sustainable Tourism Task Forces. The Education for Sustainable Consumption Task Force has the role of disseminating sustainable lifestyles, in particular among young people. Private travel including tourism activities is a rapidly growing area that needs further attentions as part of changing lifestyles and aspirations in developed countries. The Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force explores policy instruments and the role of other actors in changing overall consumption behaviours. The collaboration between these three Task Forces would empower all participants in their discussions and activities in the area of sustainable consumption.

The third thematic category revolves around the Cooperation with Africa Task Force and the Cooperation Dialogue. Both seek a more active engagement by developing countries' governments and development agencies in the SCP field and the Marrakech Process. This will enable developing countries to identify how they can leapfrog towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

This chapter aims to provide brief background information on each of the three thematic categories and identify key points for discussions at the Expert Conference. Sections 2.2 to 2.4 are structured as follows:

- An overview of trends in initiatives and policy development pertaining to the thematic category.
- A few examples of best practices in each category
- A list of the challenges faced in each category
- Five key questions to guide the discussions

## 2.2 Mainstreaming Sustainable Products and Services

### Trends in activities and policies

It is widely accepted that the sustainable performance of products and the services they offer needs to improve over all phases of a product's life cycle. At the Costa Rica meeting in 2005, it was suggested that breaking the link between increase in production and environmental degradation, through steady improvements in resource efficiency and environmental protection, is important. However, gains in efficiency may be offset if consumers replace products, such as mobile phones or TV sets, in shorter cycles or if larger sizes replace smaller sizes, such as with cars, apartments or appliances. The following provides an overview of some key developments in recent years.

### Production of sustainable products and services

There are a number of approaches available to promote design and supply of sustainable products and services. Key initiatives include producer responsibility systems, the Product-Service System (PSS), Design for Environment (DfE), organic products and Fair Trade initiatives. Companies are also beginning to consider the sustainability of products and services, not only in terms of responding to government legislation, but also as a strategic tool used to pursue new market opportunities and position themselves for future growth.

Several jurisdictions have implemented measures that expand the traditional focus of environmental policies towards broader life-cycle considerations. A prominent producer responsibility initiative is the EU's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, under which the collection of waste from electrical and electronic goods started in August 2005. The WEEE Directive, implemented in tandem with the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive, aims at improving the end-of-life management of electrical and electronic goods, as well as striving to stimulate environmentally conscious innovation among producers. The use-phase impact of products is the focus of the EU Framework Directive for the Setting of Eco-design Requirements for Energy-using Products (EuP). This directive sets a framework of policy measures in order to increase the efficiency of energy consuming products. Recognising the need for a consistent policy framework to support sustainable products and services, the European Commission is pursuing an Integrated Product Policy (IPP) strategy that aims at improving the coherence of policy tools.

Provisions pertaining to key infrastructure, such as telecommunications systems, educational and trade training programmes and efficient transportation infrastructure, remains important to the support and implementation of sustainable production patterns. There also remains a need to build the capacity of

global supply chain actors, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to enable manufacturers to develop and market sustainable products and services. The Costa Rica meeting recommended that enhanced information, education and capacity building targeted at key stakeholders, such as industry and industrial design schools, be provided.

In recent years, a number of voluntary sector initiatives have been established in order to help industry jointly identify ways to accelerate the production of sustainable products and services. For example, in the building and construction sector, the UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative (SBCI) was launched in 2006 with the intention of supporting sustainable building solutions in partnership with leading international companies.<sup>4</sup>

### Consumption of sustainable products and services

Some notable initiatives that encourage the consumption of sustainable products and services include green/sustainable procurement, labelling initiatives and Fair Trade initiatives. Sustainable public procurement offers the potential for markets to be transformed in favour of sustainable products and services. Currently, there are many initiatives aimed at supporting these efforts around the world. For example, the UK government set up a Sustainable Procurement Task Force whose action plan identifies the top priority areas for sustainable public procurement as construction, health and social work, food, uniforms and clothing, and waste and paper products.<sup>5</sup> Another example from the private sector is Japan's Green Purchasing Network (GPN), which engages over 2,000 private companies in green procurement activities.<sup>6</sup> Some developing countries have also rapidly been accelerating their efforts. In 2004, the Chinese government issued a policy document entitled "Implementation of Government Energy Efficiency Procurement" that called for a three-year programme to establish energy-efficient purchasing practices at all government levels.

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**In Japan, over 2,000 companies are involved in green procurement activities.**

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Also noted at the Costa Rica meeting was the need for a common yardstick to measure the sustainability of products and services, as well as to intensify efforts for priority setting and measuring results. Open information, quality assurance, labelling and certification were seen as key for the facilitation of better decision-making among institutional and household consumers in regards to more sustainable purchasing and product usage. Among different tools, voluntary or mandatory eco-labelling is one of the most applied initiatives in many countries. Labels have been developed for different phases of a product's life cycles whether dealing with issues such as energy in the use phase, or specific issues and materials used in production, such as whether the wood is sourced from sustainably managed forests or

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<sup>4</sup> For details, visit [www.unep.org/pc/home.htm](http://www.unep.org/pc/home.htm)

<sup>5</sup> For details, visit [www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/task-forces/procurement/index.htm](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/task-forces/procurement/index.htm)

<sup>6</sup> For details, visit [www.gpn.jp](http://www.gpn.jp)

life-cycle wide impacts. In hopes of advancing the social dimension of sustainability, many public authorities are increasingly including Fair Trade products within procurement programmes.<sup>7</sup>

### Examples of best practices

- **Japan's Top Runner Programme** offers an innovative example of energy efficiency standard setting in electrical appliances. Instead of setting a minimum efficiency standard, the Top Runner Programme established performance standards based on the best performing product model in each of 18 different product classes. These include products used in transport, commercial and private sectors. Manufacturers and importers in Japan are obliged to improve the use-phase energy efficiency of their products on a weighted average basis in order to meet the performance level set under this programme. The advantages of this programme are that not only are standards achievable, but at the same time manufacturers are provided with incentives to increase minimum performance levels while continuously improving performance.<sup>8</sup>
- **The UK's Northumberland County Council**, located in an economically disadvantaged region, decided to measure and then improve the local economic impact of its food procurement policy contracts with schools, social services, residential and day care programmes. The council applied the "LM3 Local Economic Multiplier Tool" developed by the New Economic Foundation (NEF) to measure the local impacts of the council's procurement. The analysis of the council's spending indicated that locally based suppliers, on average, re-spent 76% of their earnings locally in comparison to 36% spent by suppliers based outside the county. This result indicated that a 10% shift in the council's spending towards local suppliers would generate an extra £34 million for the local economy. The council initiated support programmes for local suppliers to enable them to successfully compete with external suppliers for the council's contracts. The council first implemented an evaluation to assess criteria using the ratio of 60:40 to reflect quality and price. These results supported the sustainability objective of procuring locally grown organic produce, and thus the share of locally sourced food increased to approximately half the council's total expenditure on food.<sup>9</sup>
- **The Balik Baterya (Battery Return) programme** is a buy-back programme in the Philippines for used lead-acid batteries that uses a nation-wide collection network consisting of battery dealers and independent collectors. Owners of used batteries are encouraged to donate them to Bantay Kalikasan (Nature Watch), an environmental NGO run by the ABS-CBN Radio and Television Network. The donated batteries are then sold to Philippine Recyclers Inc. (PRI), the proceeds of which provide funds for Bantay Kalikasan. PRI processes them in a recycling plant to produce new lead, lead alloys and clean crushed plastic that in turn are sold to battery manufacturers as raw materials. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) sup-

<sup>7</sup> International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) issues a guideline for purchasing Fair Trade products by the public sector. The document is available from [www.ifat.org](http://www.ifat.org)

<sup>8</sup> For more information, visit [www.eccj.or.jp/top\\_runner](http://www.eccj.or.jp/top_runner)

<sup>9</sup> About the LM3 Tool, visit [www.neweconomics.org/gen/tools\\_lm3.aspx](http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/tools_lm3.aspx)

ports the programme by relaxing the transportation permit requirements and grants the programme a single nation-wide permit. As a result of this programme, about 70% of used batteries have been recycled throughout the whole country.

### Challenges faced

- Business and consumers often perceive sustainable products and services as inherently more costly. There is a need to create the necessary framework conditions so that business and consumers realise the economical, as well as the social and environmental, benefits of sustainable products and services.
- There remains, as yet, no clear understanding about what a sustainable level of consumption might be, nor how government intervention in the area of private consumption may potentially conflict with the private consumption ambitions of consumers and other public policy objectives.
- Supply chains are increasingly becoming global in nature while policies and tools promoting sustainable products and services are still largely developed at the national level. There is a need to find a collaborative means by which to promote and support sustainable products and services beyond national boundaries.
- A majority of initiatives are focused on developed countries; and, therefore, in some cases these initiatives present challenges for producers in developing countries to meet increasingly challenging and evolving requirements. In addition, developing countries may perceive national and local standards for sustainable products and services as creating trade barriers and disadvantages for them.
- In general, increased efficiency per product or service has been negated by an even greater increase in overall consumption. The “rebound effect”, by which increased efficiency reduces prices and stimulates greater demand, can also be observed.
- Promoting sustainable products and services requires a mixture of policy instruments, including regulation, economic instruments, to “get the price right”, and information tools. For this reason certain countries need guidance to find the right policy mix.

### Key questions for discussions

1. In developed countries, what tools for promoting sustainable products and services have proven effective, and what are the policy gaps that need to be addressed? How might the increasing globalisation of supply chains influence the effectiveness of these tools?
2. What conditions are needed for the government to support business, including SMEs, and consumers so that opportunities with sustainable products and services are recognised and embraced?
3. How can various tools for promoting sustainable products and services be adapted for the context of developing countries? How can guidance in finding the right policy mix be provided to develop-

ing countries?

4. How can capacity of businesses in developing countries be built to make them successful in producing and marketing sustainable products and services for developed countries?
5. How can the “rebound effect” be addressed and tackled within the Marrakech Process, while considering a rapid increase of the “global consumer class” in emerging economies?

## 2.3 On the Road to Sustainable Lifestyles

### Trends in activities and policies

Recent trends indicate that many environmental pressures from household consumption continue to grow despite improvements in resource efficiency. Consumption growth in the developed world is intricately linked with lifestyle changes. The size of households is becoming smaller, while at the same time standards in comfort, such as central heating, are rising. For example, electrical appliances are growing in numbers and varieties. The habit of consuming pre-packaged meals is becoming more common. Dependence on private cars is increasing throughout the world. People are travelling more frequently and to further distances, especially via low-cost airlines.

This continual increase in total resource consumption is accompanied by an extreme inequality in the consumption between developed and developing countries. The overall consumption of the wealthiest fifth of the world’s population is 16 times that of the poorest fifth, with the latter being deprived of even basic human needs.<sup>10</sup> Thus, raising the consumption levels of the poor is also one of the most urgent SCP issues.

At the Costa Rica meeting in 2005, developing a forward-looking vision of sustainable lifestyles was recognised as important in order to effectively promote sustainable consumption. It is from this vision that policies can be formulated and appropriate measures developed. These should include the wise use of products and services, as well as general consideration of the level of consumption.

Conventional policy interventions clearly have a significant role to play in promoting sustainable consumption. The current trend in the development of environmental regulations is focused on products and their associated life-cycle impacts. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation and market-based instruments, including eco-taxes on products, materials and environmentally damaging activities, both primarily require that the producer take responsibility for their actions. However, it is important to recognise that consumers play an important role in prompting producers to become more effective.

<sup>10</sup> OECD (2002) *Policies to Promote Sustainable Consumption: An overview*, Working Party on National Environmental Policy – Policy case studies series, Paris. [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/17/32347628.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/17/32347628.pdf)

Informational or educational strategies aim at increasing overall consumer awareness with regards to consumption choices. These strategies often include education, media, and labelling mechanisms. However, many studies have illustrated that the act of simply providing information is not sufficient when the aim is to achieve behavioural change.

Studies indicate that people need to have sufficient incentives or experience peer pressure in order to consider actually changing their consumption behaviour. The Costa Rica meeting emphasised that consumers need to be engaged through more effective means. This could be through the use of more innovative communication strategies or by better branding of sustainable lifestyles that motivate and inspire consumers. Local community-based actions encourage behavioural changes as a collective effort. In addition, environmental information is often more effective when related to other consumer concerns, such as organic food which relates to health, or the energy efficiency of electronic appliances relating to a reduced ownership cost. Other methods involve collaboration with advertising agencies and trendsetters in order to elaborate “sustainable marketing”.

Pioneering companies can embrace the precepts of sustainable consumption as opportunities for innovation. Providing consumers with environmentally and socially sound choices, such as organic food and Fair Trade products, is becoming part of a successful business model as SCP awareness among citizens is growing. In addition, understanding the concerns people have as citizens can ultimately help businesses to identify new product and service prospects, as well as avoid making themselves vulnerable to criticism or civic campaigns. However, the awareness level of sustainable consumption is still relatively low among businesses. This reflects the fact that actions by businesses must be aligned with a strong business case. This is where governments have an important role to play in preparing a policy framework for business that creates a level-playing field and encourages businesses to be innovative. For instance, by ruling out high-impact products and charging fees for pollutive activities, more sustainable lifestyles can be encouraged.

With respect to developing countries, which tend to follow the development path of developed countries, opportunities should be available to help them avoid many of environmental and social problems experienced by developed countries, especially those problems associated with affluent consumption.

### Examples of best practices

- **The Dawn Project** was created to address concerns about a lack in public awareness regarding the environmental impacts of increasing energy usage in Thailand. This four-year project developed educational materials on daily life tips for energy saving and provided training among teachers and community leaders based on the concept of life cycle assessment (LCA). The project engaged more than 300,000 students at primary and secondary schools, 23,400 teachers and 2,400 community leaders from around the country. More than half of the 600 participating schools established “Energy and Environment Learning Centres”, while almost half of the schools demonstrated at least a 10% reduction in energy consumption. The National Energy

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**The overall consumption of the wealthiest fifth of the world’s population is 16 times that of the poorest fifth.**

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Policy Office (NEPO) financed the project with the Ministry of Education providing policy support and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) providing management services.

- **The Sustainable Shopping Basket project** in Germany was created to inform consumers about the opportunities and benefits of sustainable consumption in an exciting and accessible manner. The project was launched by the Institute for Market-Environment-Society (IMUG), the German Council for Sustainable Development and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. A shopping guide called “Sustainable Shopping Basket” was developed, containing a list of sustainable products and services from the following consumption areas: food products, textiles and clothing, living and household, mobility, tourism and financial services. For one month around 70 families tested the shopping guide and structured their daily consumption life according to the terms of sustainability. The results from this experiment confirmed that the “Sustainable Shopping Basket” is a suitable communication instrument to guide consumer in making relevant and sustainable consumption choices. The project does not intend to provide regulations or ready-made answers about which choices are right or wrong; rather it aims at facilitating a search for sustainable alternatives by focusing on possible ways of consumption.<sup>11</sup>
- **The Certification for Sustainable Tourism (CST) programme** was developed by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute in an effort to categorise and certify each tour company according to their compliance with sustainability standards. For example, the evaluation of hotels involves the analysis of four general areas: the physical-biological environment, the hotel facilities which include internal environmental management practices, customer relations and the socio-economic environment. These areas are evaluated through a questionnaire. There are six sustainability levels in the categorisation of hotels denoted by the rankings zero to five. CST has succeeded in differentiating the Costa Rican tourist industry from its competitors by adding value to its tourism package; thereby, enhancing international appeal and creating new possibilities.<sup>12</sup>

### Challenges faced

- Despite the availability of various public policy instruments, only minor change has been seen in consumer behaviour. The challenge is for governments to create the right conditions in which consumers are encouraged to naturally shift towards sustainable consumption through the wise combination of different policy instruments.
- The development of national action plans on SCP can be a cornerstone in achieving progress towards sustainable consumption. It is important for countries to first build a vision based on sustainable lifestyles and then based on this vision develop national action plans. These plans need to address how consumers, while taking into account their social and cultural conditions, can be empowered to make sustainable choices.

<sup>11</sup> For details, visit [www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/projects/sustainable\\_goods/index.html](http://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/projects/sustainable_goods/index.html)

<sup>12</sup> For details, visit [www.turismo-sostenible.co.cr](http://www.turismo-sostenible.co.cr)

- There is a need to develop methodologies with indicators in order to measure and encourage progress towards sustainable consumption. Consumption impacts when addressed in the context of a life-cycle framework pose particular methodological challenges.
- Given the pivotal role of education, a clear link of schools and consumer education for SCP with the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development still needs to be established.
- Effective communication about sustainable lifestyles is a challenge. Public communication and advertising have key roles to play in ensuring the concept of sustainable consumption is both understandable and fashionable.
- Making a strong business case for sustainable consumption is a major challenge. Business leaders need to be aware of their potential role and responsibility to encourage consumers to shift towards more sustainable lifestyles.
- In certain cases, sustainable consumption tends to be viewed as irrelevant for developing countries. However, there is a need to clarify consumption issues for developing countries, as well as to foster a vision of sustainable lifestyles relevant to individuals in these countries, especially among the new “global consumer class”.

### Key questions for discussions

1. How can a vision for sustainable lifestyles be developed? Which combination of policy tools is most effective for promoting sustainable consumption patterns? How can national SCP action plans address sustainable lifestyles?
2. How can the business case for sustainable consumption be enhanced? How can an awareness and knowledge about the potential value of sustainable consumption practices be fostered among business leaders?
3. How can progress towards sustainable consumption be measured and monitored? What methodologies, indicators and databases are required?
4. How should sustainable consumption and lifestyles in regards to developing countries be defined? What kind of assistance should they be provided with to enable them to set priorities for changing consumption patterns?
5. Which communication channels – education, public communication, media reports, advertisement, etc. – are most effective in promoting sustainable consumption patterns? How can different actors work together to make sustainable lifestyles more attractive?

## 2.4 Cooperation for Implementing SCP

### Trends in activities and policies

At the Costa Rica meeting in 2005, the linkage between SCP and poverty reduction was emphasised, and mainstreaming SCP in poverty reduction policies and measures was recommended as one of the key implementing areas of SCP. This linkage was envisioned as a means by which to support the development, funding and implementation of SCP activities in developing countries, as well as to entice development agencies to apply the SCP concept in their poverty reduction projects.

For this reason, the first Cooperation Dialogue Session with development agencies was held during the Costa Rica meeting and participants from seven agencies attended. As a follow-up, UNEP conducted a review of development agencies' current SCP-related projects. The results revealed that a majority of multilateral and bilateral agencies are already implementing SCP-related projects (see 1.4). This review

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#### **UNEP launched a pilot project for integrating the SCP concept into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.**

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provides a basis for considering how to better integrate SCP in development plans and identify opportunities to increase access to available development funds. The Cooperation with Africa Task Force also explores acceleration of the SCP implementation in developing countries by both working directly with those governments and extending cooperation with development agencies (see 1.3.2). The second Cooperation Dialogue Session will be held at the Stockholm meeting in June 2007.

The integration of national SCP action plans into national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), was one of the key recommendations from the Costa Rica meeting. As a response, UNEP launched a pilot project entitled "Integration of SCP into PRSPs". This project works with governments, in a few selected low-income countries, to help them draft country-specific text on SCP for PRSPs. The text is expected to contain examples of concrete public policies and private sector actions for SCP that have the possibility of contributing to poverty reduction. CSCP has developed a guidance manual that helps pilot countries to identify links between SCP and poverty reduction in key industrial sectors and from these links help draft the text step by step.

Another measure proposed is for National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPs) and other intermediaries to take up the SCP concept and apply it to business development in their own countries. The UNEP's 9th International High-level Seminar on SCP (SCP 9) held in Arusha, Tanzania, in December 2006 will introduce the concept of "Human Development through the Market" (HDtM) as a new guiding vision for NCPs as support for this process. The HDtM concept aims at inspiring businesses to find new market opportunities for products and services that address the needs of the poor while improving the environmental and social conditions in developing countries. This approach will include case studies from various sectors that have already been implemented in different countries.

### Examples of best practices

- **Bolsa Amazônia** is a regional partnership dedicated to the development of small-scale enterprises in rural forest communities in Amazon. This development focuses on harvesting and

processing value-added products and the commercialisation of these products. Its objective is to promote the sustainable use of Amazonian natural resources, while simultaneously reducing poverty levels among the indigenous people through income generation, as well as providing consumers with environmentally friendly products. One success story is the coconut-fibre project that supplies 120,000 car seats a month to DaimlerChrysler, and benefits 5,200 people throughout the various steps of production. As result of this project, producers have increased their productivity and reduced soil degradation. The EU has supported Bolsa Amazônia with funding to develop training programmes on marketing, processing, management and sustainable resource use.<sup>13</sup>

- **Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET)** promotes environmentally sound technologies and helps to strengthen the skills in this field by enhancing Tunisia's competences in environmental technologies. In addition, they support the international exchange of experience and know-how in these technologies. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) supports CITET by providing them with expertise in training, laboratory services, and the transfer and implementation of environmental technologies. As a result, CITET has trained over 8,000 participants in technical workshops in the last six years, and more than 5,600 people have visited their conferences, business meetings and exhibitions in the last three years. In a CITET survey, where 14 companies were consulted, results indicate that an average of €850,000 was saved annually due to the introduction of environmental technologies.<sup>14</sup>

### Challenges faced

- While the issues in a variety of projects relating to SCP have been addressed, the concept itself is not universally known or widely applied. This limits the possibility of many projects being accomplished.
- Research, education and the development of environmentally sound technologies have not adequately focused on adapting themselves to conditions in developing countries.
- Many SCP-related projects and best practices remain limited in terms of scale and funding, resulting in limited impacts towards “leapfrogging” of developing countries as a whole.
- Securing adequate funding for SCP activities remains a challenge. There is a need to how to increase awareness of SCP especially among both private and public financial institutions.
- The limited involvement of the private sector in SCP and the slow uptake of this concept by entrepreneurs have hindered the expansion of SCP beyond designated pilot projects.
- The impacts from integrating SCP into national development plans or PRSPs may be limited unless key actors within national authorities are familiar with the SCP concept, and take an active role in utilising the SCP concept with actual policy planning and implementation.

<sup>13</sup> For more details, visit [www.bolsaamazonia.com](http://www.bolsaamazonia.com)

<sup>14</sup> For more details, visit [www.citet.nat.tn](http://www.citet.nat.tn)



## Key questions for discussions

1. How can the concept of SCP be communicated and promoted among development agencies, as well as governments of developing countries? How can the concept be taken up not only at the project level but also as an integrated, holistic thinking?
2. How can collaborative projects and strategic partnerships between development agencies and SCP experts be initiated and developed? What processes, in addition to the Cooperation Dialogue, need to take place on both sides in order to increase cooperation?
3. How can locally successful demonstration projects be scaled up and applied to other countries and regions?
4. How can awareness of the SCP approach be heightened not only among environmental departments but also across the range of political bodies and departments within governments?
5. How can market-based mechanisms be used to leverage resources from the private sector for activities related to SCP and poverty reduction? How can development banks support more SCP-related projects?

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## 3 On the Road to 2011 – Expectations for the Marrakech Process

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### 3.1 An Overview of the Marrakech Process 2007-2011

From 2007 onward, the regional and national efforts under the Marrakech Process are expected to gradually shift toward implementation of concrete programmes and projects (Phase 3) and monitoring and evaluating progress (Phase 4). In most of the regions, there is still need to build up regional strategies and implementation mechanisms (Phase 2) in the coming years.

Among all, the greatest attention should be paid to the development of the 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP). At the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP, scheduled for Stockholm on 27-29 June 2007, topics for discussion include the nature of the 10YFP, such as how it should look like and what aspects should be addressed, in addition to the progress achieved under the Marrakech Process. Based on experiments through the concrete regional and national programmes and projects, tested SCP tools, best practices, policies and measures are expected to be part of key elements of the 10YFP. Therefore, each region and country needs to accelerate and solidify efforts in the coming years through individual initiatives and through the Marrakech Task Forces. The dialogue between SCP experts and development agencies will be further continued at the Stockholm meeting, as UNEP and UN-DESA will report the results of the review of SCP-related activities among development agencies.

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**The Marrakech Process is reaching the halfway point. The greatest attention should be paid to the development of the 10YFP from now on.**

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### 3.2 Experts' Views on the Marrakech Process and Identifying Tasks Ahead

The Marrakech Process is reaching the halfway point. In order to help reflect its achievement so far and foresee the tasks left for the coming years to 2011, CSCP conducted telephone interviews with ten SCP experts concerning their views and expectations on the Process. This section outlines the results of the interviews and identifies challenges and gaps that the Marrakech Process needs to address in the future.

The interviews were conducted between October and November 2006 for approximately 30 minutes each. UNEP and CSCP jointly selected the ten experts on the basis of their involvement in and knowledge of the Marrakech Process, areas of professional expertise, and taking into consideration a geographical balance. Eight of ten experts (see the table below) took part in the interviews. As the number

of expert respondents is rather limited, it should be noted that these results do not necessarily represent a majority viewpoint among stakeholders involved in the Marrakech Process.

### SCP experts who participated in the survey

Name	Organisation & Position	Country
Gunilla Blomquist	Deputy Director, Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development	Sweden
Rajan R. Gandhi	Resident Director, Safety Action Group	India
Tim Jackson	Professor of Sustainable Development, Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey	UK
Lars Mortensen	Head of Group, Sustainable Consumption and Production, European Environment Agency (EEA)	Denmark
Marjo Nummelin	Desk Officer International, DG Environment, European Commission	EU
Ana Quiros	President, Eco Global Advisors for Sustainable Development	Costa Rica
Arnold Tukker	Programme Manager, Sustainable Innovation, TNO Built Environment and Geosciences, Innovation and Environment Project Manager, Sustainable Consumption Research Exchange (SCORE!)	Netherlands
Peter White	Director of Global Sustainability, Procter & Gamble (P&G)	UK

The following questions were asked in the interviews:

- How do you see the progress and outcomes of the Marrakech Process so far including regional and national initiatives, the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue with development agencies?
- What do you think are key SCP issues or sectors that the Marrakech Process should focus on?
- What do you expect as an outcome of the Marrakech Process by 2011?
- How should the 10YFP look and what goals should it have?
- What type of indicators or criteria can be used to measure the success of the Marrakech Process? How and by whom should the progress be monitored?
- What processes are still needed before 2011 to make the Marrakech Process successful?

Below is a description and analysis of interview results. The analysis was undertaken such that interesting individual observations or preferences as well as commonly shared ideas within each theme related to the Marrakech Process are captured. Where there was substantial diversity in opinion among the respondents, their views are presented in as balanced a manner as possible. This analysis also aims to serve as a basis for discussion during the Expert Conference in Wuppertal, where the overall role of the Task Forces under the Marrakech Process will be discussed.

## 1. General satisfaction with the Process but concrete action is needed.

Most of the interview respondents expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Marrakech Process, given that international and regional expert meetings have been organised on a regular basis. Some expressed praise for the trend that more regions and countries, particularly developing countries, are showing interest in the SCP agenda, which European countries initially promoted in the early 1990s but had for some years been comparatively low-key. One interviewee commented that, “It is a very good news that SCP is very high on the political agenda”.

On the other hand, all the interviewed experts agreed that the Marrakech Process should move faster towards the implementation of concrete programmes and projects. There was a perception that the Process should not become “just a talking shop” but needs to show actual progress in the patterns of consumption and production, or at least result in political commitment and target setting at the international, regional and national levels.

In this regard, it was pointed out that the role of Marrakech Task Forces provide a critical function in the Process that could achieve concrete actions in support of SCP in various sectors or issue areas. Although they recognised the Task Forces were still at an early phase, respondents expressed an expectation that Task Forces would be implementing concrete pilot projects and delivering tangible results in coming years.

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**The Marrakech Process should not become just a talking shop but needs to show actual progress towards SCP with concrete actions.**

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## 2. SCP needs to be more clearly defined and promoted.

One interviewee commented, “Our government is doing a lot of SCP-type projects but they never call them SCP”. As the UNEP review shows, many development agencies are conducting SCP-related projects but they are not necessarily familiar with the SCP concept (see 1.4). The Marrakech Process needs to promote this concept more actively among various global actors through dialogue and to win support among the diverse actors in the development field.

However, it was pointed out that the breadth in the SCP concept had hindered its uptake. Some said that there was danger that if the SCP concept tried to absorb more areas or ideas, there would be little difference between SCP and sustainable development. One suggested using the SCP concept to make sustainable development more concrete, focusing on actions and analysis of concrete ways to achieve sustainable development.

According to one expert, there is still lack of a shared vision of how consumption and production will look like in a sustainable society. It was suggested that researchers needed to focus on understanding which patterns of consumption and production can produce the highest quality of life within environmental limits.

### 3. Regional difference should be more seriously considered.

The substantial difference of focus in SCP issues between developed and developing countries was raised by a number of interviewees. It was emphasised by experts from both developed and developing countries that developed nations should take a lead on sustainable consumption issues as it is these countries which bear historical responsibility for environmental impacts caused by unsustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles. For developing countries, the priority is an increase in material consumption to provide the basic necessities of life. It was also pointed out that the terms of technology transfer should be negotiated within an international political arena between developed and developing nations to make “leapfrogging” possible, ensuring developing countries do not invest in inefficient and outdated technologies.

Experts from developing countries emphasised that the difference in political climate and structure needs to be taken into consideration when aiming to promote SCP. For instance, in one respondent’s

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**The terms of technology transfer should be negotiated between developed and developing countries to make leapfrogging possible.**

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country, people tend to be sceptical about development agencies and development banks. In this case, promoting SCP through those actors may not be the most effective. Since government still provides services and infrastructure for most priority SCP areas in developing countries, empowerment and capacity building within the public sector and the need to tackle corruption were emphasised. Public procurement and education are key focus areas where the public sector can make a substantial difference in promoting SCP in developing countries.

To reflect those differences, a few experts argued that there was a need to further elaborate different approaches to promoting the SCP agenda according to characteristics of different regions. One remarked that the first priority of the Marrakech Process should be placed on encouraging exchanges of ideas and activities within each region, rather than between different regions.

### 4. More Task Forces are needed with a clearer scope of activities.

Respondents expressed high expectations for the Task Forces given that they are among the most tangible activities in the Marrakech Process. Some experts pointed out that more Task Forces are needed in order to include some critical SCP sectors or issues that have not been covered by the existing Task Forces. Those include: 1) waste management, 2) water resources, 3) food and agriculture, 4) trade and environmental and social standards, 5) societal and urban planning and 6) travel and transport.

A few interviewees argued that the working areas of Task Forces should be prioritised by the scale of impact, quoting the recent European Commission’s Environmental Impact of Products (EIPRO) study that identified three areas of the highest environmental impact in private consumption – food and drink,

private transport, and housing including buildings, furniture, domestic appliances and energy.<sup>15</sup> One expert suggested that leisure activity should also be addressed as this is a fast-growing sector in developed countries and which involves consumption of a large amount of energy and resources. On the other hand, another expert expressed the view that the number of Task Forces was about right and advised that they should avoid examining issues that are addressed in other policy frameworks or political arenas such as waste management and energy and instead shed light on areas that are often excluded from the attention of decision makers.

Regarding the existing Task Forces, it was pointed out that setting a clearer scope of activities and deliveries is important. For example, one interviewee recommended that the Cooperation with Africa Task Force should focus on a few priority programmes where other UN agencies are not working, such as support for adopting leapfrogging technologies.

It was also pointed out that all the Task Forces are currently led by European countries and need to engage more non-European countries, for instance, through joint chairmanship. The discussions and activities in Task Forces also need to reflect the priorities in other regions. One interviewee from a developing country noted that the discussions in Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Forces in particular should more closely reflect the concerns of developing nations. In addition, engagement of other stakeholders including businesses, consumer organisations and researchers was noted as essential to mobilise these actors to realise genuine actions based on sound evidence and data. It was suggested that UNEP could take a more active role in coordinating the Task Forces and encouraging stakeholder engagement, as well as develop a website to help stakeholders follow the latest discussions and activities of the Task Forces.

#### **Experts' views on the Marrakech Process**

- 1. General satisfaction with the Process but concrete action is needed.**
- 2. SCP needs to be more clearly defined and promoted.**
- 3. Regional differences should be more seriously considered.**
- 4. More Task Forces are needed with a clearer scope of activities.**
- 5. Evaluation and monitoring are essential but the development of action plans should come first.**
- 6. Engagement of more stakeholders would enable the Process to deliver concrete results.**
- 7. The 10YFP could be an international agreement with clear targets.**

### **5. Evaluation and monitoring are essential but the development of action plans should come first.**

A majority of respondents agreed on the need for a process for monitoring and evaluation to measure progress of the Marrakech Process. One obvious indicator could be a general quantitative indicator such as numbers of countries and people involved, number of programmes and projects implemented, or number of regional and national strategies developed.

<sup>15</sup> The report of the EIPRO study is available from <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ipp/identifying.htm>

However, it was pointed out that such evaluation has to be based on a clear set of targets and goals. Specifically, SCP strategies and action plans need to be first developed in each region or country and the targets and goals should be set according to those plans. One expert suggested that although the actual content should differ depending on regions and countries, the standard process to develop strategies and action plans could be set up jointly including involvement of stakeholders from an early stage of the development.

The discussion in the interviews was further developed towards evaluation and monitoring of SCP policy development and impact as well as of the activities that will be defined in the 10YFP following 2011. The interviewees emphasised the importance of measuring the real progress towards SCP in terms of how SCP strategies are implemented as policies, how SCP policies lead to de-coupling of resource consumption from economic growth, and how SCP activities are implemented according to the 10YFP. Suggested references included a UN-DESA report *Measuring Changes in Consumption and Production Patterns* published in 1998<sup>16</sup> and UK government's SCP indicators<sup>17</sup>.

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**“Business has not only responsibility for reducing negative impacts but also opportunities to provide products that fulfil basic quality of life of the poor.”**

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It was proposed that monitoring of the progress under the Marrakech Process and SCP in general could be done by either international agencies, such as UNEP or UN-DESA, or third-party expert groups such as CSCP at the international level. However, the importance of monitoring at regional and national levels was also emphasised.

## 6. Engagement of more stakeholders would enable the Process to deliver concrete results.

Most of the respondents pointed out that those who have been involved the Marrakech Process to date are mainly governmental officials and international agencies as a political process and that there is a need for additional input and participation from non-governmental actors. One emphasised the role of business for realising SCP, stating “Business has not only responsibility for reducing negative impacts but also opportunities to provide products and services that fulfil basic quality of life of the poor”. Others said that involvement of NGOs and consumer organisations was essential as policy makers need “change agents” to mobilise citizens and businesses for changing behaviour. Engagement of such stakeholders in the Process is also critical to develop effective SCP strategies and action plans in the coming years.

Another area where the Marrakech Process needs to work on is an improvement in understanding sustainable consumption and the way to integrate resource consumption into the existing economic model. A few experts commented that consumption elements within SCP were not yet fully addressed in the

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<sup>16</sup> The report can be downloaded from [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/publications.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/publications.htm)

<sup>17</sup> The indicators can be seen on [www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/national/consumption-production.htm](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/national/consumption-production.htm)

Marrakech Process. With more help from sociologists and psychologists, policy makers need to understand why people consume particular products and services and how their behaviours can be shifted towards a more sustainable direction through the application of policy instruments. Also, it is essential for economists to take into account resource consumption in the existing economic framework (e.g. through resource accounting methods) and to develop economic models that allow policy makers to plan for a de-coupling of resource consumption from economic growth. The Marrakech Process therefore needs to engage the research community for understanding the patterns of consumption and production as well as to support academic advancement in SCP areas.

Furthermore, some respondents advocated that the Marrakech Process should embrace on-the-ground projects and processes, which currently are either affiliated with the Process or implemented outside the scope of the Process. It was argued that this would make the Process more politically influential by obtaining large constituencies and acquiring substantial knowledge and the networks necessary to implement SCP policies.

A number of interviewees suggested that a network of SCP experts and groups be established to exchange the latest findings and encourage synergies for innovation. Also, it was noted that this network could operate a dedicated website and a database of SCP projects and research. One respondent suggested that such a network could lead the Marrakech Process to create more on-going and long-lasting activities, not just one-off conferences and meetings.

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**Key figures are needed to promote the SCP concept and the Marrakech Process.**

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## **7. The 10YFP could be an international agreement with clear targets.**

The expected components of the 10YFP showed a certain commonality among survey respondents. Those include: 1) Regional priority SCP issues and sectors, 2) quantifiable goals and timelines in each issue/sector, 3) implementation plans to reach the identified goals, and 4) monitoring processes. One interviewee suggested building a matrix of these elements for visualising the status of progress in the 10YFP. Respondents advocated that the implementation plan could be developed based on the experiences of pilot projects to be conducted by Marrakech Task Forces.

Most of the interviewed experts agreed that the content of the 10YFP should be actively debated in regions and countries. One respondent called for organising more regional expert meetings before the Stockholm meeting in June 2007 to provide input for the discussion at the international level on the 10YFP. Another respondent noted that the development of the 10YFP should be a “bottom-up process”, under which the action plans developed by regions and countries would shape the backbone of the 10YFP.

A more ambitious opinion shared by a few experts is having an international agreement on SCP at the 2010-11 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) where the 10YFP will be presented and reviewed. One interviewee remarked, “It is quite difficult for an individual nation to make unilateral progress if there is not an international agenda around the SCP issue”. It would be desirable for the international community to share a clear strategy for resource efficiency and a common recogni-

tion of limits in resource consumption in the 10YFP. Even though it may not be realistic for countries to agree on a binding treaty like the Kyoto Protocol, they argued that it would be possible for each region or country to agree with setting its own specific SCP targets that would be of a binding nature.

The overall observations by most experts are that the Marrakech Process has yet to obtain the high-level political commitment within the UN, regions and national governments that is necessary for success. One remarked that as former US Vice President Al Gore has recently assumed the role of champion for action to mitigate climate change, key figures were needed to promote the SCP concept and the Marrakech Process, and that UNEP and UN-DESA should demonstrate stronger leadership.

### Key questions for discussions

1. How can Task Forces help to develop and implement more concrete activities in the Marrakech Process? How can the development of regional and national strategies and action plans be encouraged and accelerated?
2. How can the priority issues not addressed in the existing Task Forces be taken up? Are more Task Forces necessary? Can more collaboration between Task Forces help create dynamism to tackle cross-cutting issues?
3. What processes are required to evaluate and monitor the progress of the Marrakech Process? What indicators or criteria can be applied and how can the information be obtained? Who should assume this role?
4. How should the 10YFP look and what key elements should be included? How can the discussions around the 10YFP be galvanised in regions before the Stockholm meeting?
5. How can Task Forces support greater participation in the Marrakech Process among developing countries and different stakeholders? How can the SCP concept be sharpened and promoted among wider constituencies as well as a larger number of governments?