BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Making the shift to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns has been recognized by the international community at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and ten years later at the UN Rio+20 Conference (2012) as an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development.

The formal adoption at Rio+20 of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (the “10YFP”) has created the global platform to enhance international cooperation and accelerate the shift towards SCP in all countries. The 10YFP will focus on the development, replication and scaling up of SCP and resource efficiency initiatives, at national and regional levels. The aim is to contribute to decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth, while increasing the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and social development, including gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The main objectives of the 10YFP are as follows:

- Accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) through support to regional and national policies and initiatives.
- Contribute, where appropriate, to resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use, while supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods, decent work and green jobs, creating market and trade opportunities, and contributing to poverty eradication and social development, including gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- Mainstream SCP into sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, including into poverty reduction and livelihoods with gender equity strategies.
- Provide capacity development and access to financial and technical assistance to developing countries, supporting the implementation of SCP activities at the regional and national levels.

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1 “Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.” Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Introduction (I.2), 2002
2 A/CONF.216/5, endorsed in paragraph 226 of Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future we Want”.
3 As stated in A/CONF.216/5 “Support for regional and national initiatives is necessary to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in order to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation by improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste.” (paragraph 1.b)
Enable all stakeholders to share information and knowledge on SCP tools, initiatives and best practices and lessons learned, raising awareness, enhancing cooperation and development of new partnerships – including public-private partnerships, promoting and fostering the development of innovative pathways and ideas for SCP.

Encourage and support synergies between the responses to various economic, environmental and social challenges relevant to achieving SCP patterns, as well as in the implementation of global sustainable development commitments.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – within its current mandate- has been requested to serve as the 10YFP Secretariat (as stated in the A/CONF.216/5 document; and reaffirmed by the UNGA67 resolution - A/C.2/67/L.45).

Among the actions indicated in the document, the Secretariat is called on “to collaborate with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Tourism Organization, through an inter-agency coordination group, and with regional entities and commissions, so that there is strong coordination.”

In this context, a letter from UNEP’s Executive Director was sent on 16 January 2013 to Heads of 26 UN bodies, requesting the designation of representatives for the 10YFP. The Inter-agency Coordination Group was subsequently established on 21-22 May 2013 in Paris on the occasion of its first meeting.

**Main Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

The main objectives and expected outcomes of the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group are to ensure:

- Greater visibility of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production as a key Rio+20 implementation mechanism;
- Coordinated, effective and substantive contribution of the UN system, respecting existing mandates and programmes of work, to fulfill the objectives, goals and functions of the 10YFP, and those of its programmes, and to support implementation at all levels;
- Enhanced information sharing and coordination among UN bodies to support governments and other stakeholders’ efforts on shifting to SCP patterns.

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4 A/CONF.216/5, paragraph 4.a.ii
**COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION**

All relevant United Nations bodies, regional entities and commissions have been invited to become members of the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group, which will be made up of representatives and alternates identified by their respective entity.

The 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group may also invite other relevant parties to its meetings, such as NGOs, scientific bodies or business associations, as appropriate.

The current member list (as of 17 July 2013) of the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group is as follows: UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNECLAC, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNESCWA, FAO, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, ILO, ITC, UNOPS, UNU, UN Women, UNWFP, UNWTO.

The 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group has two co-chairs: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the 10YFP Secretariat, and the second co-chair to be selected by the members and which rotates every two years.

**MAIN AREAS OF ACTION**

The main areas of action of the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group are as follows:

1. **Enhancing visibility within the UN**
   - Enhancing the visibility of and sharing the vision, objectives, goals and common values of the 10YFP within the UN system, including by making linkages with intergovernmental sustainable development processes, such as the post-2015 development agenda and the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. **Raising awareness outside UN**
   - Raising awareness and encouraging increased engagement by governments and other stakeholders in the 10YFP.

3. **Enhancing coherent inter-agency support for the implementation of programmes of the 10YFP where possible**
   - Supporting inter-agency participation in the 10YFP consultations and roundtables facilitated by the 10YFP Secretariat and its partners, at all relevant levels;
   - Supporting the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships and, where possible, the implementation of joint SCP initiatives and/or projects contributing to the programmes and other activities of the 10YFP.

4. **Conducting joint research on topics relevant to the 10YFP and its programmes**
   - Providing technical inputs to consultations and the development process for the 10YFP programmes facilitated by the 10YFP Secretariat.
   - Fostering and/or conducting policy-oriented research on SCP, including on indicators and impact assessments, cost-benefit analysis as well as innovative models and emerging issues.
5. **Promoting information exchange on SCP and 10YFP programme areas**

   - Exchange further information on SCP and share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, results and impacts, as well as information on existing funding opportunities or financial resources likely to support SCP implementation, notably through the knowledge management tools of the 10YFP such as the Global SCP Clearinghouse;

6. **Responding to the 10YFP Board**

   - Provide information on UN system activities in the area of SCP;
   - Whenever necessary, respond to specific requests formulated by the 10YFP Board to benefit from the expertise of the UN system in the Board’s discussions and deliberations;
   - Support the 10YFP Secretariat in collecting information and the necessary reporting on the UN system’s work in supporting the implementation of the 10YFP and progress towards SCP;
   - Facilitate interagency coordination and support to the Board and its secretariat vis-à-vis the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development.
   - Contributing to the draft annual reports of the Secretariat to the Board.

### SECRETARIAT AND MODALITIES OF WORK

The work of the 10YFP-Inter-agency Coordination Group will be supported by the Secretariat of the 10YFP that will:

   - Encourage and enhance cooperation and coordination among UN bodies to support the development and implementation of the 10YFP, including its Programmes;
   - Identify areas of potential cooperation and opportunities for Inter-Agency group support in the context of the 10YFP;
   - Establish the provisional agenda of each meeting in consultation with the members and co-chairs of the group;
   - Convene the meetings of the 10YFP Inter-Agency Coordination Group, as a minimum on an annual basis, and establish the provisional agenda of each meeting in consultation with the co-chairs and members of the group;
   - Draft, circulate, finalize and disseminate documents produced by the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group or related to its work (terms of reference, minutes, reports, etc.), as appropriate;
   - Maintain a master file of relevant documents, correspondence, and meeting materials.

Regular inter-agency video or tele-conferences will be organized to share information about ongoing activities and joint initiatives.

A full meeting of the 10YFP Inter-agency Coordination Group will be organized every year, whenever possible back to back with a 10YFP event, ECOSOC or subsequent reporting body (possibly the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development). The meetings could be hosted by one of the members of the group.