



Distr.: General
20 January 2011

Original: English



**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

**Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011
Item 4 (a) and 5 of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: state of the environment

**Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of
United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings,
including the decisions of the Governing Council**

Sustainable consumption and production

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

**Outcome of the high-level intersessional meeting of the
Commission on Sustainable Development on a 10-year
framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and
production, held in Panama on 13 and 14 January 2011**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report supplements the information provided in document UNEP/GC.26/7. It describes the outcome of a high-level intersessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, held in Panama on 13 and 14 January 2011.

* UNEP/GC.26/1.

1. An intersessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production was held on 13 and 14 January 2011. It was hosted by the Government of Panama and jointly organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its aim was to facilitate a frank, informal and wide-ranging discussion by member States and other stakeholders of what they would like to see in a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, which was to be negotiated by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session. The discussion was organized around the goals and objectives of the 10-year framework of programmes, its intended functions, potential elements of its institutional arrangements, the identification of key programme areas and criteria, and guidelines to follow to build programmes.

I. Goals, vision, objectives and level of ambition of the 10-year framework of programmes

2. Participants generally agreed that an ambitious and actionable 10-year framework of programmes that would contribute in a meaningful way to achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production in all countries was needed and should be concluded by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its nineteenth session. They acknowledged the importance of a common vision that could build upon the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

3. Participants highlighted the need for ambitious goals, with several suggesting the adaptation of overall goals into region-specific goals. A number voiced support for a differentiated approach to defining goals and objectives, based on countries' experiences and capacities. A few suggested that the 10-year framework of programmes represented an initial step down a long road, which might entail future ambitious agreements, such as a legally binding framework.

4. Participants broadly accepted that the 10-year framework of programmes should provide for commitment to global common goals and vision; knowledge sharing and networking; enabling frameworks and strategic planning and investment; technical cooperation; collaboration; and awareness-raising, education and civil society mobilization.

5. Many participants laid emphasis on the importance of involving all key stakeholders and of mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production into other policy areas and the work of ministries other than environment ministries. Representatives of developing countries recognized the support already provided to them by UNEP in endeavouring to do so.

6. Participants stressed the need to secure high-level political commitment, as such commitment was considered to be an important and positive part of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Millennium Development Goals processes.

II. Institutional structure

7. Several participants expressed support for an efficient organizational structure for regularly reviewing the 10-year framework of programmes and facilitating technical exchange and coordination, building on existing structures at the regional and national levels, promoting inter-agency collaboration and involving major stakeholders. Many participants expressed a preference for reliance on existing institutions for the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes at the regional and national levels, while ensuring greater coherence and coordination between them. Several participants agreed that a lead coordinating institution could be useful in achieving that aim.

8. In examining the kind of institutional structure that would be most suitable and effective for the 10-year framework of programmes, participants discussed possible lessons and elements that might be drawn from existing models, based on an analysis of the six existing models carried out by UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.¹ A number of participants endorsed a structure similar to the Strategic Approach model, whereby countries formally committed themselves to its implementation in the form of a declaration, global policy strategy and plan of action (which would take the form of programmes in the case of the 10-year framework of programmes). Participants also broadly recognized a need to build on the accomplishments of the Marrakech Process, which was cited

¹ Background paper No. 1, available at www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Review-of-Models_BGpaperFinal_31_12_10clean.pdf.

as a good example of how regional and national needs could be incorporated and gaps in implementation identified.

9. A number of participants expressed support for the establishment of a dedicated secretariat for the 10-year framework of programmes, with many suggesting that such a secretariat be hosted within one lead agency, based on its proven comparative advantage, to enhance efficiency and accountability. Several mentioned in break-out groups that UNEP could play that role. A need for the lead agency to coordinate with all relevant United Nations agencies was stressed by participants, as was the idea that other agencies could lead individual programmes in their respective areas of expertise. Some participants suggested that there was a need for an additional inter-agency coordination mechanism. Several other participants noted that the secretariat could be guided by a global governance structure, such as a global forum comprising member States.

10. Participants noted a need for a credible science-policy interface, with several stressing the important role that the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management could play in that regard. Participants in one break-out group suggested that a credible information source, akin to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, should be established to inform decisions.

11. Participants agreed that different structures and arrangements could facilitate knowledge-sharing at different levels. At the regional level, research centres and knowledge hubs could be valuable. National-level sharing could take place through national networks and cross-ministerial task forces or working groups. Participants broadly agreed that national and regional focal points, through a formalized system such as that established under the Strategic Approach, should be used as bridges between levels and could involve both Governments and other relevant stakeholders.

12. Participants highlighted a need to monitor progress. They suggested that any monitoring system under the 10-year framework of programmes should apply not only to regional and national actions but also to international support, and should be adapted to a country's level of development, allowing for the strengthening of national mechanisms for monitoring where needed.

13. While many participants pointed to a need to reallocate funds to channel resources to sustainable consumption and production activities under the 10-year framework of programmes, several voiced support for a sustainable consumption and production trust fund, along the lines of the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach, that could help to focus donor support in a more predictable and transparent manner. Some participants stressed a need to look to new and innovative sources of financing for sustainable consumption and production, suggesting that efforts be made to tap into sources of climate finance and to mobilize private-sector funds. Several supported greater integration of sustainable consumption and production funding into bilateral and multilateral funding, including that flowing from international finance institutions and regional development banks.

III. Potential programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes

14. During discussion of potential programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes, participants agreed to the criteria defined in background paper No. 2, which had been prepared by the Department for Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP for discussion at the meeting.² Participants suggested that the programmes could promote resource efficiency, material efficiency and decoupling, address multiple life-cycle stages; and achieve progress on at least one pillar of sustainable development (environmental protection) without going backwards on the other two (i.e., economic development and social development), preferably advancing the integration of all three.

15. The programmes could also seize win-win opportunities, add to the sustainable choices available to producers and consumers, increase the affordability of sustainable choices, make information about sustainable choices accessible and easy to understand, provide a solid scientific and policy knowledge base, and offer incentives for technological and social innovation and producer and consumer responsibility. Participants also suggested, among other things, that the programmes could leverage resources from various sources, ensure transparency, provide incentives, have a strong scientific base, and avoid green protectionism. It was also noted that those criteria should be voluntary and that the individual programmes should include monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

² Background paper No. 2, available at www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Background-PaperDocumentPanama2_Programmes.pdf.

16. In terms of the thematic focuses of programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes, many participants agreed that they could take a life-cycle approach but that not every programme could or should deal with all stages of the life cycle. A number of participants highlighted that the work of the Marrakech Process task forces would serve as a good basis for the development of programmes.

17. Participants also said that the programmes should be flexible and adaptable to regional and national contexts. The 10-year framework of programmes should also be sufficiently flexible to accommodate new programmes.

IV. Way forward

18. A number of participants highlighted a need to examine further how the 10-year framework of programmes and its functions related to other processes and international negotiations, such as those under the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, so as to avoid duplication and conflicts and to optimize synergies, where feasible.

19. In conclusion, the bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development, through its Chair, requested UNEP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to work together to develop a background document to elaborate further elements of the 10-year framework of programmes where there was a sense of convergence, to be considered as the basis for discussion at the Commission's intergovernmental preparatory meeting (28 February–4 March 2011), and to facilitate the development of a draft negotiating text for the Commission at its nineteenth session (2–13 May 2011). Several participants also requested the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP to develop a zero draft of the 10-year framework of programmes.

20. The Chair pointed to a need to brief delegations based in New York some two or three weeks before the intergovernmental preparatory meeting on the outcome of the intersessional meeting in Panama and regularly thereafter, as doing so would contribute to a successful nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Chair's summary could be used as basis for regional consultations with a view to building a consensus at those levels on key elements of the 10-year framework of programmes ahead of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting.
