



***Report of the
High-level Launch for the African 10-Year
Framework Programme on Sustainable
Consumption and Production***

jointly organized by

The African Union (AU)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

and

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Presided over by

His Excellency President Girma Wolde Ghiorgis

President of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

United Nations Conference Center (UNCC)

29 May 2006, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

The High-level Launch of The African 10-Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was held on 29 May 2006 at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa in the presence of His Excellency President Girma Woldegiorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The High-level Launch Session was jointly organized by the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) having the following objectives.

- To inform the high-level representatives of African countries and development partners about the outcome from the development of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- To catalyse the required political commitment and support at the national, regional and international level for the further development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme; and
- To announce the establishment of the regional coordinating and support mechanism for the further development and implementation of the African 10-YFP.

The session was attended by Ambassadors residing in Addis Ababa, high-level government officials, representatives of international organizations and more than 80 participants of the Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-4) from thirty two countries. The session was started by an introduction of the programme which was made by Mr. Sekou Toure, Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Africa, who facilitated the whole proceeding of the High-level Session. A key note presentation on the 'Marrakech Process and the African 10 Year Framework Programme' was made by Mr. Desta Mebratu, UNEP's Regional Industry Officer. Representatives of regional and international organizations and Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Royal Kingdom of Morocco made remarks during the launch session.

The welcoming remark of the High-level launch session was made on behalf of UNEP and its partner organizations by Mr. Arab Hoballah, Head of the Production and Consumption Branch of UNEP. In his remark, Mr. Hoballah underlined why it is important to promote the further development and implementation of the 10-Year Framework Programme in all the regions and highlighted the key activities that were carried out by UNEP and its partners in facilitating this process. He specifically outlined some of the key programmes and activities upon which UNEP will be focussing in the context of promoting sustainable production and consumption at all levels. This includes: promotion of new models of alternative development such as the circular economy in china, waste management with a focus on the 'Three R' principles, capacity building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan, sustainable trade and use of resources, sustainable energy and mobility and awareness and education on SCP. He concluded his remark by expressing UNEP's appreciation to the Royal Norwegian Government for the support provided to institutionalise the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) and to the Federal Government of Germany for their continued support towards the development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on SCP.

This was followed by the remark from the German Federal Minister of Environment which was made by His Excellency Dr. Claas-Dieter Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic of Germany to Ethiopia. Dr. Knoop noted that the launching of the African 10-YFP is an important step of Africa into a better future: A future which it well deserves, and which it is determined to work for. It is a future not only of economic growth to fight poverty, but also of environmentally conscious progress, characterized by cleaner production and sustainable consumption. He highlighted the support provided by the German Ministry of Environment in developing the 10-YFP and reiterated the commitment of his Government to continue supporting the regional process through the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa. His Excellency Dr. Knoop concluded his remark by underlining that, there are so many mistakes committed and that can and must be avoided; "*leapfrogging*" these environmental traps is the key word and aim.

The next remark was from the Royal Kingdom of Morocco which was made by His Excellency Mr. Abdeljebbar Brahime, Ambassador of the Royal kingdom of Morocco to Ethiopia. Mr. Brahime expressed his country's appreciation for being associated with the 10 Year Framework programme process by hosting the first international meeting and the first regional meeting for Africa. He underlined the strong relevance of the key priority areas identified in the African 10-Year Framework Programme on sustainable consumption and production to African countries' development agenda and highlighted some of the effort that is being made by his government through the Morocco Cleaner production Center. He reiterated his country's commitment to share the useful experience with African countries and support other African countries in their effort to develop such capacities.

The remark from the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was made by Mr. Josué Dioné, Director of the Sustainable Development Division at UNECA. Mr. Dioné noted that Africa has made remarkable progress in developing a 10-year framework programme to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, as called for by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. He highlighted some of the activities that have been undertaken in areas that have direct relations to the key priorities identified in the African 10 Year Framework Programme and outlined some of the key issues that need to be addressed in the further development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The issues are:

- How sustainable consumption and production can contribute to Africa's quest for the MDGs and attaining sustainable development;
- How to effectively incorporate sustainable consumption and production considerations into growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies;
- What specific actions need to be considered in the implementation of a sustainable consumption and production plan, and what financing mechanisms should be put in place for the effective implementation of such a plan;

- How to achieve effective partnership arrangements between governments, industry and civil society for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production;
- What types of mechanisms should be put in place to foster development cooperation for capacity building, technology transfer, technical and financial assistance to enable Africa “leapfrog” into more sustainable consumption and production patterns; and
- How to maximize opportunities presented by the Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa, that was launched during the Second International Meeting on the Marrakech Process, and led by Germany.

Finally, he expressed his confidence that the outcome of the three-day deliberations during the Roundtable, which would follow from the High-level launch session will result in a greatly consolidated African 10-Year Framework Programme for “leapfrogging” into more sustainable consumption and production patterns in Africa.

The Remark from UNECA was followed by the remark from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization which was made by Mrs. Maryna Osuna Sanchez, Head of the Cleaner Production Programme. Mrs. Sanchez gave a recount of the achievements that have been registered through the International Cleaner Production Programme that has been jointly implemented by UNIDO and UNEP over the last 12 years. She further outlined the key issues that need to be addressed in terms of reorienting the activities of the National Cleaner Production Centers and the International Cleaner production Programme in the context of the African 10-year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Mrs Sanchez underlined the importance of promoting cooperation and coordination amongst the UN Agencies and other development partners and expressed UNIDO’s desire to work closely with all other partners.

The final remark before the keynote address was made by Dr. Babagana Ahmadu, Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture, who delivered the remark from the African Union Commission on behalf of His Excellency A.O. Konare, The Chairperson of the African Union Commission. Dr. Ahmadu expressed the full commitment of the African Union Commission in working towards the achievement of the objectives of this important initiative on sustainable consumption and production. He further noted that the Commission considers the issue of sustainable consumption and production as an important emerging issue that the AU Member States should take seriously and in this respect, the Commission is prepared to go into effective partnership with UNEP and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Johannesburg plan of action on sustainable consumption and production. Dr. Ahmadu further underlined that, as one of Africa’s political organs, the AUC is offering to mobilize the political will of our leaders to support the speedy implementation of the 10-year framework programme on sustainable consumption and production. In this regard, he noted, the AUC will engage all its relevant organs in advocacy and sensitization to create the necessary awareness in the AU Member States on this initiative.

Following the remark from the African Union Commission, Mr. Sekou Toure, Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Africa and Facilitator of the High-level Session thanked all of the 'Distinguished Representatives' who made the remarks for their support to the African 10-Year Framework process and reiterated UNEP's commitment to work closely with all the partners in the follow-up activities. He then made a brief introduction of His Excellency President Girma Wolde Ghiorgis in which he praised His Excellency the President as a life-time friend and advocate of the environmental agenda and invited him to make the Keynote address to the High-level Launch Session of the African 10-Year Framework Programme.

In his Keynote Address, President Girma Woldeghiorgis noted that Africa is a continent of great natural riches that is also faced with enormous developmental challenges and he noted that the development and environmental challenge that Africa is facing today are heavily interdependent on one another making it impossible to address one without addressing the other. He further reiterated that Africa's effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals can only be achieved and sustained through a comprehensive approach that promotes the sustainable utilization and conservation of the its resource. He underlined that it is only through such an approach that we can break out of the prevailing vicious cycle of poverty-underdevelopment and environmental degradation. He lauded the effort that was made to develop the African 10-Year Framework Programme and particularly appreciated the support provided by UNEP and its international and regional partners in developing the Framework Programme.

His Excellency the President underlined that African countries need to seize the emerging opportunities in the area of sustainable production and consumption and promote the development of their economies on a more sustainable basis. He noted that such an approach will allow African countries to achieve a sustained progress on poverty reduction while at the same time it will allow them to hand over a healthy and stable environment to the future generations. In this regard, His Excellency the President extended his call to all African countries to actively participate in the further development and implementation of the 10-year framework programme at national and sub-regional levels. Though the effort to be made by Africans is the most decisive factor for Africa's progress towards sustainable development, the President noted that international development partners play a critical role in enhancing Africa's capacity on further developing and implementing the framework programme. In this regard, the President expressed his appreciation to the initiative taken by the Federal Government of Germany to establish a 'Task Force on Cooperation with Africa' and called upon all development partners to support the regional effort by providing their support to the follow-up activities under the framework programme.

Finally, His Excellency President Girma Wolde Ghirgis reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to the further development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production declared the Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-4) which will be deliberating on the further development and implementation of the 10-Year Framework Programme opened.

At the closing of the High-level launch session, a Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Teweldebrehan Gebre Egziabher, Director General of the Federal Environmental Protection Authority and winner of UNEP's Champions of the Earth Award for 2006. In his Vote of Thanks, Dr. Gebre Egziabher noted that Africa is currently producing and consuming little, but sadly the little it is producing and consuming is already unsustainable. He further noted that Africa needs to broaden its base of production and consumption and hence it is an appropriate point in its history to redirect its production and consumption to be sustainable. By doing so, he underlined, we, Africans, can avoid the mistakes that other peoples of the world have made while industrializing and we would then always remain at peace with our environment and with our conscience. With those thoughtful words, he expressed his Vote of Thanks to His Excellency the President for gracing the occasion with his presence and for His Keynote Address on behalf of the organizers and the participants of the High-level Session. He finally thanked all other speakers and participants of the High-level launch.