

Contribution to discussion in the UNEP Committee of the Whole SCP on behalf of the NGO, Trade, Local Authorities and Women Major Groups

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I speak on this topic on behalf of four Major Groups, in particular the Local Authority, NGO, Trade Unions and Women Major Groups.

We welcome the adoption by the governments gathered in Rio in June last year of the 10 Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. We have confidence in UNEP leading its implementation, and call upon all UN member states and agencies to fully engage in its implementation.

The implementation should be practical, identifying and mainstreaming good practice, identifying and resolving barriers to end unsustainable production and consumption practices, facilitating mutual learning and assistance between countries, and fully engaging civil society. It should incorporate the special role that local and regional authorities can play due to their close proximity to citizens, which means they have a good position to understand needs, challenges, and opportunities related to SCP, as well as to influence consumers' behavior.

Being targeted at the biggest challenges also means that the 10Y Framework should at some point extend to mobility and agriculture/food, which belong, with the construction sector, to top three in terms of pressure on the Earth's carrying capacity.

Working in five specific areas makes the work more focussed, however, we emphasize that for moving to sustainable production and consumption patterns, strong horizontal governmental leadership is necessary, to make a real difference, avoiding greenwash. This means first of all to make production and consumption safe with direct regulation, but also by systematically integrating environmental impacts in the prices of goods and services using a mix of policy instruments, such as shifting taxation from labour towards the use of natural resources and towards pollution, phasing out environmentally perverse subsidies, introducing payments for ecosystem services. And thirdly: giving the right example, go beyond **green** public procurement towards truly **sustainable** public procurement practices, as well as targeted support for science and technology research and application where that clearly contributes to reducing the ecologic footprint of production and consumption.

Some of these measures may need international agreements, and where the experiences of implementing the Framework show this, indeed UNEP should not hesitate to put this on the global agenda. However, we warn against looking for international agreement as an excuse: there is much more individual countries and regions can do individually, and set the example, than politicians and business representatives often claim. Innovative environmental and social action at the local level or the national level can set trends, and usually does not have the negative impacts on competition often warned for.

The 10Y Framework can only make a difference if it has resources, so we call upon all, but starting with the developed countries, to contribute to the Trust Fund and other ways.