

The 5th Arab Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption & Production
“From Action Plans to Implementation”

Cairo, Egypt
18-20 December 2017





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Executive Summary

The 5th Arab Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Arab Region was organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment) in partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS), the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) and the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). The meeting was held from 18th to 20th of December 2017 in Cairo, Egypt.

The 5th Roundtable Meeting benefited from the participation of around 70 participants representing government officials, SwitchMed National and 10 YFP focal points, industry and civil society representatives, academics, and NCPCs' representatives, international experts and United Nations agencies. The varied selection of participants enhanced the deliberations and discussions during the meeting.

The insightful discussions of the meeting tackled quite important topics under the framework of Sustainable Consumption and Production. The agenda of the meeting included the following sessions:

- ***The first day of the Arab Roundtable meeting*** presented Sustainable Consumption and Production from a global and regional perspective with a special focus on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region presenting concrete examples from seven SwitchMed countries.
- ***The second day of the meeting*** focused on the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The sessions further shed the light on the private sector initiatives on Sustainable Consumption and Production in addition to the successful private public partnerships in the Region.
- ***The third day of the Arab Roundtable meeting*** explored the potential challenges and opportunities for financing Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Region. This session was followed by an open panel discussion to resume what has been achieved so far in the Region and what could be the next steps, plans and expectations.

The beneficial interactive discussions of the 5th Arab Roundtable Meeting generated excellent recommendations for the Arab Region to achieve and implement Sustainable Consumption and Production. The various recommendations will pave the way for implementing and financing successful mechanisms to ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region.

Objectives

The objective of the 5th Roundtable “**From Action Plans to Implementation**” was to focus on implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production at the national and cities level, and to discuss progress made by countries in their quest towards meeting their national targets under 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Roundtable showcased the experience of several *SwitchMed project countries*, which have taken strides in fulfilling indicator 12.1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, “Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies”.

The Roundtable further sought to involve the Private and Financial Sectors to explore potentials for multi-stakeholders’ partnerships in the region.

The 5th Roundtable revolved around the following interactive pillars:

- “*Developing Sustainable Consumption and Production policies and tools*” and the alignment of the Arab Strategy of Sustainable Consumption and Production with the goals and targets related to Sustainable Consumption and Production in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- “*Implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production policies and tools at the national and cities levels*”. Sharing knowledge, good practices and lessons learned of National Action Plans processes.
- Showcasing success stories from Arab Countries partners of SwitchMed Project, the private sector and other stakeholders in the region.
- “*Financing Sustainable Consumption and Production*”, challenges and opportunities.

The achievement of these objectives will further progress the promotion and implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production in the region by encouraging the utilisation of tools and policies which contribute to the transition to a sustainable economy protecting the environment, conserving water and energy as well as other natural resources, while contributing to sustainable lifestyles and poverty eradication.



Background

The 1st Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region was held on 17-19 March 2008, in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates. The objective of the meeting was to identify regional priorities on Sustainable Consumption and Production; present ongoing Sustainable Consumption and Production initiatives in the region and provide regional feedback to the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and building cooperation between the region and the Marrakech Task Forces and other stakeholders. The main outcome of the 1st Roundtable was **the call for the development of an Arab Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production Strategy**

The 2nd Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region was held at the League of Arab States premises on 27-29 September 2009, in Cairo, Egypt. During this Meeting **the Arab Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production was discussed and was subsequently approved** by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, according to its **Decision No. (112009/11 21 ع.د – 317 ق)**. Additionally, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment approved holding the Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production on regular intervals.

The 3rd Roundtable Meeting was held on 26-27 January 2011, at the League of Arab States premises in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting benefited from the participation of government officials, industry representatives, civil society, academics, National Resource Efficient Cleaner Production Centres' representatives, International Experts, and concerned UN agencies. The main outcome of the 3rd Roundtable was the call to the countries to utilise Sustainable Consumption and Production initiatives and policies such as the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production as platforms and tools to enhance capacity-building and information sharing, multi-stakeholder partnerships and project implementation in key Sustainable Consumption and Production areas in the region. It was also agreed that Sustainable Consumption and Production was essential to ensure effective transition towards Green Economy.

The 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region was held on 17-18 June 2013, at the League of Arab States premises in Cairo, Egypt. The main outcomes of the 4th Roundtable was **the development and approval of the Arab Road Map for the regional implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production**; enhanced understanding of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes through engagement with the 10 Year Framework of Programmes National Focal Points and other stakeholders; and setting up new mechanisms and partnerships to support the implementation of the Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production strategy at both regional and national levels.

All Roundtables were organized by the UN Environment in partnership with the League of Arab States, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe.



Holding the 5th Arab Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production was delayed due to challenges in finding adequate funding to organize the Roundtable. However, UN Environment West Asia Office managed to secure some funding to hold the 5th Roundtable on 18-20 December 2017 in Cairo, Egypt.

The 5th Roundtable focused on the state of Sustainable Consumption and Production in the region. What has been achieved so far in the Arab Countries in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, namely goal no. 12, “Responsible Consumption and Production”. What are the plans and expectations of the Arab countries to reach their goals and what tools are available at the regional and international levels to build on the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and on how to harmonize the Arab efforts and the Arab strategies with objectives and targets related to sustainable consumption and production in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 5th Roundtable provided an ideal setting for UN Environment, international and regional agencies and the private sector to unveil and demonstrate their initiatives, programmes and partnerships which can benefit the Arab countries.

Participation

The 5th Roundtable Meeting benefited from the participation of around 70 participants varying from newly appointed National Focal Points (NFPs) for 10 YFP for SCP to government officials, SwitchMed National focal points, industry representatives, civil society, academics, and NCPCs’ representatives, international experts and concerned UN agencies.

Meeting Proceedings

The Meeting was held over nine sessions, in addition to the opening and closing sessions. The main highlights of each session are summarized as follows:

Session 1: Stating the Global and Regional Scene

The first session aimed at setting the scene for progress achieved concerning Sustainable Consumption & Production in the Arab Region and at the Global Level.

1.1 The first presentation of the session was delivered by **Mr. Dirk Wagener – Senior Programme Officer & Coordinator Resource Efficiency at UN Environment** to shed the light on the progress at the global level. The presentation gave an overview of *the Global trends* focusing on the key consumption and production trends.



Projections showed an increase of 33% of the world population from 2015 to reach 9.7 billion in 2050. This increase, coupled with continued economic growth in a business-as-usual mode, will dramatically increase pressures on the environment and demand for resources. Furthermore, the presentation showcased *the Global and Regional SCP frameworks* and the global progress following the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP) and the monitoring framework (2016). The global progress was reflected in 140 projects that supported the shift to SCP, allocation of 80m USD resources for the shift to the SCP patterns, 647 network members from the governments and the organizations, adoption and implementation of 253 policy instruments and the assignment of 130 National SCP focal points.

As for the *key challenges*, they were summarized in the population growth and its direct effect on the increase of material extraction & domestic consumption, the decrease of the global material productivity, the non-alignment of the fiscal policies & instruments and the needs of capacity development and national implementation. The presentation was concluded by some important *recommendations* such as the identification of innovative financing solutions, technical, business and policy innovations across whole product life cycle, reform of financial instruments, effective national implementation and monitoring mechanisms, capacity development and policy learning.

1.2 The second presentation was delivered by **Ms. Shahira Wahby – Head of Sustainability of Natural Resources and Partnerships at the League of Arab States** to highlight the progress achieved in the Arab Region. *On the regional level*, the Arab Roundtable meetings are considered the institutional framework for SCP and the Arab Strategy for SCP is considered the legislative framework in the Region. The Arab strategy is supported by other strategies and guideline frameworks for different sectors (energy, tourism, transport, urban development, waste etc.). Ms. Wahby presented *the history of the previous Arab Roundtables. The 1st Roundtable Meeting* on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region identified regional priorities on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The main outcome of the 1st Roundtable was the call for

the development of an Arab Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production Strategy. ***The 2nd Roundtable Meeting*** on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region discussed the Arab Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production which was subsequently approved by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. As for ***the 3rd Roundtable Meeting***, it discussed the implementation mechanisms for SCP and called the countries to utilise SCP initiatives and policies such as the Arab Strategy for SCP. It was also agreed that Sustainable Consumption and Production was essential to ensure effective transition towards Green Economy. As for ***the 4th Roundtable Meeting*** on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Arab Region it developed and approved the Arab Road Map for the regional implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and set up new mechanisms and partnerships to support the implementation of the Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production strategy at both regional and national levels. Ms. Shahira referred to ***a regional challenge*** related to the organization of the regular Arab Roundtable meetings which is the lack of financial resources. This caused the delay of holding the 5th Arab Roundtable until adequate funds were secured.

On the national level, considerable progress in the Region has been tracked. Many Arab countries implemented their SCP strategies and actions plans. They have access to all types of documents, plans, programs and guideline frameworks for SCP which supported in raising the awareness and sharing the knowledge. Inspired by the 10YFP, the Arab countries included the SCP in their policies and are working on promoting the SCP patterns in all the different sectors. Accordingly, it is currently essential to track and monitor the progress of the Arab countries towards the SCP. It is important to acknowledge what has been achieved and to identify needed improvement. ***The main challenge on the national level*** is the lack of accessible data. Accordingly, it is important to monitor, follow up on the statistical departments and train them on the indicators.

Session 2: Sustainable Consumption & Production in the Arab Region, SwitchMed Countries

The second session focused on the Arab Countries partners in the SwitchMed Project and shed the light on the SwitchMed¹ policy work and its proven methodology with potential for replication in the Arab Region. The session included eight important presentations that were made by the countries SwitchMed focal points and could be summarized as follows:

2.1 The first presentation of session two was delivered by **Mr. Angel Guitierrez Hidalgo – First Counsellor & Head of the Economic Cooperation Section, European Union Delegation to Egypt**. The presentation focused on the *EU initiative on Circular Economy*. The EU has extended support to many countries in the Arab region to implement their SCP action plans. For instance, the *EU has closely worked with the Ministry of Environment in Egypt* and other partners to implement the SCP action plan, create more jobs and achieve green growth. This support was also considered a window for the Circular Economy in Egypt.

In December 2015, the European Union has adopted *a Circular Economy package*: a comprehensive package of legislations and an action plan that contains 54 concrete actions. This action plan covers the whole life cycle of a product from production to the market of secondary raw material. This transition towards the Circular Economy will yield significant benefits². The circular economy is introducing industrial best practices with regards to the green public procurement, construction and water sectors. Furthermore, Mr. Angel highlighted the importance of *addressing waste management* as an opportunity. In this regard, the EU is supporting the Egyptian Ministry of Environment in a national solid waste management program to address the strategic aspects of waste management and to yield new opportunities. Furthermore, the EU is addressing *the waste to energy process* which looks at the energy extracted from un-prevented, unrecycled waste that could be recovered and injected back in the circle of economy. Another important deliverables that will be adopted in 2018 by the EU are *the plastic strategy, legislations addressing water re-use and innovations & technology*.

In conclusion, Mr. Angel highlighted the importance of joining hands and collaborating efforts with all the stakeholders in the Arab Region in order to achieve and promote Sustainable Consumption & Production.

2.2 The second presentation of the session was delivered by **Mr. Mohamed Afaneh – Director of Policy and Development at the Ministry of Environment of Jordan**. Mr. Afaneh gave *an overview of the SCP in Jordan*. The country conducted a Green Economy Scoping Study in cooperation with UN Environment in 2011, formed the Green Economy High Level Steering Committee and established the Green Economy Unit at the Ministry of Environment in 2014³. The country conducted a National Strategy and Action Plan for SCP from 2016-2025 focusing on three sectors: water, transport and agriculture. As for the *Potential of Green Growth in Jordan*, it was linked to strong factors in the country such as the Human capital, institutional capacity, the policy

¹ <http://www.switchmed.eu/en>

² It is estimated that new companies will reach annual net savings of around 600 billion USD in addition to creating new jobs.

³ In the same year, the country became an official member of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and this was followed by the signature of an official MOU between the Ministry of Environment and GGGI.



framework, the political commitment and the donor activity. Mr. Afaneh explained the current existing **challenges** in the country to achieve SCP that vary from a challenging economic growth environment to unemployment, scarcity of water in the country, climate change and population growth. In contrast, Mr. Afaneh presented **the added value of Green Growth** represented in the economic growth, job creation, water access and energy security, green technology and environmental sustainability. Accordingly, the Government of Jordan introduced **several SCP scenarios and initiatives to be achieved by 2025** that were presented in the SCP related Food Production and Agriculture, SCP related to Transport and SCP related Waste Management.

2.3 The third presentation of session two was delivered by **Mr. Zaghloul Samhan – Director General of Policy and Planning at the Environment Quality Authority of Palestine**. Mr. Zaghloul gave a brief overview of **the SwitchMed Project in Palestine**. The project has officially started in 2015 and is expected to end by mid-2018. It aims to develop the National SCP plan, launch it and implement it. The National SCP plan in Palestine generated important **outputs** such as conducting an analytical study of the SCP in Palestine in 2015, capacity building, the preparation of the national action plan for SCP in 2016, raising awareness of the SCP rationale, holding several workshops and national consultation meetings with concerned parties, promotion of the eco-tourism and sustainable agriculture, extension of support to green entrepreneurs and the involvement of civil society organizations. As for the **recommendations**, Mr. Zaghloul highlighted the importance of replicating similar projects in the Arab region, sharing knowledge and expertise, bridging the gap with the private sector and ensuring smooth cooperation between the different countries of the Region.

2.4 The fourth presentation was delivered by **Ms. Maysoun Nabil – Projects Manager at the Ministry of Environment in Egypt**. The presentation showed **the background of the SCP Strategic Framework** in Egypt that started in 2006 by the establishment of the Sustainable Development Committee. This was followed by a SCP Programme for Cairo in 2008 and a Green Economy Scoping study in 2013. A National Strategy for Solid Waste Management was adopted in 2014 and this was followed by the Egypt Sustainable Development Vision 2030 in 2015. Ms. Maysoun presented **the process of the SCP National Action Plan**. It included four phases: 1. Designing the consultation process, 2. Preliminary pre-diagnostic phase, 3. Diagnostic/baseline assessment and 4. Action Plan Design phase. The SCP National Action Plan adopted **a multi-stakeholder process** represented in the ministries, international organizations, private sector, academic institutions and NGOs. The Egyptian SCP Action plan generated important **deliverables** such as the national SCP comprehensive assessment, the Egyptian SCP Action plan for four sectors and 28 projects were included in the SCP Action Plan under six different categories. Furthermore, **two demonstration projects** were implemented: Sustainable Public Procurement & Plastic Bags Consumption Reduction. Ms. Maysoun explained that the success of the Egyptian SCP Action plan led to **the Upscaling of the Plan**. In 2017, the Ministry of Environment declared its willingness to finance projects from the SCP NAP projects list, a meeting with the European Investment Bank was convened in 2017 to raise funding for the selected projects and important modifications of the executive regulations governing benchmark for specific industrial sectors were endorsed to be in line with international benchmarks.

2.5 The fifth presentation was delivered by **Ms. Assia Ferrani – Deputy Director at the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy in Algeria**. In the framework of SwitchMed programme, Algeria developed a *National Action Plan for SCP*. The plan focused on *three main pillars*: management of SCP trends, energy and waste management. The National Action Plan for SCP was integrated with the National Plan of Environment and Sustainable Development and several demonstration projects were implemented under the waste management component. Other projects were adopted to facilitate the transition of some industrial institutions to SCP. The institutions included 12 companies of the agricultural sector. Ms. Assia referred as well to a Mega Project for solar energy production in Algeria. The country aims to produce around 22,000 megawatts of green energy by 2035-2040.



2.6 The sixth presentation was delivered by **Ms. Fatima Zohra Bel Moubarik, Engineer of Public Organizations and the Private Sector Services Engineer at the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development in Morocco**. Morocco adopted a *National Plan for SCP* to achieve the following targets: promote the environmental sound consumption patterns, achieve circular economy, raise awareness and encourage the national entities to adopt SCP. The National Action Plan for SCP in Morocco focused on *important pillars* such as the Sustainable Development

Governance, the transition towards Green Economy, the biodiversity, climate change, the social cohesion and the awareness raising for Sustainable Development and SCP concepts. The Plan is focusing on *four priority sectors*: agriculture, industry, tourism and construction. As for *the main outputs* of the National Action Plan for SCP in Morocco, Ms. Fatima referred to a national workshop that was organized to develop a training program for the associations, a national strategy that was adopted to develop waste sectors, a new law that was promulgated to ban the consumption of plastic bags in the country, a national programme for “resources efficiency in industry” was launched and an awareness programme for SCP was developed.

2.7 The seventh presentation was delivered by **Mr. Nabil Hamdi – Director of Sustainable Development Directorate at the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Environment in Tunis**. In an attempt to promote SCP in Tunisia, the country organized a preliminary consultation workshop to present an overview of the SCP patterns in Tunisia and discuss the existing SCP challenges. The main *SCP challenges* were presented in the non-involvement of the private sector in the implementation of SCP patterns, lack of coordination between the concerned parties, a weak participation from the civil society organizations, poor legislations, bureaucracy and lack of awareness of the concerned parties such as the consumers, the producers and the financial institutions. Accordingly, the country developed a *National Action Plan 2016-2025* focusing on two

priority sectors: tourism and food industry. The plan yielded important **results**: 26 institutions adopted 279 SCP measures and were able to achieve 9.5 million euros of investments. As for the environmental impacts, Tunisia was able to reduce the water waste to 448,950m³ per year and to reduce the CO₂ emissions to 35,227 tons per year.

2.8 The eighth presentation was delivered by **Ms. Marwa Yassine – Urban Planning Engineer at the Ministry of Environment in Lebanon**. Between Jan and Nov 2015, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry have embarked on the development of **the action plan for SCP** for the industrial sector 2016-2025. The plan is based on 3 key phases: a) Planning Phase including a “Scoping Review of the SCP Action Plan for the Industrial Sector in Lebanon” b) Development Phase of the Action Plan with special focus on the Litani River and Qaraoun Lake and c) Implementation and Monitoring of the SCP Action Plan will be based on the outputs and activities of the SCP Action Plan. **The three operational objectives of the National Action Plan** were identified as follows: 1) adoption of the best available techniques to promote SCP in the industrial sector, 2) introduction of SCP approaches for the industrial sector in the policy & institutional framework and 3) the education of consumers on the SCP in the industrial sector. At the level of each operational objective, the SCP Action Plan has provided a set of outputs and activities and identified the lead stakeholders as well as the key stakeholders at the level of each activity. The **main challenges** for SCP in Lebanon were presented in the lack of human resources, overloaded staff, political/economic instability, internal and external competition and the lack of consumer’s awareness. As for the **good practices** in the country they were summarized in the establishment of SCP working group, commitment of stakeholders, validation and approval of the integrated action plan at the national level.

Session 3: Sustainable Consumption & Production in the Arab Region

Session three showcased the current Sustainable Consumption & Production policies and tools in the Region. The session included numerous presentations that highlighted the following insights:

3.1 The first presentation of session three was delivered by **Ms. Fatima Al Hebshi - Sustainability Engineer at the Ministry of Climate Change & Environment in the United Arab Emirates**. The UAE launched in 2012 a Green Growth strategy under the slogan “A Green Economy for Sustainable Development”. The strategy listed 6 focus areas: green energy, green investment, green city, climate change, green life and green technologies. The UAE developed **an implementation plan** as well that aims to provide a coherent framework to facilitate the ongoing efforts and plan further actions enabling the transformation towards a green economy. This resulted in the development of **the UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030** that includes 12 programs and 31 sub-programs structured under 5





strategic objectives. Five committees were established to coordinate the implementation of 96 initiatives. The *expected benefits* of the green agenda were summarized as follows: 1) Economic benefits: increase of GDP 4-5% by 2030, 15% reduction in natural gas, 30% water and electricity reduction by 2030, 2) Environmental benefits: reduction of 2.2 million tons of waste, reduction of CO₂ emissions, saving 4 billion m³ of water and 3) Social benefits: high quality of life, SCP patterns, creation of 160,000 jobs by 2030 and increasing social awareness.

3.2 The second presentation was delivered by **Ms. Suzan Al Ajjawi – Acting Director of Environmental Policies & Planning at the Supreme Council for Environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain**. The country adopted different initiatives and legislations to enhance SCP across various sectors focusing on energy. The initiatives vary from Environmental laws to promote SCP across all governmental entities to the adoption of sustainable urban planning strategy, implementation of policies for energy efficiency, investments in renewable energy and the adoption of the National strategy for waste management (including three phases).

3.3 The third presentation of the session was delivered by **Mr. Abdulelah Al Hatami – Environmental Protection Specialist at the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection in Saudi Arabia**. Saudi Arabia adopted *two SCP initiatives* to protect the marine and coastal environment and to put an end to the polluted areas in the country. *The first initiative aimed to* protect the marine and coastal environment from the human activities and pollution, to generate data and information about the marine life and quality of water and to respect the international/regional treaties and agreements signed by Saudi Arabia concerning the coastal and marine environment. *The expected results of the initiative* vary from the health protection of the society through the limitation of the coastal and marine pollution, coordination of efforts and government resources for the concerned parties and to ensure economic sustainability. As for *the second initiative, it aimed to* enhance the management of polluted areas in Saudi Arabia, to implement the best practices to monitor the polluted areas and to contribute with the public and private sector in parallel to adopt effective plans for the polluted areas in the kingdom. As for *the expected results of the initiative*, they were presented in the protection of the human health from the pollution, the protection of the natural resources (agriculture, water and air), promotion of the sustainable economy and enhancing the sector of tourism.

3.4 The fourth presentation was delivered by **Mr. Hossam Allam - Regional Director at CEDARE**. on the **Waste Management Outlook for West-Asia**. The proposed table of contents and the rationale of the different chapters of the Regional Outlook were briefly presented. The report is designed to address investment/business opportunities of the waste management and to reflect on the specificities of the West-Asia region with regards to different waste streams of the Region.

Session 4: Implementing Sustainable Consumption & Production

The fourth session presented selected Sustainable Consumption & Production initiatives, programmes, partnerships and their implementation mechanism. It included five presentations that are summarized as follows:



4.1 The first presentation of session four was delivered by **Mr. Luc Reuter – SwitchMed Programme Coordinator at UN Environment**. The presentation aimed to shed the light on the UN Environment Initiatives and Programmes. *The International Framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* highlights the importance of Sustainable Consumption and Production under **SDG12** “Responsible Consumption and Production”. The SDGs are applied to each country according to their respective priorities and this is due to the transversal and cross-cutting

nature of Sustainable Consumption and Production. Furthermore, the **UNEA Resolutions 2/8** highlighted the benefits of Sustainable Consumption and Production presented in the poverty alleviation, green economy, private sector partnerships, green growth etc.

Mr. Luc referred as well to the **International Resource Panel** that was created in 2007 as a science-policy interface in response to escalating use of natural resources, deteriorating environment and climate change. *The science policy interface* relies on three pillars: 1) **The Scientific panel** that includes international experts on Sustainable resources management who provide scientific assessments and advice, 2) **The Steering Committee** that regroups government representatives, the European Commission & UN Environment. The Steering Committee provides strategic guidance, political support and regional synergies, 3) **The Secretariat** represented in the UN Environment, responsible of the direction, procedures, extending support in development and implementation of assessments, outreach and capacity building.

A brief presentation of the **Eco-innovation** concept was delivered. The eco-innovation relies on interventions implemented from the level of the core business strategy, rethinking supply chains and the company business model which mainstreams sustainability through all business operations and captures value for creating new solutions. The Eco-innovation allows for new ways of addressing current & future sustainability challenges in contrast to the singular interventions to improve processes and products only. *The Eco-innovation approach*⁴ operates at the level of a company strategy. It aims to embed sustainability into DNA of a company and promotes innovation based on

⁴ Eco-innovation is an approach to promote the application of sustainable business practices along value chains (greening supply chains)

holistic life-cycle approach throughout company's operations, products, processes, market approach and organizational structure.

Furthermore, the eco-innovation approach aims at influencing and involving stakeholders along the entire value chain in addition to enhancing company's performance. Mr. Luc referred as well to the **"Business Case for Eco-innovation"** report that makes convincing case for the eco-innovation examining the examples of 7 different companies from large to SMEs and start-ups. Another important documentation was presented entitled **"Eco-innovation Manual"** that reflects on a holistic approach starting from the business strategy described in a step-by-step manual to guide service providers.

The presentation was concluded by the importance of considering **the life cycle** that has a significant impact on the climate change, resource depletion, air, water and soil pollution. Re-thinking the life cycle enables to reuse, recycle and recover the materials/components which supports businesses to implement the most profitable and high impact sustainability initiatives.

4.2 The second presentation of session four was delivered by **Ms. Hanan Elhadry – Chairperson of the Industrial Council for Technology & Innovation in Egypt**. The presentation aimed at highlighting the innovative industrial Sustainable Consumption and Production best practices. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) in Egypt adopted a **Strategy for Promoting Industrial Development and Foreign Trade-2020** focusing on five strategic programs: Industrial development, TVET, Export development, SMEs & Entrepreneurship development and Governance & Institutional development.

The **MTI's innovation strategy pillars** were presented in the stimulation of innovation, enabling innovation, facilitating innovation and commercializing the innovation.

Various **success stories of SCP in different sectors** were presented and can be summarized in the following examples:

- **Green Growth – Industrial Waste Management and SME Entrepreneurship Hub in Egypt:** This project aims at mapping the industrial waste at the enterprise level in the selected pilot area, developing policy recommendations towards an enabling environment for industrial waste exchange in Egypt, raising awareness and building capacities of stakeholders. The partners of the project are the African Development Bank & MENA-Transition Fund.
- **The Egyptian German Manufacturing Company:** The provides industrial solutions to cater to the ceramic industry in Egypt. It manufactures dry grinding and brick production lines. The types of waste are ceramic, steel and brick factory waste. The company produces dry grinded ceramics raw material and dry grinding and milling plants.
- **Transfer of Environmental Sound Technology in the Mediterranean region (MEDTEST II):** The project aims at upscaling the adoption of best practices demonstrated within MED TEST pilot initiative, developing the local market of Resource Efficiency and cleaner production, raising awareness and transferring ownership for the Institutional Stakeholders. The partners are SwitchMed & UNIDO.
- **Implementation of Green Entrepreneurship in Egypt:** This program aims to train Local Trainers from SP/RAC on SWITCH MED Green Entrepreneurship concept and to identify and train 160 Entrepreneurs on SWITCH MED Green Entrepreneurship concept (Water, Energy, Waste). The partners of the project are SwitchMED & the European Union. This

program generated very enlightening success stories such as using waste cardboards and cartons to produce decoration tiles and walls (annual sales 1,884,000EGP) and producing organic fertilizers from waste of sugar industry (annual sales 380,000EGP).

4.3 The third presentation was delivered by **Mr. Nael Al Mulki – National Officer at UN-ESCWA Technology Center**. The presentation reflected on *the Green Technologies Applications to enhance SCP in Arab Countries*. The Green Technology is defined as a tool to promote a green economy, which is a system of economic activities (production, distribution and consumption, including efficient use and reuse) that results in an improved livelihood over the long term, without exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

Adapting green technologies is linked to significant **goals** such as source reduction, sustainability, innovation and viability. The green technology **benefits** are invaluable as well and have significant impacts on the economic, social and environmental aspects.

In the Arab region, the Green Technologies fall under **eight categories**:

- **Energy production:** the technologies used for this category are photovoltaic (PV) cells⁵, concentrated solar power, wind turbine technology⁶, geothermal heating & cooling system, biogas and biofuel from biomass and hydropower⁷.
- **Energy Savings:** the technologies used for this category are the energy savings at the production level, energy savings at the transmission and distribution level and energy savings at the end-user level.
- **Renewable Energy technology applications:** solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar pumps, wind pumps, solar dryers and solar powered 3D printer for sand.
- **Green Transport:** natural gas vehicles system and electric/hybrid vehicles are the most important used technologies under this category.
- **Green Building:** eco-friendly green cities (Abu Dhabi is pioneering in new green cities for the future and Egypt is known for the resort city El Gouna on the Red Sea which is an eco-friendly example and a commercial success).
- **Green Agriculture:** to promote the reuse of treated wastewater, enhance irrigation, improve water use efficiency, minimize agricultural waste and composting biomass into fertilizers.
- **Green Solid Waste Management:** a holistic approach that focuses on the re-use, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal.
- **Green Water & Wastewater Management:** the technologies used for this category are the desalination, moving bed biofilm reactor and river banks natural filtration technology⁸.

Mr. Nael concluded his presentation by addressing the essential factors **to move forward** on green technologies in the Arab region such as the government will, data driven decision making, more allocation and incentives to R&D, public-private partnership, international and regional cooperation and knowledge sharing.

⁵ The total PV installed capacity in the Arab Region reached 544.7 MW (2015)

⁶ The total wind turbines installed capacity in the Arab Region reached 2023 MW (2015)

⁷ The total hydropower units installed capacity in the Arab Region reached 11000 MW (2015)

⁸ In Egypt, a project River banks natural filtration was able to provide clean drinking water to 150,000 residents of in Minia governorate

Session 5: Sustainable Development Goals

The fifth session aimed at discussing the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sustainable Consumption and Production. Three presentations were delivered focusing on the following topics:

5.1 The first presentation of session five was delivered by **Mr. Dirk Wagener – Senior Programme Officer & Resource Efficiency Coordinator at UN Environment**.

The presentation illustrated *the Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring & Reporting Framework and SDG 12 “Sustainable Consumption and Production”*. The SDG goals and targets were set with the adoption of the 2030



Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, including 17 Goals and 169 Targets. The UN statistical commission was requested to develop *a monitoring framework*. Accordingly, the commission established an indicator framework based on a working group of the Inter-Agency and Expert group on the SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG)⁹. Bahrain, Egypt and Algeria are currently members of the IAEG-SDG. A framework of 241 SDG indicators was developed and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, the Economic & Social Council and the UN General Assembly. Reporting by countries on these indicators is voluntary.

The SDG indicators are classified under *three tiers*: **1) Tier one:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology, standards are available and data are regularly produced, **2) Tier two:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced and **3) Tier three:** No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. The national produced data are harmonized and processed for international comparability in order to feed the SDG global database.

Mr. Dirk explained *the role of UN environment* as well which is considered as the custodian for 26 indicators including 7 of the SDG 12 indicators. The custodian is responsible for leading all methodological development, designing a data collection and reporting system for the indicators and supporting improved data use and analysis. As for the linkage between *SCP and SDG Goals*, the SCP is the most cross-cutting theme and goal in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Currently, methodologies and pilot testing are rolling out over the next 6-12 months on order to review a selection of SDGs including goal 12 (SCP). In conclusion, Mr. Drik mentioned that a High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be held in July 2018 under the theme *“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”*.

⁹ The IAEG-SDG is comprised of 30 countries which were chosen to represent their region

5.2 The second presentation was delivered by **Mr. Ziad Jaber – Regional Advisor on Energy at UN-ESCWA** on the *Sustainable Development Goals; progress and interlinkages to SCP*. The presentation briefly shed the light on the Sustainable Development Goals and the interlinkage between Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production) with an important selection of the other SDGs

With regards to the *Arab Regional Strategy for SCP*, the priority implementation areas were presented as follows:

- **Energy for Sustainable Development:** linked to SDG7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG11 (sustainable cities & communities), **SDG12** (responsible consumption & production) and SDG13 (climate action).
- **Water Resources Management:** linked to SDG6 (clean water & sanitation), SDG11 (sustainable cities & communities), **SDG12** (responsible consumption & production) and SDG13 (climate action).
- **Waste Management:** linked to SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG11 (sustainable cities & communities) and **SDG12** (responsible consumption & production).
- **Rural development and Eradication of poverty:** linked to SDG1 (no poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG3 (good health & well-being), SDG6 (clean water & sanitation), SDG7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG11 (sustainable cities & communities).
- **Education & Sustainable Lifestyle:** linked to SDG4 (quality education), SDG6 (clean water & sanitation), SDG7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG11 (sustainable cities & communities).
- **Sustainable Tourism:** linked to SDG6 (clean water & sanitation), SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG13 (climate action), SDG14 (life below water) and SDG15 (life on land).

Accordingly, the SDGs strongly complement the programmes and priorities set out in the Arab Regional Strategy for SCP. They should be implemented in full harmony.

5.3 The third presentation of the session was delivered by **Mr. Mohamed Abdel Maksoud – Directorate of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation at the League of Arab States**. The presentation highlighted *the efforts of the League of Arab States to support member states in implementing agenda 2030*.

In 2016, the *27th Arab League Summit* was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania and one of the outputs of the meeting was the establishment of *a High level Arab committee* to follow up and monitor the implementation of SDGs in the Arab Region by 2030. Furthermore, the league of Arab States developed *a guideline framework* to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Plan 2030. The framework aimed to extend needed support for the Arab countries to achieve the SDGs 2030. This framework covers all the sustainable development goals including SDG12 (Responsible Consumption & Production) where the framework highlights the importance of interlinkages between the different sectors in addition to the harmonization of policies to enable a sustainable economic development, natural resources efficiency, new jobs creation and enhanced quality of living.

Moreover, the guideline recommended *the adoption of certain measures* in order to support the transition towards SCP patterns as follows: 1) To develop National SCP strategies inspired by the

“Arab Regional Strategy for SCP” in order to support the achievement of the SDGs, 2) To implement market policies that cover taxes, expenses, financial aids and subsidies in addition to launching a Carbon Trading initiative to promote the transition towards SCP patterns, 3) To develop legislations that enhance and promote the transition towards SCP, 4) To raise awareness of the benefits of SCP patterns on all levels and 5) To support cooperation between the Arab countries in the area of SCP.

In addition to the efforts mentioned earlier, the League of Arab States organized *the Arab Week for Sustainable Development* in May 2017. The Arab week steered beneficial dialogue about the concepts, measures and plans of sustainable development in the Region. The meeting discussed essential development concepts and mechanisms in order to achieve sustainable development, enhance quality of living, ensure peace & justice, economic development and SCP.

As for the upcoming *High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development* in 2018, the Directorate of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation at the League of Arab States will present a periodical report about the efforts of the LAS to promote SCP in the Arab Region.

Session 6: Private Sector Initiatives on Sustainable Consumption & Production



This session presented the Sustainable Consumption & Production initiatives/programmes championed by the Private Sector and highlighted the successful experiences and case studies at the national and cities levels. The session reflected on the following examples:

6.1 The first presentation was delivered by **Mr. Tarik Ismail – Executive Director of Savola Group at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**. The presentation shed the light on the Savola Food Waste project “*Negaderha*”. The food waste program is

applicable in hotels, restaurants, cafes and households. *The partners* of Savola are UN Environment, Itaam and Wrap. *The partnership approach* aims to form coalitions and community-based initiatives in addition to multi-stakeholder collective initiatives. This partnership is the first between UN Environment and the private sector and it enhanced the transfer of knowledge and the best practices. *The stages of collaboration* started with mapping and measuring food waste followed by developing and implementing programs to prevent and reduce household food waste. *The main proposed solutions for the households’ food waste* were leftover recipes, portion planning and good storage. Savola launched *an awareness campaign* as well that relied on press conferences, digital and on-ground campaigns. They focused on 3 cities and 3 malls and benefited from social media influencers, direct interaction in food courts and viral videos. This success story paved the way for *a National Guide to Food Waste management* that will be generated based on a multi-stakeholder action group, to be led by Savola.

6.2 The second presentation of the session was delivered by **Ms. Daneh Al Rayes – Secretariat of Bahrain Sustainable Smart Cities Forum**. *The forum concept* was presented as a platform to bring together stakeholders from public sector, private sector and NGOs to share experiences on success stories and initiatives in the Smart & Sustainable solutions for cities.

Ms. Daneh presented the background of the previous forums, the main supporters of the forums, the topics and the list of speakers. *The first forum was held in 2016* and discussed the success stories (first green public school in Bahrain), smart urbanism, potentials and challenges of the urban management and sustainability, food waste and sustainability. *The second forum was held in 2017* and discussed the waste management and smart waste, sustainable smart cities, smart finance and bio-diversity in Kingdom of Bahrain. *The upcoming third forum in 2018* will expand from a local to a regional/international forum, new tracks will be introduced and will encourage regional and international participation. Furthermore, the forum will involve more entities from the private and public sectors.

6.3 The third presentation was delivered by **Mr. Sherif Issa – Head of Sustainability at Orange Egypt**. The presentation aimed to shed the light on Sustainability in the Telecommunications Sector. Mr. Sherif gave a brief overview about Orange Egypt¹⁰. Sustainability in Orange relies on three aspects:

- **Reducing energy consumption** by using solar and other renewable energies, upgrading equipment (using video conferencing, e-learning in the offices and carpooling), advanced data center designs and LED lighting in shops and offices.
- **Reducing resource consumption** by using e-billing rather than traditional paper, corporate customers CD bills and deploying over the air charging instead of scratched cards.
- **Managing waste** by recycling office waste, collection and recycling of paper, cardboards, toners and plastic bottles, giving old PC a second life and bridging the digital gap.

Furthermore, *Orange committed itself at COP 21 to Circular Economy* in its activities by 2020. Accordingly, Orange is committed to share, repair, reuse and recycle the equipment in addition to the fair use of natural resources. Consequently, Egypt was selected as one of 4 pilot countries representing the Africa Mid-East region.

6.4 The last presentation of session four was delivered by **Mr. Mohamed Hassan – General Manager of Business Development at Carrefour Egypt**. The presentation illustrated the sustainability at Carrefour. Majid El Futtai *Sustainability plan of 2017* was presented in tracking the store energy performance, installing LED lamps in hypermarkets to save energy, using biodegradable bags at Carrefour since 2011 and reusable woven bags. Furthermore, Carrefour promote sustainable procurement through energy efficient assets.

In addition to the above efforts, Carrefour is committed to an *Initiative to Reduce the Consumption of Plastic Bags*. The initiative aims reducing the consumption of non-biodegradable plastic bags, shifting toward other sustainable and environmental friendly alternatives, raising the awareness of the

¹⁰ 230 M customers in 29 countries, 41 billion euros sales in 2016 and 152 K employees.

harmful effects of plastic bags through public media campaigns and coordinating with the concerned parties namely the hyper market chains, the pharmacies and all consumers of plastic bags at the different sectors. This initiative is adopted in collaboration with CEDARE, UN Environment and the Ministry of Environment in Egypt. On the 1st of December 2017, CEDARE distributed to all concerned hyper markets chain plastic bags and danglers to be used in the same day as an awareness communication. The campaign was communicated through social media, trainings to cashiers and customer service teams, danglers in the stores and TV coverage with the presence of the Minister of Environment during the distribution day of biodegradable plastic bags.

Session 7: Private Public Partnerships and Private Sector Initiatives on Sustainable Consumption & Production

Session seven presented the Sustainable Consumption & Production initiatives/programmes championed by the Private Sector and highlighted the successful experiences & case studies at the national and cities levels. The session included four presentations that tackled the following topics:

7.1 The first presentation was delivered by **Mr. Ali Al-Hesabi – Manger of Health, Safety and Environment at Foulath Holding Company in Bahrain**. The presentation highlighted the *Foulath Experience with Sustainable Consumption and Production from a Private sector perspective*. Established in June 2008 in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Foulath is an investment vehicle and holding company primarily focused on investing in the growth of the steel industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Foulath's efforts towards sustainability were summarized in minimizing the environmental impacts, preventing pollution and optimizing the use of resources through the use of clean technologies, energy audit, establishing and Maintaining an Integrated Management System that meets the requirements of ISO, putting in place efficient waste management, recycling and reuse of resources. As for the challenges that face the industry in achieving sustainability, they were presented on the macro and micro levels.

- ***Challenges on the macro level:*** There is a need to re-study the industrial strategies based on the availability of resources (opportunity cost, down streaming), the energy pricing structure should ensure a sustainable energy future, Weak pollution control regulatory actions and the need to improve the industry infrastructure.
- ***Challenges on the micro level:*** Lack of waste treatment and recycling facilities, shortage of industrial lands, high financing cost of green technology, localization of local knowledge and competencies.

7.2 The second presentation was delivered by **Ms. Ghada Moghny – Programme Coordinator at CEDARE**. The presentation illustrated *the Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) Programme in Egypt*. SRI project was signed and launched in 2016 in partnership with SOFIES, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology in Egypt, the Ministry of Environment in Egypt, UNDP GEF project and CEDARE. ***SRI project aimed at:***

- Producing a comprehensive assessment & mapping of e-waste sector in Egypt.
- Running a conformity system.
- Implementing a youth incubator programme for e-waste recycling.
- Supporting existing recyclers.
- Financing mechanisms to ensure responsible recycling of e-waste under the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Organizing trainings to build the capacities and skills of the key stakeholders to sustain projects results in the long term.

The first phase of the project was very successful and generated *important outputs* such as contributing to the establishment of Sustainable National Electronic Waste Programme by 1) creating sustainable formal companies, 2) Implementing Electronic Waste Recyclers Accreditation system, 3) Developing a financially sustainable electronic wastes Take Back Programme and 4) Providing well trained human resources and knowledgeable Stakeholders in E-waste Management and Recycling.

7.3 The third presentation was delivered by **Mr. Essam Hashem – Spear Ink company in Egypt**. The presentation illustrated the recycling of electronic waste. *Spear Ink* is a company that re-uses ink cartridges and converts it into business opportunities. *The main challenges* faced by Spear Ink were presented in the legislations, consumer awareness, lack of data and the informal sector. The company management ensures sustainability, awareness campaigns, green jobs creation and introduction of new sustainable recycling solutions. Spear Ink Company launched a mobile application too with the name of **“Dr. WEEE”**. The application enables a formal collection of e-waste, green dismantling, pre-processing and classification for safe disposal. Dr. WEEE is currently growing fast signing a franchise in South Africa and another one in Cote d’Ivoire.

7.4 The fourth presentation of session seven was delivered by **Mr. Onsi Anwar – Deputy Chairman of Chemi Art Company in Egypt**. The presentation shed the light on the management of Chemicals and Recycling Industrial Waste. *Chemi Art Company* is an Egyptian company operating in the recycling of used metal and plastic oil filters by using high green technologies. *The business model of the company* respects sustainability through limitation of toxic emissions, pollution and introduction of new recycling technologies such as the chlorinator, the evaporators and the cooling towers.

Session 8: Financing Sustainable Consumption & Production



Session eight aimed at exploring the potential challenges and opportunities for financing Sustainable Consumption and Production projects under the current regional and international context. It included two presentations that could be summarized as follows:

8.1 The first presentation of session eight was delivered by **Ms. Amal El-Araby – Sustainability Development Manager at Commercial International Bank in Egypt**. The presentation showcased the *best practices of sustainability in*

the Banking and Finance Sector. The Commercial International Bank (CIB) is committed to corporate sustainability and conducting its business in a way that protects the environment and improves the communities in which it works. *CIB's sustainability journey* is closely aligned with the 2030 Global Sustainable Development Agenda, its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets. It is also linked with Egypt's 2030 vision, to advance a sustainable and climate- resilient future.

The bank relies on *five sustainability pillars*:

1. ***The Ecological Responsibility*** focusing on energy efficiency, paper reduction, electronic waste management and calculation of CIB's carbon footprint.
2. ***The Sustainability Awareness Outreach and Communication*** relying on cross department trainings, awareness raising and sustainability ambassadors (employees who volunteer to foster the bank's environmental practices).
3. ***Monitoring & Reporting*** including the CIB sustainability Report, issued according to the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines. Furthermore, CIB has been recognized as a constituent in the FTSE4 GOOD Sustainability Index by the Financial Times for the past 2 years. Moreover, it has been ranked for 4 years consecutively as the 1st in the EGX Sustainability Index.
4. ***The Social & Environmental Management*** that focuses on Social and Environmental Credit Risk Management, Green financial solution and Renewable Energy sector.
5. ***The Intellectual Vitality & Innovation*** represented in numerous examples such as the development of 97 ATM machines for the visually impaired in Greater Cairo and other governorates, a tailored carpooling application named *Raye7 CIB* for the staff members and extension of support to young entrepreneurs by providing guidance and technical support to eco-friendly startups.

8.2 The second presentation was delivered by **Mr. Fareed Bushehri – Regional Resource Efficiency Officer at UN Environment West Asia Office**. The presentation introduced the *Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)*.

PAGE aims to put sustainability at the heart of economic policymaking and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement on Climate Change through inclusive green economy approaches

by bringing together the expertise of five specialized UN agencies (UN Environment, International Labour Organization, UN Development Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization and UN Institute for Training and Research). PAGE supports the nations and regions to achieve sustainability, green growth, creation of green jobs, advancement of green industrial development and improvement of skills, knowledge and capacity building. It has **13 partner countries¹¹ and 8 funding partners¹²**.

The integrated tools and services of PAGE are presented in the policy & planning, informing priorities, measuring impact and connecting finance. **In 2018**, PAGE will welcome 3 new partner countries and will witness important events such as the PAGE global media debate at the high level political forum in New York and the 2018 PAGE Ministerial conference in Durban.

Session 9: Facilitated Interactive Roundtable Discussion

The ninth and final session was an open panel discussion by countries' representatives to tackle what has been achieved thus far, what is currently available and what are the next steps, plans and expectations.

Mr. Mohamad Afaneh – Director of Policy and Development at the Ministry of Environment in Jordan shared some important *insights and suggestions* for the future steps to promote the SCP in the Arab Region. The comments included the renewal of the Arab Strategy for SCP, the development of



national SCP plans for the countries that still don't have it and the establishment of national committees for the follow up. Furthermore, it is important to improve the legislations concerning SCP and to use unified indicators between all the countries of the Arab region. One other suggestion was to follow the successful central bank experience of Lebanon that offers 1% on green loans. The Partnership between private and public sector should be enhanced as well. Finally, Mr. Afaneh highlighted the importance of raising the awareness through sustainable media campaigns.

Ms. Suzan Al Ajjawi – Acting Director Environmental Policies & Planning at the Supreme Council for Environment in the kingdom of Bahrain added some important *comments and suggestions* that varied from the importance of having a clear vision on SCP to managing the national action plan for SCP under one umbrella, undertaken by the authority. Furthermore, it is essential to raise the awareness of the decision makers, the executive authority in addition to the financial authority represented in the central bank to make it easier for the private and public sectors to move to circular economy. Ms. Suzan highlighted the important role of the civil society organizations and the private sector. In conclusion, there is a pressing need to allocate funds for all the SCP projects with the support of UN Environment and LAS.

¹¹ Barbados, Brazil (Mato Grosso State), Burkina Faso, China (Jiangsu Province), Ghana, Guyana, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritius, Mongolia, Peru, Senegal, South Africa and Uruguay (7 more until 2020)

¹² European Union, Germany, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Zaghloul Samhan – Director General of Policy and Planning at the Environment Quality Authority in Palestine referred to some beneficial *comments and suggestions* such as the importance to document the list of experiences, initiatives and projects presented during the meeting to form a solid database for all countries. Furthermore, it was suggested to incubate the simple initiatives to enable them to develop and grow especially those coming from civil society who need a lot of support. Mr. Zaghloul added that the SwitchMed projects are very important and it is recommended for all Arab countries to simulate the project over the Arab region and have an umbrella to embrace those initiatives.

Furthermore, it is important to maximize on the technology center affiliated to ESCWA and to make it bi-directional to the state and vice versa. An Arab network on SCP is needed as well to share experience and success stories that should be measured by country networks. Another important issue is capacity building that many in the Arab countries need to develop. The Ministries could be involved in sharing the information and raising awareness in addition to the role of LAS and ESCWA on the regional level. Finally, the need to work on the existing important national indicators to track the sustainable consumption & production in the Region.

Recommendations and Outcomes of the Arab Roundtable Meeting

In light of the deliberations and discussions held, participating member countries and entities confirmed their commitment to continued collaboration on the follow-up and implementation of the below-mentioned *recommendations*:

1. Request the Technical Secretariat of the Round Table to prepare an executive Programme for the years 2018-2020 with specific activities and projects inspired by the Arab Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production to implement all the recommendations generated from the 5th Arab Roundtable Meeting, 2017.
2. Call upon the Arab countries, which do not have national plans for sustainable production and consumption, to start preparing and finalizing them as soon as possible, and to request those who already have national plans to update them in accordance with international standards. As for the Arab countries that have already prepared national plans in accordance with international standards, they are requested to implement pilot projects.
3. Call upon the Arab States to establish / strengthen a sustainable consumption and production mechanism at the national level and work to strengthen the institutional framework at the regional level (Arab Round Table on Sustainable Consumption and Production). And request the United Nations Environment Program, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, CEDARE and the League of Arab States to provide the necessary support to achieve this end.
4. Invite Arab States to update and enhance the legislations and legal frameworks of SCP at the national level.
5. Call upon the Arab countries to set up national committees to follow up on the Sustainable Consumption and Production on the national level.
6. Request the Arab Working Group on indicators of natural resources and the environmental dimension to work on the identification of a small number of indicators for Sustainable Consumption and Production to serve as the minimum of approved Arab indicators that can be used at the level of the Arab region in monitoring and follow-up of the implementation
7. Call upon the Arab countries to urge Central banks to offer financial incentives for all activities related to green economy and SCP, which would lead to an increase in economic revenues and accordingly fostering the economic performance of the Arab countries.
8. Emphasize the importance of the public-private partnership, to assess the efforts of the private sector to promote sustainable consumption and production concepts, and the importance of continued participation of all stakeholders in the activities of sustainable consumption and production in the Arab region.

9. Consider the important role of the civil society organizations in the implementation of SCP activities and raising awareness, as well as the important role of research centers.
10. Emphasize the importance of the transfer of technologies (including green technologies) and building capacities.
11. Request the Technical Secretariat SCP to look into the possibility of establishing an interactive Arab Network for knowledge sharing and to work towards encouraging the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt from the Arab SCP initiatives and activities to benefit from it.
12. Request Arab States that don't have SCP focal points to identify ones for coordination in every Arab country.
13. Urge the Arab countries to benefit from the available financing funds to achieve and promote SCP and request the Technical Secretariat to build the capacities and skills of the Arab countries to easily access the available resources and benefit from the financing funds.
14. Welcome the outstanding results of the SwitchMed Program and requesting the UN Environment to replicate this important experience in the other countries of the Arab region (SwitchArab), and to call upon the European Union to support these efforts.
15. Request the Technical Secretariat of the Roundtable to begin to evaluate and monitor the implementation of SDG12 (responsible consumption and production) using the adopted international SCP indicators, with the aim of paving the way to draft a report about the progress of the Arab region in the implementation of SDG12.
16. Urge UN Environment to continue to work through its Bureau in West Asia to cover the activities and programs of the Arab States (The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment) in the League of Arab States, in all its activities in accordance with the agreement reached in this regard.
17. Urge the Arab countries to participate in the Partnership for Action on Green Economy "PAGE" in order to put sustainability at the heart of economic development within the framework of the implementation of the 2030 plan for sustainable development of climate change, before the deadline of February 2018.
18. Invite the Media Sector of the League of Arab States to develop an awareness media plan about the SCP concepts. in collaboration with the media focal points of the concerned partners who can support in creating an awareness media plan with strong impacts.

19. Request the Technical Secretariat of the Roundtable when extending invitations for the future Arab roundtable meetings to invite the Specialized Arab Organizations, given the expected rich contributions resulting from their participation due to their role in working on the ground.
20. Request the Technical Secretariat of the Roundtable to develop guiding standards and specifications to achieve SCP.
21. Urge Arab countries with successful SCP experiences on exchanging these experiences and disseminating them to other Arab countries for shared benefits.
22. Stress the importance of considering sustainable consumption before the production, since sustaining consumption in the first place is essential.
23. Stress also the sectors that fall under the priority areas of SCP are: energy, transportation, tourism, waste, natural resources and the urban development, including all the cross-cutting issues between these sectors (youth, women, food, security, climate change etc.).
24. Request ESCWA and their office in Jordan to extend their optimal support to the Arab countries to enrich and support all activities related to the SCP in the Arab Region.
25. Request the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, along with their partners, to mobilize the required resources to hold the Arab Roundtable meeting for Sustainable Consumption & Production on yearly basis.

Meeting Agenda

Day 1: Monday 18 th December, 2017	
TIME	Agenda Item
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Opening Ceremony League of Arab States: Ms. Shahira Wahby, Head of Sustainability of Natural Resource and Partnerships. UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: Mr. Ziad Jaber, Regional Advisor on Energy. UN Environment: Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Coordinator. Centre of Environment and Development for Arab Region and Europe: Mr. Hossam Allam, Regional Director.</p>
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Session 1: Setting the Global and Regional Scene The aim of this session is to present <i>Setting the Scene for Progress achieved Concerning Sustainable Consumption & Production in the Arab Region and at the Global Level</i>.</p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Ms. Suzan Al Ajjawi, Acting Director Environmental Policies & Planning, Supreme Council for Environment, kingdom of Bahrain.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Dirk Wagener, Senior Programme Officer, Coordinator Resource Efficiency, UN Environment: <i>Progress at the Global Level</i>. Ms. Shahira Wahby, Head of Sustainability of Natural Resource and Partnerships, League of Arab States: <i>Progress in the Arab Region</i>.</p>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 14:45	<p>Session 2: Sustainable Consumption & Production in the Arab Region, SwitchMed Countries The session will focus on the Arab Countries partners in SwitchMed Project and will shed the light on the SwitchMed policy work and its proven methodology with potential for replication in the Arab Region.</p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Luc Reuter, SwitchMed Programme Coordinator, UN Environment.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Angel Guitierrez Hidalgo, First Counsellor, Head of the Economic Cooperation Section, European Union Delegation to Egypt: <i>“EU initiative on Circular Economy”</i>. Mr. Mohamad Afaneh, Director of Policy and Development, Ministry of Environment of Jordan. Mr. Zaghloul Samhan, Director General of Policy and Planning,</p>

	<p>Environment Quality Authority of Palestine.</p> <p>Ms. Maysoun Nabil, Projects Manager, Ministry of Environment of Egypt.</p> <p>Ms. Assia Ferrani, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Algeria.</p> <p>Ms. Fatima Zohra Bel Moubarik, Partnership with Territorial Communities, Public Organizations and the Private Sector Services Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, in Charge of Sustainable Development, Morocco.</p> <p>Mr. Nabil Hamdi, Director, Sustainable Development Directorate, Ministry of Rural Affairs and Environment, Tunis.</p> <p>Ms. Marwa Yassine, Urban Planning Engineer, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon.</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:45 – 17:00	<p>Session 3: Sustainable Consumption & Production in the Arab Region</p> <p>The following session will showcase <i>the current Sustainable Consumption & Production policies/tools</i> in the Region.</p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Dirk Wagener, Senior Programme Officer, Coordinator Resource Efficiency, UN Environment.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Fatima Al Hebshi, Sustainability Engineer, Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, United Arab Emirates.</p> <p>Ms. Suzan Al Ajjawi, Acting Director Environmental Policies & Planning, Supreme Council for Environment, kingdom of Bahrain.</p> <p>Mr. Abdulelah Al Hatami, Environmental Protection Specialist, The General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Mr. Hossam Allam, Regional Director, CEDARE: “<i>West Asia Integrated Waste Management Outlook</i>”.</p>
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap Up and Introduction to second day

Day 2: Tuesday 19 th of December 2017	
TIME	Agenda Item
10:00 – 10:15	Opening of the Second day
10:15 - 11:30	<p>Session 4: Implementing Sustainable Consumption & Production: The aim of this session is to present <i>Sustainable Consumption & Production initiatives, programmes and partnerships and their implementation.</i></p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Zaghloul Samhan, Director General of Policy and Planning – Environment Quality Authority of Palestine.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Luc Reuter, SwitchMed Programme Coordinator, UN Environment: “<i>UN Environment Initiatives and Programmes</i>”. Ms. Hanan Elhadry, Chairperson Industrial Council for Technology & Innovation, Egypt: “<i>Innovative Industrial Sustainable Consumption and Production Best Practices</i>”. Ms. Magda Shouieb, Head of Central Quality Directorate, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Egypt: “<i>Energy Efficiency in the Airports</i>”. Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Officer, UN Environment West Asia Office: “<i>The experience of Switch Africa Green</i>”. Mr. Nael Al Mulki, National Officer, UN-ESCWA Technology Center: “<i>Green Technologies Applications in Arab Countries</i>”.</p>
11:00 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 5: Sustainable Development Goals The will highlight <i>the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Consumption & Production.</i></p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Mohamad Afaneh, Director of Policy and Development – Ministry of Environment of Jordan.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Dirk Wagener, Senior Programme Officer, Resource Efficiency Coordinator, UN Environment: <i>Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring & Reporting Framework with Focus on SDG 12; Sustainable Consumption and Production.</i> Mr. Ziad Jaber, Regional Advisor on Energy, UN-ESCWA: <i>Sustainable Development Goals; Progress and Interlinkages.</i> Mr. Mohamed Abdel Maksoud, Directorate of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, League of Arab States: <i>League of Arab States efforts to support member states in implementing agenda 2030.</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Session 6: Private Sector Initiatives on Sustainable Consumption & Production

	<p>Presenting <i>the Sustainable Consumption & Production initiatives/programmes championed by the Private Sector</i> and highlighting <i>the successful experiences & case studies</i> at the national and cities levels.</p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Coordinator, UN Environment West Asia Office.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Tarik Ismail, Executive Director, Savola Group, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: <i>“Savola Food Waste Project”</i>. Ms. Daneh Al Rayes, Secretariat of Bahrain Sustainable Smart Cities Forum: <i>Update on, and future plans of Bahrain Sustainable Smart Cities Forum</i>. Mr. Sherif Issa, Head of Sustainability, Orange Egypt: <i>Sustainability in the Telecommunication Sector</i>. Mr. Mohamed Hassan, General Manager of Business Development, Carrefour Egypt: <i>Sustainability at Carrefour</i>.</p>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Session 7: Private Public Partnerships and Private Sector Initiatives on Sustainable Consumption & Production</p> <p>Presenting <i>the Sustainable Consumption & Production initiatives/programmes championed by the Private Sector</i> and highlighting <i>the successful experiences & case studies</i> at the national and cities levels.</p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Ziad Jaber, Regional Advisor on Energy, UN-ESCWA.</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Ali Al-Hesabi, Manager Health, Safety and Environment, Foulath Holding Company Bahrain: <i>Foulath’s Experience with Sustainable Consumption and Production; A Private Sector Perspective</i>. Ms. Ghada Moghny, Programme Coordinator, CEDARE: <i>Sustainable Entrepreneurs; Sustainable Recycling Industries, E-Waste Incubator and accelerator Programme to Create New jobs</i>. Mr. Essam Hashem, Spearink Egypt: <i>E-Waste Recycling</i>. Mr. Onsi Anwar, Deputy Chairman, Chemi Art Company, Egypt: <i>“Managing Chemicals and Recycling Industrial Waste”</i>.</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Wrap Up and introduction to the last day

Day 3: Wednesday 20th of December 2017

TIME	Agenda Item
10:00 – 10:15	Opening of the last day
10:15 – 11:15	<p>Session 8: Financing Sustainable Consumption & Production The purpose of this session is to <i>explore potential challenges and opportunities for financing</i> Sustainable Consumption and Production projects under the current regional and international context.</p> <p>Chairperson of the session: Mr. Hossam Allam, Regional Director, CEDARE.</p> <p>Speakers: Ms. Amal El-Araby, Sustainability Development Manager, Commercial International Bank, Egypt: <i>Sustainability Best Practices in the Banking and Finance Sector; Financing Sustainable Consumption and Production.</i> Mr. Fareed Bushehri, Regional Resource Efficiency Officer, UN Environment West Asia Office: <i>Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE).</i></p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:45 - 13:00	<p>Session 9: Facilitated Interactive Roundtable Discussion: An open panel discussion by Countries' representatives to tackle <i>what has been achieved</i> thus far, <i>what is currently available</i> and <i>what are the next steps, plans and expectations.</i></p> <p>Moderator of the discussion: Ms. Shahira Wahby, Head of Sustainability of Natural Resource and Partnerships, League of Arab States.</p> <p>Panelists: Mr. Mohamad Afaneh, Director of Policy and Development, Ministry of Environment of Jordan. Ms. Suzan Al Ajjawi, Acting Director Environmental Policies & Planning, Supreme Council for Environment, kingdom of Bahrain. Mr. Zaghloul Samhan, Director General of Policy and Planning, Environment Quality Authority of Palestine. Ms. Maysoun Nabil, Projects Manager, Ministry of Environment of Egypt.</p>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch

List of Participants

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Mr. Mohamed Al Khozaae

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Ministry of Trade and Industry

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