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South-South Cooperation Conference on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

Brasilia, Brazil, 6-7 April 2017

Concept Note

Context

In a world in which 1.2 billion people currently live in extreme poverty and deprivation, while human population is projected to reach 9.5 billion by 2050, achieving sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns has become vital. The objective is to promote sustainable development by increasing resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, creating decent jobs, contributing to poverty eradication and shared prosperity. This has been firmly reaffirmed by the international community with the adoption of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the recognition of SCP as an essential building block of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The adoption of the stand-alone Goal 12 on “Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns” and the integration of SCP in many of the 17 goals and 169 targets agreed in the agenda, demonstrates the continued commitment by governments worldwide to orient future actions and policies towards SCP. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), adopted at Rio+20 in 2012, has created the opportunity to build a global platform for action to enhance international cooperation and advance the implementation of SCP at regional and national levels. The Framework is recognized as a key implementation mechanism for the SDGs, through a specific target calling for its implementation (12.1) in Agenda 2030. It also responds to the 17th of the SDGs, which calls for strengthened means of implementation and a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development. At the request of the international community, UNEP has been serving as the Secretariat of the 10YFP since its adoption in 2012¹.

The main objective of the 10YFP is to generate collective impact through multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships to develop, replicate and scale up SCP policies and initiatives at all levels. Its main functions are to: 1) promote the added value of SCP for both developed and developing countries, making use of the scientific and policy knowledge base, fostering innovation and new ideas; 2) support the integration of SCP in decision-making at all levels, taking into account its cross-cutting nature, for example through strategic planning and policymaking; 3) raise awareness and foster increased cooperation and networking among all stakeholders; 4) support capacity building and facilitating access to financial and technical assistance for developing countries, supporting the implementation of SCP activities at all levels, notably through a dedicated Trust Fund. As such, the 10YFP can contribute to achieving several of the targets identified under SDG 17, especially with regards to policy and institutional coherence (17.13-17.15) and multi-stakeholder partnerships (17.16-17.17) as well as capacity-building, including through South-South and triangular cooperation (17.9).

South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, is key to achieving the objectives of the 10YFP as a global platform, as well as to mainstream sustainable consumption and production patterns

¹ See A/CONF.216/5 – text adopted at Rio+20 on the 10YFP and requesting UNEP to serve as the secretariat, as well as UNEA 2 resolution 2/8 on sustainable consumption and production.



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worldwide. Based on the outcome of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi in December 2009, the United Nations defines South-South cooperation as: *“a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.”*² South-South cooperation can extend to “triangular cooperation”, which involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies)/or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.

The shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns is a prerequisite for sustainable development in all countries, including developing countries, which are at a critical juncture in their development trajectories but also more immediately exposed to the potential economic and social impacts of environmental degradation. It is also a great opportunity for these countries to ‘leapfrog’ unsustainable development models, to exchange experience, innovate and encourage investments in a way that can help them provide more people with better quality of life without undermining their natural resource base.

Objectives of the conference

The overall objective of the South-South Cooperation Conference on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), organized by UNEP acting as the Secretariat of the 10YFP with the support of the Government of Brazil, will be to foster South-South cooperation for SCP in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as a means of achieving the SDGs. The objectives of the Conference will be in line with the priority objectives of the United Nations in supporting South-South Cooperation: support national and regional development efforts, strengthen institutional and technical capacities, improve the exchange of experience and know-how among developing countries, respond to the specific development challenges of developing countries and increase the impact of international cooperation.

The specific objectives of the Conference will be to:

1. Provide an overview of the projects and initiatives on consumption and production patterns in Latin America and Africa, highlighting countries’ needs and priorities to accelerate the shift towards SCP as a means to achieve the SDGs;
2. Facilitate sharing of experience and best practices on SCP, opportunities for replication and scaling up from both regions and various sectors of society, in particular with regards to institutional strengthening and stakeholders’ engagement, policy design and implementation, financing and impacts monitoring;
3. Showcase successful strategies and instruments for the promotion of business engagement, entrepreneurship and behavioral change for SCP, identifying opportunities for South-South

² Framework of Operational Guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, 12 April 2012 (SSC/17/3)



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cooperation on key areas such as sustainable value chains, innovation, market development and SMEs' empowerment, among others;

4. Build a constructive dialogue on South-South cooperation for SCP, engaging policy-makers, business and civil society operators, cooperation agencies and donor institutions to identify concrete opportunities for cooperation, resource mobilization and investments within and across the regions;
5. Provide concrete recommendations to the Board of the 10YFP and inputs to the 10YFP implementation strategy for the next five years (2018-2022) to foster South-South cooperation on SCP, capacity-building and delivery services needed at regional and national levels.

Participants

The 10YFP South-South Cooperation Conference, being focused on identifying cooperation opportunities based on experience and implementation. It will gather the following categories of participants:

1. 10YFP Board members representing Latin America and Africa and Chair of the Board, 10YFP National Focal Points (government officials) and representatives of the 10YFP programmes;
2. Development and cooperation agencies, South-South cooperation national focal points, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and other UN entities with SCP projects in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean;
3. Representatives of organizations from all sectors of society, including civil society and the business sector, implementing SCP projects in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, including those supported by the 10YFP Trust Fund and others sources;
4. Donor countries and institutions, including at regional level.