One Planet Network Executive Committee 2020

Online workshop series - 18 to 20 May 2020

MEETING REPORT

The One Planet network[1] Executive Meeting online sessions 2020 gathered the Board, Programme leads and coordination desks, UN agencies, the SCP science-policy task group, the secretariat and invited speakers (participant list here).

The objectives of the meeting were to Review the progress on the implementation of the 'One Plan for One Planet' strategy and advance on requests made to the One Planet network by the 4th UN Environment Assembly.

The meeting consisted of three online sessions (Agenda here):

1. Taking stock of progress and acting in a transformed world
2. Catalysing science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production – Task group International Resource Panel / One Planet network
3. Addressing plastic pollution across the One Planet network

This report summarises key points and recommendations made throughout the Executive Meeting. All meeting documents are available at the dedicated space on the One Planet network website (here).

Key points for follow-up

- **A joint implementation of the five reccomendations made in the report to the High-Level Political Forum** will further strengthen and consolidate our contribution to the Decade of Acion and beyond. The progress on the implementation of our strategy 2018-2022, as captured by the report to the High- Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, highlight the readiness of the network to respond effectively to the Decade of Action and to shocks that expose the fragility of our current systems.
- **A focused uptake by the programmes of the review undertaken by the science-policy task group by applying a systemic value chain approach** to the sectors of agri-food, textiles, and buildings and construction – including through discussions within the programme on how it informs the definition of priority activities and cross-programme collaboration. This also includes integration in the preparations for the 3rd Global Conference of the sustainable food systems programme, as well as in the preparatory work of the workstream on knowledge and policy and related dialogues for the UN Food Systems Summit. Task group members are available to support these discussions
- **The continued development of the guidance on addressing plastics pollution**, building on the effectiveness of a shared vision, on the value chain approach in plastics and on the reinvigorated partnerships. All are invited to contribute, including by sharing best practices on public and/or private procurement and examples of campaigns (in any language) on plastic packaging.
- The network-wide initiatives on catalysing science-policy action on SCP and addressing plastic pollution will build on the suggestions made throughout these session and will consolidate efforts inb preparation of the 5th UN Environment Assembly.
- 2020 also sees the launch of the discussion concerning the 10YFP post-2022. These three sessions constitute some of the foundational elements to frame our thinking on the post-2022 track.

[1] The One Planet network implements the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

Taking stock of progress and acting in a transformed world

The session focused on establishing a common vision on the state of play and emerging priorities across the network in the context of identified trends and ongoing transformations. The session was chaired by Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist, Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina.

The complete set of presentations for this session can be accessed here.

Key Messages

The Covid-19 pandemic has made the need to shift to a new development model, based on sustainable consumption and production systems, more visible than ever. The current crisis has exposed the inherent fragility of our economies. Vital sectors and the livelihoods of those who depend on them are being heavily affected: from food value chains, basic services (e.g. education and health), to economic sectors such as tourism where it is expected that over 100 million jobs will be impacted globally.
This crisis also offers an historical opportunity to invest in a human-centered, sustainable and resilient economy. The UN Secretary General[2] has called for immediate action, emphasizing the need to:

- Adopt robust environmental policies addressing priority transboundary and trade issues;
- Make sure recovery packages and public funds are oriented towards a decarbonized economy, resource efficient, responsible, resilient value chains and green jobs (at least 10% of global GDP);
- Protect employment, income and access to basic resources (food, shelter, health, etc.) while combatting inequalities.

Yet, the way humanity is using natural resources to drive its development and economies is not going in the right direction as shown by the SDG target 12.2 trends[3]. Material footprint and domestic material consumption continue to rise and the impacts on the environment and people are aggravating. This is further compounded by the information gap whereby science is not always available to stakeholders in a way that responds to their need

Progress achieved across the One Planet network in 2019, including through the development of strategic products, illustrates multiple opportunities to streamline solutions for SCP. The three main data trends that emerged from the network, provide a number entry points and opportunities:

- Data on SCP policies signals a siloed approach mostly driven within environmental portfolios;
- Many of the tools and solutions reported are addressing resource-intensive sectors such as agriculture, food & beverage, and construction, which accounted for nearly 70% of global material footprint in 2015, as well as cross-cutting issues such as the use of plastics;
- A continued shift to outcome-oriented activities signaling progress towards the implementation of policies, tools, and solutions, resulting in changes in practices

A reform of the financial system, more accessible scientific information and better integrated policies are key to making SCP the norm across our economies and value chains: SCP should be a fundamental principle of economic policies and decisions, which includes recovery packages, public procurement and other financial instruments. In the context of Covid-19, recovery packages and investments must be conditional, directed to carbon emission reductions and to boost industries that develop sustainable products and services. As a

[2] https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_report_socio-economic_impact_of_covid19.pdf
[3] Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/global-sustainable-development-report-2019.html

significant increase in public spending is expected, good public procurement must take social and environmental impacts into account including through pre-procurement and market intelligence, encouraging buyer/supplier cooperation, focusing on capacity building and professionalization of public procurement (e.g. development of a training package for national governments and public authorities).

Re-building sustainable and resilient value-chains requires prioritising and contextualising recommended measures on SDG 12 in resource intensive sectors of Food and Buildings and Construction. It will also require a better understanding of trade-offs in the transformation to SCP along vital value chains, the first of which being food.

- Food Systems: Promoting and strengthening sustainable food value chains is necessary and must come with assessing bottlenecks and the fragility of global supply chains. The current crisis has further highlighted concerns on the disruption of food systems and potential gaps in food production and access, the livelihoods of food system actors, the role of diets in exacerbating health impacts and the link between food systems and infectious disease outbreaks[4]. A meaningful contribution to the recovery will include a strengthened focus on livelihoods and jobs, for instance in the application of guidance to support intermediaries innovating in local food value chains or the integration of sustainable food value chains in recovery plans of tourism destinations and businesses.
- Buildings and Construction offers a great opportunity to scale up sustainability, while responding to emergency needs (e.g. hygiene and sanitation, building new hospitals within very short periods of time). Socio-environmental considerations will need to be strengthened, including climate-friendly and resource efficient approaches based on local resources and technologies, supporting local workforces.
- Tourism is one of the sectors most impacted by the crisis, a 100% of tourism destinations worldwide have travel restrictions, with unprecedented impacts on local economies and jobs. The global tourism plastics initiative and the global tourism food waste initiatives have been launched build the resilience of the tourism sector and support recovery efforts.

The year 2020 is a key milestone for the world community and the One Planet network to set the right path for sustainable development. It is the beginning of the "SDGs Decade of Action", which the One Planet network is very well placed to support through cooperation, knowledge sharing and innovation. 2020 is also only 2 years away from the end of the 10YFP mandate: collectively, we need to build a post-2022 vision SCP and resource efficiency.

Action points

- Support the implementation of the recommendations to the HLPF for the SDGs Decade of Action[5];
- Identify solutions and tools, with a potential focus on circular economy approaches which can inform the development of green recovery packages for "building back better";
- Contribute to the design of a post-2022 vision for international cooperation on RE/SCP.

[4] Sustainable Food systems programme statement on the COVID-19 crisis and food systems.
[5] Annual report on the 10YFP to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2019): https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/10yfp-progress-report-hlpf-2020

Catalysing science-based policy action on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Task group International Resource Panel – One Planet network (UNEA4 Res1)

The session focused on strengthening an evidence-based prioritisation of action across the One Planet network through the application of a systemic and value chain approach. The session was chaired by Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division, UNEP.

The complete set of presentations for this session can be accessed here.

Key Messages

Strengthening the science-policy interface on natural resources and material flow is one of the key recommendations made in this year's report to the High-Level Political Forum. A strong science-policy-action interface is also needed for an effective 'build back better' response to Covid-19

The Task Group on "Catalysing science-based policy action on SCP" has been established[6] and leverages the complementarity of the scientists and experts in the International Resource Panel and the practitioners of the different stakeholder groups in the One Planet network. The Task group focuses on 3 sectors: food systems, textile, and business and construction.

Adopting and testing a systematic process that leads to actionable recommendations is proposed by the task group. This followed the review of key reports of the International Resource Panel by the task group that highlighted the richness of data in the reports but also significant gaps in recommendations that are actionable by practitioners and various stakeholder groups.

The task group is applying a systemic and value chain approach to the three sectors prioritised: food, buildings & construction, and textiles. This approach includes two key steps:

- Identifying data needs and information availability on resource use and hotspots. Objective: to identify where the problems and opportunities are (and therefore guide the solution). Data and information from IRP, UNEP and other sources. Three entry points for the data are being proposed to make it more relatable: Resources / materials; Sectors / value chains; Countries
- Undertaking a consultative process that leads to actionable recommendations
  Objective: to consultatively develop science-based actionable recommendations in the 3 sectors (at levels of sector, stage of the value chain, stakeholder, product category). 2 types of consultations: i) scientific consultations on the identified hotspots in the value chain – with experts and academia; ii) multi-stakeholder consultation on how different stakeholders can address these gaps and hotspots.

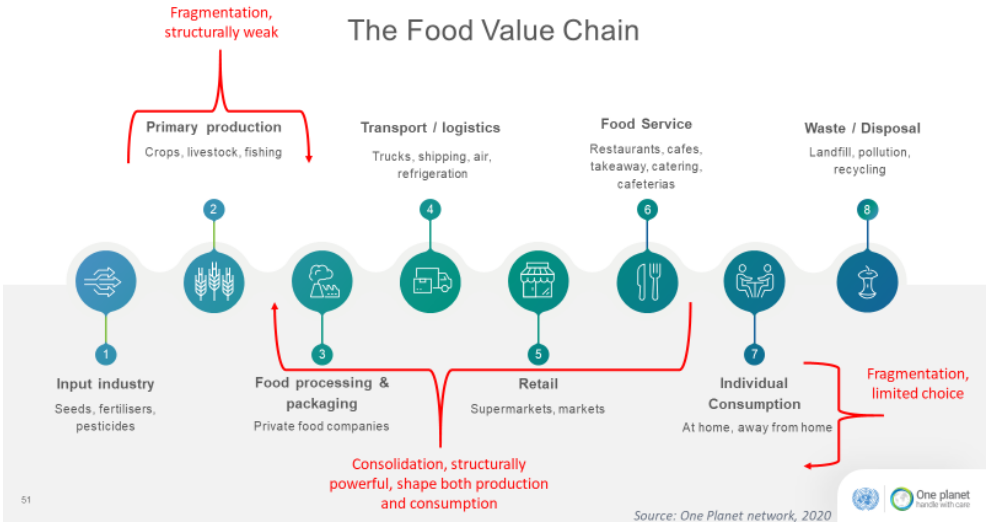
Food Systems - Applying a systemic and value-chain approach

- Data and information availability on resource use and other relevant aspects of the value chain
  - Analysis undertaken was based mainly on the IRP report on Food Systems, UNEP's GEO 6 and FAO's state of food security and nutrition. Other sources included UNEP, FAO, IPCC, WRI sources.
  - Difficult to monitor and measure stocks, flows and status of natural resources at country level, with huge differences between and within countries and major differences across types of food systems.
  - Data focus is mainly on primary production and there is very limited specific data on natural resource use at processing, transport, retail, food service, consumption or waste stages of the value chain.
  - Data is mostly general or 'agricultural' level and is limited at food-product specific level.

[6] Terms of reference and composition of the task group on catalyzing science-based policy action on SCP.

- The political economic dimension is described but lacks specificity at the different value chain stages.
- The use of biomass as a metric is an obstacle as it measures agricultural output and not resource input

- Know your hotspots: preliminary conclusions from the review and analysis
  - The majority of natural resource use and environmental impacts that take place along food value chains occurs at the primary production stage. Renewable resources (land, soils, landscapes – water – biodiversity & ecosystem services – genetic resources) are primarily used at farm production stage. Non-renewable resources (Minerals & Nutrients – Fossil fuels) are used in a more distributed way across stages of the value chain. Environmental impacts (GHG emissions, Biodiversity, Air, soil & water quality) are mapped at all stages of the value chain, with a large part at production stage.
  - The systems analysis of the food value chain considers the drivers of food systems and demonstrates that, while the majority of natural resource use and environmental impacts is taking place at the primary production stage, primary producers have a limited ability to shape food systems and change their production practices. Comparatively, while the actors along the middle stage value chain do not use the most resources themselves, they have a huge impact on the activities at either end. This stage of the value chain, comprising food companies across processing and packaging, retail and food services, is also is structurally powerful and has a disproportionate influence across both primary production and final consumption and to a large degree shapes both what food farmers produce and sell and what food consumers buy and eat.



  - The challenges and opportunities can be considered at 3 levels in relation to the global food value chain mapping: 1) what types of food we produce and consume (with vast differences in resources and environmental impacts to produce different types of food along the stages of the value chain); 2) How much food we produce and consume (considering the food loss and waste at the different stages of the value chain), and 3) How we produce food.

- Implications for the One Planet network: programme priorities and cross-programme collaboration
  - Sustainable Food Systems programme: the analysis will be shared with the advisory committee of the programme to inform core initiatives (in particular "Sustainability along all value chains") and task forces. It will also be integrated in the science track of the programme's global conference 2019.
  - Sustainable Tourism Programme: the analysis will inform the work stream on Food Loss and Waste.
  - Focus network-wide collaboration on the middle stages of the value chains for greater impact, with a strong role for programmes on consumer information, public procurement and tourism

- The middle stages of the value chains are also the ones that are hardest hit by COVID-19 – e.g. from open markets in Latin America to US meat industry. How do we restructure that part of the value chain? How does it differ in short and long supply chains, for international and local trade, etc?
- This informs the development of a new narrative focussed on scientifically-sound arguments in favour of better management of natural resources.

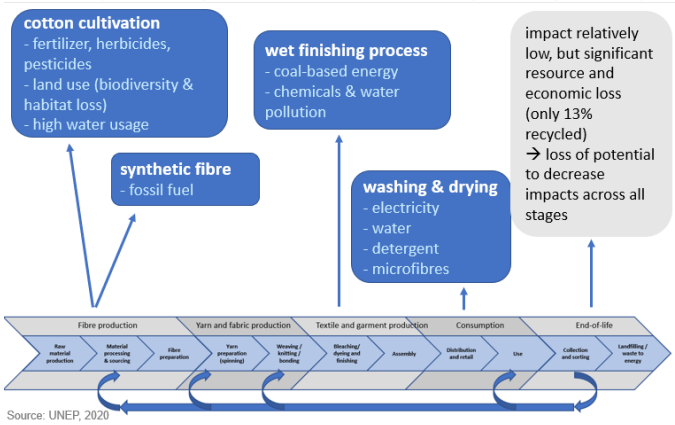
- Suggestions and recommendations on fora to be leveraged for outreach and consultations:
  - 3rd Global conference of the sustainable food systems programme: leverage the conference for consultations, including the science track session planned to guide the policy discussion.
  - Food Systems Summit 2021: inform the workstream on knowledge and policy and related dialogues
  - Committee on World Food Security, Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
  - Food systems dialogues
  - UNFCCC COP 26, Biodiversity framework, Multilateral Environmental Agreements - explore inputting science to the negotiations

- Suggestions and recommendations on organisations to engage in the consultations:
  - Reflect complexity and multi-dimensional aspect of food systems in the consultations. Look at other groups traditionally not involved in these types of consultations.
  - Sustainable Food Systems programme Advisory committee and broader network
  - Advisory committee members of other programmes - e.g. Tourism partners contributing to food loss and waste workstream, public procurement programme interest group on food, etc)
  - Actors along the value chain, including companies and financial institutions.

Textiles Value Chain - Applying a systemic and value-chain approach

- Data and information availability on resource use and other relevant aspects
  The textiles value chain does not benefit from a dedicated report of the International Resource Panel. The data is the result of the research of UNEP and FICCI. It will be published in the forthcoming report: *UNEP, Sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain: global stocktaking 2020.*

- Know your hotspots: preliminary conclusions from the review and analysis
  - Textile value chain is usually presented as a linear model. However, through this analysis a shift to a circular system is proposed, while keeping materials at the highest possible value.
  - The geographical mapping of the apparel value chain shows that low value production stages are primarily located in Asia and developing/transitioning countries (net exporters), while the higher value-added ones are mainly in Europe and North America (net importers).



  - Environmental hotspots: mainly identified at production and use stages of the value chain, with emphasis on cotton cultivation, synthetic fibre, wet finishing process, and washing and drying.
  - Social risks: primarily in the natural, synthetic fibre, yarn and fabric production stages of the value chain.Most risk occurs at the early stages of the value chain in lower economic value activities.

- Hotspots identified in the textiles value chain include the following:
  Fibre production: fossil fuels (synthetic fibres), use of land, water and agrichemicals (natural fibres), unsafe working conditions and fragility of legal system
  Yarn and fabric production: no hotspots identified
  Textile production: fossil fuel, hazardous chemicals, microfibre release, unsafe working conditions and fragility of legal system
  Use phase: electricity use in textiles care (fossil fuel), water use and microfibre release (washing)
  End-of-life: low recovery rates (high material value loss and non-renewable resource depletion)
- Multi-stakeholder consultations have shown that final recommendations to transform Textile value chain need to respond to the 3 needs identified: Change in consumption habits; Collaboration and finance; Stronger governance.

- Implications for the One Planet network: programme priorities and cross-programme collaboration
  - Of the three recommendations made, the one changing consumption habits is the area the programmes of the One Planet network can support the best. Potential to make changes by focusing more on consumer information and product lifetime extension.
  - Consumer Information or Lifestyles programme, for instance, through label or consumer campaign to boost recycling and re-use of textiles. One of the key gaps is transparency and traceability of textile products, people do not know the risks one or two tiers back.
  - Consumer information: more accessible information on the most sustainable products. A focused application of the guidelines on product sustainability information on textiles/apparel? Are there new solutions in this field that could help us extent the lifetime of products?
  - Tourism programme: not an area considered at the moment but it is relevant –e.g. linen, towels
  - Public Procurement of textiles (uniforms, linen in hostpitals.) can address the issues on circularity and design. Especially procurement approaches should include both the up-stream and the down-stream use of the textiles (e.g. washing and drying), which can be reflected in procurement criteria and contract terms and solutions. Procurers need easy to use information, an understanding of available ecolabels would be very helpful.

- Suggestions and recommendations on the consultations – organisation to engage / fora to leverage:
  - Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Fashion for Good, C and A foundation
  - Certification bodies on sustainable textiles (e.g. GOOTS, sustainable cotton, etc)
  - Governments from regions other than the EU (EU countries are already engaged) .
  - Brands in the retail industry - as a group that has influence over consumers and suppliers. The system needs to change to have a more sustainable impact.
  - Public procurement actors
  - UNCCD: focus on food, feed,fibre. Interesting group to include -Land restoration day on 17 June

Buildings & Construction value chain

- Data and information availability on resource use and other relevant aspects: There are five International Resource Panel reports that are relevant to Buildings and Construction:
  - City Level Decoupling: this report examines the potential for decoupling at the city level. Its focus is how infrastructure directs material flows and, therefore, resource use, productivity and efficiency in an urban context. It highlights the way that the design, construction and operation of energy, waste, water, sanitation and transport infrastructures create a socio-technical environment that shapes how citizens procure, use and dispose of the resources they require.
  - The Weight of Cities: This report calls for a new strategy for 21st Century urbanization and presents the parallel actions on urban planning, sustainable design, resource-efficient infrastructure for cross-sector efficiency, governance models and business propositions that are required for a transition towards low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially just cities.

- Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions in the ASEAN Region: a Resource Perspective: A regional assessment based on the Weight of Cities.
- Global Resources Outlook 2019: The IRP flagship report presents data on historical and projected global trends of natural resource use and their environmental impacts. The analysis and modelling are a first attempt to understand the impacts of our growing resource use, and to develop coherent scenario projections for resource efficiency and SCP that decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
- Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: This report conducts a rigorous assessment of the contribution of material efficiency to GHG abatement strategies. The assessment is applied to residential buildings and light duty vehicles, and reviews policies that address these strategies.

- Know your hotspots: preliminary conclusions from the review and analysis
  The analysis of data and information on the buildings & Construction value chain has not started yet.

- Implications for the One Planet network: programme priorities and cross-programme collaboration
  - The benefits of applying the lifecycle and value chain analyses is evident from the work done for Plastics and Textiles, and that is ongoing for food system and tourism. This work is needed for buildings and construction and mobility.
  - The IRP reports have helped shift buildings-related policies, for instance at European Union level from sole focus on energy efficiency to include also resource/material efficiency.
  - However, there is still a big data gap at regional and national level, and it is difficult to contextualize global data. Local data is hihgly relevant when discussing with policy makers
  - The west asia region has a focus on reconstruction post-conflict and support requested is often through guidelines, construction methods and building codes.
  - Lifestyles and Education Programme: the scientific data can support actions on infrastructure and mobility within a city, as well as in the work on transition to low carbon lifestyles

- Other data and information source being used to prioritise work in buildings and construction sector:
  - Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction: Global status report + global roadmap for buildings and construction under development with IEA, also cover the issue of materials.
  - Buildings and Construction programme developing a status report on circular built environment
  - Circular economy reports by EMF and WBCSD, New urban agenda, etc

Action points

- The Task Group will discuss and integrate as appropriate the recommendations made throughout the session, including on opportunities to inform programme and cross-programme activities, fora and events to leverage and organisation to involve in the consultations.
- Programme leads are invited to schedule a discussion within the programme on the results of the task group and how this informs the definition of priority activities and cross-programme collaboration. Task group members are available to support these discussions.
- The Task Group and the Sustainable Food Systems Programme leads will work jointly to integrate the results of the task group in the the preparations for the 3rd Global Conference of the sustainable food systems programme, as well as in the preparatory work of the workstream on knowledge and policy and related dialogues for the UN Food Systems Summit
- The work of the Task Group may inform the International Resource Panel, including to consider adopting a systemic and value chain approach to identify hotspots and related recommendations.
- The results of the science-policy task group is also an opportunity for greater integration based on science, in particular in defining complementary action on the value chains analysed. Greater integration is a must in strengthening our action going forward.

Addressing plastic pollution across the One Planet network

(UNEA4 Res 6)

The session focused on advancing on the request made to the One Planet network for guidance to address plastic pollution and sharing approaches to create impacts on the "use" stage of the plastics value chain. The session was chaired by Anne Pluvinage-Nierengarten, Head of the Global Affairs unit, Division of Climate and Sustainable Development, Directorate international and European Affairs, Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France.

The complete set of presentations for this session can be accessed here.

Key Messages

Resolution 6 UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics requests, in its operational paragraph 6, that the 10YFP: *"develop guidelines for the use and production of plastics in order to inform consumers, including about standards and labels; to incentivize businesses and retailers to commit themselves to using sustainable practices and products; and to support governments in promoting the use of information tools and incentives to foster sustainable consumption and production".*

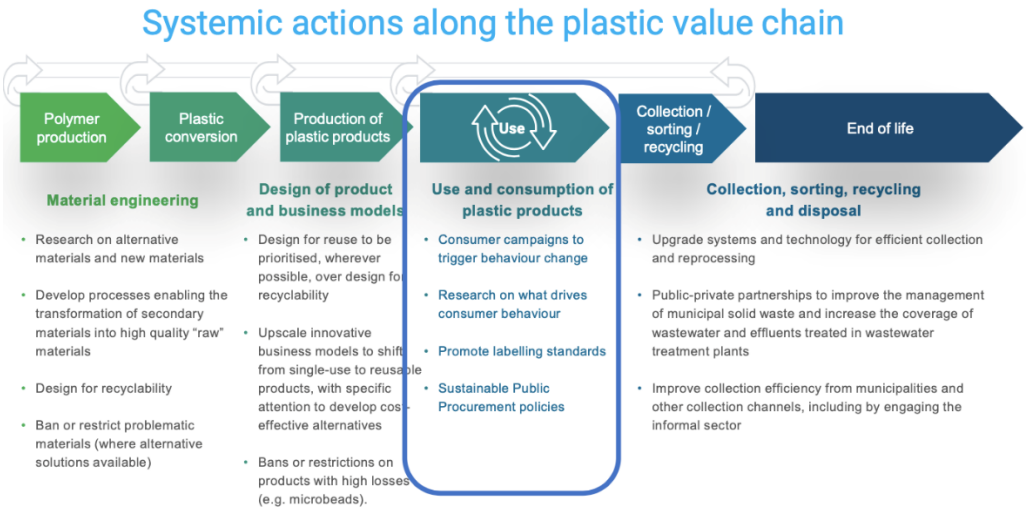
- **Four core actions have taken place since the preliminary discussion held on the request during the 2019 Executive Meeting**:
  1. The understanding of this new topic for the network, and in particular of the evidence behind global plastic value chains and plastic losses to the environment, has been strengthened.
  2. The focus and principles of the One Planet network's plastics initiative have been determined, building on the evidence and knowledge produced by UNEP and in collaboration with ongoing initiatives like the New Plastic Economy Global Commitment led by Ellen McArthur foundation.
  3. A common framework for a network-wide response, that leverages the different expertise and partnerships within the programmes of the One Planet network has been established.
  4. Five programmes have mobilised to respond to this effort: Consumer Information, Lifestyles and Education, Public Procurement, Food Systems, and Tourism.

- **The vision to address plastic pollutions, defined by UNEP, is to rethink the system to promote sustainable consumption and production of plastics**, where we keep plastics at the highest possible economic value and where we do not pollute our oceans, our rivers, land and air. This includes : i) Taking into account the entire value chain ; ii) Identifying strategic intervention points (hotspots) ; iii) Considering chemicals, and keep chemicals of concern away from the sector ; iv) Involving all actors of the value chain ; v) Applying a life cycle approach.

- **Plastic packaging at the use-stage of the plastics value chain has been identified as the key entry point to frame the network's collective response.**
  - Plastic packaging represents the largest application of plastics, 30% of all plastics used.
  - The use-stage of the plastics value chain is one of the main stages of plastic loss into the marine environment and where activities of the programmes have the greatest opportunities on generating impact on addressing plastic pollution.

- **The common framing across the One Planet network focuses on 3 key areas of intervention:** i) information on the sustainability of plastic packaging, ii) changing procurement practices ; iii) understanding triggers for behaviour change – and their application in 2 sectors: tourism and food systems. The change that is sought is: to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging, move from single use towards re-

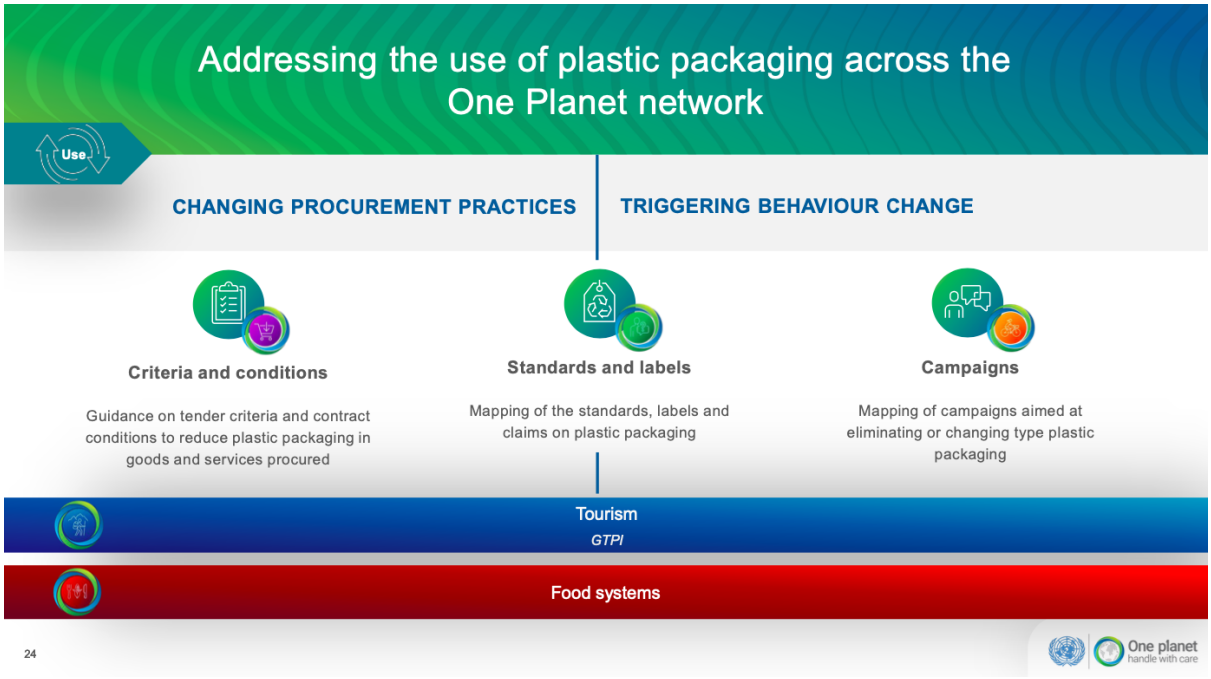
use models, 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable, or include an ambitious recycled content target .



- **Programmes are collaborating on developing guidance on concrete changes and choices needed at the use-stage of the value chain**, including :
  1. Can I recycle this? a global mapping and assessment of standards, labels and claims on plastic packaging developed by the Consumer Information programme. This mapping will be used as a basis across the components of the initiative.
  2. A guidance on criteria and conditions to guide public and private procurement (considering plastics as a direct/indirect component of purchases) to be developed by the Sustainable Public Procurement programme.
  3. A mapping of plastic pollution campaigns to be developed by the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme. The mapping aims to assess the effectiveness of the campaigns and provide best practices to trigger behavioural changes in the use of plastic packaging. This will be further accompanied by a report on nudging for reduced marine plastics litter and microplastics.

- **The tourism and agri-food sectors are recognised as key value chains in addressing marine litter and plastic pollution.** To support stakeholders in these value chains, the respective programmes are working towards identifying key stages of plastic loss in the food and tourism value chains and in applying the information developed on changing procurement practices and triggering behaviour change in their sectors.
  - Food systems : plastic packaging is an essential component and contributes to securing the food system by assuring safety, extending shelf-life and reducing food loss and waste. A key challenge includes the demonstrable link between packaging and food loss and waste, as well as low rates of re-use or recycling. Key hotspots in the agri-food value chain are: i) single use plastics for the bulk packaging of fresh produce are a major cause of post-harvest losses; ii) Some forms of packaging (e.g. multi-packs and oversized packaging) drive food waste at different stages in the supply chain.
  - The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) developed by the Tourism Programme of the One Planet network aims to unite the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. It offers signatories a so-called "menus of commitments" for individual and collective action across different stakeholder groups and supports signatories through an array of activities and tools to foster knowledge sharing and the adoption of best practices.

- **Ensuring application of these tools, guidelines and reports by governments, businesses and consumers will be essential.** Events such as the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, and the 2021 UNECE Ministerial Conference were identified by Board members as key opportunities.
- **Buildings and construction was also highlighted as a priority sector in the reduction of plastic pollution** both by panellist and participants of the session.



- **Breakout groups discussed how the different elements presented under the initiative contribute to the efforts to engage the three target stakeholder groups** identified in the UNEA 4 resolution:
  - Inform consumers: The use of standards and labels is not as straightforward as we believe (misconception of labels, flaws in the system, improving communication to debunk misconceptions, need to streamline of standards reflecting actual conditions, etc). Not all consumers read the labels and make decisions based on the labels, therefore information on labels and standards should be accompanied by awareness raising campaigns and a better understanding of what influences behaviour and what doesn't. The current shift to e-commerce and online consumption may also have implications : People may not know the packaging it will come in. By the time, the product reaches a consumer there is little choice left, any effort needs to go beyond consumer and the drive should come from businesses and governments who offer the options. Public and private procurement can set an example for consumers.
  - Incentivise businesses and retailers to commit themselves to using sustainable practices and products: information on label and standards and guidance on procurement criteria will facilitate the shift in 'what' businesses buy. These will need to be accompanied by an enabling framework, regulation and incentives, and a strengthened sustainability reporting (including plastics). In addition to the guidance, it is key to connect procurers between each other, in specific sectors such as catering and through learning networks. A stocktaking of existing procurement criteria on the prevention of food waste may further inform the application of the procurement practices. Labels on food have focused mostly on nutrition labels, environmental information is less available and less influential. Understanding behaviour change triggers will be very useful for tourism organisation, as hotspots can be addressed with consumers as part of the solution.

- Support governments in promoting the use of information tools and incentives to foster SCP: Standards allow coordination to happen and to scale up practices, they allow to generate a common understanding and advance towards behaviour change. Behaviour change triggers are particularly relevant for food and tourism, given the connection of these sectors with the end consumers, and their application can take the form of standards. Procurement options and criteria can support the creation of targeted regulations for SCP, they can also connect with standards and labels. Regulation plays an essential role in changing behaviour, and/or voluntary instruments accompanied by communication campaigns and adjustment of marketing strategies are good opportunities. In general the three lines of action are supportive of each other and can help governments increase collaboration across different agencies and with the private sector, and therefore advance SCP. The guidance material under development can inform strategies, policies and roadmaps – for example Colombia's national strategy on circular economy and the latin America regional circular economy coalition which include a chapter on plastics, Finland's roadmap for sustainable use of plastics in buildings and construction.

Action points

- Participants are requested to send examples of campaigns (in any language) on plastic packaging or pollution to the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme.
- Participants are requested to share best practices on public and/or private procurement with the Sustainable Public Procurement programme.
- The plastics working group will review and integrate as appropriate the suggestions made
- The One Planet network guidelines on marine litter and plastic pollution, in response to the request made at UNEA-4, will be drafted in October 2020.
- Programmes are encouraged to liaise with Board members to further explore the identified collaboration opportunities around upcoming events.
- This initiative evidences how multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the One Planet network, are developing meaningful solutions and methodologies to address marine litter and plastic pollution. Ensuring the application of these tools, guidelines and reports by governments, businesses and consumers is essential.

Looking towards what comes next

Concluding remarks of the Chairs

The Executive Meeting 2020 online session were jointly closed by Mr Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist, Ms Elisa Tonda, and Ms Pluvinage-Nierengarten.

The three sessions of the Executive Meeting 2020 have clearly emphasised:

- Our readiness to respond effectively to the calls of the SDG Decade of Action and to shocks that expose the fragility of our current systems.
- The importance of a science-based value chain approach as a blueprint for sustainability. Applying systemic value chain approach is key to link science to action.

- The effectiveness of a shared vision and a solid partnership to develop meaningful solutions and methodologies on addressing plastic pollution and beyond. Platforms, such as the One Planet network, offer the opportunity to pull initiatives under a common structure, to be smarter and more concrete

- **10YFP post-2022.** 2020 also sees the launch of the discussion concerning the post-2022. While our mandate is very strong, reaffirmed by both HLPF and UNEA, we have two years until 2022. 2022 will close the 10 years of the framework and will also be the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, which served as a historical milestone in international cooperation for sustainable development. 2022 is our horizon: and these three sessions some of the foundational elements to frame our thinking on the post-2022 track. This includes among others, a thinking informed by the science-policy-action efforts underway and addressing the needed integration of the agendas on Climate Change, Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Development.

- **The 5th UN Environment Assembly** in 2021 is a key opportunity share the knowledge and solutions we have jointly developed, for all of us to come together around our common response to requests made in the 4th Assembly resolutions and an opportunity for further agreements at mid-point of our journey towards 2022.

- **The UN Food Systems Summit** in 2021 is another opportunity to address integration of agendas. Reference was made to using the value chain approach on agri-food to inform the knowledge and policy workstream of the summit. The Sustainable Food Systems programme and the FAO are invited to ensure the connection between these 2 processes.

- **The Encyclical Laudato Si´ was recalled on its 5th anniversary**: *¨I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all (…) These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish… our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products. We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway"*