**Task Group on catalysing science-based policy action on SCP**

**4th call 6th May 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Government:

- Finland: Ms. Merja Saarnilehto
- The Netherlands: Mr. Arthur Eijs
- South Africa: Mr. Lee-Hendor Ruiters

Business/private sector:

- Saudi Green Building Forum, Saudi Arabia: Mr. Faisal Alfadl
- Centre for Responsible Business, India: Mr. Rijit Sengupta

Civil Society:

- WWF: Ms. Martina Fleckenstein
- WRF: Mr. Baas de Leeuw

United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations

- UN-Habitat: Mr. Christophe Lalande
- UNEP: Ms. Elisa Tonda, Ms. Bettina Heller Ms. Claire Thiebault, Ms Marina Bortoletti, Ms. Theresa Marie Aigner

Expert of the International Resource Panel

- Mr Jeffrey Herrick, Soil Scientist USDA-ARS Jornada Research Unit, New Mexico State University
- Ms. Stefanie Hellweg, Professor ETH Zurich Institute of Environmental Engineering (IfU)

Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel

- Ms. Izabella Teixeira, former Minister of Environment, Brazil

---

## RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Task Group's aim is to increase uptake of the International Resource Panel's reports by the One Planet network, whereby the International Resource Panel is the "supplier" of scientific evidence and data, and the One Planet network is the "user" of this scientific data.
- The Task Group focuses on: 1) Identifying natural resource use trends in key sectors and value chains: Construction, Food systems and textiles, 2) Defining and undertaking a consultative process that leads to actionable recommendations
- The work of the Task Group is framed around two main components:
  1. **Identification of data needs and information availability on resource use and hotspots**
  2. **Consultative process that leads to actionable recommendations -** 2-tier consultations
     a. Identifying gaps and entry points in the sectors/value chains – Consultation mainly with experts / Academia - Science / data driven. Online: May 2020– July 2020

b. Identifying how stakeholders can help address these gaps - Multi-stakeholder consultations – participants to be identified. In-person or online: September 2020 – October 2020

## KEY HOTSPOTS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR TEXTILES

- UNEP presented its work on identification of hotspots in the textile value chain. Findings will be presented in the report "Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain. Global stocktaking" foreseen to be published in June 2020.
- Textile products are classified in 3 categories: Industrial/technical; Apparel; and Household. The research part of the report mainly focused on apparel as it represents 60% of global demand for fibres. However, recommendations will cover the whole textile value chain.
- Textile value chain comprises all actors and stakeholders. It is usually presented as a linear model. However, through this report 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)
- The analysis focused on environmental hotspots and impacts, as well as social hotspots and socio-economic impacts.
  - Environmental hotspots are mainly identified at the production and use stages of the value chain, with the emphasis on cotton cultivation, synthetic fibre, wet finishing process, and washing and drying.
  - Social hotspots identified are mainly around the production stage of the value chain focused around cotton cultivation; yarn and fabric production; and textile production. They are characterized by excessive working hours; low wages; abusive practices; unsafe working conditions; gender inequality and risk of corruption. As a result, most risk occurs at the early stages of the value chain in lower economic value activities.
- An overview of hotspots identified at each stage of the textile value chain is provided. The next step looks into how the hotspots causing the biggest impact can be addressed and into what different actors along the value chain are already doing to address or where there are gaps.
- Further, UNEP and IRP will collaborate on "Assessments of sustainable economic models' potentials to support the transition to SCP in the textile value chain" in response to UNEA4 resolution 1, OP16. The project will run for 3 years (September 2020 – September 2023 to provide evidence and quantitative analyses on the macro-economic, environmental and social impacts of value retention processes and other innovative policy frameworks in the textile value chain.

## DISCUSSION

- This meeting focuses on data available to identify key hotspots. Once the hotpots identification is completed, it will be followed by the 2-tier consultations mentioned above.
- All 3 sectors covered by the Task Group will follow the same overall approach: a) data analysis and hotspots identification along the value chain, followed by b) expert and multi-stakeholder consultations, leading to the development of actionable science-based recommendations.
- Task Group members enquired whether a positive impact of certification schemes for textiles has been looked into as well as whether policy options along the value chain were analysed.
  UNEP indicated report has 3 parts: 1) Hotspots and impacts per value chain stage, what is happing around each stage and where the gaps exist 2) Identification of priority actions 3) Solutions. Policies along the value chain have been researched as a part of the actions and solutions. In

addition, transparency and traceability of the textile sector has been identified as a major challenge, and certification schemes have been identified as an important solution.

- The IRP enquired on the possibility of sharing the report prior to its official release, as other work of the IRP will be based on it.
  UNEP clarified that the methodology used for the analysis was based on life-cycle approach. Detailed methodology can be shared upon request.
  The IRP suggested to align methodologies with those used by IRP in the future.
- The report is in its final stages and will shortly be released. The report will be the basis for further work and to develop actionable pathways to address the hotspots identified. It is envisaged that pathways will be defined for different stakeholder groups, and will be linked to specific timeframes and indicators to allow for proper monitoring.

## KNOW KEY HOTSPOTS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS

- An overview of the agri-food value chain was providing, showcasing the main 8 stages:
  1. Input industry
  2. Primary production
  3. Food processing and packaging
  4. Transport/logistics
  5. Retail
  6. Food service
  7. Individual consumption
  8. Waste disposal
- Food systems are very diverse throughout the world, ranging from modern food systems to traditional food systems, with intermediate food systems which include a mix of elements from both modern and traditional. Intermediate food systems represent the majority.
- 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.
- Main data gaps identified (predominantly in the data available from IRP and UNEP, as per the task group's purpose) are:
  - Stocks, flows and status of natural resources and environmental impacts at country level
  - Food-product specific resource use and environmental impacts
  - Natural resource-use and environmental impacts along the value chain
  - Political economic analysis of agri-food value chain.
- Additional obstacle identified is the use of biomass as a metric.
  Biomass measures agricultural output, and not natural resource input. Therefore, how can biomass capture improvements in resource efficiency of food production?
- When it comes to natural resource use in food systems along the value chain, two categories of resources are identified: renewable and non-renewable.
- Renewable natural resources are:
  - Land, soils, landscapes
  - Water
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Genetic resouces
- Non-renewable natural resources are:
  - Minerals/nutrients
  - Fossil fuels
- Based on the analysis of resource use, the IRP report identifies that primary production is the most resource-intensive stage of the agri-food value chain.
- When it comes to GHG emissions, more than 80% of food systems emissions come from primary production. This is the stage of the value chain with the most environmental impact.
- While it is known that the majority of both natural resource use and environmental impact are taking place at the primary production stage of the value chain, it is not enough to understand how to address these issues.

- Historically there has been a large focus on production, however this has failed to take into account the complex drivers and feedback loops that determine and influence how farmers produce. It is, therefore, evident that food systems lens needs to be applied to approach resource use in the agri-food value chain.
- Drivers that shape the food systems and influence the behavior of actors along the value chain are:
    - Demographics
    - Socio-economic drivers
    - Environment
    - Geo-politics
    - Infrastructure
    - Policies and regulations
    - Socio-cultural drivers
    - Science and technology
- These drivers are all possible entry points to positively shape the way food systems work.
- While we know that the majority of natural resource use is taking place at the primary production stage, a systems lens that considers drivers of food systems shows that primary producers have a limited ability to shape food systems and change their production practices.
- While stages of the value chain, other than primary production one, are not as resource-intensive, they have a big impact on determining what food farmers sell and what food consumers buy.
- Analysis shows that the middle of the value chain, controlled by food companies across processing and packaging, retail and food services is structurally powerful and has a disproportionate influence across both primary production and final consumption, while the position of the farmers is structurally weak and fragmented.
- There is limited awareness of the connections between the operations of the middle stages of the value chain and their influence on primary production and final consumption.
- Four key elements shape the analysis presented:
    - Food systems lens
    - Food value chain
    - Natural resource use
    - Environmental impacts
- There is a strong need to connect data and narrative around these elements.
- It is important to assure that the necessary data exists to communicate about each of the elements and that the narrative encompasses the roles of different actors along the whole value chain.

**DISCUSSION**

- The topic of food runs across all 6 programmes of the One Planet network. This analysis can inform priorities and orient work on food in these programmes. Conversely, the network can play an
- Task Group enquired whether in the analysis undertaken reference has been made to food waste. The presenter clarified that indeed during the analysis the issue of food waste along with sustainable diets came up a lot. More specifically with relation to the GHG emission footprint of the food waste, as well as health impact linked to diets. Another important issue that needs to be mentioned is the input industry. However very limited data is available on that subject.
- On the subject of impact on health, it was underlined that the analysis showed strong interlinkages between health impact and resource-intensive food products, such as ultra-processed food and meat.
- On the uptake of the analysis and related hotspots by the One Planet network: as per the ToR, it is expected that the Task Group members will facilitate take this back to their respective programmes and stakeholder groups – for further discussion on how it informs the work and priorities of the programme.

- On addressing the challenges related to identifying the hotspots by the IRP: Representatives of the IRP present on the call agreed that the outcomes of the work of the Task Group will be taken up during the definition of the next work programme of the Panel and discussed at the annual meeting. Examples of questions that will be considered are:
    - How can IRP address the data gaps identified;
    - Should some of the metrics used be re-assessed? (e.g. biomass)
    - How should a systemic process to develop actionable recommendations be applied to the work of the IRP.
- Members of the Task Group consider that post-COVID 19 green economic recovery needs to be taken into account in the work of the Group, and more specifically the role of science in this process. The fragmentation and informality of the agriculture sector is an issue that cannot be overlooked when considering data availability, data sharing and data gaps. Recommendations that will be provided by the Task Group need to show the role of environment in the recovery process and actions needs to be defined not only for policy makes, but for businesses as well.
- It was suggested that methodology and definitions applied in the work of the Task Group are aligned with those used by the IRP.

## ONE PLANET EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ONLINE SESSION ON TASK GROUP

- The Executive Committee meeting is the annual meeting of the leadership of the One Planet network, and includes: Board members, Programme leads & coordination desks, UN agencies
- In 2020 the format of the meeting shifts online to a reduced version of the meeting. The objectives of 2020 meeting are: 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 UNEA.
- It will consist of three online workshop sessions of a two-hour duration. The sessions are:
  1. Taking stock of progress and acting in a transformed world - 18th of May , 2pm - 4pm CEST
  2. Catalysing science-based action on SCP –IRP/One Planet task group - 19th of May, 2pm - 4pm
  3. Addressing plastic pollution across the One Planet network - 20th of May. 2pm to 4pm CEST
- Task Group members are invited to participate in all the sessions.
- Session 2 is focused on the progress of the task group. Draft Agenda in annex.
- Task group members are invited to:
    - co-present the plenaries: 4 volunteers needed
    - facilitate the break-out discussions: 6 volunteers needed.
- Task Group members are invited to volunteer to for the presentations and facilitation of break-out discussions

## WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

- Task group members from the One Planet network are invited to share the preliminary results on hotspots identification in food and textiles with their respective programmes – e.g. Textiles for consumer information, lifestyle & education, public procurement, and food systems programmes – Food systems for tourism, consumer information, lifestyles & education, and public procurement programmes
- Task group members from the IRP will ensure that the outcomes of the work of the Task Group will be discussed at their annual meeting and is considered during the definition of the next work programme of the Panel and discussed at the annual meeting. E.g. How can IRP address the data gaps identified? Should some of the metrics used be re-assessed? (e.g. biomass) How should a systemic process to develop actionable recommendations be applied to the work of the IRP?

- The secretariats & UNEP will share the finalised analyses and suggest an overall frame for the consultations.
- Task Group members are invited to communicate via e-mail the agenda item they volunteer to present or facilitate in the online session of the executive meeting dedicated to the Task Group.

**Annex to the minutes – draft agenda of the Executive Meeting session on the task group**

# Catalysing science-based policy action on Sustainable Consumption and Production

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

Online session 2: 19 May 2020 – 2:00-4:00pm CEST

**Expected outcome:**
A strengthened and evidence-based prioritisation of action through the application of a systemic and value chain approach.

| | |
|---|---|
| 14:00-14:10 | **Introduction to session 2**<br>*Chair – Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division* |
| 14:10-14:20 | ***Overview of the task group***<br>- Task group mandate and composition<br>- Review of the reports of the International Resource Panel – Bas De Leeuw (5 minutes), Managing Director, World Resources Forum<br>- Way forward for a systemic and value chain approach – Arthur Eijs (5 minutes), Policy Advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure & Water Management<br><br>*Task group members* |
| 14:20-15:00 | ***Know key hotspots: Review of data and information available to identify key hotspots in the prioritised value chains analysed so far***<br><br>- **Food systems** (15') *Martina Fleckenstein, Policy Manager, Food Practice & Samantha Webb, 10YFP secretariat*<br>- **Textiles** (15') *Rijit Sengupta, Chief Executing Officer, Centre for Responsbile Business & Bettina Heller, Programme officer, UNEP*<br>- **Buildings & Construction** (5') Stefanie or Jeff, IRP experts & Christophe Lalande, UN-Habitat<br><br>**Q&A** |
| 15:00-15:30 | ***Break-out group discussions on applying a systemic and value chain approach to identify key hotspots and guide solutions***<br><br>**Introduction to the break-out group exercise (5min) –** recap on the systemic and value chain approach, and objectives of the breakout group discussions<br>*10YFP secretariat*<br><br>**6 break-out groups - 2 per sector (Food systems, Textiles, Buildings & Construction) - to discuss:**<br>- How does the review of available information inform priorities and actions of programmes? And across programmes?<br>- Which organisations should be involved in the expert consultations and in the multi-stakeholder consultations? Any fora/events that can be leveraged? |
| 15:30-15:45 | **Plenary discussion** |

| | |
|---|---|
| | *Reporting back of the break-out groups.* |
| 15:45-16:00 | **Summary, next steps and close**<br>*Chair* |
| ***Reading material:***<br>- *UNEA4 Resolution 1 – Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (OP 12) – here.*<br>- *Task group terms of reference – here.* | |