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Argentina

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A Roadmap to Global Leadership and Action on SCP

2nd virtual workshop of the 10YFP Board and the Group of Friends for SCP

17-18 March 2021
Summary report

The 2nd virtual workshop of the 10YFP Board and Group of Friends for SCP was held on 17-18 March 2021, at the initiative of Argentina and Switzerland (Chair and Vice-chair) with the support of the Secretariat.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist, Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation, Argentina and Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director of Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme. Day 1 focused on the scenarios for securing an intergovernmental mandate on SCP and the opportunities for mainstreaming SCP solutions to reverse climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Day 2 focused on the ways to inspire leadership for SCP and promote the value chain approach for strategic action in the context of 2030 Agenda and economic cooperation. This report summarizes the key messages agreed and next steps.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist of Argentina, Chair of the 10YFP Board, opened the workshop and welcomed the newly nominated Member of the 10YFP Board representing Mauritius, Mr. Jogeewar Seewoobaduth, Acting Director of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change. In his opening remarks, Mr. Rodriguez Tornquist conveyed the following messages:

- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns are one of the main drivers of the global crises we are facing: climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and their serious impacts on our societies and on humanity. International cooperation and coordinated action is the key for transitioning towards the sustainable and equitable economy required to deliver the goods, services and welfare that we all need.
- Next year, ten years will have passed since the adoption of the 10YFP. There is a great opportunity to broaden and strengthen our action on SCP in a truly transformational way, building on the partners mobilized and the progress made so far, engaging with leaders and champions of SCP.
- A draft roadmap towards an ambitious post-2022 strategy for SCP was developed following the visioning workshop of the 10YFP Board and Group of Friends for SCP. This roadmap has five building blocks:
 - o Inspiring a global action-oriented movement for SCP: promote distributed action and inclusive implementation, engage the One Planet network and all alliances, platforms and partnerships willing to join hands.
 - o Mainstreaming SCP solutions to reverse climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, leveraging existing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): a strategy on SCP will connect these agreements and support the achievement of established targets.
 - o Implementing the value-chain approach in high-impact sectors, mobilizing scientific bodies such as the IRP.
 - o Facilitating the uptake and mainstreaming of SCP knowledge, tools and solutions at national level, mobilizing the UN system to support national implementation.
 - o Advocacy and outreach for multilateral cooperation on SCP beyond 2022 at key international events, including those directly related to the 2030 Agenda, SDGs, MEAs and economic cooperation (e.g. G20 / G7).

Ms. Ligia Noronha, Economy Division Director of UNEP conveyed the following messages:

- The need for a strong and inclusive global movement on SCP: supported by science for a deep economic, social and environmental transformation; drawing on knowledge and expertise on SCP around the world; engaging actors at all levels, across sectors, to become agents of change; striving for a more equal and sustainable society.
- The foundation has been laid through the 10YFP and exists in the One Planet network but requires scaling up. The post-2022 global strategy on SCP is a real opportunity to push the boundaries and break silos.
- This post-2022 strategy should support the MEAs, working closely with the scientific community to understand which sectors to prioritize. The value chain approach anchors natural-resource use and environmental impacts within the socio-economic reality of production and consumption practices.
- The planetary crises we are facing are environmental *and* socio-economic crises. MEAs are legal instruments to help align economic activities with sustainability objectives. The new strategy on SCP can serve as a vehicle to build the broad movement required for implementation.

At UNEA 5.1, UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy 2022-2025 was approved by Member States. This strategy "recasts the global environmental narrative clearly and powerfully", to quote our Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen, with the achievement of SCP at its core. UNEP will support the development of a new strategy on multilateral cooperation for SCP, mobilize the UN system and work with countries to accelerate and scale up implementation.

MAIN MESSAGES

I. Political ambition in a transformed world: prerequisites for a transformative post-2022 strategy on SCP

- Unsustainable consumption and production are one of the main underlying causes of the global crises the world is facing today. Reversing those crises requires a paradigm shift and transformative action which goes beyond managing the negative impacts of our economies and on the environment.
- The world has changed since 2012 and the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the weaknesses of our development models. To a large extent, it has resulted from the collective choices that are shaping our production and consumption patterns globally.
- Shifting to SCP requires a renewed political ambition, fully conscious of today's threats and challenges. It requires a global debate on measures required for a sustainable recovery and building back better, including through circular economy, confirming SCP as key path to sustainability, resilience and job creation.
- Systemic transformation means new ways of measuring well-being, integrating societal needs and planetary boundaries in our solutions. Difficult questions on growth, efficiency and sufficiency need to be addressed.
- Multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation on SCP beyond 2022 requires a common agenda that reflects political ambition through clear priorities and objectives. The following elements are key:
 - o Science to bridge gaps, help decision-makers understand the economics underpinning SCP in the context of planetary boundaries and safe operating space, using multiple perspectives (sectors, regions, countries). This will require strengthened cooperation with the International Resource Panel.
 - o Member States engagement and commitments, with possible quantitative targets, to ensure the level of ambition translates into action and accelerated implementation. The 10YFP National Focal Points and regional platforms such as the Asia Pacific Roundtable on SCP in May 2021, will be engaged to reflect the priorities and needs of countries and regions.
 - o Review of experience since 2012, building on the capacity and experience of the One Planet network, working with its six programmes and partners to developing an inclusive post-2022 strategy.
 - o Engagement of the UN system: the link between the 10YFP and the wider UN system needs to be strengthened, so to secure more support from that system for the shift to SCP.



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II. Securing the mandate for SCP and aligning to Agenda 2030

- The existence of an intergovernmental mandate, such as the one provided by the 10YFP, has proven essential to institutionalizing and strengthening multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation on SCP at international and national levels. There is a large consensus regarding the need to secure an intergovernmental mandate for SCP beyond 2022, together with an ambitious post-2022 strategy.
- The 10YFP secretariat presented two scenarios with an analysis of the existing mandate (A/CONF.2016/5):
 - o Scenario 1: Extension of the existing mandate establishing the framework for multilateral cooperation on SCP (A/Conf.216-5) to align with 2030 Agenda and maintain the integrity of SDG 12.
 - Suggested setting: 2nd Committee of the UN General Assembly, SCP resolution 2021 SCP (Dec. 2021) to align with 2030 Agenda.
 - o Scenario 2: Negotiation of a new mandate establishing a framework for multilateral cooperation on SCP
 - Requires an intergovernmental body - yet to be identified - to conduct negotiations on a new agreement, requiring significant financial resources with an uncertain outcome.
- A majority expressed preference for scenario 1 during the workshop, including Costa Rica, Germany, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Indonesia, Mauritius, Sweden and Switzerland, highlighting the following:
 - o The importance of having SCP language embedded in UN agreements and rooted in the 2030 Agenda;
 - o The extension of the 10YFP mandate is needed to maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda, as requested by the SDG Summit (implementation of the 10YFP being the first target of SDG 12);
 - o The current mandate is coherent and comprehensive, provides flexibility to design and implement a new global SCP strategy that reflects today's new priorities and challenges.
 - o The SCP resolution of the UN General Assembly at its 76th session could offer an opportunity to elaborate on specific elements of the mandate (e.g. stronger involvement of Member States, response of the UN). Stockholm +50 offers the opportunity to launch a new strategy based on an extended mandate.
 - o The lack of time to initiate and complete a negotiation on a new mandate before the end of the current one.
- The European Commission highlighted the communications opportunities that could be associated with re-negotiation of the current mandate.
- A possible way forward includes the decision to extend the mandate in 2021 (UNGA resolution) and a political discussion on the strategy itself, with UNEA 5.2 and Stockholm +50 as key milestones in the development of that strategy. Some further exploration of how much of the adjustment needed for beyond 2022 can be placed in the GA resolution which extends the mandate, is required.

III. A post-2022 strategy on SCP to achieve objectives on climate change, biodiversity, and pollution

- Unsustainable consumption and production is a major underlying cause of the global crises that are addressed by Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. A transformational shift is required to achieve sustainable development driven by resource efficient, low carbon, non-polluting consumption and production patterns.
- This imperative is reflected explicitly in several MEAs, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Others, such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, recognize this connection in specific objectives which they address (e.g. reduction and/or elimination of production of hazardous wastes and other wastes - Basel Convention).
- Much more needs to be done to mainstream SCP approaches and solutions as a means to address the three crises in a systemic and integrated manner. The extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food account for 50% global GHG emissions and more than 90 % of biodiversity loss and water stress (International Resource Panel).
- The alignment of ongoing MEA processes which will conclude in 2021 and 2022 – including but not limited to COP 15 on Biological Diversity and COP 26 on Climate Change – and their increasing focus on implementation

offers a valuable opportunity to explore how to practically mainstream SCP approaches and solutions to achieve internationally agreed objectives. This requires breaking silos and bringing SCP, including circular economy and resource efficiency, into MEAs and their communities of practice.

- A science-based strategy on SCP to support MEA implementation can help: 1) identify clear entry points and “hotspots” for action; 2) address systemic drivers and barriers that influence decisions and operations in value chains with high impacts on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; and 3) provide a common space to build up, effectively distribute and socialize knowledge for implementation.
- How to practically build bridges between this strategy and the MEAs should be further explored. For instance, a request could be made for MEAs to “mandate” a new strategy to support their implementation through SCP. Establishing high-level commitments could be a concrete way to link SCP and MEAs. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, now being replicated on food waste and climate topics, offers an interesting model to replicate.
- The One Planet network programmes have produced many SCP tools and solutions which can support MEA implementation. For example: the Sustainable Tourism Programme, has established workstreams on plastic pollution, food waste and climate workstreams; the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education on decarbonization and lifestyles; and the Consumer Information and Sustainable Food Systems programmes on biodiversity.
- At the national level, strategies on climate change, circular economy or SCP are generally not integrated. Yet, national strategies on sustainable consumption can be supportive of such integration. Enhancing the interaction between 10YFP national focal points and those of MEAs, for example through the creation of regional networks linked to existing regional platforms and institutions, could facilitate such integration.
- Concrete opportunities to ensure convergence with the biodiversity, climate and pollution agendas, notably based on presentations provided by the UNFCCC and CBD secretariats:
 - o On biodiversity:
 - The post-2022 biodiversity framework, being negotiated by Member States offers clear entry points for SCP and the post-2022 strategy. These relate to direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss in high-impact sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, energy, mining, manufacturing, processing).
 - The long-term strategic approach for mainstreaming biodiversity (horizon 2050, with action targets in line with the 2030 Agenda), has three SCP-related priorities: reducing threats; sustainable use and benefit sharing; action for implementation and mainstreaming.
 - The work of the related subsidiary bodies of the CBD (OEWGs) takes place from May to October 2021. The programmes of the One Planet network programmes can help raise awareness in countries and communities (e.g. of links between food and biodiversity).
 - COP 15 on biodiversity (now scheduled in October 2021) and other key events including the IUCN Congress in September 2021, hosted by France, offer opportunities for raising the profile of SCP solutions and for engaging the One Planet network programmes partners and tools.
 - o On climate change
 - The UNFCCC is currently transitioning to an implementation phase, in which SCP approaches and solutions have an essential role to play, but one that is not clear to many UNFCCC negotiators.
 - Climate action pathways have sectoral entry points for SCP approaches and solutions. Climate action pathway experts could be invited to participate in planned consultations on value chains.
 - The COP 26, scheduled in November 2021, will also offer opportunities to raise the profile of SCP as a means to achieve climate objectives.
 - o On pollution
 - The size of the chemicals industry globally is expected to double by 2030. How to engage and feed into the post-2020 framework should be the subject of a future discussion.

IV. A post-2022 SCP strategy based on the value chain approach in high-impact sectors

- The IRP / One Planet network Task Group, established in response to UNEA 4, has developed the value-chain approach to identify key points of intervention within economic systems and high-impact sectors. This approach

takes into account the complex feedback loops that influence operations and behaviours along different stages of the value chain and which drive resource use and generate environmental impacts.

- The value-chain approach goes beyond an understanding of where resource use and environmental impacts occur, to understand *why* this is happening and what the key points of intervention are, as the foundation of a common agenda for action. Going beyond an efficient management of operations, its transformative potential should be further promoted. This approach can be applied to taking into account planetary boundaries and contribute to the discussion on the “safe operating space”.
- The value-chain approach and its application provides a solid basis for a science-based post-2022 strategy on SCP, in collaboration with the IRP. The approach offers practical ways to shift from linear to circular models, engage the private sector and identify technology development and transfer needs.
- The application of this approach to the food, construction and textiles sectors offers a good illustration of its potential by highlighting the decisive role of the middle-stages of the value chain in the case of food and finance, public investments, material and product choice and design in the case of construction.
- Assessments of the most impactful interventions, at various stages or within specific sectors, should be conducted and made available. In the tourism sector, one of the major levers to address issues such as plastic pollution or food waste and loss is sustainable procurement.
- Implementing the value-chain approach could offer an opportunity for Member States, together with stakeholders, to design or revisit their National SCP Action Plan or strategy. Further guidance is needed on what the application of the approach entails (time, resources, stakeholders).
- 2021 offers opportunities to promote the up-take of this approach: COP 15 of the CBD, the COP26 of UNFCCC and the FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) Dialogue, the World Circular Economy Forum, the UN Food Systems Summit, and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- The G20 and G7, which respectively represent 60% and 10% of the world population, 85% and 40% of global GDP, as well as 82% and 24% global raw material consumption, have a key role to play. They can serve as platforms for Member States to make or reinforce their commitments on SCP and/or specific topics, including those related to value-chains and high-impact sectors.
- Building on the experience of the IRP in engaging with these fora, the key entry points should be the “Alliance on resource efficiency” under the G7 as well as the “Dialogue on resource efficiency” under the G20, where the transformative nature of SCP to achieve Agenda 2030 has already been recognized.
- Member states in these fora should be informed of the transformative nature of the value-chain approach, also in support MEAs on pollution, biodiversity and climate change.

V. A global movement for SCP: both an aspiration and an operating principle

- Inspiring a global movement for SCP is one of the five pillars of the roadmap to 2022, which was developed following the visioning workshop of the 10YFP Board and Group of Friends or SCP.
- As an aspiration: such a global movement can be seen as the outcome of a consolidated network of stakeholders committed to implementing the SCP strategy, based on clear objectives and targets.
- As an operating principle based on distributed action and inclusiveness, mobilizing and building on the One Planet network, engaging other alliances, platforms and partnerships such as the Global Alliance for Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.
- The global movement for SCP is about engaging leaders and champions, including from the private sector – the “Googles”, “Apples” or the “Toyotas” whose decisions largely shape operations and behaviors along the value chain of their sectors. It should also be about working with role models and popular voices to secure participation of citizens around the world, to better communicate on the strengths of the 10YFP and its One Planet network, using simpler language, advocacy and dissemination of outputs and outcomes to date.

NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussions that took place during the workshop, the following next steps have been identified and proposed to actively promote SCP in the context of multilateral environmental and economic cooperation and to support the development of a post-2022 global strategy on SCP:

- **Consolidation of the road to Stockholm +50: this includes the proposed process to secure and strengthen the mandate on SCP at UNGA, aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and the development of an ambitious post-2022 strategy on SCP, responding to today's challenges and priorities**, with the active participation of Member States. This should also include a discussion on specific objectives, measures and targets.
- **Strengthen Member States' engagement, and organize virtual regional meetings with the 10YFP National Focal Points** to provide briefing on the post-2022 process as well as to conduct dialogues on the future strategy, together with MEAs national focal points (May-June 2021). Other opportunities, such as the Asia Pacific Roundtable on SCP (May 2021), should be explored.
- **Detailed analysis of opportunities and guidance to mainstream SCP as a vehicle to achieve MEAs targets and objectives**, cross-fertilization) and **inputs to ongoing processes**, including the work of:
 - o CBD subsidiary bodies (OEWGs) in relation to the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework and long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming (May – October 2021)
 - o The UNFCCC climate action pathways, with a focus on high-impact sectors and value chains.
 - o The chemicals and waste community, in the context of the post-2020 framework.
- **Consult the One Planet network programmes, as well as other key alliances and partnerships**, for them to communicate on tools, solutions and cooperation opportunities addressing climate change, biodiversity and pollution objectives, as well as high-impact value chains. Elaborate on the “Global movement for SCP”, building on the One Planet network programmes and a review of their experience, tools and other outputs.
- **In cooperation with key partners, including the One Planet network programmes and other partnerships, elaborate a list of voluntary actions and commitments on SCP** in line with the post-2022 strategy, contributing to the implementation of MEAs and/or to the transformation of high-impact value chains towards sustainability.
- **The following events were identified as opportunities for outreach and engagement:**
 - o **Promoting a post-2022 strategy on SCP responding to new challenges and priorities through strong messaging and political engagement:**
 - High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 2021) and SCP relevant events to take place in the context of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (Sept.-Dec. 2021).
 - UNEA 5.2 and preparations, in cooperation with the French vice-presidency (Feb. 2022 tbc).
 - Stockholm +50 (tbc in 2022)
 - o **Promoting the value-chain approach and strategic priorities for a transformative action on SCP, in the context of economic development and cooperation:**
 - World Circular Economy Forum 2021 (Netherlands and in Canada)
 - G7 summit (June 2021) and G20 meeting of Ministers of Environment and dialogue on Resource Efficiency, liaising with Italy (2021 Presidency) and following up with Indonesia (2022 Presidency);
 - UN Food Summit (September 2021) and preparations.
 - o **Mainstreaming SCP as a means to implement MEAs:**
 - COP 15 of the CBD (October 2021) and IUCN Congress (September 2021), working closely with the CBD secretariat and programmes active on biodiversity (e.g. CI-SCP, STP and SFS)
 - COP 26 of the UNFCCC (November 2021), especially in the context of the Climate action pathways and other specific processes such as the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue, working closely with the UNFCCC secretariat and programmes active on climate change
 - Other key milestones, including: BRS COPs (July 2021 and 2022) and related events; Minamata Convention on Mercury COP 4 (November 2021); UN Convention to Combat Desertification COP 15 (December 2021).