



Global Strategy on SCP & SDG12 - Built Environment Consultative Meeting Summary Report 24 February 2022

BACKGROUND

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns are driving the triple planetary crisis, generating unbearable costs for our societies and environment. Reversing this trend to achieve the 2030 Agenda requires a profound, equitable transformation of our economies and development models. This must be driven by resource efficient, low carbon, non-polluting and people-centred consumption and production patterns. Operating a transformative shift to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns through the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 is essential to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and international commitments to address the triple planetary crises. Yet, the key role SCP can play must be emphasized and translated into concrete and strategic action.

2022 is a key transition year for the UN Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and its One Planet network (OPN). The Second Committee of the UN General Assembly approved the extension of the 10YFP mandate, which confirms the need for an ambitious post-2022 Global Strategy for SDG 12 and SCP. Developing a new strategy will enable the One Planet network to join hands with other actors, alliances and partnerships working on the transition to a more sustainable, low carbon, inclusive and circular economy, to more rapidly achieve the scale of the economic transformation required.

This consultation is part of the “scoping phase” of the strategy roadmap, which was elaborated in close consultation with Member States and partners and aims at identifying priority areas and actions that can shift the needle in high-impact systems/sectors and where the strategy and the One Planet network can have strong added value. This meeting was convened by the One Planet network Secretariat (10YFP) in close coordination with One Planet network’s Sustainable Buildings & Construction programme, Global Alliance on Buildings and Construction, Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, UN-Habitat and UNOPS. The consultation had more than 40 participants representing leading initiatives and UN entities working on the built environment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

The objectives of this consultative meeting were to:

- introduce the overall approach for the development of the Global Strategy on SCP and SDG 12;
- bring together relevant expert partners to review, based on existing knowledge, the transformative outcomes needed in Built Environment to achieve SDG12 and address the triple planetary crisis through;
- identify where/how collaboration under the global strategy and across the One Planet network would have the highest added-value;
- agree on a set of catalytic partnerships, interventions and tools to be scaled up or developed under the global strategy and across the One Planet network;



- agree on a set of priorities that will be part of the future plan of work of One Planet network programmes and initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

- Jorge Laguna Celis, Head of the 10YFP Secretariat welcomed participants and highlighted that the 10YFP mandate has been extended to 2030. This is our first structured consultation to develop a new strategy to be introduced at Stockholm +50 conference and this is the start of its development.
- Jorge stressed that the intention was to create an inclusive, transparent and forward-looking space to obtain feedback both on the main pillars of our global strategy, and secondly on the vision that we are presenting, specifically, our Built Environment agenda.
- Introductory remarks from Martina Otto (UNEP) Christophe Lalande (UN-Habitat) and Pekka Huovila (OPN SBC, Ministry of the Environment, Finland) highlighted how much the program has evolved since its introduction, tools that have been developed (such as [MaS-SHIP](#) and [Sherpa](#)) and its strong push for circularity.

THE GLOBAL STRATEGY ON SCP & SDG12

- Jorge presented the slides on the Global Strategy on SCP & SDG12 with key points mentioned above in the “Background” section. In addition, he gave more details on the proposed 2 pillars of the strategy - Leaving no one behind – supporting countries for SDG12/SCP integration through joint delivery and Systematic and catalytic transformation of high-impact sectors.
- Once the scoping phase of the strategy development, including this consultation, is finalised, we will be moving to the development and approval phase. We believe this is one of the best contributions that we can make to the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm+50 conference.

FROM BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- It was proposed to broaden the scope from buildings and construction to the built environment (BE), which will enable us to leverage more the enabling programmes, education, finance, procurement, etc.
- The participants welcomed expanding the scope to BE as it has a massive influence on the sustainability of our futures. Holistic and systematic approach is key to identify critical checkpoints or actions to achieve SCP patterns. This includes capturing infrastructure, as for example, circularity and embodied carbon cannot be tackled without unified action across the whole system. The group advocated for the holistic perspective.
- IRP findings brought attention to how resource efficiency of specific infrastructure technologies/specific sectors were increased when urban planning and strategic intensification were applied across the city and looked at more holistically.
- World Green Building Council also work on a more systemic approach and do not have “buildings days” but “cities days”. There is a need to look at a more city perspective with a more united ambition. From a carbon emission perspective, they realized that it will be difficult to tackle building carbon emissions without also targeting infrastructure emissions.
- It was however pointed out that we need to define the scope in relation to mobility and transportation as that might be widening the scope too much.

- It was not recommended to focus specifically on certain types of BE, such as the bridges, highways and airports, as it is very specific and would take us away from the needs of the people in general and leave no one behind as specified in the pillar 1. We should rather look into materials that go into these types of construction than looking at the type.
- Energy, including energy access and sustainable energy, was discussed as one of potential enablers as it is essential in the construction process. However, the reason for it not being included as a priority enabler in the Theory of Change was that there exist already a lot of other energy mechanisms. The aim was to avoid duplicating existing frameworks.
- When expanding from “buildings” to “built environment,” people’s roles shift from “consumers” toward “citizens.” This shift highlights how the role of governing institutions reaches beyond regulation and standard setting to one of facilitating and coordinating public engagement (including civil society organizations), weighing in on how they see themselves using public spaces, transport etc., and building consensus.
- The UNEP-led Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) - scope is broader than SCP/CE/RE, but here is a big overlap that should be taken advantage of.
- WBCSD advised to make sure the future program and strategy builds on other initiatives that are already working in a similar direction. For example, the work of GlobalABC on targeting country engagement, and initiatives addressing the finance sector and businesses along the value chain, including WBCSD’s built environment program that mobilizes companies along the value chain and helps them develop the tools they need to act.
- An effective process from a systemic point of view requires covering many bases, so the OPN should consider tools/templates for supporting public engagement in planning of public spaces, transport, etc.
- It was highlighted that the linkages between pillar 1 and pillar 2 need to be considered as sectoral transformation can support the national implementation. International standards need to be applied for the whole sector in order to achieve implementation at a national level. OPN can guide and help provide tools to progress in this area.

PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

- There is a need in urgent action to address climate change. Because the scale of greenhouse gas until the world reaches temperature increase beyond 1.5 and 2 degree is limited (so-called limited “carbon budget”), delay in action leads us to face temperature increase faster. Assuming synergies between SCP and greenhouse gas emissions, immediate actions on SCP are sought after from UNFCCC.
- A lot of traditional focus of carbon management has been focusing on energy efficiencies. A lot of GHG emissions comes from the extraction of the materials during the production process, so there is a need to start focusing on embedded energy. OPN should consider focusing on sustainability and circularity of these key materials to allow for an integrated, holistic approach.
- Include extractives industries as high impact sector - key for the achievement of SDG 12. UNEP's Extractives Hub can engage its partners (private sector, investors, etc.).
- There is a need to link the work of the OPN to the national commitments and the NDCs of the Paris Agreement in the narrative, which will increase the interest in working with OPN.
- OPN should work on demonstrating the effective value in carbon emissions and quality of life.



- WBCSD highlighted their work on Market Transformation towards a net-zero built environment ([article](#) and [video](#)). One of their important enablers is related to pricing. If planning a new project, carbon has to be considered (carbon life assessment) and its cost integrated into the pricing.
- Demonstrate through better data how the climate impact can be addressed in the built environment.

CIRCULARITY AND THE LIFE CYCLE APPROACH

- It is crucial to systematically incorporate circularity in the system, incl. key principles of circularity in conventional consumer goods also applies to BE: reuse, share, repair, remanufacture can be included in descriptions of the value chain.
- Circularity implementation can sometimes work better in developing countries and should be kept in mind in the new strategy.
- The role the OPN could play in the BE is to focus on the enabling environment through the life cycle approach. UNOPS worked on the SDG12 project that has been supported by OPN through strategic planning, government enabling environment, spatial planning, project identification, design, procurement, construction, operation maintenance and decommissioning. There is an opportunity to focus on the key points in the life cycle and the value chain in which we can improve the enabling environment to ensure that sustainable construction practices are applied.
- Specific tools and collaboration opportunities mentioned during the consultation include:
 - [Global State of Play for Circular Built Environment](#) - The One Planet Network Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme (SBC) initiated a study to understand the current state of play with regard to circularity in the built environment and produced a set of case studies from all regions of the world. In addition to seven regional State of Play reports and three Highlight reports from the Global South, SBC has based on a global survey of 185 respondents, defined key SDGs and indicators for circular built environment based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.
 - [Sustainable Infrastructure Tool Navigator](#) is an online database of tools for incorporating sustainability throughout the infrastructure lifecycle. It is a great resource and there is an opportunity to expand and add more tools. It also offers a growing number of case studies with people's experience of using the tools. OPN could contribute to 1) communication, awareness raising and getting these resources and tools into the hands of end users through its broad network; and 2) help collect best practice case studies from the application of these tools. Reaching out through the network to learn about people's experiences using the tools would be valuable.
 - WorldGBC are pursuing a new global program on resource efficiency and the circular economy which is strongly aligned to the targets of SDG 12. Possible collaboration could be especially in the context of regional or national engagement.
 - [Global Infrastructure Hub](#) offers various tools and solutions for circular infrastructure.
 - Life-Cycle Initiative can provide life cycle technical guidance and advice as well as sector or company specific Hotspots identification to focus action on key drivers of impact.
 - [Life Cycle USETOX tool](#) for building and construction (chemicals of concerns).
 - [The Capacity Assessment Tool for Infrastructure \(CAT-I\)](#) - Tool for making changes along the construction lifecycle to make improvements to the enabling environment/governance mechanisms.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT FROM A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES, CONSUMER INFORMATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PERSPECTIVE

- There is a need to look where consumer behaviour changes come into marketplace changes. The burden of responsibility should not lie solely on the shoulders of the consumer and human angle should be considered. CI programme can contribute with the expertise in certification and standards and information channelling to consumers.
- Public knowledge on low carbon infrastructure and materials is necessary. Consumer information plays an essential role in raising awareness of this element.
- There is a need for tools to increase consumer information and/or provide access to relevant reliable information. The communication of the sustainable BE needs to be done in a right way to ensure uptake from the consumers to the products that are being offered. It is important to also work utilisation/operation of the BE to ensure that the projects are not only built but also used in a sustainable human-centred approach.
- The cultural dimension embedded in sustainable lifestyles/livelihoods is also critical to consideration of sustainability in the BE. Societies shape, and are shaped by, their BE. Given the scale of both financial and natural resources invested in the BE, it is important to ensure that we expand the strategic interventions being considered beyond people as consumers to multiple roles – as citizens, parents, advocates for bold policies and market solutions, community members, influencers of social norms and values etc., the ways we live, why we consume, sufficiency and how much is enough for a good life.
- It is important to approach the BE not merely as places, but as platforms where all dimensions of human activities intersect. Taking this cultural perspective, key principles of well-being, support of sustainable lifestyles and liveability should guide the design of BE to manage and transform it in meaningful ways. BE needs to serve people's needs for sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience.
- A particular focus should be placed on the demand side, i.e., how can the program address the drivers of consumption for the BE, the need to build or refurbish (or not), how to build and how to keep resources in the system (circularity). This would include the perspectives of investors, developers, and end-users (corporate occupiers, tenants, owners), but also urban planning, etc.
- SEI (OPN Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme) can help coordinate key actors, identify strategic opportunities, link to the best science (including social science insights). The programme can also amplify the knowledge sharing through education-oriented approaches.
- Partnerships with academic institutions doing research in this area. UNOPS works with Oxford and Cambridge and can help facilitate these connections and build these partnerships.
- The group discussed human rights as an enabler and what elements it should consider. It was agreed that it should address inequalities and consider communities, housing accessibility and affordability, access to public space and basic services (rights-based approach), but also workforce exploitation.
- It was pointed out that the SBC programme has been working on sustainable and affordable housing and SBC experts have experience in issues related with land ownership planning. The programme stakeholders cannot really influence that. Of course, we can think about education that is needed for both the client and for the authorities, but it's going a bit beyond that and then the scope will have to be much wider.
- IHRB can bring a human rights lens (in terms of risks to people of unsustainable processes, but also unlocking social opportunities in shifting to more sustainable production and consumption patterns)



in the BE. It has developed a [Framework for Dignity in the Built Environment](#) grounded in existing human rights standards and the SDGs and has a multi-sector approach, recognizing the leverage points between national/local governments, investors, owners, builders, architects etc.

- UNOPS is doing a lot of research on infrastructure services, inclusion and human rights. For example, this is a UNOPS publication [Infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women](#).

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS AND REGULATORS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- We need to focus more on advocating for national policies which move us in the direction of “greener” infrastructure. Today, there is still a lot of freedom in not going the green way.
- UNEP FI highlighted that there is a lack of a global goal when considering the finance sector and not enough link with the climate agenda. In the financial sector action is often focused on net zero action. There is a need to create a very clear link between SDG12 and Paris agreements. If there is no policy to align with, it is difficult for a sector like the finance sector to choose what targets they want to aim for. It is important to bring science to the financial sector. There is a need to foster dialogue between financial sector and policy. Strategic partnerships for that are key.
- Engage key decision-makers in governments so that we can make improvements to the enabling environment over the lifecycle of a construction project. OPN can serve as a communication platform.
- Policies are the motivator for the national implementation. Conduct policy research and analysis and policy briefing from the network member country, provide the policy suggestion to the relevant resolution to the UN will be the accelerator.
- Utilise the SBC MPTF tools (country approach, advocacy toolkit, mainstreaming guidance, value assessment).
- Governments should focus on sustainable cities and communities and utilise smart city indicators.
- OPN could help disseminate UNOPS’ [Sustainable tool](#), a resource for development practitioners to provide real-world and practical actions to ensure the achievement of the SDGs through sustainable and inclusive projects.
- Ensure implementation of procurement measures favouring resource efficiency and circularity.
- Governments should provide opportunities in procurement to local responsible SMEs.
- The Sustainable Public Procurement program can support with its Interest Groups on building and construction sector and on measuring and reporting (progress towards SDG 12.7.1 implementation at the national level). Both of these groups can collaborate more on the BE.
- Lack of financing mechanisms is a major barrier in achieving sustainable BE.

ENGAGING THE BUSINESS SECTOR, INCLUDING THE SMEs

- Participants agreed on the importance of business engagement, including (local) SMEs.
- The B Team, We Mean Business and Business for Nature can help with engaging big business and bring in and consult with their member companies. The UK High-Level Climate Champions team on SMEs run the SME climate hub and the B Team can connect them with the OPN.
- An important opportunity are the infrastructure and green recovery programs. How are these new COVID-19 packages helping us? How can the strategy be included in these big policies? The role of

subsidies is crucial in this. The new report [*“Protecting Nature by Reforming Environmentally Harmful Subsidies: The Role of Business”*](#) shows that 90 billion minimum a year is being spent in the construction on subsidies that harm the environment. We need to think about adverse incentives. Subsidies could be interesting to focus on and need to be linked to consumption and production. We need to affect investment patterns.

- It is important to have a public-private partnerships with governments and building associations/alliances and encourage them to work together with businesses to achieve the systemic transformations. OPN can act as a platform to communicate the right message and to a very specific audience, which are the stakeholders engaged in the topic of sustainable buildings and construction within national governments. These are considered by some of the members as key stakeholders in achieving one of the crucial steps towards implementation, which is disseminating, engaging and facilitating.
- There is a need for more tools for business planning in sustainable BE.
- There is a need of roadmaps/strategic actions for different stakeholder groups - targets for materials, manufacturers, investors, developers, designers, etc.
- SEED could support in accelerating public-private partnerships, which are essential to deliver systemic transformation.

ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COLLABORATING, SHARING AND MONITORING

- The participants also agreed that the strategy should tackle the outstanding conceptual issues of SCP and circularity, as it is currently challenging to follow SDG12. Circularity lacks a 'catchy target' - like 'net zero by 2050' - how can we come together to find a central target? They also pointed out that SDG12 should be presented not just as stand-alone SDG but as a cross cutting one.
- Participants highlighted that creating a shared narrative and vision, and develop mutually supportive partnerships to achieve joint delivery are key. Communication needs to be clear and reach the key stakeholders that can take action.
- The OPN is abundant with partnerships, the aim should be to facilitate collaboration and coordinate to achieve the best outcome.
- A lot of activities are happening on the highest level, while there is a need to bring them to the ground level. OPN can provide support by taking messages to the regional level stakeholders. E.g., in the planning phase of a construction, where the challenges are that contractors might face are not addressed. However, they are the ones who are going to implement the systems. Unless they are engaged at the beginning of the planning process, the full sustainability potential will not be achieved.
- Alignment, coordination, or cross linking between different relevant knowledge platforms would be extremely useful. Users tend to find it difficult to find or navigate the wealth of available information and resources.
- Stakeholders in the Global South ask for more tools. There is a difference in availability of the tools in developed and developing countries. Can some of the tools from global north to be transferred to the south or redesign them for the developing countries? That could be the role of OPN in the process.
- Develop mechanisms to replicate, scale up and mainstream.
- Specifically, OPN can:
 - Tap into Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership’s network of experts and practitioners.
 - Collaborate more closely with UN Habitat/SDG11 and WGBC/GABC



- Engage active SBC network members.
- Provide technical guidance and communications for value chain practitioners
- Work as a repository of knowledge for the projects, but also of human resources, such as experts that can help produce more knowledge.
- Get insights on direction to stakeholders collaboration and people-oriented targets from ISO 37122:2019.
- Data are needed to set the focus and decisions on what to prioritise. Data monitoring and feeding the information to decision makers is key.

WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS

- Jorge and Fabienne thanked the participants for the valuable feedback. They brought attention to UNEA 5.2, Stockholm +50 and continuous collaboration.

ANNEX

AGENDA

13:00-13:05	Introduction and objectives of the consultation
13:05-13:30	The Global Strategy on SCP & SDG12 This session will aim at presenting the vision, objectives and main pillars of the Global Strategy on SCP & SDG12 in the context of the 10YFP mandate extension.
13:20-14:00	Transforming the Built Environment to achieve SDG12: the added value of the strategy and One Planet network This session will aim at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. presenting a synthesis of the transformative outcomes (at national and sectoral level) Built Environment experts have identified as key to achieving SDG12 and addressing the triple planetary crisis; 2. identifying where/how collaboration under the global strategy and across the One Planet network would have the highest added-value.
14:00-14:50	Breakout groups & discussion Building on the plenary discussion, breakout groups will dive deeper into catalytic partnerships, interventions and existing tools to be scaled up or developed under the two pillars of the global strategy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leaving no one behind: supporting countries for SDG12/SCP integration and implementation through joint delivery, leveraging on the UN Development Reform; 2. Systemic transformation in the Built Environment: promoting transformative outcomes at sectoral level.
14:50-15:00	Wrap-up & Next Steps

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Organisation	Expert's name
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1	BRS Conventions	Tatiana Terekhova
2	China Environmental United Certification Center (One Planet network Sustainable Public Procurement Programme)	Jing Wang
3	Consumer International (One Planet network Consumer Information programme)	Bethan Laughlin
4	Green Fiscal Policy Network	Mohammad Ali Shah
5	Indian Railways ICLEI (One Planet network Sustainable Public Procurement Programme)	Sanjay Kumar
6	Institute for Human Rights and Business	Andreia Fidalgo
7	Institute for Human Rights and Business	Annabel Short (engaged through written input)
8	IRP	Ainhoa Carpintero Rogero
9	Life Cycle Initiative	Claudia Giacobelli
10	Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia (One Planet network Consumer Information programme)	Noer Adi Wardoyo
11	Ministry of the Environment of Finland (One Planet network Sustainable Buildings & Construction Programme)	Pekka Huovila
12	Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE)	David McGinty
13	RMIT University (One Planet network Sustainable Buildings & Construction Programme)	Priyanka Erasmus
14	SEED	Arab Hoballah
15	Stockholm Environment Institute (One Planet network Sustainable Lifestyles & Education Programme)	Marcus Carson
16	Stockholm Environment Institute (One Planet network Sustainable Lifestyles & Education Programme)	Carolina Yang
17	Stockholm Environment Institute (One Planet network Sustainable Lifestyles & Education Programme)	Ebba Eriksson
18	The B Team	Farooq Ullah
19	UNDP	Nataly Olofinskaya
20	UNDP	Mateo Salomon
21	UNEP	Martina Otto
22	UNEP	Rowan Palmer
23	UNEP	Fulai Sheng
24	UNEP – Environment and Trade Hub	Beatriz Fernandez
25	UNEP (One Planet network Sustainable Public Procurement programme)	Lukas von Schuckmann
26	UNEP Extractives Hub	Charlotte Ndakorerwa
27	UNEP FI	Daniel Bouzas
28	UNEP FI	Tumelo Puleng Ndjwili-Potele
29	UNEP FI	Peggy Lefort
30	UNEP FI / UNEP Principles for Responsible Investments	Matthew Ulterino



31	UN-Habitat	Christophe Lalande
32	UN-Habitat	Alicia Regodon
33	UN-Habitat	Jesus Salcedo Villanueva
34	UNOPS	Geoffrey Morgan
35	WBCSD	Roland Hunziker (engaged through written input)
36	World Green Buildings Council	Catriona Brady
37	World Resources Institute (Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy - PACE)	Michael Doust
38	One Planet network Secretariat	Andrew Schmidt
39	One Planet network Secretariat	Branislav Mizenko
40	One Planet network Secretariat	Fabienne Pierre
41	One Planet network Secretariat	Filip Michl
42	One Planet network Secretariat	Jorge Laguna Celis
43	One Planet network Secretariat	Oliver Buesing
44	One Planet network Secretariat	Svitlana Mikhalyeva
45	One Planet network Secretariat	Veronika Cerna
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