

Contribution of the Second Regional Governments Expert Meeting for the Elaboration of a Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Managua, Nicaragua
15-16th October de 2003.

Considering that:

The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development established as one of the main objectives of its Implementation Plan, the promotion of a 10-Year Framework of Programs to support national and regional initiatives and accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The countries from the Region stated in the Latin American Initiative for Sustainable Development, presented during the Summit (2002), the need to incorporate cleaner production concepts in industry and the need to promote sustainable consumption patterns.

The willingness and commitment of Latin American and Caribbean countries have been expressed in the organization the first Regional Government's Experts Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina (April 2003). The main outputs of the meeting include the proposal to create a Regional Council on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and "The Contribution for a Regional Platform on Sustainable Consumption and Production". These outputs were recognized as model actions at the XI Meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2003) and at the International Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Production and Consumption (Marrakech, June 2003).

To further develop this important process, the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (MARENA) and the Ministry Industry and Commerce (MIFIC) of Nicaragua, the Regional Office of Latin American and Caribbean and the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), in collaboration with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the Nicaraguan Center of Cleaner Production organized the ***Second Government's Experts Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean*** in Managua, Nicaragua from the 15-16 October, 2003.

The Government experts on sustainable consumption and production of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Managua, Nicaragua from the 15-16th October, 2003, **RECOMMEND TO THE FORUM OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS FOR THE ELABORATION OF A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION.**

I. The central policy framework for a national and regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production should be (see details in Annex 1):

- Internalization of environmental costs (polluter pays principle)
- Elimination of subsidies that have a negative impact on the environment
- Promotion of the supply and demand of environmental friendly products and services.
- Dissemination of environmental information and education to motivate consumers to adopt sustainable consumption patterns.
- Harmonization and strengthening of the national regulatory frameworks on consumption and production
- Adoption of the Corporate Social Responsibility Codes.
- Promotion of investment in infrastructure and transfer of technologies that enable sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Articulation and cooperation among government, private sector, civil society and international agencies.

- Development or improvement of national and regional system for Strategic Environmental Evaluation.
- Adoption of a programme on sustainable consumption and production in the public sector.

II The following policy instruments could be used to promote sustainable changes in the consumption and production patterns (see details in annex 2):

- Regulatory Instruments
- Economic Instruments
- Social Instruments
- Monitoring and Evaluation Instruments

III The main actors that must cooperate in a national and regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production are:

- Organized civil society, including consumer organizations,
- National and local government institutions,
- Trade and industry associations and groups,
- Mass media,
- Universities and research centers,
- Development Banks and financing institutions.

IV. The means of implementation to create sustainable consumption and production recommended are the following:

- National programmes
- National budgets
- International assistance programmes
- International financing (support for capacity building)
- Public-private sector partnerships
- Private sector voluntary initiatives
- Civil society voluntary initiatives

V. The government experts prioritised the “oriented goals” of the ILAC, from the point of view of sustainable consumption and production. The established priorities are:

High Priority:

a) Economic issues: Competitiveness, trade, consumption and production patterns.

- Energy
- Cleaner production
- Economic instruments
- Promotion of diversification of economy
- Access to markets

b) Water Resources

- Watershed management
- Management of marine coasts and their resources
- Better quality of inland waters
- Freshwater supply

c) Institutional Aspects

- Environmental education
- Training and capacity building of human resources
- Evaluation and indicators
- Social participation and empowerment
- Inclusion of environmental dimension into the economic and social processes
- Promotion of “ public-private” partnerships for the conservation and management of natural resources

Medium Priority:

a) Vulnerability and sustainable Cities

- Land-use planning
- Areas affected by degradation
- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Solid waste
- Vulnerability to anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena
- Vulnerability and risk management
- Climate change

b) Sociales Issues: health, equity and poverty

- Health and environment *
- Environment & job creation
- Poverty and inequity *
- Development of micro-enterprises

Low Priority:

a) Biodiversity

- Increase of the forest area
- Territory included in protected areas
- Genetic resources
- Marine biodiversity

VI. The Governments Experts recommend the following Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

- I. Set-up and strengthen the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production
 - Elaborate an inventory of the principal activities on sustainable consumption and production in every country of the region.
 - Promote the development of national strategies on sustainable consumption and production.
 - Evaluate and monitor the activities on sustainable consumption and production and their impacts within the framework of the regional and national strategies.
 - Organise the annual meeting of the Regional Council of Government Experts.
- II. Creating and strengthening the capacities of government institutions through workshops, training, information and technical assistance in the following topics:
 - Internalisation of environmental costs and environmental fiscal reform.
 - Implementation of integrated and transversal policies on sustainable consumption and production.
 - Sustainable procurement.
 - Environmental accounting.
 - Seminars to analyse the promotion of infrastructure and technology transfer in the region.

- Use of economic instruments to design environmental policies with the support of UNEP and CEPAL.
- Training on environmental legislation and international agreements.
- Seminar to analyse the impacts generated by the productive activities and services (industry and tourism) and the advantages and/or benefits generated by the implementation of sustainable consumption and production practices.

III. Capacity building for the productive and financial sectors through workshops, training, information and technical assistance in the following topics:

- Cleaner production.
- Eco – design.
- Life Cycle Analysis.
- Corporate social and environmental responsibility.
- Integrated sustainable development.
- Green market opportunities.
- Environmental accounting.
- Chapter of goods and environmental services of the World Trade Organisation.
- Development of project proposals to access national and international funds.
- Training on environmental legislation and international agreements.
- Training the financial sector on sustainable environmental management.
- Promote a strategy to link the productive sector with research and development institutions in order to generate, disseminate and implement technologies that enable sustainable development.
- Seminar to analyse the impacts generated by the productive activities and the advantages and/or benefits generated by the implementation of sustainable consumption and production practices.

IV. Environmental Awareness Campaigns and Capacity Building

- Information campaigns on sustainable consumption, using effective strategies of information and communication.
- Include the topic of sustainable consumption in formal and informal education programs.
- Creation of partnerships with NGOs working on sustainable consumption and production and environmental education.
- Implementation of Environmental Management Systems in national and local government institutions.
- Vocational training and capacity building for educators on sustainable consumption.

V. Implementation of pilot projects, such as

- Implementation of programs focused on young people (e.g. YouthXchange UNEP-UNESCO)
- Implementation of Sustainable Procurement programmes in all governments of the region with the support and modules developed by UNEP.
- Implementation of UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection.
- Seminars and national and/or regional projects on Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility.
- Projects of co-operation between the big multinational companies and the small and medium enterprises.
- Support and continue the initiatives of Sustainable Cities in the region (transport, energy and solid waste), and promote the exchange of experiences.
- Case studies on production and marketing of sustainable products with special emphasis on small and medium enterprises.
- Promote the design of sustainable consumption and production strategies in all countries of the region.
- Creation of credit lines for cleaner production and shifting to sustainable production.

VI. At national level it is suggested that every country:

- Promote the supply and demand of sustainable products and services with the co-operation of other ministries and relevant partners such as chambers of commerce, consumers groups, among others.
- Strengthen its regulatory framework to provide the right signals and incentives to adopt sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Promote the recommendations on national policy elaborated by the Regional Government Experts Council on Consumption and Production.
- Create opportunities of dialogue between the different national initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, for example creation of a co-ordinating group on national dialogue on sustainable consumption and production.
- Develop a national inventory of the principal activities on sustainable consumption and production.

VII. Development and search of financing mechanisms:

National:

- Creation of National Trust among others.

International:

- To identify the organisations from which the region can access financial and technical assistance, in order to strengthen and implement national and regional programs on sustainable consumption and production.

VII. Give official status to the Regional Government Expert Council on Sustainable Consumption and Production, for which the objectives, structure and function are the following.

Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Objectives:

The main objective of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production is to identify and propose efficient mechanisms for the implementation of integrated policies, strategies and programmes that promote and facilitate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns in our societies.

In more specific terms the Council should:

- Help as specialized consultancy unit on the issues of sustainable consumption and production to the Regional Forum of Environment Ministers and to the regional governments for the implementation of the goals of the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and the Chapter III of the Johannesburg Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on sustainable consumption and production (local, national, regional and international).
- Evaluate the challenges and obstacles that face the region on these issues.
- Encourage the analysis and the elaboration of regional proposals on sustainable consumption and production.
- Identify international financial sources and inter-regional and intra-regional co-operation mechanisms.

Structure:

The council will be composed of by one government expert from each of the countries of the region. The Council will have a Steering Committee composed from 3 members and will be chaired by the country that organized the last meeting, the current meeting and the forthcoming meeting. It will also have a Secretariat coordinated by PNUMA-ROLAC.

The Council will meet at least once a year and its statutes will be the same ruling the Regional Forum of Environment Ministers, which will be applied *mutatis mutandi*.

Functions:

- a) Elaborate and propose mechanisms, procedures and instruments for the regional and inter-regional coordination in developing the sustainable consumption and production strategy.
- b) Inform about local and national experiences on projects, initiative and/or programmes on sustainable consumption and production.
- c) Support the elaboration of regional proposals on sustainable consumption and production.
- d) Support the development of the activities proposed in the Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- e) Prepare proposals on sustainable consumption and production for revision and adoption at the Regional Forum of Environment Ministers.
- f) Facilitate the co-ordination of programmes and initiatives on sustainable consumption and production at the regional and global level, as well as facilitate the exchange of information among all the countries of the region.
- g) Identify international funding sources and mechanisms of co-operation at the inter-regional and intra-regional level.
- h) Develop other functions assigned by the Regional Forum of Environmental Ministers.

VIII. Provide the necessary resources for the operation of the Regional Government Expert Council on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

IX. Set up the Steering Committee of the Regional Council according to the established in its structure (see number VII of this document).

X. The government experts gathered in the Second Regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production, in Managua, Nicaragua (15-16th October, 2003), request to the Environment Minister of Nicaragua to develop the necessary arrangements for the following actions:

- a) Present to the Forum of Environment Ministers of the Region (during the XIV meeting in November 2003, in Panama), for consideration and approval, the outputs and recommendations of the Second Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production described above. The forum's support is part of the development of the regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production.
- b) Request to UNEP and UN DESA to develop the necessary action to organise the first official meeting of the Regional Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

XI. The government experts gathered in the Second Regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production, in Managua, Nicaragua (15-16th October, 2003), congratulate the Government of Nicaragua via its Environment Minister, for its leadership in the topic of sustainable consumption and production expressed in its initiative to create a special fund to finance national activities on sustainable consumption and production.

XII. The government experts gathered in Managua, thank to the Government of Nicaragua, through the Minister of Environmental and Natural Resources and the Minister of Industry and Commerce, for their support in the organization and development of the Second Regional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production.