
Introduction

This paper was prepared to provide current status and background information on the Marrakech Process and to facilitate discussions within working groups during the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), to be held 26-29 June 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden.

This introduction section provides an overview of the Marrakech Process and the objectives of the Stockholm Meeting. The sections that follow explain four levels of activities within or around the Marrakech Process – regional consultations (Section 1), national programmes (Section 2), the Marrakech Task Forces (Section 3) and the Cooperation Dialogue with development agencies (Section 4). Section 5 explores the role of business and industry in promoting SCP and their possible cooperation to the Marrakech Process. These five topics will be discussed in the Working Group Session that will take place on the 28 June during the Expert Meeting. In each section, key questions are posed to guide discussions in the working groups. It is recommended to read this background paper together with background paper number one “Key elements of a Proposed 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production”.

1.1 What is the Marrakech Process?

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI) endorsed by all governments at the 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) called upon governments to “change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production” (Chapter 3 of JPI). The JPI specifically called for governments to promote the development of a 10YFP in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

The Marrakech Process, named after the host city for the First International

Expert Meeting on the 10YFP held in 2003, refers to the international joint effort to develop the 10YFP.

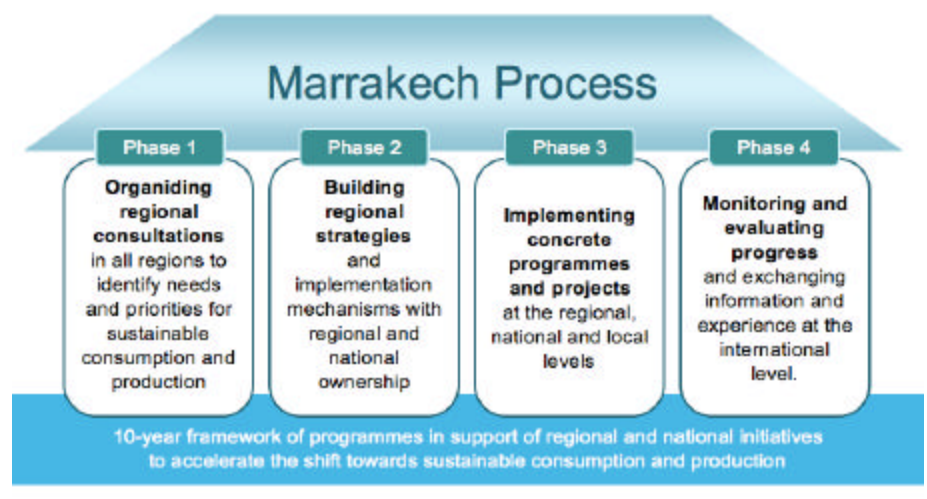


Figure1: The four phases of the Marrakech Process

The proposal for a 10YFP will be presented and reviewed at the 2010-2011 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). At present the Marrakech Process is at the mid-point in its development. Over the coming three years national, regional and international SCP experts (from governments, private sector, NGOs and researchers, among others) will continue to collaborate to prepare a draft of an achievable and effective framework of programmes to support all regions and countries to shift towards SCP patterns in their production and consumption systems.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) are the joint coordinators of the Marrakech Process. The main objective of the Marrakech Process is to develop a proposal for the 10YFP which will be presented and review by the CSD. The development of the 10YFP consists of the following four phases¹:

- Phase 1:** Organising regional consultations in all regions to promote awareness and identify priorities and needs for SCP (through regional expert meetings and national/regional roundtables)
- Phase 2:** Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership (which, when possible, are endorsed by regional institutions, such as the African Union, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Phase 3:** Implementing concrete projects and programmes at the regional, national and local levels for developing and/or improving SCP tools and methodologies (with the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue as the main implementation mechanism)
- Phase 4:** Evaluating progress, exchanging information, and building international cooperation and coordination

The phases do not necessarily imply a chronological order. Some activities are implemented in parallel in the Marrakech Process, and regional consultations for refinement of regional strategies and implementation mechanisms will be ongoing through phases 3 and 4.

Under the Marrakech Process, a wide range of activities including meetings, policy development and concrete implementation projects have been taking place and these will be introduced in the sections of this paper to follow.

International Expert Meetings

To date two international expert meetings have been held under the Marrakech Process to report progress, share experiences and coordinate international cooperation with regard to SCP. The first meeting

¹ "Phases" do not necessarily imply a chronological order. The activities related to those phases need to be implemented in parallel in the Marrakech Process.

was held in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2003 and the second in San José, Costa Rica in September 2005.

The 2003 Marrakech Meeting

The First International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (the 'Marrakech Meeting') was held to encourage first steps towards developing the 10YFP. At this meeting it was agreed that "the development of the 10YFP is a continuous process towards the achievement of SCP patterns, which would be further elaborated through enhanced international cooperation". It was also agreed that follow-up activities at the international level would focus primarily on coordination of regional SCP consultation meetings in support of regional initiatives. The meeting also recommended that informal task forces or roundtables be established to promote the implementation of SCP policies and strategies.

The 2005 Costa Rica Meeting

The Second International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (the 'Costa Rica Meeting') reviewed the conclusions reached through consultations in regional expert meetings. At this meeting, the 'consultation phase' of the Marrakech Process was closed and an agreement was reached to move towards the implementation of regional strategies and concrete SCP projects. The meeting marked the launch of the *Marrakech Task Forces* and the *Cooperation Dialogue* as important mechanisms to improve international cooperation and to support implementation of concrete SCP projects.

The meeting emphasised the importance of linking the work on SCP to poverty reduction, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It concluded that SCP policies should be developed and integrated into national sustainable development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) where applicable.

Table 1 presents a summary of main outcomes from the two meetings.

Table 1: International Expert Meetings and their main outcomes

| Meeting | Main Outcomes |
|---|--|
| <p>International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (June 2003, Marrakech, Morocco)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marrakech Process was launched as “a continuous process” to develop the 10YFP with bi-annual international review meetings. • Agreed that the international follow-up process would consist of the coordination of regional and national SCP initiatives. • The Marrakech Process should take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. • Underlined the importance to integrate SCP into national sustainable development strategies and, where applicable, into Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRs). • Recommended the establishment of informal task forces or roundtables to promote the implementation of SCP policies and strategies. • UN-DESA and UNEP were asked to expand the Survey of International Activities on Consumption and Production Patterns that was compiled by UN-DESA, in order to make it more comprehensive and accessible to all countries. • Recommended the establishment of mechanisms that encourage and support information and experience sharing, network building, and dissemination of best practice through interactive websites and expert meetings on specific issues. • UN-DESA, together with UN-HABITAT, was invited to prepare a report on the actions needed at international level in order to support national actions in waste, transportation, construction, water and sanitation sectors. This report will indicate the agencies and institutions that should be involved in each action. |
| <p>2nd International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (September 2005, San José, Costa Rica)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified regional priority issues and needs. Closure of the ‘consultation phase’. • 4 Marrakech Task Forces (Sustainable Lifestyles, Sustainable Products, Sustainable Procurement, and Cooperation with Africa) were launched. • 1st Cooperation Dialogue Session was held, recommending a second session to be organised as part of the next international expert meeting. • UNEP and UN-DESA were requested to carry out a review on SCP-related projects supported by development agencies, in order to consider how to better integrate SCP into development plans. • It was recognised that the SCP action plan could be a cornerstone for achieving progress. Such a plan should, where relevant, be integrated into the national sustainable development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRs) where applicable. • UNEP and UN-DESA were requested to develop non-prescriptive guidelines to support the development of national strategies for SCP. • Recommended further work on the development and application of methods necessary to estimate the benefits of SCP policies, as well as the costs of inaction. • UN-DESA was requested to maintain and develop the database on international activities on consumption and production patterns. |

Objectives of the Stockholm Meeting

The objectives of the 2007 Stockholm Meeting are to:

- 1) Assess progress and provide direction for future work under the Marrakech Process;
- 2) Begin the conceptualisation of the 10YFP (the first proposal of key elements of the framework will be presented and discussed); and
- 3) Identify new mechanisms to build a more active cooperation between the Marrakech Process and major groups such as business, NGOs, local authorities and academia.

During the meeting, two breakout working group sessions will be organised (one on 27 June and the second on 28 June). The working groups organised on 27 June will discuss seven key SCP areas raised during the regional consultations (see Background Paper 2). The working groups organised on 28 June will discuss and analyse the different mechanisms under the Marrakech Process including: 1) regional consultations and strategies on SCP, 2) national SCP programmes, 3) Marrakech Task Forces, 4) Co-operation Dialogue, and 5) cooperation with business and Industry. The main objectives of this second working group session are to identify:

- a) Progress achieved under each mechanism/area of the Marrakech Process;
- b) Key priorities to continue the work towards SCP and the development of the 10YFP;
- c) Policy tools, programmes and mechanisms of implementation that could be reflected in the 10YFP
- d) Which actors are best positioned to implement the various measures and how implementation should best proceed. This includes the role of major groups in the Marrakech Process and how they can be actively engaged with a particular focus on the private sector, NGOs and governments.