

Multi-Stakeholder Panel:

Role of major groups in the Marrakech Process

An NGO Position

3rd International Expert Meeting on the 10 year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production
(Stockholm, Sweden - 26-29 June 2007)

Presentation by

Uchita de Zoysa

Executive Director - Centre for Environment & Development



Uchita de Zoysa, Centre for Environment & Development, 253/10 Stanley Thalakarathne Mawatha, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. Email: uchita@sltnet.lk

Marrakech Process: Are we getting there? Where?

1. After 5 years, some headway seemed to have been made in the preparation for this Stockholm Meeting (Marrakech-3).
2. We commend both placing in front of us a draft of the 10YFP as first step.
3. We commend the initiative to bring stakeholder pane discussion early in this meeting – an indication of greater engagement of majo goups meaningfully.
4. In 1992 Maurice Strong (Chair-UNCED) said the Earth Summit was the last chance to save the earth. Now the Marrakech process wants voluntary targets to be set for 2021 (ref: Background paper #1). - *“NGOs stress the urgency of all major actors – especially government – in moving forward with SCP and are frustrated with the 2021 timeline that is being proposed for the Framework. We are at a point in history where the biophysical reality has to guide our action agenda, rather than the UN calendar. From the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to the IPCC report we are overshooting the carrying capacity of the planet with the result of global collapse in fisheries, climate, freshwater availability, spread of disease...SCP is an urgent priority and we want to see the commitments to agenda 21 made by the 191 countries in 1992–* **NGO Recommendations Paper**
5. 49 years from UNCHE in Stockholm ('72), 29 years from UNCED in Rio ('92) and 19 years from WSSD in Johannesburg (2002).
6. Can we wait for so long????? We say NO!

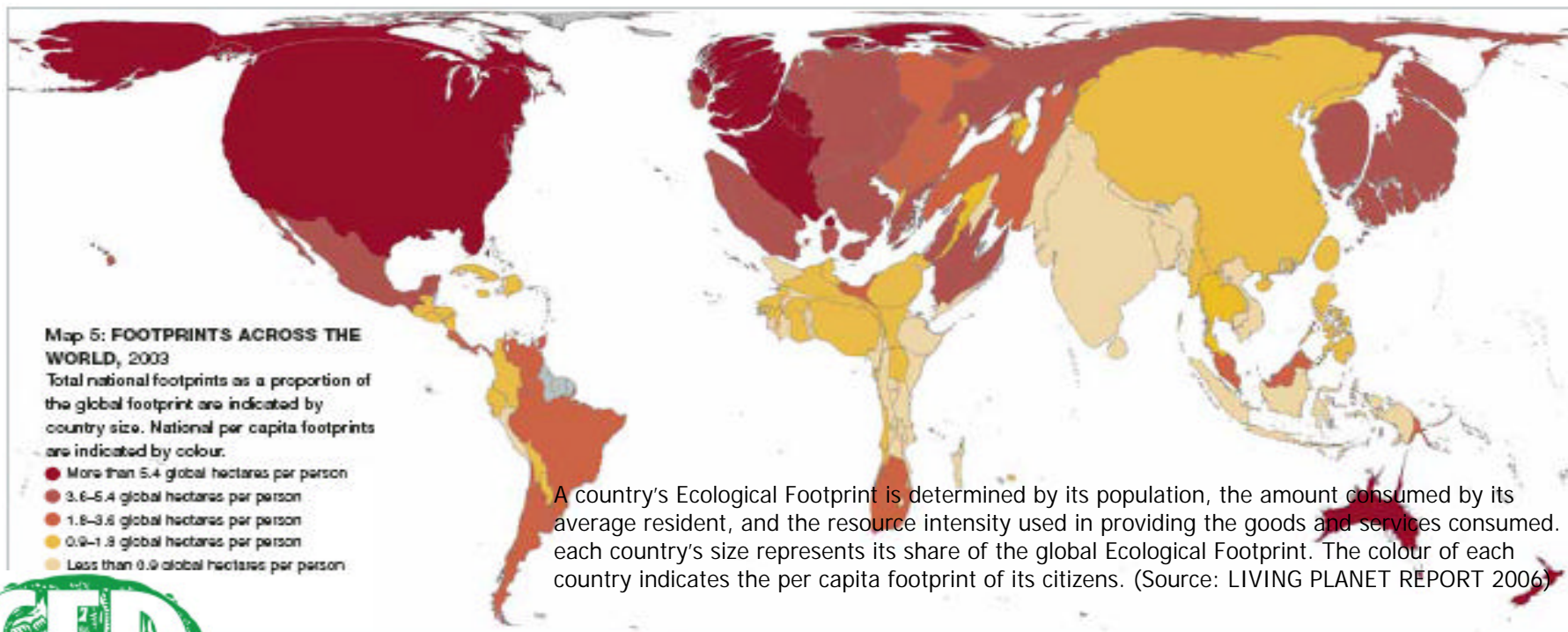
The recent UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment concludes that 60% of the world's ecosystem services--the consequences of which are being borne disproportionately by the poor--are highly degraded or failing, and that further degradation of these ecosystems is a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



Role of major groups in the Marrakech Process: An NGO Position

Having a broader approach on SCP

1. We need to go beyond the focus on over consumption and the issues of more than half of the humanity that are under consuming (and are in poverty)
2. We need to go beyond the attempts of greening of individual consumer behavior and attempt to reduce demand for resources are in the hands of industry and governments.
3. We need to go beyond improving efficiency (technological innovation) in our SCP process and need to think about deep structural changes.



Identify specific programs of the 10 year framework

Clearly define and Identify targets, timetables, strategies and action needed to reverse worsening social and ecological trends by 2021

NGOs:

Help in making knowledge to action more practical and visible in the 10YFP.

1. Define the broader objectives of an SCP framework to achieve “**wellbeing**” of all people on earth, with clear goal that ensures quality of life
2. The 10YFP needs to clearly address issue of “**equity**” in consumption and production opportunities for all nations and people.
3. The 1st background paper #1 (as an outline draft needs) to be formulated into a comprehensive 10YFP through an regional/international and stakeholder consultation process by Marrakech-4 (in 02 years in 2009 for the Marrakech-4 and prior 2010/11 CSD)



Review progress since Rio92

Organize a comprehensive multi-stakeholder review of efforts, success and failure to implement the Agenda 21 objectives and action commitments on production and consumption agreed to in 1992 by governments.

NGOs:

Participate as a stakeholder in Review committees and act as a source of information provider to from national, regional to international levels.

1. Conduct a full scale review of global commitments on SCP made since UNCED in Rio92 – eg; Agenda 21, WSSD JPOI, UN Consumer Protection Guidelines (Section G on SC) etc.
2. A full report to be available for the 2010/11 CSD cycle.
3. Identify and provide analyses of some of the major obstacles and difficulties faced by these efforts.
4. Engage stakeholder groups through consultation and other activities to provide a diversity of relevant perspectives and concerns as part of their input in the review.



Identify and Analysis the national barriers to develop national SCP strategies

To engage all governments effectively to follow-up on the recommendation of WSSDs JPOI (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) "to develop a 10YFP in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP"

Role of NGOs:

Be the Watch dog providing checks and balances and act as a driver of the process getting governments to act promptly

1. National SCP Guideline development process needs to have a greater regional government and stakeholder engagement
2. Governments need to include all stakeholders in formulating the Strategy as well as in the monitoring & evaluation.
3. National SCP policies should move society towards a establishing at a minimum - sufficiency economies with adequate integration of ecological fiscal reform, eco-effective production, etc.
4. Go beyond developing guidelines for NAPs on SCP and assist governments to develop and implement national policies and strategies on SCP, and do so by 2010/11 CSD cycle.



Develop operational guidelines for the Marrakech Task Forces

Develop a clear set of guidelines for all existing and newly proposed Marrakech Task Forces on SCP to ensure an inclusive and transparent engagement of governments and stakeholders

NGOs:

Lobby governments to participate and establish meaningful Task Forces and proactively contribute to the success of Task Force objectives

1. UNEP/UNDESA needs to be centrally involved in the monitoring and evaluation the progress
2. All task forces should involve as many as possible governments in equal participation (not to limit it to funded programme agendas).
3. We encourage the UN to advise task force convenors to invite NGOs and other relevant stakeholders as members



Establish a global dialogue on SCP

Help establish a broader global dialogue on sustainable production and consumption with greater outreach towards all nations and stakeholders.

Role of NGOs:

Extend its vast experience in organizing large global forums for greater outreach and open dialogue

1st draft of the 10YFP as a living document for 2007-2010 wishers foster a participatory process in drafting, seeking common positions and agreements and broad support and ownership (pg 8). Then we propose;

- i. Plan and implement a global scale dialogue engaging all governments and stakeholders in a national to global level review and recommendations process
- ii. UNEP/UNDESA is commended for organizing this Stakeholder Forum in the outset of the Stockholm meeting and this should inspire the Marrakech process establish a “Global Stakeholder Forum on SCP” process as part of the consensus building for the 10YFP
- iii. Involve stakeholders into consultative and decision making structures.



Define corporate accountability

Establish a process to define “corporate accountability,” in contrast to “corporate social responsibility”, with a practical assessment of the different contributions of voluntary and regulatory approaches in their transition to sustainable production and consumption.

Role of NGOs:

NGOs' role is to stay close to the public, and to guard whether their interests are being served or abused,

1. Identify mechanism to clearly define and provide guidelines for corporate accountability.
2. Engage stakeholders for independent monitoring, accountability assurance and transparency reporting.
3. Study and report on regulatory and voluntary efforts to make advertising practices more socially and environmentally responsible and accountable.



Role of NGOs

The role that NGOs have played during the past 5 years of Marrakech process needs to be highlighted and looked into furthering;

1. Representing the interest of consumers and people in general (*eg: consumer surveys, comparative product testing, consumer rights litigation, awareness creation and education, etc.*)
2. Promoting the equity debate in distribution of resources to consumption opportunities (*eg: access to resources, rights campaigning, consumption opportunities, fair trade, food security, etc.*)
3. Pushing the under consumption issues of the global South, while maintaining the pressure on over consumption (*eg: need for adequate consumption, poverty eradication, limits to greening the consumer, limits to green technology, etc.*)
4. Advocating/Agitating for corporate accountability (*eg: CSR as a promotional tool, CSR to replace accountability, making the dark visible, etc.*)
5. Partnering knowledge and research processes (*eg; partnering academics for knowledge to action research, partnering UN agencies for policy research, conducting community level research, etc.*)
6. Lobbying for governmental action for “NAP on SCP” (*eg: informer and awareness creators of the Marrakech process, acting as path maker for policy processes, guiding NAP processes, etc.*)



Engaging Stakeholders

1. **Equity** - in expert consultations, content providing and process determination
2. **Transparency & Openness** – in selection of participants and for real expertise to have opportunities to contribute
3. **Collectiveness & Inclusiveness** – is important from consultation to conclusion deriving and to ensure that the consultation is heard for action and not because stakeholder consultation has to be exercised democratic display.

