



First Global Meeting of the 10YFP

Lunchtime briefing on

Sustainable consumption and production: A pathway to sustainable development for SIDS

15 May 2015, 13:30 – 14:45,

Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters, New York

Welcome remarks

H.E. Mr. Juan Manuel González de Linares Palou
Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN

Mr. Jeffrey Salim Waheed
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the UN

Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries
and Small Island Developing States

Cases of SCP's contribution to sustainable development in SIDS

SCP in Jamaica

Michael Myles, National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica

Shifting towards SCP in Barbados

Mr. Travis Sinckler, 10YFP National Focal Point,
Ministry of Environment and Drainage Government, Barbados

Mauritius - the sustainable island

Mrs. Moonawwara Outim, 10YFP National Focal Point,
Ministry of Environment, Mauritius

Interactive discussion

Closing remarks by moderator

Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary General and
Director of UNEP's New York Office





Background

In a world in which human population is projected to be 9.5 billion by 2050, and in which about 1.2 billion people currently live in extreme poverty and deprivation, promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) has become vital, in order to ensure human well-being within Earth's carrying capacity. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (rio+20) in 2012, Heads of States adopted the 10-Year Framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), reaffirming that SCP is one of the overarching objectives of, and requirements for, sustainable development.

This will be particularly important for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), since they are confronted with special challenges to achieving sustainable development. SIDS will be hardest hit by climate change, are often characterised by the small extent of their markets, face capacity challenges and will need to sustainably manage their limited natural resources. Tourism in SIDS accounts for \$38 billion of earnings per year, constituting as much as 40 % of GDP in some countries. Due to size and geographic isolation, SIDS are highly reliant on agricultural imports, with 50 to 90 % of food and beverages being imported in many countries. These economic sectors use an enormous amount of resources and the local economy oftentimes generates large volumes of waste – issues that need to be sustainably managed.

The Samoa Pathway outcome document from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States makes clear that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development. Paragraph 68 recalls the “10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and its vision (...) that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process”. The document further stipulates that these efforts must be undertaken in SIDS in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, “taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development, and in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities”(para. 68).

It is within this context that the SAMOA pathway document calls for support for SIDS to develop and implement programmes under the 10YFP. There is an emphasis on “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development” (para.69). The 10YFP launched in Samoa the SCP for SIDS initiative within the 10YFP, to encourage SIDS to participate actively in the 10YFP. A meeting took place in Barbados on 27-29 January 2015, to advance the Caribbean implementation of the "SCP for SIDS initiative within the 10YFP". 3 priority areas were discussed: sustainable tourism, integrated waste management and sustainable lifestyles and education.

This event aims at showcasing and exchanging national experiences from SIDS in fields related to sustainable consumption and production, such as energy, waste management and resource efficiency, tourism, sustainable lifestyles. Building on national cases, the objective of the event is to explore the value added of sustainable consumption and production for sustainable development in SIDS, how to closely link action on the Samoa pathway with the programmes of the 10YFP and identifying potential focus areas for action on SCP in SIDS.