



# ABC of SCP

CLARIFYING CONCEPTS  
ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



*Towards a 10-Year Framework  
of Programmes on Sustainable  
Consumption and Production*

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME





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## CLARIFYING CONCEPTS

### ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**Towards a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production**



# Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank the following for their valuable inputs:

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And also colleagues at the United Nations Environment Programme: Amos Bien, Nis Christensen, Carlos Andres Enmanuel Ortiz, Kamala Ernest, Fatma Ben Fadhl, Arab Hoballah, Ruperto de Jesus, Jan Kappen, Cornis van der Lugt, Desta Mebratu, Solange Montillaud-Joyel, James Lomax, Donna McIntire, Fabienne Pierre, Liazzat Rabbiosi, Esther Reilink, Helena Rey, Luc Reuter, Janet Salem, Fulai Sheng, Ben Simmons, Soraya Smaoun, Guido Sonnemann, Steven Stone, Morgan Strecker, Niclas Svenningsen, Sonia Valdivia, James Vener, Geneviève Verbrugge, Farid Yaker.

## Design, layout, printing

100 Watt, France.

# Foreword

Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there has been an international recognition that the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was agreed, with a call for action to “encourage and promote the development of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by delinking economic growth and environmental degradation.”

Significant efforts have taken place during the last decades; there is increasing awareness, cooperation, and action on the ground to implement policies and actions on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). However, without fundamental changes in public policy, and in the way goods and services are produced and consumed by business and civil society, the world faces interlocking global crises.

An essential prerequisite to face the SCP challenges is that we have a common understanding of the concepts, tools, mechanisms and goals we are dealing with. Terms and concepts like Life Cycle Assessment, Circular economy, Decoupling and Sustainable Lifestyles are often used in our discussion and work in promoting SCP. However, it is essential to clarify concepts and more effectively communicate our vision for a better world in order to engage more stakeholders in developing and realising this vision.

This publication “ABC of SCP” aims to clarify the main terms and concepts related to sustainable consumption and production, and other terms associated with sustainable development, and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The main objective is to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on SCP between all stakeholders. This “ABC of SCP” does not pretend to present globally agreed definitions, but rather in most cases offers working definitions that may continue to evolve.

SCP is one of the main focus areas of the 18th and 19th sessions of the CSD, during which a proposal for a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production will be developed and considered. SCP is also permanently on the agenda of the CSD, as a cross-cutting issue. We hope that the ABC of SCP can facilitate the CSD discussions and preparation of the “Rio +20” conference as well as your own work.



Sylvie Lemmet

Director – UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

# Index

What is Sustainable Consumption and Production?.....	12
Agenda 21.....	14
Benchmarking .....	14
Best Available Technologies.....	14
Best Management Practices (BMP) .....	14
Byproducts.....	14
Capacity Building.....	14
Carbon Footprint (CF).....	14
Carrying Capacity of Ecosystems .....	14
Choice Editing / Choice Influencing.....	15
Circular Economy .....	15
Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM).....	15
Cleaner Production.....	15
CO <sub>2</sub> Equivalent .....	15
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) .....	16
Common but Differentiated Responsibility.....	16
Consumer Information .....	16
Consumer Preferences .....	17
Consumer Protection.....	17
Consumers.....	17
Consumption.....	18
Conspicuous Consumption .....	18
Continuous Improvement (in the context of SCP).....	18
Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSEER).....	18
Cradle to Cradle .....	18
Decoupling Economic Growth from Environmental Degradation.....	18
Demand Side Management (DSM).....	19
Dematerialisation .....	19
Design for Sustainability / Design Strategy .....	19
Eco-efficiency .....	19
Ecodesign .....	20
Ecological Footprint.....	20
Ecological Tax Reform .....	20
Economic Instruments.....	20
Ecosystem Services .....	20
Education for Sustainable Consumption .....	21
Education for Sustainable Development.....	21
Electronic Waste / E-Waste / Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).....	21

Emissions Trading (ET).....	22	Low Carbon Economies / Societies .....	34
Energy Efficiency.....	22	Low Carbon Technologies .....	34
Energy-Efficient Buildings (net-zero-energy buildings) .....	22	Major Groups .....	34
End-of-Life (EoL).....	22	Marrakech Process.....	34
Environmental Awareness/Education .....	22	Material Flow Analysis (MFA).....	35
Environmental Labelling and Certification .....	22	Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) .....	36
Environmental Management System.....	23	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment .....	36
Environmentally Sound Technologies .....	23	National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) .....	37
Ethical Investment / Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) .....	23	National SCP Programmes .....	37
Ethical Trade.....	23	Non-Renewable Energy.....	38
Extended Producer Responsibility .....	23	Our Common Future.....	38
Externalities .....	24	Partnerships for Sustainable Development.....	38
Factor 10 / Factor 4.....	24	Planetary Boundaries.....	39
Fair Trade .....	24	Polluter Pays Principle (PPP).....	39
Function Based Approach .....	24	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) .....	39
Gender Balance/Mainstreaming.....	25	Poverty Alleviation/Eradication .....	40
Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) .....	25	Precautionary Approach .....	40
Global Green New Deal (GGND) .....	25	Producers.....	40
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).....	26	Product Standards .....	40
Goods .....	26	Production .....	40
Green Building.....	26	Products.....	41
Green/Environmental Claims & Misleading Environmental Claims.....	26	Public Goods.....	41
Greenwashing .....	27	Rebound Effect.....	41
Green Economy Initiative (GEI).....	27	Reduce - Reuse – Recycle (3Rs).....	41
Green Growth.....	28	Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs).....	41
Green Jobs / Decent Work .....	28	Renewable Energy .....	42
Green Marketing or Sustainable Marketing .....	29	Resources .....	42
Human Development Index (HDI) .....	29	Resource Efficiency .....	42
Holistic Approach .....	30	Retailers .....	42
Indicators for SCP .....	30	Services .....	43
Industrial Ecology .....	30	Social Responsibility .....	43
Integrated Product Policies.....	31	Sufficiency.....	43
Internalisation of Environmental and Social Costs .....	31	Sustainable Agriculture .....	44
International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management.....	31	Sustainable Buildings and Construction (SBC).....	44
Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).....	32	Sustainable Cities .....	44
Leapfrogging .....	32	Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) .....	44
Life Cycle Approach .....	32	Sustainable Development .....	45
Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) .....	32	Sustainable Development Indicator.....	45
Life Cycle Management (LCM).....	33	Sustainable Economy .....	45
Life Cycle Thinking.....	33	Sustainable Lifestyles.....	45
Limits to Growth .....	33	Sustainable Products.....	46
Living Planet Index.....	34	Sustainable Procurement / Green Procurement .....	46

Sustainable Supply Chain / Responsible Sourcing ..... 46  
Sustainable Tourism..... 47  
Sustainable Transport/Mobility ..... 47  
Sustainable Urban Development..... 47  
Task Forces (Marrakech Process) ..... 48  
Technology Transfer..... 48  
Ten Year Framework of Programmes / 10 YFP..... 48  
Triple Bottom Line..... 48  
UN Global Compact ..... 49  
Voluntary Simplicity..... 49  
Waste..... 49  
Water Footprint..... 50  
World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) ..... 50  
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (UNCSD),..... 51  
or Rio +20

## What is Sustainable Consumption and Production?

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, sustainable consumption and production (SCP) was recognised as an overarching theme to link environmental and development challenges. The conference's final report, *Agenda 21*, states that the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The debate continued in 1994 at the Oslo Symposium on Sustainable Consumption, which analysed the role of stakeholders and provided what has become a working definition of SCP.

Working definition of SCP:

***“The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimising the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations”.***

*Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Oslo Symposium, 1994*

Ten years after the Rio Conference, the world leaders signed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Chapter 3 of the plan was

devoted to “Changing Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production” and declared that “fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. All countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns”. It also called for the development of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10 YFP) to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, and to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by de-linking economic growth from environmental degradation. The Marrakech Process responds to this call of the JPOI by supporting the implementation of SCP programmes, projects and policies, and helping to construct the 10 YFP.

Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. The implementation of SCP as an integrated approach helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

One of SCP's main goals is to ‘decouple’ economic growth and environmental degradation by increasing the efficiency of resource use in the production, distribution

and use of products, aiming to keep the energy, material and pollution intensity of all production and consumption functions within the carrying capacities of natural ecosystems.

SCP requires “lifecycle thinking” to increase the sustainable management of resources and achieve resource efficiency along both production and consumption phases. With this lifecycle approach, SCP goals and actions become powerful levers to accelerate the transition to an eco-efficient economy and turn environmental and social challenges into business and employment opportunities, while decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and preventing a rebound effect.

SCP aims at “doing more and better with less” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life.

This change towards SCP involves different stakeholders, including business, consumers,

policy makers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media, and development cooperation agencies, among others. It therefore requires a systemic approach and cooperation among actors operating in the supply chain, from producer to final consumer.

SCP can contribute to poverty eradication and to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. For developing countries, SCP offers opportunities such as the creation of new markets, green and decent jobs (e.g. markets for organic food, fair trade, sustainable housing, sustainable transport and tourism, renewable energy) as well as more efficient, welfare-generating natural resource management. It is also an opportunity to leapfrog to more resource-efficient, environmentally-sound and competitive technologies.

## Definitions

<b>Agenda 21</b>	Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organisations of the United Nations system, governments, and Major Groups in every area in which humans impact on the environment. It was adopted by more than 178 governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Benchmarking</b>	A process by which a company or organisation compares its products and methods with those of the most successful in its field, in order to judge its own performance, or that of other companies of the same type. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Best Available Technologies</b>	The latest stage of development (state of the art) of processes, of facilities or of methods of operation which indicate the practical suitability of a particular measure for limiting environmental and social impacts. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Best Management Practices (BMP)</b>	Methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means in achieving an objective (such as preventing or minimising pollution) while making the optimum use of resources. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Byproducts</b>	Output other than the principal product(s) of an industrial process. Byproducts have low value in comparison with the principal product(s) and may be discarded or sold either in their original state, or after further processing. <sup>5</sup>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	Means by which skills, experience, technical and management capacity are developed within an organisational structure, often through the provision of technical assistance, short/long-term training, and specialist inputs. The process may involve the development of human, material and financial resources. <sup>6</sup>
<b>Carbon Footprint (CF)</b>	The total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by an organisation, event or product. For simplicity of reporting, it is often expressed in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide, or its equivalent of other GHGs, emitted. <sup>7</sup>
<b>Carrying Capacity of Ecosystems</b>	Capacity of an ecosystem to support healthy organisms while maintaining its productivity, adaptability and capability for

renewal. Carrying capacity is a quantitative concept: key factors for human populations include numbers and density, affluence and technology. Concerns focus on depletion rates of renewable and non-renewable resources and the build up of hazardous wastes in the environment.<sup>8</sup>

<b>Choice Editing / Choice Influencing</b>	Choice editing is the term used to describe instances where governments and/or businesses influence the choices made by consumers. For example, a decision by a government to remove all non-energy efficient light bulbs removes the choice for consumers to buy light bulbs that are not energy efficient. <sup>9</sup>
<b>Circular Economy</b>	A Circular Economy is an economy that balances economic development with environmental and resource conservation. It puts emphasis on environmental protection and the most efficient use of and recycling of resources. A Circular Economy features low consumption of energy, low emission of pollutants and high efficiency. It involves applying Cleaner Production in companies, eco-industrial park development and integrated resource-based planning for development in industry, agriculture and urban areas. The Circular Economy was adopted by the Chinese Government in the last five year plan (2001-2005) as the development model for China to follow. <sup>10</sup>
<b>Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)</b>	As set out in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a flexible mechanism which allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Protocol to implement an emission-reduction project in a developing country in order to earn sellable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO <sub>2</sub> which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Cleaner Production</b>	The continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, goods, and services to increase overall efficiency, and reduce risks to humans and the environment. Cleaner Production can be applied to the processes used in any industry, to goods themselves, and to various services provided in society. <sup>12</sup>
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Equivalent</b>	The concentration of CO <sub>2</sub> that would cause the same amount of radiative forcing as the given mixture of CO <sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide equivalents (CO <sub>2</sub> eq) provide a universal standard of measurement against which the impacts of releasing



(or avoiding the release of) different greenhouse gases can be evaluated.<sup>13</sup>

**Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit.

The Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels. The JPOI reaffirmed that the CSD is the high-level forum for sustainable development within the United Nations system.

The CSD meets annually in New York, in two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues, outlined in its new multi-year programme of work (2003-2017) (E/CN.17/2003/6).<sup>14</sup>

**Common but Differentiated Responsibility**

The principle of “common but differentiated responsibility” is a manifestation of general principles of equity in international law. The principle recognises historical differences in the contributions of developed and developing states to global environmental problems, and differences in their respective economic and technical capacity to tackle these problems. The principle of common but differentiated responsibility includes two fundamental elements. The first concerns the common responsibility of states for the protection of the environment, or parts of it, at the national, regional and global levels. The second concerns the need to take into account the different circumstances, particularly each state’s contribution to the evolution of a particular problem and its ability to prevent, reduce and control the threat.<sup>15</sup>

**Consumer Information**

Consumer information pertaining to the characteristics of products and transactions, made available to consumers/users to allow them to make informed choices at the time of initial acquisition and afterwards for use of the goods or services concerned. Consumer information makes it easier for consumers to compare goods and services, increases transparency and accountability,

and reduces search costs. It can be used not only to inform, but also to influence consumer behaviour - a case in point includes campaigns to encourage sustainable consumer choices and consumption patterns. Information may encompass details of process and production methods which are intended to inform consumers of the wider effects of the production of the goods or services. The information may be provided by the producer or by third parties such as consumer organisations, testing agencies, labelling or certification organisations etc.<sup>16</sup>

**Consumer Preferences**

A consequence of consumer choice, guiding the acquisition of a good or service on the basis of the information available. This may include the preference not to consume at all.<sup>17</sup>

**Consumer Protection**

This refers to mechanisms (legal, quasi-legal, moral and institutional) to protect consumers or users in their transactions with producers (e.g. safeguards against unfair contract terms) and in their use of goods or services (e.g. product safety standards).

The UN guidelines on consumer protection (1999) “recognise that consumers, particularly in developing countries, often face imbalances in economic terms, educational levels and bargaining power”; and that they “should have the right of access to non-hazardous products, as well as the right to promote just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection.”

The guidelines also state that governments’ role is crucial to maintain adequate infrastructure to develop, implement and monitor consumer protection policies. Special care should be taken to ensure that measures for consumer protection are implemented for the benefit of all sectors of the population, particularly the rural population and people living in poverty.

In applying any procedures or regulations for consumer protection, due regard should be given to ensuring that they do not become barriers to international trade and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.”<sup>18</sup>

**Consumers**

Everyday purchaser of a good or service in retail or end user in the distribution chain of a good or service.<sup>19</sup>

<b>Consumption</b>	Expenditure during a particular period on goods and services used in satisfaction of needs and wants, or process in which the substance of a thing is completely destroyed, and/or incorporated or transformed into something else. <sup>20</sup>
<b>Conspicuous Consumption</b>	Lavish spending on goods and services acquired mainly for the purpose of displaying income or wealth and maintaining social status. <sup>21</sup>
<b>Continuous Improvement (in the context of SCP)</b>	Continuous improvement is an ongoing systematic effort seeking small improvements in processes and products, with the objective of increasing quality and reducing waste, as well as reducing footprints and minimising environmental and socio-economic burdens, while maximising economic and social values. Continuous improvement is one of the tools that underpin the philosophies of total quality management and clean production. Through constant study and revision of processes, a better product can result in reduced costs. <sup>22</sup>
<b>Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER)</b>	A values-based way of conducting business in a manner that advances sustainable development, seeking positive impact between business operations and society, aware of the close interrelation between business and society as well as of companies, like citizens, having basic rights and duties wherever they operate. <sup>23</sup>
<b>Cradle to Cradle</b>	Cradle to cradle promotes the principle that products can be designed from the outset so that, after their useful lives, they will provide nourishment for something new. This could be either as a biological nutrient that will easily re-enter the water or soil without depositing synthetic materials and toxins or as technical nutrients that will continually circulate as pure and valuable material within a closed loop industrial cycle. <sup>24</sup>
<b>Decoupling Economic Growth from Environmental Degradation</b>	Decoupling refers to the relationship between (1) economic variables, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or the Human Development Index (HDI), and (2) environmental variables, such as resource use or environmental indicators. There is a distinction between decoupling economic growth from resource use and from environmental impacts. <i>-Resource decoupling</i> refers to reducing the relationship between economic growth and the consumption of land, material, water and energy resources.

*-Impact decoupling* refers to reducing the relationship between economic growth and environmental impacts such as climate change, biodiversity loss and degradation of human health.

There is also a distinction between absolute and relative decoupling. *-In relative decoupling*, the growth rate of the environmentally relevant parameter is less than the economic parameter, but is still positive.

*-In absolute decoupling*, the growth rate of the environmental parameter is zero or negative.<sup>25</sup>

**Demand Side Management (DSM)** Implementation of policies or measures that serve to reduce or otherwise influence the demand (by users or consumers) instead of supply.<sup>26</sup>

**Dematerialisation** Dematerialisation is often mentioned as a strategy or as an indicator in the framework of sustainable development. Dematerialisation can be defined as the reduction of the throughput of materials in human societies. The degree of dematerialisation can be measured on different geographical scales like nations, regions and cities, but also within different sectors of industry, households and in products. One can distinguish *absolute* (or strong) dematerialisation and *relative* (or weak) dematerialisation. When the total amount of material inputs in a society is decreasing this is called *absolute dematerialisation*. When the amount of material input is going down per unit of GDP or per capita the term *relative dematerialisation* is used.<sup>27</sup>

**Design for Sustainability / Design Strategy** Design for sustainability takes eco-design approaches further and addresses the social dimension of sustainability in the design process. It also encompasses the broader issue of how best to meet needs (functionality) with minimal environmental and social impacts, rather than focusing on improving existing products.<sup>28</sup>

**Eco-efficiency** Eco-efficiency is a management philosophy that encourages business to search for environmental improvements that yield parallel economic benefits. It focuses on business opportunities and allows companies to become more environmentally responsible and more profitable. It is a key business contribution to sustainable societies. Eco-efficiency is achieved by the delivery of competitively priced goods and services that satisfy human needs and bring quality of life, while progressively reducing ecological

impacts and resource intensity throughout the life-cycle to a level at least in line with the earth's estimated carrying capacity.<sup>29</sup>

**Ecodesign** Ecodesign aims at reducing the environmental impact of products (including energy consumption) throughout their entire life cycle.<sup>30</sup>

**Ecological Footprint** A measure of how much biologically productive land and water an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates using prevailing technology and resource management practices. The ecological footprint is usually measured in global hectares (a common unit that encompasses the average productivity of all the biologically productive land and sea area in the world in a given year). Because trade is global, an individual or country's footprint includes land or sea from all over the world.<sup>31</sup>

**Ecological Tax Reform** Taxation and pricing instruments aimed at improving environmental management, including taxes on the exploitation of natural resources (e.g. forests, minerals, fisheries), user charges and fees (e.g. water charges, street parking fees and permits or licences on natural resources), taxes or charges on polluting emissions (e.g. air pollution) and reforms to subsidies (e.g. on pesticides, water, energy).<sup>32</sup>

**Economic Instruments** A monetary incentive or disincentive to act in a manner supportive of policy objectives. Examples in relation to SCP include full-cost pricing, environmental taxes and charges, green tax reform and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies.<sup>33</sup>

**Ecosystem Services** Ecological processes or functions that have value or benefits to individuals or society. These include:

- *Provisioning services* - the products obtained from ecosystems, including, for example, genetic resources, food and fibre, and freshwater
- *Regulating services* - the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, including, for example, the regulation of climate, water and some human diseases
- *Cultural services* - the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, reflection, recreation and aesthetic experience, including, for example, knowledge systems, social relations and aesthetic values
- *Supporting services*. - the services necessary for the

production of all other ecosystem services, including, for example, biomass production, production of atmospheric oxygen, soil formation and retention, nutrient cycling, water cycling and provision of habitat.<sup>34</sup>

**Education for Sustainable Consumption** Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC) aims to provide knowledge, values and skills to enable individuals and social groups to become actors of change towards more sustainable consumption behaviours. The objective is to ensure that the basic needs of the global community are met, quality of life for all is improved and inefficient use of resources and environmental degradation are avoided. ESC is therefore about providing citizens with appropriate information and knowledge on the environmental and social impacts of their daily choices, as well as providing workable solutions and alternatives. ESC integrates fundamental rights and freedoms including consumers' rights, and aims at protecting and empowering consumers in order to enable them to participate in the public debate and economy in an informed, confident and ethical way.<sup>35</sup>

**Education for Sustainable Development** Education for sustainable development (ESD) aims to help people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions.

ESD supports five fundamental types of learning to provide quality education and foster sustainable human development: learning to know, learning to be, learning to live together, learning to do and learning to transform oneself and society.

ESD concerns all levels of education and all social contexts (family, school, workplace, community). It allows learners to acquire the skills, capacities, values and knowledge required to ensure sustainable development, and fosters responsible citizens.

UNESCO is leading the **United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development** (UN DESD) – 2005-2014.<sup>36</sup>

**Electronic Waste / E-Waste / Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)** E-waste is a generic term encompassing various forms of electrical and electronic equipment that are old, end-of-life appliances and have ceased to be of any value to their owners. A practical definition of e-waste is "*any electrically powered appliance that fails to satisfy the current owner for its originally intended purpose*".<sup>37</sup>

**Emissions Trading (ET)** A market-based approach to achieving environmental objectives that allows those reducing greenhouse gas emissions below what is required, to use or trade the excess reductions to offset emissions at another source inside or outside the country. In general, trading can occur at the intra-company, domestic and international levels.<sup>38</sup>

**Energy Efficiency** Energy Efficiency (EE) encompasses all changes that result in a reduction in the energy used for a given energy service (heating, lighting...) or level of activity. This reduction in energy consumption is not necessarily associated with technical changes, since it can also result from a better organisation and management or improved economic efficiency in the sector (e.g. overall gains of productivity).<sup>39</sup>

**Energy Efficient Buildings (net-zero-energy buildings)** Energy efficiency is a central requirement of a sustainable building. The target is to construct net-zero-energy buildings where, as a result of the high level of energy efficiency of the building, the overall annual primary energy consumption is equal to or less than the energy production from renewable energy sources on-site.<sup>40</sup>

**End-of-Life (EoL)** Stage in the life cycle of a product when it becomes obsolete or has reached the end of its useful life. When goods become obsolete (such as when they break, have no use, or simply become unwanted) consumers then make decisions about the end of life of the things they buy, which could be reused, recycled, or thrown away for final disposal.<sup>41</sup>

**Environmental Awareness/ Education** Environmental Awareness or Education is a core component of Education for Sustainable Development and takes the environment as its entry point. Environmental education and training is meant to transfer knowledge, values, behaviours and skills that enable people, individually and collectively, to better understand and to interact positively with their natural but also social, economic and cultural environment.<sup>42</sup>

**Environmental Labelling and Certification** Voluntary procedure of ensuring that a product (refers to both goods and services, including their production processes) meets certain specified criteria.

- **Environmental label** – claim that indicates the environmental aspects of a good or service.
- **Ecolabel** is awarded by an impartial third-party in relation to certain products that meet environmental leadership criteria

based on life cycle considerations.

- **Certification** is awarded to those products that comply absolutely with a set of baseline standards.<sup>43</sup>

**Environmental Management System**

An environmental management system (EMS) is part of an organisation's management system used to develop and implement its environmental policy and manage its interactions with the environment. A management system is a set of interrelated requirements used to establish policy and objectives, and to achieve those objectives it includes organisational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources.<sup>44</sup>

**Environmentally Sound Technologies**

Technologies that protect the environment, are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products, and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than other technologies. In the context of pollution, they are "process and product technologies" that generate low or no waste, for the prevention of pollution. They also cover "end of the pipe" technologies for treatment of pollution after it has been generated. They are total systems which include know-how, procedures, goods and services, and equipment as well as organisational and managerial procedures.<sup>45</sup>

**Ethical Investment / Socially Responsible Investment (SRI)**

Socially Responsible Investment (SRI), also collectively known as ethical investment, refers to the strategy of focusing on the positive social and/or ecological impact of a company, in addition to its financial return.<sup>46</sup>

**Ethical Trade**

Ethical trade means that retailers, brands and their suppliers take responsibility for improving the working conditions of the people who make the products they sell.

Companies with a commitment to ethical trade adopt a code of labour practice that they expect all their suppliers to work towards. Such codes address issues such as wages, hours of work, health and safety and the right to join trade unions.<sup>47</sup>

**Extended Producer Responsibility**

Extended Producer Responsibility means that the producers take responsibility for their products from cradle to grave, and therefore, should develop products that have improved

performance throughout all stages of the product life cycle. At each stage of the life cycle, opportunities for improved performance exist.<sup>48</sup>

#### Externalities

Byproducts of activities that affect the well-being of people or damage the environment, where those impacts are not reflected in market prices. The costs (or benefits) associated with externalities do not enter standard cost accounting schemes.<sup>49</sup>

**Factor 10 / Factor 4** **Factor 10** refers to the possibility of creating products and services that have a resource intensity one tenth that of the conventional alternative.

It evolved from the concept of **Factor 4**, as developed at the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment & Energy. The idea behind Factor Four is that natural resources can be used four times more efficiently in all domains of daily life, either by generating more goods, services and quality of life from the available resources, or by using less resources to maintain the same standard.<sup>50</sup>

#### Fair Trade

The concept of fair trade applies to trade operations which strengthen the economic position of small-scale producers and landowners in order to ensure that they are not marginalised in the world economy. It mainly relates to developing countries and covers two main aspects:

- Ensuring that producers, including employees, receive a share of the total profit commensurate with their input;
- Improving social conditions, particularly those of employees in the absence of developed structures for social services and worker representation (trade union representation for instance). This concept has long-term development in mind. Participation in initiatives on fair trade is voluntary for both sellers and consumers.<sup>51</sup>

#### Function Based Approach

Human needs should be met by goods and services that are aimed at specific “functions” such as nutrition, shelter and mobility, and that are provided through optimised consumption and production systems that do not exceed the carrying capacity of the ecosystem. This describes the goal of an emerging group of efforts, which can be described as a “function-based approach”.

The function-based approach uses life-cycle thinking, and looks at satisfying needs and functions in a different way, and not only through material consumption.<sup>52</sup>

#### Gender Balance / Mainstreaming

The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.<sup>53</sup>

#### Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is an alternative to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which enables policymakers at the national, state, regional, or local level to measure how well their citizens are doing, both economically and socially. While economists, policy makers, reporters, and the public rely on the GDP as a shorthand indicator of progress, that measure is merely a sum of national spending with no distinctions between transactions that add to well-being and those that diminish it.

The GPI starts with the same personal consumption data that the GDP is based on, but then makes some crucial distinctions. It adjusts for factors such as income distribution, adds factors such as the value of household and volunteer work, and subtracts factors such as the costs of crime and pollution. The GPI is one of the first alternatives to the GDP to be vetted by the scientific community and used regularly by governmental and non-governmental organisations worldwide.

Because the GDP and the GPI are both measured in monetary terms, they can be compared on the same scale. Measurements that make up the GPI include: Income Distribution, Housework, Volunteering, Higher Education, Crime, Resource Depletion, Pollution, Long-Term Environmental Damage, Changes in Leisure Time, Defensive Expenditures, Lifespan of Consumer Durables & Public Infrastructure, Dependence on Foreign Assets.<sup>54</sup>

#### Global Green New Deal (GGND)

In response to the global financial and economic crisis, which broke out in the autumn of 2008, UNEP has called for a “Global Green New Deal” for reviving the global economy and boosting employment, while simultaneously accelerating the fight against climate change, environmental degradation and poverty. UNEP is recommending that a significant portion of the estimated US\$3 trillion in pledged economic stimulus packages be invested in five critical areas:

- Raising the energy efficiency of old and new buildings;
- Transitioning to renewable energies including wind, solar, geothermal and biomass;
- Increasing reliance on sustainable transport including hybrid vehicles, high speed rail and bus rapid transit systems;
- Bolstering the planet's ecological infrastructure, including freshwater ecosystems, forests, soils and coral reefs;
- Supporting sustainable agriculture, including organic production.

The Global Green New Deal also calls for a range of specific measures aimed at assisting poorer countries in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and greening their economies. These include an expansion of microcredit schemes for clean energy, reform of perverse subsidies (from fossil fuel use to fisheries), and the greening of overseas development aid.<sup>55</sup>

#### Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

Network-based, international, multi-stakeholder initiative that has pioneered the development of the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework. Its secretariat in Amsterdam is committed to its continuous improvement and application worldwide. The reporting guidelines include indicators on various aspects of SCP. The reporting framework is developed through a consensus-seeking process with participants drawn globally from business, civil society, labour, and professional institutions, in order to ensure the highest degree of technical quality, credibility, and relevance. The initiative was launched by CERES and UNEP in 1997.<sup>56</sup>

#### Goods

Commodity, or a physical, tangible item that satisfies some human want or need. Goods are tangible objects, like bread or books, whereas services are intangibles, like TV broadcasting or teaching.<sup>57</sup>

#### Green Building

A green building focuses on ecological aspects. It is designed, specified and constructed with energy and water efficiency in mind, and minimising any adverse impact of the building on its inhabitants as well as the environment.<sup>58</sup>

#### Green/ Environmental Claims and Misleading Environmental Claims

**Green/environmental claims** are assertions made by firms about the environmentally beneficial qualities or characteristics of their products. In addition to environmental qualities, such claims are often also defined to include the socially responsible or ethical manner in which products are produced and distributed. They can refer to production processes, packaging or the

distribution of products, as well as their use, consumption, or disposal (e.g. recycling, sustainable forestry, sustainable fishing, organic agriculture, carbon footprint). The claims can appear on a product, its packaging, in related literature or advertising material, as well as promotional and point of sales material. The claims can take the form of written text, symbols, or graphics, but also include transmission through digital and electronic media such as television, radio, or the internet.

**Misleading environmental claims** are false or deceptive information about the environmentally beneficial qualities or characteristics of goods and services that mislead consumers into making purchasing decisions which they would not otherwise have made, resulting in a loss of economic welfare.<sup>59</sup>

#### Greenwashing

Greenwashing is the act of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service. Companies are notably accused of greenwashing when they spend more time and money claiming to be "green" through advertising and marketing than actually implementing business practices that minimise their environmental impact.<sup>60</sup>

#### Green Economy Initiative

The UNEP-led Green Economy Initiative (GEI) consists of several components whose collective overall objective is to make a macroeconomic case for, and provide guidance on, investing in green sectors and in greening brown sectors. The initiative is to demonstrate that investing in sectors such as renewable energies, clean and efficient technologies, water services, and sustainable agriculture can contribute to economic growth, creation of decent jobs, social equity, and poverty reduction while addressing climate and other ecological challenges.

Within UNEP, the GEI includes three sets of activities. The first is the production of a Green Economy Report (GER) and related research materials, which will analyse the macroeconomic, sustainability, and poverty-reduction implications of green investment in a range of sectors, from renewable energy to sustainable agriculture, and provides guidance on policies that can enable increased investment in these sectors. The second is the provision of advisory services on ways to move towards a green economy in specific countries. The third is the active engagement of a wide range of research institutions,

NGOs, business, and UN partners in implementing the GEI.

Beyond UNEP, the GEI is one of the nine UN-wide Joint Crisis Initiatives (JCI) launched by the UN System's Chief Executives Board in early 2009. In this context, the UNEP-led GEI includes a wide range of research activities and capacity building events from over 20 UN agencies including the Bretton Woods Institutions. In addition, the UN System's interagency Environment Management Group (EMG) has decided to establish an Issue Management Group (IMG) on Green Economy, which provides an operating mechanism for coordinating the various activities and events planned under the JCI on Green Economy.<sup>61</sup>

### Green Growth

Green Growth is environmentally sustainable economic progress that fosters low-carbon, socially inclusive development. It articulates concise and clear entry points and policy approaches for making real gains in eco-efficiency and transferring to low-carbon development, synergising climate action with development goals.

In March 2005, at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED 2005) in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, some 340 delegates, including representatives from 52 member and associate member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) endorsed Green Growth as a policy focus and strategy to promote win-win approaches to reconciling the conflict between the achievement of two important Millennium Development Goals: MDG 1 (poverty reduction) and MDG 7 (environmental sustainability). Green Growth is comprised of the following mutually-reinforcing "paths", or entry points, through which policy makers can focus interventions: Sustainable Consumption and Production, Greening Business and the Markets, Sustainable Infrastructure, Green Tax and Budget Reform, Investment in Natural Capital, and Eco-efficiency Indicators.<sup>62</sup>

### Green Jobs / Decent Work

**Green jobs** is defined in a joint ILO-UNEP study on the subject as work in agriculture, industry, services and administration that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment.

Green jobs reduce the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors, ultimately to levels that are sustainable. Green jobs are found in many sectors of the economy, from energy

supply to recycling, and from agriculture and construction to transportation. They help to cut the consumption of energy, raw materials and water through high-efficiency strategies, to decarbonise the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to minimise or avoid altogether all forms of waste and pollution, to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity.<sup>63</sup>

**Decent work** involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace, social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

Decent work is captured in four strategic objectives: fundamental principles, rights at work and international labour standards; employment and income opportunities; social protection and social security; and social dialogue and tripartism. These objectives hold for all workers, women and men, in both formal and informal economies; in wage employment or working on their own account; in the fields, factories and offices; in their home or in the community.<sup>64</sup>

### Green Marketing or Sustainable Marketing

The term "sustainable marketing" covers three aspects:

- Responsible marketing, which describes procedures and management systems developed to avoid promoting unsustainable behaviours.
- Green marketing, which consists of the design and promotion of goods and services with an environmental value added. This refers to improvements over the entire life-cycle of a product, including environmentally-friendly sourcing, clean production processes, improved impact during use, reduced packaging, recyclability, reusability, existence of take-back schemes, etc. This definition can be broadened to goods and services with a social value added such as fair trade, sweatshop-free or locally produced goods.
- Social marketing, which aims at raising public awareness in order to introduce more sustainable behaviours, such as energy or water conservation, and waste reduction.<sup>65</sup>

### Human Development Index (HDI)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a method of measuring development by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income into a composite human

development index. The breakthrough for the HDI was the creation of a single statistic which was to serve as a frame of reference for both social and economic development. The HDI sets a minimum and a maximum for each dimension, called goalposts, and then shows where each country stands in relation to these goalposts, expressed as a value between 0 and 1. The HDI facilitates instructive comparisons of the experiences within and between different countries.<sup>66</sup>

**Holistic Approach (in relation to SCP)** Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is seen as a holistic approach, since it integrates economic, social and environmental aspects (Triple Bottom Line), as well as technological and behavioural innovation, along the whole life cycle. SCP is cross-cutting regarding disciplines, and covers all natural resources (e.g. energy, water, air, soil and all pollutants and emissions dumped in ecosystems) as well as industry sectors and consumption domains.<sup>67</sup>

**Indicators for SCP** Indicators are an important tool for measuring change and for focusing attention on key priorities. The primary focus of SCP indicators is on measuring progress towards more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Recognising that what goes unmeasured is often ignored, indicators are an important tool both for indicating progress – or the lack of it – towards the specific objectives of a particular programme, and for prompting appropriate response strategies. In the context of SCP, indicators can also indicate whether a society's consumption and production patterns are bringing about more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable development.<sup>68</sup>

**Industrial Ecology** Industrial ecology is a science researching the shifting of traditional waste-producing industrial processes to closed-loop systems, where wastes become inputs for new processes. Industrial Ecology researches more effective use of internal resources, or clustering with other industrial processes. It studies the redesign of manufacturing processes and business relationships to use less energy, reject less waste, and substitute non-polluting catalysts and enzymes instead of using more traditional chemical processes. Industrial ecology covers the network of all industrial processes as they may interact and live off each other, not only in the economic sense, but also in the sense of direct use of each other's material and energy wastes. It recognises that there is a constant flow of energy and recycling of matter. There is in reality no such thing as waste –

one industry's by-product becomes the raw material for another. The premise of industrial ecology is that the industrial economy should, as far as possible, imitate the cycling of materials and energy as it occurs in a natural ecosystem.<sup>69</sup>

**Integrated Product Policies** Integrated product policies is an approach that begins by asking how the environmental performance of products can be improved most cost-effectively. It is founded on the consideration of the impacts of products throughout their life-cycle, from the natural resources from which they come, through their use and marketing, to their eventual disposal as waste. It is also a relatively new approach to environmental policy.<sup>70</sup>

**Internalisation of Environmental and Social Costs** Internalisation of external costs aims to provide producers, manufacturers and consumers with correct signals as to the true scarcity of resources, including environmental resources, so that private production and consumption decisions are more in line with the social costs and benefits. Internalisation can increase competitiveness in at least three ways: first, by increasing resource efficiency and/or reducing resource use; second, by limiting waste and pollution and thereby lowering abatement costs; and third, by reducing resource depletion and thereby related environmental costs. It is important in this respect though to harness the synergies between company interests in enhancing resource efficiency and government interests in allocative efficiency, resource conservation and improvement in environmental quality.<sup>71</sup>

**International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management** The International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, or Resource Panel for short, was officially launched in November 2007 and is expected to build the scientific impetus for decoupling economic growth and resource use from environmental degradation. The overall objective of the Resource Panel is therefore to provide independent scientific assessment of the environmental impacts due to the use of resources over the full life cycle, and advise governments and organisations on ways to reduce these impacts. The objectives of the Resource Panel are to:

- provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance on the sustainable use of natural resources and in particular their environmental impacts over the full life cycle; and
- contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.<sup>72</sup>



**Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)** Adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, ten years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation affirmed UN commitment to “full implementation” of Agenda 21, alongside achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other international agreements.

The JPOI asserts that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns, and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are the over-arching objectives of sustainable development and acknowledges that problems such as global inequalities, loss of biodiversity, and climate change must be addressed.<sup>73</sup>

**Leapfrogging** A term used to describe the possibility for developing countries to bypass inefficient, polluting, and ultimately costly phases of development by jumping straight towards sustainable human development and a better quality of life. In other words, leapfrogging is an opportunity to avoid the inefficient and polluting phases of development that industrialised countries have gone through.

The term “leapfrogging” describes the rapid change made by a society or a company to a higher level of development without going through the intermediate stages observed in other cases. This connects with the idea that economic resources for unsustainable, outdated and polluting technologies can be saved and instead invested directly in a sustainable future. Ecological leapfrogging can be an alternative to development-as-catching up. It provides strategies to directly enter the phase of sustainability without going through the resource-intensive production and consumption models of industrial societies.<sup>74</sup>

**Life Cycle Approach/ Perspective** A Life cycle approach reflects the incorporation of life cycle thinking in decision-making or development processes.<sup>75</sup>

**Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a tool to evaluate the environmental and social performance of products or services along their life cycle.

Under the **Environmental Life Cycle Assessment (ELCA)**, extraction and consumption of resources (including energy), as well as releases to air, water and soil, are quantified through all stages of the life cycle. Their potential contribution to important environmental impact categories is then assessed. These include climate change, toxicity, ecosystem damage and resource base deterioration.

**Social Life Cycle Assessment (SLCA)** is a social impact assessment technique that aims to assess the social and socio-economic aspects of products and their positive and negative impacts (real and potential impacts) along their life cycle, encompassing extraction and processing of raw materials, manufacturing, distribution, use, re-use, maintenance, recycling, and final disposal.<sup>76</sup>

**Life Cycle Management (LCM)** Life cycle management (LCM) is a product management system aimed at minimising the environmental and socio-economic burdens associated with an organisation’s product or product portfolio during its entire life cycle and value chain. LCM supports the business assimilation of product policies adopted by governments. This is done by making life cycle approaches operational and through the continuous improvement of product systems.<sup>77</sup>

**Life Cycle Thinking** Life cycle thinking expands the traditional focus on the production site and manufacturing processes and incorporates various aspects over a product’s entire life cycle from cradle to cradle (i.e. from the extraction of resources, through the manufacture and use of the product, to the final processing of the disposed product).<sup>78</sup>

**Limits to Growth** Title and concept promoted in the Club Of Rome *Limits to Growth* report of 1972, looking at the future of our planet. With the help of computing models, scenarios were developed showing different possible patterns and environmental outcomes of world development over two centuries from 1900 to 2100. The scenarios displayed how population growth and natural resource use interacted to impose limits to industrial growth, a novel and even controversial idea at the time.

*Limits of Growth* has been twice revised, first in 1992 in *Beyond the Limits*, identifying as the main challenge how to move the world back into sustainable territory, and again in 2002.<sup>79</sup>

**Living Planet Index**

The Living Planet Index measures trends in the Earth’s biological diversity. It tracks populations of 1,313 vertebrate species – fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals – from all around the world.

Separate indices are produced for terrestrial, marine, and freshwater species, and the three trends are then averaged to create an aggregated index. Although vertebrates represent only a fraction of known species, it is assumed that trends in their populations are typical of biodiversity overall.

By tracking wild species, the Living Planet Index is also monitoring the health of ecosystems. Since 1970 the index has fallen by about 30%. This global trend suggests that we are degrading natural ecosystems at a rate unprecedented in human history.<sup>80</sup>

**Low Carbon Economies / Societies**

A Low Carbon Economy (LCE) is defined as a new economic, technological and social system of production and consumption to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, compared with the traditional economic system, whilst maintaining momentum towards economic and social development.<sup>81</sup>

**Low Carbon Technologies**

Existing and emerging industrial technologies, which aim to deliver low or zero carbon emissions when fully developed and implemented.<sup>82</sup>

**Major Groups**

Agenda 21 recognises nine major groups of civil society, and stipulates the need for new forms of participation at all levels to enable a broad-based engagement of all economic and social sectors in making sustainable development happen. The major groups are: business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous peoples, local authorities, NGOs, the scientific and technological community, women, and workers and trade unions. Since the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 1992, major groups have been given important roles to play as partners in sustainable development. The CSD meetings have provided innovative spaces for the participation of non-governmental actors with the overall purpose of informing the Commission’s decision-making processes.<sup>83</sup>

**Marrakech Process**

The Marrakech Process is a global and informal multi-stakeholder platform to promote the implementation of policies and capacity building on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and to support the development of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.

UNEP and UNDESA are the facilitating agencies of this global process, with an active participation of national governments, development agencies, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

Launched in 2003, in response to Chapter III of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Process inherits its name from the host city of its first meeting. Since 2003 the process has developed activities at national, regional and international levels, through an expanding network.

The Marrakech Process has promoted and supported as needed the development of regional SCP programmes or action plans in Africa, Latin America, West Asia and in the European Union, with the institutional support of the regional intergovernmental organisations. In Asia and the Pacific the Marrakech Process is working closely with the Green Growth Initiative. These programmes or action plans address issues that are highly relevant to the energy, food, water, and climate crises. Engagement from North America has also rapidly increased during the past two years.

Seven Marrakech Process Task Forces have been launched as voluntary initiatives lead by countries and with a north-south multi-stakeholder participation. These Task Forces support the development of SCP tools, capacity building and the implementation of SCP projects on the following specific SCP-related issues: cooperation with Africa, sustainable products, sustainable lifestyles, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism development, sustainable buildings and construction, and education for sustainable consumption. The Task Forces are contributing to the design of SCP policies and supporting capacity building activities and demonstration projects, as well as the collection of good practices on SCP.<sup>84</sup>

**Material Flow Analysis (MFA)**

In order to function, the global economy depends on a flow of materials that are extracted from the earth, processed via production and consumption processes to meet human needs, and then disbursed as wastes generated by the extraction, production and consumption processes. The most important materials extracted for use are biomass, fossil fuels, ores, industrial minerals and construction minerals. These material flows, which are referred to as the metabolic rate, are measured in tonnes per

capita or per unit of GDP (tonnes/\$1 billion of GDP). Material Flow Analysis (MFA) is the methodology or accounting framework that has emerged to calculate these material flows. The advantage of MFA is that it makes it possible to quantify resource material flows, i.e. the total amounts extracted, the total amounts used, and the total amount extracted but not used.<sup>85</sup>

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

In September 2000, leaders from 189 nations agreed on a vision for the future: a world with less poverty, hunger and disease, greater survival prospects for mothers and their infants, better educated children, equal opportunities for women, and a healthier environment; a world in which developed and developing countries worked in partnership for the betterment of all.

This vision took the shape of eight Millennium Development Goals, which provide a framework for development planning for countries around the world, and time-bound targets by which progress can be measured.

The eight MDGs range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015.

The individual Goals are to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development.<sup>86</sup>

**Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) was called for by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000. Its objective was to assess the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being as well as provide the scientific basis for action to conserve and use ecosystems sustainably. From 2001 to 2005, the MA involved the work of more than 1,360 experts worldwide. Their findings, contained in five technical volumes and six synthesis reports, provide a state-of-the-art scientific appraisal of the condition of and trends in the world's ecosystems and the services they provide (such as clean water, food, forest products,

flood control, and natural resources) and the options to restore, conserve or enhance the sustainable use of ecosystems.<sup>87</sup>

**National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC)**

NCPCs are service delivery institutions that deliver Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) and related services, within the framework of the umbrella UNIDO/UNEP Joint RECP programme. Service areas include: awareness building and information dissemination; professional training; in plant assessments/technical assistance; policy advice and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. There are also subnational and regional centres. Currently there are over 40 existing NCPCs.<sup>88</sup>

**National SCP Programme**

National SCP Programme is an umbrella term used to describe the various integrated and strategic approaches that countries take to promoting SCP. These programmes (national, subnational or local) are diverse in nature, are generally elaborated through interministerial collaboration and multi-stakeholder dialogue, and can be composed of national inventories, frameworks of programmes, action plans, and strategies as well as often being treated as a priority issue in other policy frameworks or strategies.

An SCP programme can be developed in a cycle that moves from a national inventory or general catalogue of ongoing SCP activities to the full integration of SCP in a major national level policy framework such as a national sustainable development strategy (NSDS), national environmental action plan (NEAP) or national development plan, including poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP). A framework of programmes can be constructed from a strategic overview of needs for achieving SCP, which highlights priority areas for policy design and implementation. This often leads to the development of sectoral or issue-based programmes or action plans on such topics as sustainable public procurement, energy efficiency and education for SCP. These may be linked to other national strategies or plans. Alternatively, a single integrated programme or action plan focuses more closely on SCP, and generally includes objectives, targets and monitoring mechanisms.

There is no one type of approach and no single formula by which national SCP programmes can or should be instituted. Every country needs to determine for itself how best to approach the development, implementation and monitoring of its SCP programme

considering the existing political, cultural, economic and ecological conditions. The most important initial decision to be made when constructing a national SCP programme is whether to construct a new national framework focused on SCP, or whether to integrate SCP policies in the overarching economic and development policy framework of the country.<sup>89</sup>

**Non-Renewable Energy**

Energy can generally be classified as non-renewable and renewable. Over 85% of the energy used in the world is from non-renewable supplies. Most developed nations are dependent on non-renewable energy sources such as fossil fuels (coal and oil) and nuclear power. These sources are called non-renewable because they cannot be renewed or regenerated quickly enough to keep pace with their use. Oil, gas and coal are the most commonly used types of non-renewable energy.<sup>90</sup>

**Our Common Future**

The Report of the Brundtland Commission, formally known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (known also by the name of its Chair, Gro Harlem Brundtland), *Our Common Future*, was published in 1987. It placed environmental issues firmly on the political agenda and aimed to discuss the environment and development as one single issue. *Our Common Future* and the work of the WCED laid the groundwork for the convening of the 1992 Earth Summit and adoption of Agenda 21, and the Rio Declaration, and to the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The definition of sustainable development in the report “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” is a widely-accepted definition of sustainable development.<sup>91</sup>

**Partnerships for Sustainable Development**

Partnerships for sustainable development, in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and its follow up, are voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives that can contribute to the implementation of sustainable development. They are a supplementary means of supporting the implementation of Agenda 21 (the global action plan for sustainable development agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, or the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992), the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (agreed at the “Rio+5” meeting in 1997) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (agreed at WSSD in 2002). These partnerships

complement the intergovernmental commitments and are not intended to be a substitute for them.

Partnerships were an important outcome of the WSSD, held in Johannesburg in 2002. More than 200 partnerships were launched during the Summit process. In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, governments designated the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices.<sup>92</sup>

**Planetary Boundaries**

Planetary boundaries define the safe operating space for humanity with respect to the earth’s system and are associated with the planet’s biophysical subsystems or processes. Nine such processes correspond to planetary boundaries: climate change; rate of biodiversity loss (terrestrial and marine); interference with the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles; stratospheric ozone depletion; ocean acidification; global freshwater use; change in land use; chemical pollution; and atmospheric aerosol loading.<sup>93</sup>

**Polluter Pays Principle (PPP)**

The Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) is an environmental policy principle which requires that the costs of pollution be borne by those who cause it. In its original form the Polluter Pays Principle aims at determining how the costs of pollution prevention and control must be allocated: the polluter must pay. Its immediate goal is that of internalising the environmental externalities of economic activities, so that the prices of goods and services fully reflect the costs of production. Today the Principle is a generally recognised principle of international environmental law, and it is a fundamental principle of environmental policy of both the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Community.<sup>94</sup>

**Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)**

A Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is an environmental database or inventory of potentially harmful releases to air, water and soil. Also included in the database are wastes transferred for treatment and disposal from the site of their production. In addition to collecting data for PRTRs from stationary (or point) sources such as factories and waste facilities, some PRTRs are designed to include estimates of releases from diffuse sources. Data concerning releases and transfers are provided by the facility,

and the type, quantity and affected environmental media must be reported. Data are then made available to the public.<sup>95</sup>

**Poverty Alleviation/ Eradication**

The World Social Summit, held in March 1995 in Copenhagen, identified poverty eradication as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of mankind and called on governments to address the root causes of poverty, provide for basic needs for all, and ensure that the poor have access to productive resources, including credit, education and training. Recognising insufficient progress in poverty reduction, the 24th special session of the United Nations General Assembly, devoted to the review of the Copenhagen commitments, decided to set up targets to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by 2015. This target was endorsed by the Millennium Summit as Millennium Development Goal 1.<sup>96</sup>

**Precautionary Approach**

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.<sup>97</sup>

**Producers**

Manufacturer or creator of goods that are produced for consumers or for a specific target market. For example, a producer of widgets will assume full responsibility for producing or manufacturing the product but may or may not become involved in the product's marketing and sales.<sup>98</sup>

**Product Standards**

A product standard sets out specific characteristics of a product, such as its size, shape, design, functions and performance, or the way it is labelled or packaged before it is put on sale. In certain cases, the way a product is produced can affect these characteristics, and it may then prove more appropriate to draft technical regulations and standards in terms of a product's process and production methods rather than its characteristics *per se*.<sup>99</sup>

**Production**

Production is the conversion of resources into usable products, which may be either goods or services.

The economic activity of production converts some resources, which we call inputs, into new goods and services, which we refer to as outputs, as a flow over some period of time. The way in which this production occurs depends on available technologies. Production processes can also lead to undesirable outputs, such

as waste products. We consider only useable outputs to be economic goods and services.<sup>100</sup>

**Products**

Products, also called “goods and services”, are the result of production. They are exchanged and used for various purposes: as inputs in the production of other goods and services, for final consumption or for investment.<sup>101</sup>

**Public Goods**

Public goods are goods, services or resources that are available for all, involving non-rivalry (the consumption of this good by one individual does not prevent its consumption by another) and non-excludability (nobody can be excluded from consuming this good). Examples are air quality and control of epidemic diseases.

If both conditions are fully satisfied, the public goods are said to be pure. If only one is satisfied, they are said to be impure:

- the non-rivalry principle be satisfied when consumption moves towards saturation (e.g. urban highways in the rush hour);
- the non-excludability principle may be violated by imposition of a right to access (e.g. toll highways).<sup>102</sup>

**Rebound Effect**

The increase in consumption that occurs as a side-effect of the introduction of a more eco-efficient technology which leads to lower cost of products, hence increased demand.<sup>103</sup>

**Reduce-Reuse – Recycle (3Rs)**

The 3R Initiative aims to promote the “3 Rs” (reduce, reuse and recycle) globally so as to build a sound-material-cycle society through the effective use of resources and materials. Agreed upon at the G8 Sea Island Summit in June 2004, it was formally launched at a ministerial meeting in Japan in the spring of 2005.

Reducing means choosing to use things with care to reduce the amount of waste generated. Reusing involves the repeated use of items or parts of items which still have usable aspects. Recycling means the use of waste itself as resources. Waste minimisation can be achieved in an efficient way by focusing primarily on the first of the 3Rs, “reduce,” followed by “reuse” and then “recycle”.<sup>104</sup>

**Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs)**

As part of each implementation cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the UN Regional Commissions, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable

Development (CSD), organise Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) in order to allow for the effective consideration of regional and sub-regional inputs throughout the cycle.

The Regional Implementation Meetings take place before the review session of each cycle, and focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle. The meetings aim to contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and JPOI, through providing inputs to the CSD. Those inputs may include identification of region-specific obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices.<sup>105</sup>

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**Renewable Energy** Energy sources that are, within a short time frame relative to the earth's natural cycles, sustainable, and include non-carbon technologies such as solar energy, hydropower, and wind, as well as carbon-neutral technologies such as biomass.<sup>106</sup>

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**Resources** The naturally occurring assets that provide use benefits through the provision of raw materials and energy used in economic activity (or that may provide such benefits one day) and that are subject primarily to quantitative depletion through human use. They are subdivided into four categories: mineral and energy resources, soil resources, water resources and biological resources.<sup>107</sup>

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**Resource Efficiency** Resource efficiency is about ensuring that natural resources are produced, processed, and consumed in a more sustainable way, reducing the environmental impact from the consumption and production of products over their full life cycles. By producing more wellbeing with less material consumption, resource efficiency enhances the means to meet human needs while respecting the ecological carrying capacity of the earth.<sup>108</sup>

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**Retailers** Anything and anybody that sells individual units or small quantities directly to the end-user for their personal use and consumption is a retailer. The sector also includes manufacturers who sell directly to end-customers via retail outlets (often franchised, like car manufacturers), and other channels such as mail order, TV channel shopping, or via the internet. Due to its unique position linking production (manufacturers/suppliers) and consumption (customers) aspects, the retail sector plays a key role in facilitating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Upstream, retailers

can define environmentally oriented purchasing requirements to their suppliers. Downstream, they can educate consumers about sustainability issues. In addition to providing information on products produced in a sustainable manner, retailers are also well positioned to provide information on improving life-cycle impacts, for instance respecting the use-phase and end-of-life disposal of products. Moreover, this sector is a major driver for the global economy and employment.<sup>109</sup>

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**Services** Economists divide all economic activity into two broad categories: goods and services. Goods-producing industries include agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and construction; each of them creates some kind of tangible object. Service industries include everything else: banking, communications, wholesale and retail trade, all professional services such as engineering, computer software development, medicine, non-profit economic activity, and all consumer and government services, including defense and administration of justice. A services-dominated economy is characteristic of developed countries. In less-developed countries most people are employed in primary activities such as agriculture and mining.<sup>110</sup>

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**Social Responsibility** Responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions and activities on society and the environment, through transparent and ethical behaviour that:

- contributes to sustainable development, including health and the welfare of society;
- takes into account the expectations of stakeholders;
- is in compliance with applicable law and consistent with international norms of behaviour; and
- is integrated throughout the organisation and practiced in its relationships

Activities include goods, services and processes; and relationships refer to an organisation's activities within its sphere of influence.<sup>111</sup>

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**Sufficiency** The concept of "sufficiency" has emerged over the years in planning and development circles as well as transnational civil society movements as an alternative economic model to consumerism, and a necessary component of sustainable lifestyles. It is a philosophical ideal that offers the possibility of a higher quality of life while simultaneously reducing the human impact on the natural world. Sufficiency challenges the notion

that if “some” is good, then “more” must be better; instead, it emphasises “enoughness”. Sufficiency is not about sacrifice, denial, asceticism or doing without; it is about well-being and being well.<sup>112</sup>

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**Sustainable Agriculture**

Sustainable agriculture ensures that the basic nutritional requirements of present and future generations are met, while providing a range of economic, social and environmental benefits. It provides durable employment, sufficient income, and decent living and working conditions for all those engaged in agricultural production. It maintains and, where possible, enhances the productive capacity of the natural resource base as a whole, and the regenerative capacity of renewable resources, without disrupting the functioning of basic ecological cycles and natural balances, destroying the socio-cultural attributes of rural communities, or causing contamination of the environment.<sup>113</sup>

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**Sustainable Buildings and Construction (SBC)**

The concept “Sustainable Buildings and Construction”, refers to the sustainability performance of buildings along their entire life cycle, including design, materials production, transport, construction, use and maintenance, renovation, deconstruction and recycling. The concept seeks to optimise the performance and reduce negative impacts with regard to use of materials, energy, water and land, as well as to indoor air quality and comfort, and generation of waste, wastewater and air emissions, including greenhouse gases, particulates and other pollutants. The concept applies to new and existing buildings regardless of their location.<sup>114</sup>

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**Sustainable Cities**

Sustainable cities enable all of their residents to meet their own needs and prosper without degrading the natural world or the lives of other people, now or in the future. A sustainable city would include compact, efficient land use; less automobile use yet with better access; efficient resource use, less pollution and waste; the restoration of natural systems; good housing and living environments; a healthy social ecology; sustainable economics; community participation and involvement; and preservation of local culture and wisdom.<sup>115</sup>

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**Sustainable Consumption and Production**

The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimising the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations.<sup>116</sup>

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**Sustainable Development**

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development includes economic, environmental and social sustainability, which are independent and mutually reinforcing pillars, and can be achieved by rationally managing physical, natural and human capital. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development”.<sup>117</sup>

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**Sustainable Development Indicator**

Indicators that measure progress made in sustainable growth and development. They can provide an early warning, sounding the alarm in time to prevent economic, social and environmental damage. Beyond the commonly used economic indicators of well-being, social, environmental and institutional indicators have to be taken into account to arrive at a broader, more complete picture of societal development. A core set of 58 indicators and methodology sheets are now available for all countries to use. This core set was adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at its Third Session in April 1995.<sup>118</sup>

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**Sustainable Economy**

A sustainable economy is one in which resources are not used up faster than nature renews them. It also creates a thriving climate for business that balances environmental, social, and economic vitality.<sup>119</sup>

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**Sustainable Lifestyles**

A “sustainable lifestyle” is a way of living enabled both by efficient infrastructures, goods and services, and by individual choices and actions that minimise the use of natural resources, and generation of emissions, wastes and pollution, while supporting equitable socio-economic development and progress for all.

Creating sustainable lifestyles means rethinking our ways of living, how we buy and how we organise our everyday life. It is also about altering how we socialise, exchange, share, educate and build identities. It is about transforming our societies and living in balance with our natural environment. As citizens, at home and at work, many of our choices on energy use, transport, food, waste, communication and solidarity contribute to building sustainable lifestyles.

Governments have a key role to play by creating the appropriate frameworks and infrastructures (regulatory instruments,

technological innovations, new public services) to enable citizens to change. Information and education are essential, as well as the full participation of civil society in the movement and the involvement of the business sector that can develop innovative solutions for sustainable lifestyles.<sup>120</sup>

**Sustainable Products**

A product that incorporates environmental and social factors and minimises its impact throughout the life cycle, throughout the supply chain and with respect to the socio-economic surroundings.<sup>121</sup>

**Sustainable Procurement / Green Procurement**

**Sustainable Procurement** is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment. Sustainable Procurement seeks to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development i.e. economic, social and environmental.

- Economic factors include the costs of goods and services over their entire life cycle, such as: acquisition, maintenance, operations and end-of-life management costs (including waste disposal) in line with good financial management;
- Social factors include social justice and equity; safety and security; human rights and employment conditions;
- Environmental factors include emissions to air, land and water, climate change, biodiversity, natural resource use and water scarcity over the whole product life cycle.<sup>122</sup>

**Green Procurement** is a process whereby organisations take into account environmental elements when procuring goods, services, works and utilities and achieve value for money on a whole life-cycle basis.<sup>123</sup>

**Sustainable Supply Chain / Responsible Sourcing**

Responsible sourcing is a voluntary commitment by companies to take into account social and environmental considerations when managing their relationships with suppliers. This strategy is now an integral part of effective supply chain management. As production chains expand, companies of all sizes and sectors are devoting more efforts to managing supply chain risks and building long-term supplier relationships. Improving social and environmental performance in production chains is becoming a major element of this process.<sup>124</sup>

**Sustainable Tourism**

Sustainable tourism :

- Makes optimal use of environmental resources that constitute, a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.
- Respects the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserves their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contributes to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
- Ensures viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed. These include stable employment and income-earning opportunities, social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.<sup>125</sup>

**Sustainable Transport/ Mobility**

Sustainable transport or mobility :

- Allows the basic access needs of individuals and societies to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and ecosystem health.
- Is affordable, operates efficiently, offers choice of transport mode, and supports a vibrant economy.
- Limits emissions and waste within the planet's ability to absorb them, minimises consumption of non-renewable resources, limits consumption of renewable resources to the sustainable yield level, reuses and recycles its components, and minimises the use of land and the production of noise.

Sustainable transport involves:

- Urban planning, changing lifestyles and production patterns to reduce the need for transport at the source;
- Rethinking transport systems, promoting inter-modality and encouraging the use of the most energy efficient mode of transport, i.e. wherever possible switch from air to rail, from personal vehicles to public transport or non-motorised transportation;
- Improving fuel efficiency of each mode of transport, and promoting the use of alternative fuels.<sup>126</sup>

**Sustainable Urban Development**

Sustainable urban development means the continuing maintenance, adaptation, renewal, and development of a city's built and natural environment and infrastructure, as well as its economic base, in such a way as to enable it to provide a satisfactory human environment with minimal demands on resources and minimal adverse effect on the natural environment.<sup>127</sup>



**Task Forces (Marrakech Process)**

The Marrakech Process Task Forces are active mechanisms of the Marrakech Process, building North-South cooperation, implementing concrete projects and contributing to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes. They are voluntary initiatives led by governments, and focusing on specific themes of SCP.

The current Task Forces focus on:

- Education for Sustainable Consumption
- Sustainable Tourism Development
- Sustainable Public Procurement
- Sustainable Products
- Sustainable Buildings and Construction
- Cooperation with Africa
- Sustainable Lifestyles<sup>128</sup>

**Technology Transfer**

Technology transfer is the flow of knowledge, techniques, experience, and innovation among different stakeholders through assistance, investment, licensing, trade or training. It comprises the process of learning to understand, utilise, and replicate the technology, including the capacity to choose it, adapt it to local conditions, and integrate it with indigenous technologies.<sup>129</sup>

**Ten Year Framework of Programmes/ 10 YFP**

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recognises that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. The Plan calls for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production; to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes; and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste.<sup>130</sup>

**Triple Bottom Line**

Triple Bottom Line accounting attempts to describe the social and environmental impact of an organisation's activities, in a measurable way through the use of environmental sustainability and social responsibility criteria when judging the overall performance of a company, in addition to purely financial considerations.<sup>131</sup>

**UN Global Compact**

The UN Global Compact was launched in 2000 as a voluntary initiative for the business community to help promote sustainable development through the power of collective action. The Global Compact seeks to promote responsible corporate citizenship so that business can be part of the solution to the challenges of globalisation.

Today, many hundreds of companies from all regions of the world, as well as international labour and civil society organisations, are engaged in the Global Compact. They are working to advance ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption and to catalyse actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>132</sup>

**Voluntary Simplicity**

Voluntary simplicity suggests that there is a declining marginal satisfaction in the pursuit of ever-higher levels of consumption. It points to sources of satisfaction in deliberately and voluntarily avoiding the quest for ever-growing levels of affluence and consumption and making one's personal and social project the pursuit of other, non-materialistic purposes. Simplifiers gain more satisfaction out of life long learning, public life, volunteering, community participation, sports, cultural activities, and observing or communing with nature.<sup>133</sup>

**Waste**

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal defines wastes as "substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law". Wastes may be generated during the extraction of raw materials, the processing of raw materials into intermediate and final products, the consumption of final products, and other human activities. Residuals recycled or reused at the place of generation are excluded.<sup>134</sup>

**Hazardous and toxic waste** is defined as substances or objects which are disposed of, intended to be disposed of, or required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law and which possess certain hazardous characteristics, such as (but not limited to) being toxic, explosive, corrosive, or reactive.

The generation and management of such waste may cause adverse effects on human health and the environment whether by

itself or when coming into contact with other waste. Hazardous waste, therefore, requires special handling and must be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

Generation, management and transboundary movements of hazardous waste should be dealt with according to procedures set out under the Basel Convention (1989). Domestically, additional requirements, restrictions or prohibitions may also exist.<sup>135</sup>

**Integrated solid waste management** refers to the strategic approach to sustainable management of solid wastes, covering all sources and all aspects, including generation, segregation, transfer, sorting, treatment, recovery and disposal in an integrated manner, with an emphasis on maximising resource efficiency.

Numerous countries are facing uphill challenges to properly manage their waste, with most efforts being made to reduce the final volumes and to generate sufficient funds for waste management. If most of the waste could be diverted for material and resource recovery, then a substantial reduction in final volumes of waste could be achieved and the recovered material and resources could be utilised to generate revenue to fund waste management. This forms the premise for an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) system based on the 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) principle.<sup>136</sup>

#### **Water Footprint**

The water footprint is a measure of the impacts of the direct and indirect water consumption associated with all activities in a product's life cycle. This is especially relevant for water-intensive processes and at locations where water scarcity is a serious problem.<sup>137</sup>

#### **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)**

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, also known as the Johannesburg Summit or Rio +10, took place in South Africa in 2002. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the international community adopted Agenda 21, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development. Ten years later, the Johannesburg Summit presented an opportunity for the world's leaders to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets for better implementing Agenda 21. The Summit brought together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of state and government, national delegates and leaders from all Major Groups to focus

the world's attention and direct action towards meeting difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.<sup>138</sup>

#### **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (UNCSD), or Rio +20**

On December 24 2009, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution deciding to hold a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio +20) in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.

Twenty years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992, the objective of UNCSD is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing new and emerging challenges.

The focus of the conference will include the following themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The conference will result in a focused political document.<sup>139</sup>

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### What is the Marrakech Process?

The Marrakech Process is a global process to support the implementation of projects and strategies on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP). The process responds to the call of the WSSD, that took place in Johannesburg in 2002, to develop a 10YFP to support regional and national initiatives to promote the shift towards SCP patterns. The proposal of the 10YFP will be reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during the 2010/11 two-year cycle. The Marrakech Process is named after the city where the First International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP took place in 2003.

UNEP and UN DESA are the leading agencies of this global process, with an active participation of national governments, development cooperation agencies, business, civil society and other stakeholders.

For more information on the Marrakech Process please visit [www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech](http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech), <http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/> or contact Adriana Zacarias (Ms.) at [Adriana.Zacarias@unep.org](mailto:Adriana.Zacarias@unep.org)

# About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) helps governments, local authorities and decision-makers in business and industry to develop and implement policies and practices focusing on sustainable development.

The Division works to promote:

- > sustainable consumption and production,
- > the efficient use of renewable energy,
- > adequate management of chemicals,
- > the integration of environmental costs in development policies.

**The Office of the Director, located in Paris, coordinates activities through:**

- > **The International Environmental Technology Centre** - IETC (Osaka, Shiga), which implements integrated waste, water and disaster management programmes, focusing in particular on Asia.
- > **Sustainable Consumption and Production** (Paris), which promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns as a contribution to human development through global markets.
- > **Chemicals** (Geneva), which catalyzes global actions to bring about the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide.
- > **Energy** (Paris and Nairobi), which fosters energy and transport policies for sustainable development and encourages investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- > **OzonAction** (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure implementation of the Montreal Protocol.
- > **Economics and Trade** (Geneva), which helps countries to integrate environmental considerations into economic and trade policies, and works with the finance sector to incorporate sustainable development policies.

***UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of knowledge and information, fostering technological cooperation and partnerships, and implementing international conventions and agreements.***

For more information,  
see [www.unep.fr](http://www.unep.fr)



*Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there has been an international recognition that the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (Agenda 21). Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) has become an increasing global priority and challenge, that, if achieved, could offer important contributions for poverty eradication and the transition towards low-carbon and green economies, tackling other global challenges such as climate change.*

*The publication aims to clarify the main terms and concepts related to Sustainable Consumption and Production, and other terms related to Sustainable Development. The main objective is to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on SCP between all stakeholders. This is a joint effort from SCP experts, policy makers, researchers and NGOs, compiling definitions from various sources. This publication does not pretend to present globally agreed definitions, but rather in most cases offers working definitions that may continue to evolve.*

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**DTI/1271/PA**