

ECE-RCEM SDG 12 STATEMENT FOR EXPERT GROUP MEETING

GENERAL GUIDANCE FROM UNDESA

- What is the current status of the Goal or target, in terms of actual measured progress and trends?
- What has changed since the last time this Goal was reviewed at the HLPF?
 - o Any deviations in progress from what was expected (including due to Covid)?
 - o Additional obstacles or opportunities in implementation including through interlinkages with other Goals, and connections to related processes?
 - o New/promising openings for tracking progress, including from additional data sources?
- What are promising strategies to accelerate action (by UN and partners) and to mobilize other stakeholders to advance implementation?

GUIDANCE FROM UNDESA - SPECIFIC TO GOAL 12

What broad-based transformations are needed in consumption and production systems (including food systems) to arrest climate change and rebalance the relationship between human society and nature?

- How can such transformations address concerns about being left behind, providing viable alternatives for those at risk of losing jobs and livelihoods, while also achieving universal access and eradicating multi-dimensional poverty?
- What are the opportunities to be realized (and pitfalls to be avoided) in the immediate and medium terms towards these ends? How can international cooperation support?

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During last years we could see **more attention to SCP issues**. In particular in the UNECE region we can see many good initiatives, programs, projects related to SCP, which have been implementing by governments, NGOs and other stakeholders to improve policy and actions on natural resources use efficiency, chemicals and wastes, awareness on SCP. A great achievement in our region is the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters which helps to protect the environmental and human rights of citizens and help to promote SCP.

However, it is not enough to change the situation considerably; more efforts on SCP are required. To achieve real results we need to find the most effective tools, strengthen partnerships between key stakeholders.

We worry that during COVID-19 PANDEMICS we could see negative cases in different parts of the UN ECE region such as, lowering environmental standards, growth of wastes, and especially plastic pollution. However, at the same time, this is an opportunity to improve our SCP-related activity. We believe that policy tools and economic instruments which promote SCP should be included in all national and regional COVID-19 recovery plans. Recovery and resilience plans should be a tool to accelerate the transition to SCP and not do business as usual. We encourage countries to share experience on how to use economic instruments to promote SCP in recovery plans more effectively.

We support ***more mainstreaming of gender and social concerns into CSP-related policy*** and all the SDG. We urge for more ***coherence of SCP policy with other policies***.

More urgent actions are needed to tackle *plastic* contamination problems throughout the plastic life cycle. Countries should put ***a ban on single use plastic and highly hazardous pesticides, improve management of chemical and waste***, including endocrine disrupting chemicals and electronic wastes, stop illegal trade of chemicals and waste, ensure full disclosure of information on toxic chemicals in consumer products within and outside the supply chain.

Also we think that greater emphasis is needed on ***awareness activity and education for sustainable development***. The focus should be not on understanding the relationship of economic, environmental and social problems, but also on practical skills, the ability of citizens, consumers to change behavior and situation generally. Education for sustainable consumption is not only aimed at teachers and students, it should cover all segments of the population of different ages, it is carried out in the family, the local community, and informal educational settings.

Global cooperation on SCP should be increased. All countries must urgently accede to the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention, ensure implementation of the Basel convention plastic amendments, and support extension of the current SAICM until a new instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is adopted.

Governments should better use ***trade*** tools to promote SCP. We urge countries to support the WTO initiative on trade and environment which has been launched recently – it covers plastic, climate/energy, biodiversity issues so it is related to SCP.

We worry about still low recognition of ***CSOs as key partners for achieving SCP*** - while very focus on investments and business solutions. CSO engagement should be better mainstreamed in the process and not have to be fought case-by-case.