



Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18)

Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Statement by Switzerland

Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns is at the very core of sustainable development. We need to find practical ways and strategies for decoupling economic growth from the use of resources. The destruction of the natural resource base weakens the basis for long-term prosperity. Switzerland therefore continues to attach great importance to the issue of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the international community resolved to develop a 10 year framework of programmes for promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP). The current cycle of the CSD sets the stage for finally delivering on this promise.

Since the Johannesburg summit, very substantial preparatory work for establishing the 10 year framework of programmes has been undertaken in the so called Marrakech Process. This is actually quite remarkable and I do not think that in the history of the CSD it has ever been the case before that a parallel process has been ongoing for several years to prepare one particular topic on the agenda of the CSD. Clearly, this puts us all in the comfortable situation of being able to build on the work of the Marrakech Process in developing the 10 year framework of programmes.

Switzerland is of the opinion that we should aim for an ambitious and strong 10 year framework of programmes. It could have the following structure:

- A decision or declaration should be negotiated and adopted by the CSD, while the 10YFP as such would be prepared within the Marrakech Process as an input into the CSD.
- The 10 YFP itself could contain a policy document outlining a vision, objectives, and concrete political commitments and establish the institutional structure to allow for further development and review of the 10YFP.
- Additionally, the 10 YFP should contain an Action Plan which is structured according to the life cycle approach and defines concrete activities for implementing the policy document.

The topics which have received particular attention under the Marrakech Process in form of a Task Force certainly give a good indication for what should be key subjects of the 10 YFP.

In this context, Switzerland has given particular emphasis to the topic of green and sustainable public procurement. Governments are important consumers of goods and services. By taking into account environmental and social criteria over the full life



cycle of goods and services in their purchases, governments can lead the way towards more sustainable forms of consumption and production and they can send important signals to the market.

However, we are aware that many important aspects of SCP have not been dealt with in the Marrakech Task Forces which need to be part of the 10 YFP. For example, agro-food systems must be addressed under the 10YFP, especially in the light of global population growth and changing dietary habits. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the agro-food system have relevant implications for long-term availability of natural resources such as fertile soils, water supply and biodiversity, as well as for food security.

Agricultural productivity must be ensured in the long-term by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. In view of a shift to an overall green economy, productivity in the agricultural sector too must be decoupled from unsustainable resource use and environmental degradation. Fertile soils, clean and abundant water supplies, as well as rich biodiversity are vital resources that must be managed sustainably. Agriculture has a fundamental role to play in ensuring these resources remain available to current and future generations. Therefore, all players along the agro-food chain, from producer to consumer, must contribute to ensuring its sustainability.

Another topic which needs to be integrated in the 10YFP is improving market transparency. In order to achieve more sustainable production and consumption patterns, our behaviour must undergo fundamental changes. We need to develop means of communicating the environmental impact of raw materials, products and services to consumers. It is a prerequisite for achieving a shift towards products and services that cause fewer environmental impacts.

Besides developing the 10YFP, we should continue make good use of instruments that have already proven successful in changing consumption and production patterns. Probably one of the most successful instruments in this regard are the National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs). The NCPCs have convincingly demonstrated that resource efficiency and cleaner production can be implemented by enterprises in developing countries to the benefit of the enterprise itself, the environment and economic development at large. The Government of Switzerland is proud to have funded UNIDO over the past decade in order to set up and support National Cleaner Production Centres in about a dozen countries. This joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme is a best practice example of putting SCP into practice. In the future, the NCPCs could be key instruments for up-scaling and mainstreaming resource efficiency and cleaner production in all parts of the world and for making SCP a reality.