

UNITED NATIONS – XVIII SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

New York, 3-14 May 2010

Thematic Discussion on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Friday, 7 May 2010

Statement of Italy

Delivered by Mr. Paolo Soprano – Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Italy associates itself with the statement made by the European Union on behalf of its Member States and would like to further highlight some specific issues.

Mr Chairman, the current multiple crisis must be interpreted as a clear message indicating the need to take action now and to reconsider our development patterns with particular regards to the way we produce and we consume.

Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns is becoming a global concern. Current consumption patterns, in particular in developed countries, are the main cause of the increasing deterioration of our earth's environment. At the same time, a large part of the world population cannot even be classified as «consumers» and fights day after day to simply survive.

We believe that CSD18 and CSD19 represents a unique opportunity to discuss and define a common global strategic framework to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. The 10YFP should build upon the wide range of experiences and the challenging innovative approaches to SCP developed under the Marrakech Process and on the various national and regional initiatives that we have been hearing about during the Regional Implementation Meetings last year and now here in New York.

Mr. Chairman, we are convinced of the need to focus our attention on both the demand and supply side of SCP identifying appropriate policies, measures and actions. While production processes are being dealt with, the issue of sustainable consumption needs to be further addressed. Providing tools for change is the responsibility of governments, regulatory institutions, NGOs and businesses. However, the role of the global consumer/citizen is essential in providing further stimulus for more

sustainable production processes, in reducing the rebound effect and in pushing main actors to take action, more quickly and for the better.

To this extent we would ask the Secretariat how they intend to move forward and how they will allow Member States to discuss and further define the elements for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes.

To curb present consumption patterns, there is the need to empower people by increasing awareness, providing access to appropriate knowledge, building individual mindsets so as to allow people to be active for changes towards sustainability. Such cultural and social changes should be enhanced showing the risks of business-as-usual scenarios for society now and in the future.

Within the Marrakech process, Italy is chairing a TF on "Education for Sustainable Consumption", focused on introducing sustainable consumption and production issues into formal curricula through the identification of formal education tools and strategies, the identification of competences and skills at all levels (education, training process, decision making), and by encouraging measures to ensure the effectiveness of national/regional policies.

As an input to the 10YFP, the main outcome of the TF is the document "Here and Now! Education for Sustainable Consumption", a collection of guidelines and recommendations to introduce sustainable consumption into formal learning processes, developed in cooperation with UNEP, UNESCO and the Hedmark University College in Norway.

"Here and Now!" urgently calls upon policy makers and educational authorities around the world to honour the commitments already made during the series of United Nations conferences and declarations, and to give education the necessary means to fulfil its role in achieving a sustainable future.

"Here and Now!" contains descriptions and definitions of ESC as well as guidelines for an ESC core curriculum and numerous examples of how various countries have dealt with ESC are also provided.

Finally Mr. Chairperson, 2010 is, indeed, an important year for all of us working and committed to realize concrete actions towards the fulfilment of the JPOI recommendations on SCP. We are convinced that the efforts made in these years, which have been considered at the regional level, will represent a strong contribution at the global level to the debate and definition of a common 10YFP.

Thank you.