Inputs to the review of SDG 12 at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from UN Agencies supporting the implementation of the programmes of the 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production:

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

UN Human settlements programme, (UN-Habitat)

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

UN office for project services (UNOPS),

UN multi-partner trust fund office (UNMPTFO),

Sustainable UN facility (SUN)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Secretariat of the 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production
Sustainable consumption and production is one of the most cost-efficient and effective ways to achieve economic development, reduce impacts on the environment and advance human well-being. The objective of securing sustainable consumption and production patterns is also transversal in nature, in the context of both economic sectors and the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 12 should be seen as an enabler for the implementation of a range of other goals and their targets.

The United Nations Secretary General has highlighted significant gaps regarding Goal 12 on “ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns”, which is currently covered in a fragmented and piecemeal way. Recommendations on dealing with these gaps and supporting Goals that are especially transversal in nature, include: convening and brokering partnerships for sustainable development, covering gaps by pooling expertise and assets across UN entities, and considering the strategic use of multi-partner trust funds.

The One Planet network, which formed to support the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production, is a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development and an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12. The network leads and provides solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production. The United Nations entities supporting the operationalisation and implementation of the One Planet partnership propose a way forward in addressing the gaps identified on Goal 12 and applying the recommendations made by the United Nations Secretary General, building on achievements and lessons learnt over the first five years of the One Planet multi-stakeholder partnership.

Sustainable Development Goal 12: the implementation gap

SDG target 12.1 aims to “Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries”, due to its overarching nature it provides an insight on emerging trends concerning national policy on sustainable consumption and production. The pilot reporting on SDG indicator 12.1.1 conducted in 2017-2018 shows that, since 2002, the number of such policies and instruments has almost continuously increased (figure 1). Shifting to sustainable consumption and production at scale requires national public policies to create conducive environments, provide social and physical infrastructures and regulate markets. 71 countries and the European Union have reported a total of 303 initiatives through this year pilot reporting, 43% of which were macro-policies, 44% regulatory, voluntary or economic instruments and 13% coordination mechanisms. Figures gathered by the 10YFP Secretariat indicate that 109 countries have (or have had) national policies and initiatives relevant to sustainable consumption and production. The pilot 12.1.1 reporting also shows that mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production objectives into cross-cutting macro-policies performs slightly better than stand-alone macro-policies in terms of domestic investments, inclusiveness and monitoring. An integrated approach to sustainable consumption and production requires strong coordination across the government; however, only 26 of the 71 countries that have have shared information on national coordination mechanisms; of these only a few are mandated to coordinate policy implementation across ministries (10%).

1 UNSG, 2017. Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All
**SDG target 12.3** aims “By 2030, to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”. **Countries will have different priorities. Some are focused on high levels of loss along supply chains in the context of inadequate food supply, others with high levels of consumer waste and the associated environmental ramifications.** The custodian agencies of target 12.3 indicators, FAO and UNEP, have proposed splitting indicator 12.3.1 into two sub-indicators, the Global Food Loss Index monitoring the ‘reduction of losses along the food production and supply chains’ (production and distribution oriented) and the Food Waste Index monitoring ‘halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level’ (end market and consumption oriented). This distinction will help focus the data collection efforts, simplify the interpretation of results and allow the development of focused policies on distinct segments of the value chain for food products.

On the basis of the reporting experiences on SDG target 12.1 and 12.4, it appears clear that a **streamlined and coordinated approach for reporting across Goal 12** is required. As a ‘new’ Goal, many indicator methodologies under Goal 12 are under development, which provides a key opportunity to streamline efforts early on. National statistical offices and national focal points are requesting UN custodian agencies to collaborate more closely to limit the duplication of reporting efforts by countries, clarify data flows and ensure consistent understanding of methodologies and terminologies for comparable data collection. The UN Statistics Division has a key role to play in facilitating a coordinated effort of UN custodian agencies for SDG 12 - UNEP, FAO, UNWTO and UNESCO – which could include streamlining methodologies, a centralised reporting system, joint awareness raising and capacity development.

**Monitoring of the shift to sustainable consumption and production across sectors, organisations and countries is essential to identify emerging trends and strategic gaps**, to scale-up and replicate innovative and impactful practices, and to demonstrate and showcase the benefits of sustainable consumption and production to build greater momentum for change. Reporting across the One Planet network, according to the ‘Indicators of Success: Demonstrating the shift to sustainable consumption and production’ identified evident progress on the development of policies, knowledge resources and technical tools, whereas the application and implementation of these to foster concrete and tangible changes in practices and impacts remains limited. **Prioritising support to policy implementation and scaling up new or improved practices with net positive impact is necessary to effectively achieve the shift to sustainable consumption and production and SDG 12.** Significant steps have been taken but implementation at scale
remains the challenge of the years to come. **Multi-stakeholder partnerships**, such as those formed to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns, **have a key role to play in these inter-related tasks for sustainable development.**

### The One Planet network: a multi-stakeholder partnership for SDG 12

Implementing Goal 12 and the shift to sustainable consumption and production requires a systemic approach, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaborations across levels of stakeholders and sectors of society – governments, local authorities, businesses, civil society, scientific organisations, international organisations. Such partnerships are essential for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, as affirmed by Goal 17.

A broader systemic transformation will require concerted action from i) scientific institutions, to understand what is needed; ii) businesses, to identify solutions and bring net positive impact; iii) policy makers, to create conducive environments, social and physical infrastructure and regulate markets; iv) civil society, to strengthen advocacy and promote behaviour change; v) and international organisations to broker diverse partnerships for innovative solutions. The United Nations Secretary General highlights “the United Nations development system will need to draw on its unique convening power to help countries to broker the diverse partnerships needed at the global, regional and country levels and to bring together the actors with the appropriate mix of resources — knowledge, science and technology, finance — to find innovative solutions to pressing challenges that can be taken to the required scale.”

The One Planet network is a multi-stakeholder partnership composed of 700+ partners that include national and local governments, businesses, civil society, scientific and technical organisations, and international organisations (figure 2). It generates collective impact on sustainable consumption and production through six programmes which can been seen as thematic accelerators: Public Procurement, Buildings & Construction, Tourism, Food Systems, Consumer Information, Lifestyles & Education. The development, establishment and implementation of the network has relied on the convening power of the United Nations and the complementary expertise of organisations engaged by the different UN agencies involved. The independent external review completed in March 2018 further states that as a UN-wide initiative, with its secretariat in a United Nations entity, it is provided with a convening power, institutional strength, legitimacy, constituency-based oversight and accountability, as well as political neutrality.

For instance, FAO and UNEP were instrumental in establishing the Sustainable Food Systems programme by bringing together the environment and agriculture sectors around sustainable production and consumption of food. This enables partners that wouldn’t usually work together, including small producers and rural entrepreneurs, consumers and the private sector, to join forces. More sustainable food systems require greater coordination of action across government, involving ministries of health, environment, and commerce, as well as agriculture, fisheries and forestry. UN agencies undertake special responsibilities in fostering improved collaboration, by providing norms standards and data as public goods and by working with governments and their partners to establish appropriate platforms for policy dialogue. The Sustainable Food Systems programme, which boasts some 143 programme partners and 34 affiliated projects, provides a mechanism for ensuring that UN support to different government entities

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2 UNSG, *Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda - our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet*
is well coordinated and aligned to national priorities for achieving the SDGs. Similarly for the sustainable tourism programme, the collaboration between UNEP and UNWTO, agencies with different mandates, has guaranteed a holistic approach to the network when implementing initiatives on sustainable consumption and production. This is fundamental due to the vast interlinkages of the thematic areas with various economic activities, as in the case of the tourism sector which has an extensive value chain. The Sustainable Tourism Programme currently involves 150 organizations committed to decouple tourism’s growth from the use of natural resources. Businesses are the stakeholder group has grown the most since the Programme’s launch in November 2014, becoming the largest stakeholder group in the programme (33%).

At five years since the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, the One Planet network offers concrete solutions and tools to governments, organisations and other stakeholders in the implementation of SDG 12 as illustrated in the progress report submitted to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. At the conclusion of the first five years it is also clear that building multi-stakeholder partnerships requires time, effort and resources. The investment in the initial phases of the partnership is critical to build trust and relationships, ensure ownership and ensure a strong engagement of partners, and lays the foundation for a successful implementation. Furthermore, it is essential to strengthen existing networks that have been established with these foundations.

The five-year Strategy 2018-2022 ‘One Plan for One Planet’ provides a clear way forward to implement the shift to sustainable consumption and production and SDG12, enabling strategic use of the diverse strengths of the network. It builds defines a common vision and outlines common objectives, strategic principles and approaches across the One Planet network by building on the achievements to date and the comprehensive stocktaking at mid-term. The strategy aims for the One
Planet network to be recognised and perform as the lead mechanism to support and implement the shift to sustainable consumption and production. This entails, to: a) be an effective implementation mechanism of Goal 12 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as affirmed by target 12.1; 2) catalyse ambitious action by providing tools and solutions that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production; 3) lead the cohesive implementation of sustainable consumption and production; 4) demonstrate the benefits and impacts of sustainable consumption and production and its role in addressing key environmental and social challenges.

The One Planet network has the potential to be transformational. A successful implementation of this strategy will require the support of the global community in strengthening and consolidating the implementation of this partnership, and the commitment of each One Planet network partner to take tangible and substantial action on SDG 12.

### Solutions for SDG 12 by pooling expertise and resources

Transformative action at scale requires knowledge, resource and technical and institutional capacity to act, and can be supported through sharing of information, experience and expertise.

To address thematic gaps, such as those identified in Goal 12, the United Nations Development system needs to ensure joined up responses. The United Nations entities have developed a number of joint solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production by pooling expertise and assets and strengthen coherence of its support to countries and organisations.

Examples of such joint solutions on sustainable consumption and production and complementarity of mandates include:

**Jointly developing guidelines, tools and reports:**

UNEP and the International Trade Centre (ITC), in 2015, started co-leading a working group under the Consumer Information Programme to develop global guidance on making effective and reliable environmental, social and economic claims on products, to ultimately empower and enable consumer choice. Leadership of the process by these two UN agencies was regarded as crucial for the success of the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information. Leadership was taken from two perspectives, UNEP as the leading global environmental authority and ITC with its mission to create ‘trade impact for good’. Their partnership helped mobilize relevant stakeholders from all regions (enabling outreach to different constituencies, e.g. Ministries of Environment through UNEP, standard and labelling organizations through ITC), ensured a balanced and inclusive process (and bringing the required neutrality), and raised the profile of the Guidelines (recently noted in the UNEA3 Environment and Health Resolution). The umbrella of the One Planet Network was an ideal incubator to bring together not only these two UN agencies, but also a wider multi-stakeholder group in the process.

Through the initiative Building sustainable procurement capacity through training, UNOPS, UNEP, and ITC-ILO trained 225 UN procurement officials on using sustainability criteria in procurement processes. This course is based on guidelines Buying for a better world: A guide to sustainable procurement for the UN system, supported by the Sustainable UN facility, and which greatly benefited from UNOPS’ operational capacity on procurement, UNEP’ expertise on sustainable procurement and ITC-ILO’s training, learning and capacity development services.

FAO currently hosts a web platform for a Community of Practice on food loss reduction that was established through a joint project of the Rome based UN agencies: FAO, the International Fund for
Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Capitalising on the individual strengths of the three agencies, the joint project is designed to stimulate Member Countries to take action to reduce food losses and is expected to be a model for scaling up future collaboration. It will contribute both to the Agenda 2030 and to its Zero Hunger vision, embedded in SDG2, which takes zero loss or waste of food (SDG 12.3) as one of its major linked targets.

A joint effort by UNWTO and UNDP, the publication Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals – Journey to 2030 aims to build knowledge and empower tourism stakeholders to take necessary action to accelerate the shift towards a more sustainable tourism sector by aligning policies, business operations and investments with the SDGs. The publication presents the results of a review of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the Sustainable Development Goals – submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016 and 2017, as well as the review of Corporate Social Responsibility from 60 global tourism companies. The findings reveal that Goal 12 appears to be one of the most addressed Goals within Voluntary National Reviews that mention tourism and the most mentioned for companies corporate social responsibility activities.

Jointly facilitating policy dialogues and policy baselines

UNWTO, in collaboration with UNEP, developed a Baseline Report on sustainable consumption and production in Tourism Policies in order to gain insights and broader the understanding on the integration of sustainable consumption and production into national tourism policies and identify suitable approaches to trigger further action. The overall objective is to support tourism stakeholders in their endeavour to advance, through sustainable tourism policies, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12. The Baseline Report supports the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Programme in particular in relation to the integration of sustainable consumption and production in tourism related policies and frameworks.

FAO and UNEP have promoted dialogue and the sharing of policy initiatives, programmes and experiences in sustainable agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the sustainable food systems Programme initiative on “Sustainability along all food value chains: Identifying and promoting local initiatives linking small-scale producers and consumers”. This dialogue produced recommendations to promote sustainable agriculture adapted to climate change, achieve reductions in food losses and waste, and foster inclusive markets and innovative financing.

Jointly raising awareness

Tackling SDG target 12.3 on food loss and waste reduction, the Think Eat Save campaign is a collaboration between UNEP and FAO that takes stock of the current state of knowledge and on-going development of methodologies, enables sharing of approaches and promotes harmonization of food losses and waste measurement around target 12.3. The campaign also works to strengthen tools developed, address knowledge gaps, develop capacities and promote awareness and advocacy. The benefits of having Think.Eat.Save as a joint FAO-UNEP campaign have included: a broadened and stronger partnership base which brought together entities (from the private sector, CSO, academia, etc) that traditionally work with each of the two organisations; a more evidence-based case for resource mobilization; leveraging of each organisation’s unique technical strengths; and building on the past collaborative efforts that preceded the campaign, notably the Sustainable Food Systems Programme and the Zero Hunger Challenge.
UNWTO and UNEP facilitated a series of Sustainable Tourism Webinars on the sustainable tourism within the Sustainable Tourism programme. The participation of over 760 participants to the 12 webinars on diverse topics such as climate change, financial tools for SMEs, sustainable value chains and tourism planning promoted the exchange of knowledge across its participants. It also promoted sustainable tourism as a key approach to address decoupling of economic growth and environmental degradation and to enhance resource efficiency with a system-wide approach along the entire value chain.

UNEP and UN Habitat jointly held several sessions at the World Urban Forum to highlight the importance of due consideration of environmental sustainability (low-emission, resource efficient and resilient) buildings and construction in the provision of affordable and adequate housing, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11. This provides a strong basis for pathways that allow delivery against multiple Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 11 and 12.

**Demonstrating sustainable consumption and production: the UN ‘walking the talk’**

The UN system has also come together to implement sustainable practices through the Sustainable UN initiative ‘Greening the blue’. The UNEP Sustainable United Nations (SUN) facility which serves the Environment Management Group on internal environmental sustainability management. The facility ensures that environmental considerations are factored into key UN initiatives related to facilities and operations by providing organizations with templates, frameworks, technical support and advice. In addition, Sustainable UN hosts the award-winning Greening the Blue Campaign to engage staff at all levels in walking the talk. Of particular relevance to practices adopted for sustainable consumption and production are the implementation of sustainable procurement, waste management and facilities management.

Concrete examples of actions taken by UN organizations on integrating sustainability into their operations and facilities management, include:

- **Sustainable procurement:** the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is one of the 11 UN organisations with a sustainable procurement strategy. UNFPA’s highest spend product is male condoms. The organization opened a discussion with condom suppliers to procure more sustainable products via a four-point strategy with measurable goals to reduce CO₂ emissions; water consumption, hazardous chemical impacts and raw material consumption. Suppliers were asked to define an action plan in their tenders in response to environmental goals. UNFPA then monitored the implementation of suppliers’ action plans and suggested improvements. Following the implementation of UNFPA’s strategy, all of the ‘long-term agreement’ suppliers of the product are now ISO 14000 certified. As a result of this, UNFPA has seen a large reduction in the environmental impact of the product.

- **Sustainable Building and construction:** The Green One UN House in Hanoi was awarded Gold Lotus Rating from the Viet Nam Green Building Council in 2016. By directing the renovation work towards environmental performance, the refurbished building reduced energy consumption by 22% and water by 36%, with rooftop solar panels generating 10% of its energy requirements.

- **Facilities management and travel:** FAO headquarters has saved over 2 million USD and reduced by 14% its Green House Gas emissions since 2010, through an Environmental Management System that redirected building upgrades towards resource efficiencies and circular economy (waste and water management, procurement, energy demand, photovoltaic systems) and by reducing travel.
UN entities have initiated pooling of expertise on Goal 12, it is clear that more can be done in particular in relation to in-country support, implementation and development assistance frameworks. Further to this, the 2017 Dalberg report highlights sustainable consumption and production as areas where new norms and standards are likely to emerge in the coming years, emphasising this as an opportunity for the UN system to strengthen its coherence and support to Goal 12. To successfully implement the ‘One Plan for One Planet: strategy 2018-2022’ and the recommendations of the UN Secretary General on repositioning the UN development system for effective delivery of Agenda 2030, sustainable consumption and production and Goal 12 needs to be on the agenda of UN agencies at the highest level, for instance by including it as an agenda item at the session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) or as a system-wide global flagship initiative.

### Multi-agency Trust Fund to catalyse support to SDG 12

Though the importance of sustainable consumption and production is fully recognised by Goal 12 and its contribution other Goals and targets, “sustainable consumption and production is the least well-resourced of all SDGs”\(^3\). Further to this, the independent external review at mid-term identified the 10-year framework of programmes as drastically resource constrained.

A key recommendation of the UN Secretary General on repositioning of the UN development system to deliver the 2030 Agenda is the strategic use of multi-partner trust funds to help catalyse support to the “new” Goals and those that are especially transversal in nature, such as Goal 12. The UN Secretary General highlights that “More funding needs to flow into joint programming and other funding mechanisms that are outcome-based rather than project-based, and to foster collaboration rather than inefficient competition. (…) Well-designed and professionally managed pooled funds are more effective and transparent and complement agency-specific funds. Pooled funding mechanisms have a strong track record in strengthening coherence and coordination, broadening the contributor base, improving risk management and leverage, and providing better incentives for collaboration within the United Nations development system or across pillars in relevant contexts.”\(^4\)

The strategy 2018-2022 ‘One Plan for One Planet’ specifically refers to strengthening the existing Trust

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\(^3\) Dalberg, 2017. System-wide outline of the functions and capacities of the UN development system

\(^4\) UNSG, Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda - our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet
Fund as a means to implement SDG 12. This includes supporting considerations on: the strategic allocation of financial resources, the delivery mechanism in countries, the UN coordination, the efficiency of fund administration, and the visibility for resource mobilisation.

The United Nations entities engaged in the implementation of the One Planet network have identified moving to a multi-agency fund as a key means to respond to the One Planet strategy and the call of the UN Secretary General. It is envisaged as a collaboration between the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), UNEP, FAO, UNWTO, UN-Habitat and UNOPS. Complex challenges, as those presented by Sustainable Development Goal 12, demand the combined expertise and resources of multiple development partners. The MPTF Office assists the UN system and national governments in establishing and administering pooled financing mechanisms—multi-donor trust funds and joint programmes—to collect and allocate funding from a diversity of financial contributors to a wide range of implementing entities in a coordinated manner. These funding mechanisms build on the principles of the aid effectiveness agenda, which calls for country-driven, coherent, timely, flexible and result-oriented assistance.

A Multi-agency Trust Fund for sustainable development goal 12 is key to catalyse the implementation of Goal 12, to address the significant gaps identified and overcome the current fragmented approach. Supporting Goal 12 will also simultaneously contribute significantly to the achievement of almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals, directly or indirectly⁵. Availability of, and access to, financial resources to support actions that are transformational and at scale is a key factor in successful implementation. The private sector, public sector, and financial institution are encouraged to support implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 through the replenishment of the Trust Fund.

⁵ International Resource Panel, 2017: [Assessing Global Resource Use](#)
Recommendations

A fundamental shift is needed in the way we consume and produce to achieve SDG 12 and enable progress under almost all the other SDGs. Significant steps have been taken by UN entities to address the gaps identified on Goal 12, in particular in monitoring trends, convening and operationalising a multi-stakeholder partnership for SDG 12, pooling expertise and assets across UN entities, and considering the strategic use of multi-partner trust funds. The following recommendations are made to successfully implement the strategy 2018-2022 ‘One Plan for One Planet’, to implement the recommendations of the UN Secretary General on repositioning the UN development system to deliver on Agenda 2030, and enable further strengthening of the implementation of SDG 12:

**Strengthen existing multi-stakeholder partnerships on sustainable consumption and production**, such as the One Planet network which has formed to support the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. Support to those partnerships which have made significant investments in the initial phases of the partnership development and are now under implementation is particularly critical to the ambitious timeframe for the implementation of Agenda 2030.

UN entities actively engaged in the One Planet network have initiated pooling of expertise on Goal 12, it is clear that more can be done in particular in the context of the identified gaps and opportunities on sustainable consumption and production, as well as in relation to coordinated in-country support and development assistance frameworks.

National statistical offices and national focal points are requesting UN custodian agencies to collaborate more closely to limit the duplication of reporting efforts by countries, clarify data flows and ensure consistent understanding of methodologies and terminologies for comparable data collection. **The UN Statistics Division has a key role to play in facilitating a coordinated effort of UN custodian agencies for SDG 12**, which could include streamlining methodologies, a centralised reporting system, joint awareness raising and capacity development.

**Strengthening coherence and support to Goal 12 across the UN System requires that sustainable consumption and production and Goal 12 be on the agenda of UN agencies at the highest level**, for instance by including it as an agenda item at the session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) or as a system-wide global flagship initiative.

The United Nations entities engaged in the implementation of the One Planet partnership are developing a **multi-agency Trust Fund for SDG 12 to catalyse its implementation** and address the significant gaps identified. Access to financial resources in this fund is necessary to support actions that are transformational and at scale.
The One Planet network formed to implement the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).

www.oneplanetnetwork.org