



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

One of the core objectives of the 2030 Agenda is to decouple economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, notably through improved resource efficiency, while improving people’s well-being. This can occur through a shift towards more sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns. Such a shift requires national public policies that create conducive environments, social and physical infrastructure and markets, and a transformation of business practices along global value chains.

Significant gaps remain

The material footprint of developing countries has grown, but is still far smaller than that of developed countries. The per-capita material footprint of developing countries grew from 5 metric tons in 2000 to 9 metric tons in 2017, representing a significant improvement in material standard of living. But for all types of materials, developed countries have at least double the per-capita footprint of developing countries.

Extraction of raw materials in the developing world is supporting the consumption patterns of richer nations. Over the last two decades, domestic material consumption has risen rapidly in developing countries. At least some of the materials extracted from developing countries are being used to satisfy the consumption habits of developed countries.

More and more countries are developing policies to promote sustainable consumption and production. In 2018, 71 countries plus the European Union reported on macroeconomic policies or other regulatory, voluntary or economic instruments that supported the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns across their economies or specific sectors.

More multinationals and other large companies are reporting on sustainability, but the practice needs to expand to smaller enterprises. 93 per cent of the world’s 250 largest companies (in terms of revenue) are now reporting on sustainability, as are three quarters of the top 100 companies in 49 countries. However, small and medium-sized enterprises lack expertise and resources for reporting.





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Here is what we need to do

Know

- ❖ **SDG 12 is linked to nearly all other goals.** SCP is one of the most cost-efficient and effective ways to achieve economic development, reduce impacts on the environment and advance human well-being.
- ❖ **Shift the mindset of economic growth and sustainability:** There needs to be a shift away from economic models that value growth for growth's sake, toward a new mind-set that respects planetary boundaries, recognizes the economy as a subset of nature, and supports the concept of living in harmony with nature.
- ❖ **Pay particular attention to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises:** Such enterprises face greater challenges to enhance resource and energy efficiency.

Plan

- ❖ **Develop an adequate monitoring framework for many of the targets under Goal 12:** Ten out of 13 indicators for Goal 12 remain as tier III indicators, meaning that no internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator.
- ❖ **Develop a streamlined and coordinated approach for reporting across Goal 12:** It is necessary to clarify data flows and ensure consistent understanding of methodologies and

terminologies for comparable data collection.

- ❖ **Develop a set of core corporate sustainability indicators.** More methodological work should be undertaken to develop the indicators and align them with overall SDG monitoring.
- ❖ **Build successful partnerships:** To create a more coherent response at scale, it is important to pool expertise and assets across UN entities, to strengthen partnerships involving the private sector and multi-stakeholder actors.

Act

- ❖ **The private sector and financial institutions play an important role in unlocking the necessary finance:** SDG 12 is the least well-resourced of all SDGs. Access to financial resources to support actions that are transformational and at scale is a key factor in successful implementation.
- ❖ **Change consumer behavior:** Consumer behavior has a significant impact on how resources are used and markets are shaped.
- ❖ **Ensure integrated policy-making and implementation at the national level:** This can take place through national coordination mechanisms with the mandate to coordinate policy-making and implementation across ministries mandated to design policies which influence consumption and production patterns.

