Intervention on Sustainable Consumption and Production by Switzerland

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

This May 2011, we have the unique opportunity to make CSD-19 a memorable moment where the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production was launched.

The Intersessional Meeting in Panama earlier this year allowed to develop elements of a common understanding on the 10YFP. We welcome the Chair’s attempt to consolidate the main concept in his resource paper as a basis for further discussions.

Switzerland thinks we should agree on an ambitious and strong 10 YFP on SCP. It should be more than just a shopping list and therefore needs to have an overarching policy structure. In addition, the outcome of CSD-19 should be operational so that the framework can be implemented immediately afterwards.

Switzerland considers the model of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to be the best suited model for a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

SAICM has a convincing threefold structure: 1. a political declaration, 2. a policy strategy, and 3. a toolbox. Applied to a 10YFP this would mean that we have, first, a political decision outlining a vision to be endorsed on the highest political level, second, a policy strategy with a strategic approach to attain clear goals and objectives, finally, a toolbox consisting of all the existing and future programs on SCP.

A lot of work has been undertaken within the Marrakech Process since 2003 and we should build on that work. Switzerland has been actively involved in this process and has been leading the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement. We worked with developed and developing countries to implement our approach in order to support their governments to lead the way towards more sustainable forms of consumption and production and send important signals to the market.

The selection of the programs should be guided by specified criteria. The programs should fit into the goal and vision of the 10YFP, address all three pillars.
of sustainable development, be flexible in the sense that they can be tailored to national and regional needs of developed and developing countries, and, finally, their design should be based on the life cycle approach.

Financial resources for the programs should primarily be raised by reallocating existing resources. In addition, we believe it is important to look at every program of the 10YFP separately and decide upon the best financing method for it.

The framework needs an efficient and accountable secretariat within a single existing institution. As mentioned in both background papers, UNEP should be the host of the framework. It has the relevant experience and expertise on SCP. However, this does not mean that this institution is responsible for each and every program. Depending on the topic of the program, the relevant institution will be identified to lead this specific program. The secretariat would mainly have a coordinating function.

The overarching structure should also provide an instrument for monitoring progress towards achieving the goals and vision through a formalized system that will track progress in implementation.

The overarching policy structure for the 10YFP on SCP needs to be established at the CSD-19. However, we recognize that at a later stage there might be the need to reevaluate the setup in the light of the outcome of the UNCSD/Rio+20 discussions on the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by stressing once more that Switzerland remains committed to a strong and ambitious 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP and that we are looking forward to a successful operable outcome at the CSD-19 this May.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.