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**Africa Review Report on Sustainable
Consumption and Production
(Summary)**

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Acronyms and abbreviations

| | |
|------------|---|
| 10-YFP | 10 Year Framework Programme |
| AICC | African Institute of Corporate Citizenship |
| AMCEN | African Ministerial Conference on Environment |
| ARSCP | African Round table on Sustainable Consumption and Production |
| CAADP | Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme |
| CSD | Commission on Sustainable Development |
| ECA | Economic Commission for Africa |
| GDP | Gross domestic product |
| ICLEI | International Council for Local Environment Initiative |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| MTFs | Marrakech Task Forces |
| NCPC | National Cleaner Production Centre |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| RIMs | Regional Implementation Meetings |
| SCP | Sustainable consumption and production |
| SETAC | Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry |
| SME | Small and medium-sized enterprise |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UN-HABITAT | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/218 mandates United Nations regional commissions in collaboration with the secretariat of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), regional and subregional organizations and bodies, as well as regional offices of funds, programmes, international finance and trade institutions and other organizations of the United Nations system, to organize multi-stakeholder Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) and to provide regional inputs into the work of the CSD. In this context, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been organizing RIMs in collaboration with partner organizations since 2003.

2. The 2009 RIM to be held in October 2009 under the auspices of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-6), is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and other partners. The RIM will deliberate on regional inputs into the Eighteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18). It will review progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation commitments relative to the thematic areas of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and a 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Scope of the report

3. This summary report on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) draws from the main SCP report prepared by the secretariat of the African Round table on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP), with the guidance from UNEP and ECA. The report provides an overview of trends in production and consumption in Africa. It discusses progress and achievements, presents the status of SCP in Africa; identifies implementation challenges and constraints, as well as lessons learned; and highlights the way forward, including policy measures and actions needed to accelerate implementation.

Submission to the Regional Implementation Meetings

4. This summary report is submitted for the consideration of the Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs). It is intended to stimulate discussions aimed at generating inputs to inform the Africa RIM Statement. It is also intended to elicit comments and additional inputs for the finalization of the main regional review report on SCP. The final report will serve as a reference document for CSD-18 deliberations. It will be disseminated to member States, African regional and subregional organizations, and all relevant partners and organizations. The aim is to highlight the status of implementation of SCP-related commitments in Africa and to serve as an advocacy tool for promoting appropriate actions by all stakeholders at all levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the sustainable development of the SCP sector in Africa.

Purpose of this report

5. Governments at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 called for the development of a 10-year Framework Programme (10-YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns that will promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems. The ARSCP, with the guidance from UNEP and ECA, is playing the leading role in the preparation of the Africa Regional Review Report on Sustainable Consumption and Production. This report aims to undertake an in-depth review of concrete actions taken and achievements made, identify and document implementation challenges and constraints, and propose the way forward to accelerate progress in the implementation of SCP in Africa.

What is SCP?

6. SCP is broadly defined as a holistic approach to minimizing the negative environmental impacts of production and consumption in society, and it can be considered a practical implementation strategy for achieving sustainable development. The main objective of SCP is to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and the de-coupling of economic growth from environmental degradation. In Africa, the overall aim of reducing poverty while attaining sustainability can be accomplished through actions that are directly relevant to SCP. The challenge is to provide more people with a better quality of life without undermining the natural resource base and destroying the ecosystems on which everybody depends. The implementation of SCP as an integrated approach helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness, and reduce poverty. As Governments and other actors consider how to manage the energy, food and water crises and build a green economy, they would be well served to promote and implement holistic and integrated policies and actions for SCP.

Methodology of the study

7. The present report was prepared against the backdrop of the current regional institutional arrangements for SCP and the ongoing key processes and initiatives in the region, such as the NEPAD Environment Action Plan; the Marrakech Process; the African 10-YFP and the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa; the African Round tables on Sustainable Consumption and Production; the UNIDO-UNEP National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) Programme, and the CSD-Africa process. The following strategies were pursued to achieve the objectives of the assignment:

- (i) Review of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which outline a broad array of strategies and actions to foster SCP.
- (ii) Overview of production and consumption patterns overviews from secondary statistical data sets and provision of an overall picture of the current state and recent trends in consumption and production patterns in Africa.
- (iii) Review of progress in implementation and achievements made.

- (iv) Identification of implementation challenges and constraints and lessons learned.
- (v) Recommendation of priority policy measures and actions to accelerate implementation, taking into account institutional and policy mechanisms, supporting tools and instruments, education and means of implementation.

8. A focus-group e-mail survey was also carried out to identify barriers to SCP in Africa and discuss the way forward. The participants were chosen from the list of participants who attended the Fifth African Round table on SCP in Johannesburg in June 2008 and from the ARSCP network. The results of this survey helped in the identifications of challenges and constraints and in the recommendations for the way ahead.

II. Broad trends in production and consumption in Africa

9. The African region encompasses a vast area of widely differing economic, demographic and social situations and development trends. Africa covers 20.4 per cent of the global land area, contains about 13 per cent of the world's population, but generates only 1.7 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP). Differences among the countries are considerable. Population ranges from 0.2 million in Sao Tome and Principe to 148 million in Nigeria, while GDP per capita ranges from US\$282 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to US\$28,923 in Equatorial Guinea. The greatest difference among countries is in their size, ranging from 460 km² in Seychelles to 2,376,000 km² in the Sudan. The region is thus large and diverse and the recommended approach for promoting SCP will vary from country to country.

10. Reversing previous trends, African economies have performed well in the new millennium. Per capita GDP grew by almost 2 per cent per year from 2000 to 2005, whereas it had actually declined slightly during the 1990s. Africa's recent growth performance has been underpinned by improvement in macroeconomic management in many countries and strong global demand for key African export commodities, sustaining high export prices, especially for crude oil, metals and minerals. Value added as a percentage of GDP in 2005 was 14 per cent, 29 per cent and 57 per cent for agriculture, industry and services, respectively.

11. Structural change in African economies has been limited. African economies remain insufficiently diversified. Agriculture remains an important sector in much of sub-Saharan Africa. It provides 57 per cent of all employment, though only about 17 per cent of the GDP. The agro-industrial sector is still at such a low level of development that it is unable to act as a driver for the agricultural sector. Despite the importance of industry in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction, the continent lags behind other developing regions in industrial performance. Structural changes in national economies have also been significantly influenced by growth in international trade, particularly exports of fossil fuels and metals and, increasingly, the import of manufactured goods from other parts of the world. Most countries in the region remain essentially primary commodity exporters, with only a handful of countries drawing a significant portion of their export revenues from manufactured products. The issue of unrestricted market access for African countries has featured lately in the debate on overcoming Africa's development challenges through international trade, rather

than aid. Greater liberalization of agricultural trade in the markets of developed countries is, for example, key to improving Africa's agricultural export performance.

12. At the midway point between the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 and the 2015 target date for their achievement, sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to achieve any of the goals. More than 41 per cent of the people in sub-Saharan Africa (or roughly 300 million people) still live on less than \$1 a day. Many Africans remain trapped in dire poverty, heavily dependent on a fragile natural resource base and vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks. Of the 162 million "ultra poor" people in the world who subsist on less than \$0.50 a day, 121 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. With a Gini coefficient of 51 per cent, Africa has the worst income distribution in the world. African populations are heavily burdened by poverty-related diseases. While much of the world is on track to meet the MDGs on water and sanitation, most of Africa is not.

13. Population growth is still strong. High fertility rates will translate into rapid population growth well into the present century. From 520 million in 1990, the population is expected to reach 1.3 billion by 2030. Compared to that of other developing subregions, sub-Saharan Africa's population is very young. Currently half of the population is less than 18 years old. This young population structure represents a particular challenge for African countries with regard to education and employment. Available statistics indicate a current rate of urbanization in Africa of around 3.5 per cent per year. This rate is the highest in the world, and is resulting in the rapid growth of urban agglomerations throughout the region. By 2030, the proportion of Africa's urbanized population is expected to reach 53.5 per cent, compared to 39 per cent in 2005. This fast rate of urbanization puts a strain on infrastructure and other services. The level of urbanization has a strong impact on the patterns of consumption. In large cities, there is evidence of a growing middle class and its adoption of western consumption patterns such as private car ownership, increased meat consumption, and emergence of low-density detached housing developments in sub-urban areas.

14. In the whole of Africa, household final consumption expenditure represented 68 per cent of GDP in 2007, compared to 13 per cent for government final consumption expenditure. Food still dominates household expenditures across the African region, ranging from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the mean monthly expenditure. Household consumption patterns will vary according to socio-economic factors, with lower-income countries having greater proportions of household expenditures on food, while upper-income countries spend more on SCP, communication and recreation and health care. Economy-wide analysis of environmental pressures is yet to be carried out in Africa.

15. Production and consumption trends in key sectors in Africa can be summarized as follows:

- Agriculture is still largely oriented towards subsistence. Low soil fertility, scarce irrigation, poor rural infrastructure, insufficient finance and recurrent droughts are among the major challenges facing sub-Saharan African agriculture. As a result of economic and environmental constraints, fishing and livestock-raising have failed to keep up with the growing African population. Consequently, food insecurity remains a major concern, with 24 sub-Saharan African countries requiring external food assistance at the beginning of 2007. It is unlikely that the MDG target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015 would be achieved. The current pattern of agricultural development in Africa is

therefore unsustainable. A large share of the population remains undernourished, and the degradation of land and ecosystems worsens food insecurity. In cities, lifestyle changes have increased the demand for processed and imported food and packaging, leading to significant structural changes in food production systems and the processing industry. From an SCP perspective, these structural changes need to take into account consumer concerns about food safety, quality issues and environmental concerns.

- Africa is relatively well endowed with energy resources and produces about 10 per cent of the world's energy supply. However, with 13 per cent of the world's total population, Africa consumes only 5.5 per cent of the world energy, and it generates only 3.1 per cent of the world's electricity. The per capita energy consumption of 0.5 tonnes of oil equivalent, far lower than the world average of 1.2 tonnes of oil equivalent per capita makes the continent lag behind all others in energy use. Energy production tends to be costly, relying heavily on fossil fuels (about 80 per cent of electricity generation), despite significant untapped hydroelectric and other renewable energy potential. Energy consumption in Africa is still largely dominated by combustible renewable resources (biomass, animal waste, etc.), which represents 59 per cent of the total. In some countries, biomass accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total energy use. Lack of access to modern energy results in air pollution, acute health problems and environmental problems linked to over-consumption or inadequate management of wood resources. Many countries have relatively high energy intensities, showing the potential for energy efficiency. Only about 7 per cent of Africa's enormous hydro potential has been harnessed and based on the limited initiatives that have been undertaken to date, renewable energy technologies could contribute significantly to the development of the energy sector in Africa. The continent contributes only about 4 per cent of total greenhouse gases and most countries have very low carbon dioxide emissions per capita due to low energy intensities, low GDPs and high levels of biomass energy use.
- Africa is endowed with abundant water resources, which account for about 10 per cent of global freshwater endowments. Freshwater resources across Africa are, however, unevenly distributed. Although some African countries have high annual water averages per capita, many others already or soon will face water stress (1,700 m³ or less per person annually) or water scarcity (1,000 m³ or less per person annually). Currently, 14 countries in Africa, mostly located in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa, are subject to water stress or water scarcity. A further 11 countries will join them in the next 25 years. As a result of climate change and variability, population growth, environmental degradation and resource mismanagement, access to freshwater is worsening in the region. Increased water scarcity in the future in many countries of the region implies a need for efficient management of shared water resources. In Africa, access to water supply and sanitation is very low. Only about 58 per cent of the sub-Saharan population has access to piped water supply and only 37 per cent has access to improved sanitation.
- Africa lags behind other regions in almost all its industry-related indices. The contribution of manufacturing output to total national income is generally low, with the share of manufacturing value added in GDP being at an average of only

about 9 per cent. Positive performance in industrial growth in a few countries and an increase in foreign direct investment in African industry indicates potential for industrial take-off. The challenge is to ensure that environmental best practices are incorporated at the early stages of industrialization whenever manufacturing investments are being considered. It is to be noted that, while the overall level of industrial pollution is still low because of Africa's low level of industrialization, the environmental impact intensity in relation to the level of industrialization is among the highest in the world.

- Africa is the fastest-urbanizing region in the world. The rural population is growing at a rate of 2.5 per cent per year, while the urban population is experiencing 5-10 per cent growth per year. Africa's urban population was 373 million in 2007 and will reach 760 million in 2030. Increasing numbers of the poor will be city dwellers and sub-Saharan Africa has the third-largest number of slum dwellers, following South and East Asia. The urban population growth is not absorbed by the largest cities but by the intermediate cities (towns less than 500,000 inhabitants), where two thirds of all African urban growth is occurring. This swift urban growth means that Governments should strengthen the governance capacities of intermediate and smaller cities so as to be prepared for the rapid increase in new and additional demand for urban spatial planning, urban housing, urban services and urban livelihoods. The larger African cities will absorb the remaining one third of the continent-wide urban growth. Urbanization presents both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a challenge in that providing additional millions of people with adequate housing, water and sanitation, SCPation, waste management and other needs will require vast investment, skilled management and strong leadership. In addition, the concentration of people increases the risk of diseases, pollution and disaster. On the other hand, the concentration of people will also facilitate the provision of education, health care, SCPation and other social services. Urbanization also tends to conserve energy and natural resources.
- SCPation services contribute to development and their improvement will be essential for Africa to achieve sustainable development and the MDGs. The poor state of SCP infrastructure impedes Africa's development and obstructs poverty reduction. In many African countries, SCP access rates and network quality are low by any standard. Less than a third of Africa's 2 million km of roads are asphalted, with a low density of 6.84 km per 100 square km, compared to 12 km in Latin America and 18 km in Asia. Urbanization and increasing motorization in sub-Saharan Africa have resulted in a high level of degradation of the air quality, particularly in the large cities. Provision of good SCPation services and infrastructure constitutes a necessary precondition for African economic growth. A SCP system that supports sustainable development is one in which SCP is used in a way that minimises demands on non-renewable resources, e.g. fossil fuels and metals. It also minimizes the adverse impacts on human health and the environment, e.g. pollution and contributions to climate change, or waste generation. Likewise, it provides for affordable mobility to gain access to services, jobs and education.
- The problem of solid waste management is a growing source of concern in African urban centres driven by population growth, industrialization and rising

living standards, and is identified as one of the major challenges in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production in the region. Industrial, electronic and medical waste, some of which is hazardous, is also increasing rapidly in many countries. African cities have not been able to set up adequate systems for the collection of municipal and industrial waste due to their poor infrastructure base, limited resources and lack of proper urban management. The solid waste generation of selected cities in Africa ranges from 0.3 to 1.9 kg per person per day. The limited available data suggests that the municipal solid waste stream in the typical African city at point of disposal is high in putrescible organic matter. However, it has a low percentage of commercially recyclable components and very low heating value for energy recovery by incineration. There are few formal systems of materials recovery through the public and private sectors in Africa. Instead, in most parts of Africa, materials recovery including source separation and recycling takes place in the informal sector. With few official statistics on municipal solid waste generation and recycling, it is difficult to arrive at an overall rate of waste recycling in Africa. Obtaining these data is vital for the design of well-integrated industrial solid waste management systems. Most major cities in Africa have an organized municipal waste collection system. Collection coverages across the continent range from 20 per cent to 80 per cent, with a median range of 40 per cent to 50 per cent. Most disposal sites in Africa are simply open dumps, although some countries have moved towards improved landfill practice recently. Even though the organic content of the municipal solid waste in the typical African city may exceed 70 per cent (wet basis), centralized composting, anaerobic digestion and gas recovery are not significant components of African municipal solid waste management practice. For the most part in Africa, services are not available for the separate handling of special waste such as household hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste, medical and infectious waste, tires, sewage sludge or chemical and pharmaceutical waste.

- Africa has numerous tourist attractions ranging from wildlife to cultural heritage sites. Many African Governments have identified the potential of international tourism, which attracted about 37.3 million visitors or close to US\$21.7 billion in revenue to African countries in 2005. Roughly 60 per cent of international tourists who visit Africa are leisure tourists, 15 per cent are business tourists and 25 per cent come for other purposes. Eco-tourism is the fastest-growing tourism product in the world and Africa, for its natural endowments, constitutes an obvious destination with countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya. The ecological footprint of tourism activity is significant and the tourism industry and its associated infrastructure tend to be concentrated in biodiversity hotspots. On the other hand, tourism can foster environmental preservation, especially if it is eco-tourism. The tourism industry in Africa is characterized by a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that in many cases lack the financial and human resources necessary to provide quality products and integrate sustainable tourism principles. On the other hand, mainstream international hotel chains are increasingly making efforts to reduce their environmental impacts.
- Africa is undergoing a severe process of deforestation. From 1990 to 2005, deforestation took place at a rate of 0.7 per cent per year versus 0.2 per cent at the global level.

- The “Africa’s Ecological Footprint and Human Well-being” Report shows that compared to the rest of the world, the average African’s footprint is small (1.1 global hectares). In 2003, Africa had 13 per cent of the world’s population but contributed only 6 per cent of the global footprint. But the report also reveals that a growing number of African countries are now depleting their natural resources faster than they can be replaced. Africa’s biocapacity is 1.3 global hectares per person, slightly more than what Africans use, but 28 per cent less than the world’s average of 1.8 global hectares available per person. While Africa still has more biocapacity than it uses, this margin is shrinking, largely due to population growth. If current trends continue, Africa will soon be facing an ecological deficit, with demand exceeding the continent’s supply.

16. In short, the African region faces very different SCP challenges than developed countries. In much of Africa, there is a clear need to address the social pillar of sustainability as a large segment of the population lives in poverty and does not have access to basic needs, such as clean water, energy and adequate nutrition levels. The main challenge will be to satisfy the basic needs of the population. Natural resources are the basis for economic and social development in Africa. The poor tend to rely more on the natural resource base for their livelihoods than the rich. Unsustainable production patterns can produce significant social and environmental side effects that undermine the prospects for poverty reduction. Moreover, the unsustainable consumption patterns of the consumer class may further limit the “ecological space” available to poor people to meet their basic needs. Policies and actions supporting SCP can serve to bolster poverty reduction efforts, support sustainable long term growth and help to meet the MDGs. There are many opportunities to “leapfrog” towards more SCP patterns before consumption-driven impacts reach the levels observed in developed countries.

III. Progress and achievements

17. **Ten-Year Framework Programme:** The African 10-Year Framework Programme (10 YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production has been launched. It has a strategic focus of linking SCP with the challenges of meeting basic needs in more sustainable manners and has four thematic areas of focus: *energy, water and sanitation, habitat and sustainable urban development, and industrial development*. A regional institutional focal mechanism – the African Round table on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) and the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa supported by the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany have been established. Sustainable consumption and production activities in the region have been strengthened through a number of pilot projects such as the development of an eco-labeling scheme for Africa; the development of national and local SCP action plans in four countries; sustainable consumption and production of plastics; development of capacities for SCP in the Lake Victoria area; sustainable procurement and life-cycle assessment workshops; collection of best practices on SCP projects by development agencies; and a research study on leapfrogging possibilities for SCP in Africa.

18. **Sustainable energy development:** A multi-donor NEPAD infrastructure project preparation facility has been established at the African Development Bank. The facility has provided funding for the preparation of several regional projects, including oil and gas pipelines, hydroelectric power and power interconnection. Several United Nations agencies are supporting projects on energy access and efficiency and renewable energy. In recognition

of the fact that the problem of access to energy in rural Africa requires much more attention, means and renewed commitments by all stakeholders, there is increased country-to-country and city-to-city dialogue and cooperation on the issue of clean energy access for the urban poor. Rural energy access scale-up initiatives led to the design of new energy supply schemes integrating energy services to the development of productive and income-generating activities, entrepreneurship, and the promotion of indigenous energy resources. Regarding changing patterns of energy consumption and production, in many countries, national capabilities on forestry services and energy agencies for wood energy planning and policy development have been enhanced. There are big hopes in many African countries for the development of biofuels and many projects have been launched. Estimates show that up to 16 sub-Saharan African countries can meet significant proportions of their current electricity consumption from bagasse-based cogeneration in the sugar industry. Efforts to improve and modernize small-scale biomass energy constitute an important component of national energy strategies in many sub-Saharan African countries. The diffusion of solar water heaters has in general been slower than anticipated and most solar water heaters in use are bought by high-income households, institutions and large commercial establishments such as hotels. Solar photovoltaics have been promoted in the subregion but they are still unaffordable to the majority of the population in sub-Saharan Africa, given the high levels of poverty.

19. **Water and Sanitation:** The development of water infrastructure has been a priority of most African countries over recent decades. Many multilateral organizations have been involved in working towards the achievement of the MDGs on water and sanitation access. Some countries have achieved good progress in expanding access to services and improving operating performance. The African Ministerial Council on Water and the Africa Water Task Force has been established to enhance cooperation and coordination, in order to promote the development and implementation of coherent policies and strategies for water resources management. The water resources management component of the NEPAD short-term action plan has been developed. The African Development Bank is providing assistance to NEPAD to implement its water and sanitation infrastructure development programme with a view to enhancing regional integration. Under the auspices of UN-HABITAT, the “Water for African Cities” Programme is being implemented with the aim of reducing the urban water crisis in African cities. An increasing number of countries are undertaking policy, legal and institutional reforms and developing strategies for water resources development and management on the basis of integrated water resources management. Improving water efficiency and reducing water pollution from industry is one of the functions of NCPCs. Water and sanitation projects provide an ideal opportunity for promoting and applying SCP principles in Africa. More demand-side management approaches are needed. The development of innovative ways of providing water and sanitation services to the large segment of the population is another key challenge to meeting basic needs in the region. Although unregulated irrigation with wastewater does persist in some African countries, especially nearer smaller urban centres, the trend is towards regulated reuse of treated wastewater, as far as available capital resources allow.

20. **Habitat and urban development:** UN-HABITAT has launched the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization to operationalize the Habitat Agenda at country level through various programmes such as “Water for African Cities”, “Urban Observatories”, “Safer Cities”, “Good Urban Governance” and “Local Agenda 21”. Furthermore, the UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States supported the global campaign launched in various countries. UN-HABITAT provided technical assistance in collaboration with Cities Alliance to implement the action plan on slum prevention and upgrading, and the

cities development strategies. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT and other partners have also launched the Global Land Tool Network, which tries to document best land practices which could be of great benefit to Africa. In collaboration with the European Union, UN-HABITAT has implemented the Regional Urban Sector Profile for Sustainability in over 23 countries in Africa, to develop medium-to- long-term policies. Many African countries have mainstreamed sustainable urbanization into their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and have introduced programmes and projects for the provision of basic urban services such as water and sanitation, slum upgrading and prevention policies, as well as social housing schemes. With support from the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States and UN-HABITAT programme managers, several countries in the region have undertaken initiatives to review and reform national housing and urban development, and policies and legislation for adequate access to land, water and sanitation, slum prevention and upgrading and shelter. However, sustainable buildings criteria and rating systems still need to be developed, and SCP concerns are still not as integrated as they should be into spatial planning policies. The Clean Air Initiative in sub-Saharan African cities launched by the World Bank in 1998 aims to improve air quality through the reduction of air pollution originating particularly from motorized SCP. Cities across Africa need to push harder to access a growing range of global environment funds to help them finance sustainable public SCP systems. The problem of solid waste management is a growing source of concern in African urban centres driven by population growth, industrialization and rising living standards, and is identified as one of the major challenges in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production in the region. Industrial, electronic and medical waste, some of which is hazardous, is also increasing rapidly in many countries. African cities have not been able to set up adequate systems for the collection of municipal and industrial waste due to their poor infrastructure base, limited resources and lack of proper urban management.

21. **Sustainable industrial development and corporate social responsibility:** In 2004, the African Union endorsed the Africa Productive Capacity Initiative as a sustainable industrial development strategy of NEPAD. The African Productive Capacity Facility has been established as a financial mechanism to support the APCI. UNIDO has assisted many countries in Africa in developing and implementing programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness of selected industries, and wherever possible, identifying new market opportunities. UNIDO and UNEP, supported by UNDP and other bilateral donors, are the agencies most actively involved in promoting cleaner production in Africa. Projects to strengthen metrology, standards and testing institutions are under way in many countries. Countries have also established agro-processing ventures and medium-sized and micro-enterprises, and are gradually accessing finance, technology transfer and capacity-building opportunities for enhancing their growth and competitiveness, with an increased focus on women. NEPAD also sets the tone for corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Africa by highlighting the need to create conditions for private sector growth in order to generate social development benefits. The African Peer Review Mechanism is an important instrument that can effectively promote CSR. The African Institute of Corporate Citizenship is promoting the role of business in building sustainable communities. Given Africa's developmental context, the application of CSR on the continent would help address those issues affecting the daily lives of Africans, including health, education, agriculture, and food security. African business organizations and several stakeholders from civil society and academia are participating in global initiatives, including the Global Compact and the UNEP Financial Initiative. Several companies in Africa are members of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

22. **Food Production and consumption:** The performance of agriculture in Africa has improved slightly, with annual agricultural growth averaging about 3.9 per cent in recent years. However, while growth did take place, it did not really lead to improved food security and reduced poverty. A large share of the population remains undernourished, and the degradation of land and ecosystems worsens food insecurity. Measures taken by African countries to boost the development of the agricultural and rural sector include the Maputo Summit Declaration which endorsed the Plan of Action of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and the commitment by African leaders to allocate at least 10 per cent of their national budget to agricultural development; the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water which called for the development of strategic agricultural commodities; the Fertilizer Summit which adopted the resolution to increase fertilizer use in Africa; and the Abuja Food Security Summit that recommended the establishment of an African common market for basic food products. Food supply chain members share the responsibility of producing and supplying food in the most environmentally sustainable way. Consumers on the other hand indirectly influence upstream environmental impacts through their purchasing decisions. Scientifically reliable and understandable environmental information can help consumers in cities to consider the wider sustainability implications of their purchasing decisions and behaviour. There is great potential for organic food production in African countries, but the development of certified organic farming in African countries lags behind significantly.

23. **Chemicals and hazardous waste management:** Many African countries have ratified major conventions relating to chemicals and waste. African countries have completed and endorsed a regional action plan for the implementation of the strategic approach to international chemicals management. Countries are benefiting from training and capacity-building projects to support the implementation of the globally harmonized system for the classification and labeling of chemicals. Countries are adopting policies and legislation on chemicals and waste, including those on hazardous waste management, and are implementing measures on environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes. The African obsolete pesticide stockpile project has been established to clean up stockpiled obsolete pesticides, catalyze development of prevention measures, and build capacity for chemicals-related issues. African Governments have committed themselves to promoting synergies and coordination among chemicals and waste regulatory instruments and agencies.

24. **Sustainable tourism development:** NEPAD has identified tourism as an important vehicle for addressing the current development challenges facing Africa. In 2004, its Tourism Action Plan was approved. A main objective of the Plan is to provide an engine for growth and integration, and to contribute to poverty eradication. Most African Governments have now included tourism in their national development strategies. Countries have also started adopting policies that unlock the opportunities for the poor within tourism. Additionally, countries have adopted the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and are monitoring its implementation.

25. **Cleaner production and eco-efficiency:** National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) have been established in: Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Their work programmes focus on three key activities: awareness-raising and training, demonstrations and assessments, and technical support for cleaner production. Other activities would include policy advice on cleaner production, product-related work and consumer awareness initiatives. There is an increase in

the demand of cleaner production in energy and water. UNIDO and the NCPCs have launched both the Green Industry Strategy and the Energy Efficiency Strategy. The Green Industry Strategy involves existing and new industries and is expected to advise and support Governments in establishing green industrial sectors.

26. **Development of policies and plans in support of SCP in Africa:** Governments across Africa have made efforts to establish a national regulatory framework; create an environmental administration; provide funding for strategic programmes; and ensure more effective enforcement. Many countries have now built up institutions responsible for environmental protection, established environmental laws and regulations, and streamlined environmental responsibilities. They have also developed basic laws and national strategies or plans for sustainable development or environmental protection. Strategies and policies specifically targeting SCP have not yet been developed in African countries. Development of national pilot SCP programmes has either been completed or is ongoing in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Egypt, Mozambique, Mauritius, Senegal and Ghana. There are, however, a number of laws and overarching policies in most countries that are aimed at sustainable development and sound environmental management, and which are relevant and consistent with cleaner production requirements. African countries have few economic instruments that provide financial incentives for SCP. The African Eco-labeling Initiative was launched in 2007 to enhance the access of African products in regional and international markets by improving their environmental profiles and establishing a mechanism that promotes their marketability. In so doing, it would contribute to the NEPAD objective of promoting African exports. There has been little progress yet in the implementation of sustainable public procurement in African countries, despite the large volume of public procurement. Pilot countries have been earmarked in the African region for the development of sustainable public procurement programmes.

27. **Research and education for SCP:** Some universities in Africa have started introducing environmental studies into their education and training programmes. UNEP has interacted with about 300 universities in 53 African countries to formulate the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Education Programme with the main objective of building capacity to promote good governance and educational policy in the region. The UNEP/Wuppertal collaboration centre on SCP is currently undertaking a project to introduce the issues and concepts of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable entrepreneurship into African universities by combining informal educational activities with formal education.

28. African nations need to produce a larger pool of good-quality tertiary graduates and postgraduates, particularly in fields that are relevant to a country's chosen strategy for economic development. Enhancing national, regional and global capacities for carrying out scientific research and applying scientific and technological information to SCP is also needed.

IV. Status of SCP in Africa

29. Despite the achievements, the impact and penetration of SCP activities are still very limited in most countries. Few activities have been conducted as part of the implementation of the African 10-YFP. SCP is a relatively new concept in the region, with only a few examples of integrated SCP activities. However, many these examples concern sustainable production much more than sustainable consumption. Sustainable production activities are focused on cleaner production, environmental management systems (particularly ISO

14000), and corporate management practices. More advanced sustainable production concepts and instruments, such as life cycle assessment, product service and product design systems are still in their infancy in the region. Sustainable production in Africa may be described as a “work in progress” that has a long way to go before becoming widely adopted and fully integrated as an everyday practice. Francophone African countries in West and Central Africa show virtually little institutional capacity in cleaner production due to the absence of NCPCs.

30. The regional capacity for promoting sustainable consumption is far less developed than for sustainable production. There are no strategic or policy frameworks for promoting sustainable consumption at the national level. Compared to sustainable production, sustainable consumption is a far less developed and less recognized concept, as the region is still dominated by people living in poverty. Another important explanation for the little attention paid by Governments to sustainable consumption is that consumption is often perceived as necessary for economic growth. More sustainable consumption is perceived by authorities as lowering economic growth, even though they are missing out on the benefits resulting from reduced costs to society and the achievement of sustainability. Also, since sustainable consumption is a relatively new concept, consumer activism, when it exists, is still focused on prices, quality and safety. Sustainable consumption still remains to be mainstreamed into the consumer movement. There is also a general lack of capacity on sustainable consumption tools.

V. Challenges and constraints in implementing SCP activities

31. Priority areas for SCP will differ from one country to another, but the following challenges and constraints seem to be commonplace in most countries:

- (i) Poor education and lack of awareness of the benefits of SCP among all stakeholders;
- (ii) Government failures (lack of legislation and/or enforcement; weak recognition of SCP in most policies; weak institutional capacity for monitoring and using economic instruments; absence of enforceable pollution standards; lack of decentralization to local authorities; lack of appropriate consumer rights, policies and legal instruments for promotion of sustainable consumption; incoherent policies);
- (iii) Lack of human and technical capacity (lack of capacity for product development and formulation of bankable CP projects in industry; lack of capacity on SCP tools in government; widespread reliance on obsolete technologies; lack of information on emerging clean technologies);
- (iv) Economic failures (financial instability of NCPCs; under-pricing of natural resources; lack of appropriate financing mechanisms for SCP investments; lack of financial incentives; widespread poverty);
- (v) Systemic failures (absence of monitoring; lack of systematic training of employees and lack of research and development in industry; shortage of

reliable data on pollution and use of resources; inadequate research on SCP; consumer traditions);

- (vi) Organizational failures (poor institutional setting; absence of collaborative projects and exchange programmes in the region to facilitate knowledge-sharing).

32. A key opportunity for addressing the above challenges lies in regional cooperation, given that countries often face similar problems. Many successful initiatives have been implemented at local level in such areas as energy efficiency, waste management, buildings and SCP.

VI. Lessons learned

33. The following are some of the lessons learned from this review about the generic vital components needed for SCP strategies:

- Political will and commitment is essential for the effective implementation of the African 10-YFP. The organizational support that has been provided by UNEP together with the political leadership and support provided by AMCEN and the financial support provided by the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa have been highly instrumental in the achievements registered so far and for the significant level of interest amongst development partners in working with the region. The leadership and guidance being provided by the African Union Commission, ECA and UNEP in the further development and implementation of the 10-YFP should be maintained, if not enhanced. In addition to regional cooperation, international cooperation is important in ensuring programme implementation and the leapfrogging towards SCP. In this regard, the region's cooperation with development partners such as the Government of Germany and the Marrakech Task Forces should be fostered.
- The ARSCP must be better able to use the opportunity provided by the political commitment shown by AMCEN, the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa and the other Marrakech Task Forces to strengthen its strategies and programmes. The Marrakech Process has not only contributed to the development of the regional 10-YFP, but is also a substantive forum for dialogue and cooperation on SCP issues. The Marrakech Task Forces are important mechanisms that have built North-South cooperation and have created potential areas for inter-task force cooperation in Africa.
- A basic condition for SCP is to increase general awareness and understanding of the concept among all people. The meaning of SCP as applied to the local context needs to be developed and explained through education and communication, and SCP has to be perceived as a relevant priority by all stakeholders. Long-term education programmes and short-term aggressive public awareness campaigns targeting businesses, civil societies, financing institutions, etc. need to be part of any SCP strategy.
- Individual initiatives will not bring about wholesale changes in SCP patterns unless there is a national integrated strategy to promote SCP using a range of

policies. Governments should develop appropriate national policy frameworks to effectively support integration and development of sustainable consumption and production, and the coordination between different government departments. SCP should be integrated into poverty reduction strategies, national strategies for sustainable development, or national environment action plans. Once integrated, a second step would be to develop concrete sectoral action plans or frameworks (e.g. on energy, water, agriculture, SCP) that aim to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with concrete targets and indicators. In the light of the variety of situations in all the countries, it is necessary for Governments to develop, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, national SCP strategies or action plans reflecting a country's specific priorities, and with concrete actions for their implementation. Beside its direct contribution towards promoting resource efficiency at all levels of production and consumption, the development and implementation of an SCP programme could also be instrumental in promoting synergies amongst the key development sectors outside the Ministry of Environment. In this context, it is recommended for African ministries to designate a focal point unit for SCP to facilitate inter-sectoral cooperation in the context of SCP programme development and implementation.

- The effective development and implementation of sustainable consumption and production in African countries could be significantly facilitated through the mainstreaming of SCP into the priorities and decision-making criteria of bilateral and multilateral development financing agencies. Hence, development partners need to mainstream SCP into their bilateral financing procedures.
- Governments should include SCP indicators in national statistics. These indicators are an essential tool for policymaking and help to capture the concept of sustainable production and consumption in statistics. Development of SCP indicators should become a component of any country-level SCP programme development activity.
- A mix of policies and instruments is desirable for SCP implementation, with financial and economic instruments, information tools, and voluntary measures along with regulations. Enforcement capacity of regulations and institutional capacity for economic instruments need to be strengthened in all African countries.
- All African countries and local Governments require assistance in starting sustainable procurement, including guidance on specific products.
- Visible implementation of SCP activities at an early stage is important to demonstrate the concept and to show that it can have a significant impact on the production-consumption system. Examples of such activities include government green procurement programmes, waste recycling schemes, SME support programmes for cleaner production, introduction of compact fluorescent lamps, incentives for solar water heaters and solar panels, plastic bags and packaging, etc.
- Capacity-building and skills development are important in the promotion of SCP. Tools to support or promote sustainable consumption need to be strengthened and integrated with production activities. Systemic approaches such as life-cycle

assessment and green procurement are either nonexistent or still at an infancy stage and need to be further developed.

- There is need for broader adoption and implementation by industry of values consistent with corporate social and environmental responsibility, such as those embodied in the Global Compact. Companies investing in Africa need to root their corporate social responsibility practice in African realities.
- Despite much effort and resources spent by NCPCs, only a small part of industry has nationally adopted sustainable production. It will be impossible to assist individually each company to realize the benefits of sustainable production. It therefore seems necessary to focus on the demand side, creating demand for SCP, rather than focusing on the supply side. Such demand is created when enforcement of legislation is practised, suitable economic incentives are established and efficiency improvements offered by SCP provide a competitive edge. NCPC areas of focus need to expand beyond industries into other economic sectors. The centres, which are now more mature, still need external support in training and advice in order to provide more efficient and innovative services to their clients, especially in the area of technology transfer.
- Economic, environmental and lifestyle evidence of the adoption of SCP are key issues to convince the local community to make an active contribution. Small-scale projects, which could easily be replicated elsewhere upon successful implementation, should be encouraged. In order to make further progress on sustainable lifestyles, there is a need for massive education and awareness campaigns utilizing television and other media to generate actions to trigger a change to sustainable lifestyles and the active involvement of NGOs. Development and implementation of region-relevant education and awareness programmes covering all levels of the society, including youth groups, constitute an important instrument for addressing the existing lack of awareness of the contribution of SCP and create the required capacity for promoting sustainable consumption and production in the region.

VII. The way forward

34. Priority approaches and actions needed to enhance implementation of programmes to effectively address SCP in the region can be grouped under the following four clusters:

A. Institutional and policy mechanisms

- Support Governments to develop and implement target-oriented national and local action plans on SCP.
- Coordinate SCP implementation across sectors through the designation of a focal line ministry for SCP.
- Enable national statistical institutes and other producers of statistical information to monitor economic, social and environmental pressures on consumption and production.

- Promote and support the integration of SCP into the policies of major development organizations and agencies.
- Promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, including natural resources accounting, payments for ecosystem services, and the operationalization of multilateral environmental agreements such as the Clean Development Mechanism.
- Enhance corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability.
- Strengthen demand-side management programmes with a focus on energy and water.
- Support the scientific and technical community through public and private sector funded research and development for SCP.
- Promote life-cycle thinking among Governments and businesses using the model of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative.
- Ensure the financial and institutional sustainability of NCPCs.

B.1 Supporting tools and instruments

- Promote sustainable manufacturing and value chains targeting SMEs.
- Support sustainable public procurement by enhancing the ongoing work of the Marrakech Task Force, and support Governments at all levels working to implement sustainable procurement policies and procedures.
- Promote sustainable products by supporting the creation of databases and the provision of information on sustainable products (including both environmental and social criteria), and address ways to raise awareness among consumers. Countries could, for example, focus on organic food and energy labelling schemes and implement the African Eco-labelling Mechanism.
- Support local Governments to better integrate environmental, social and economic costs into urban planning and to integrate sustainable cities and communities plans into local Agenda 21 action plans. Cities should also develop integrated solid waste management action plans.
- Support changes in key production-consumption chains using the expertise of the Marrakech Task Forces and the NCPCs.

B.2 Education on SCP

- Develop and disseminate SCP modules for education curricula at all levels (schools, college, public service, on-the-job training).

- Support Governments wanting to promote low-resource intensity societies and lifestyles.
- Encourage and leverage forums on alternative ways of consuming (including NGOs, community groups, cooperatives, and consumer groups).
- Create a resource repository and translation facility which can include best practices databases.
- Create networks of excellence on SCP, particularly linking African universities and NCPCs with centres of excellence with each other and with counterparts in developed countries.
- Experiment with local sustainable communities, stimulating grassroots sustainable action, with the active involvement of NGOs.
- Conduct systematic SCP education and awareness campaigns, for example on energy and water use efficiency, using national television and other media to generate actions for a change to sustainable lifestyles.

B.3 Means of implementation

- An effective institutional framework at national, regional and global levels is crucial for the promotion of SCP.
- Mobilization of financial resources through the development of SCP action plans and using the whole array of funding opportunities for its implementation. Special funds can be created by ministries of finance to fund SCP projects using revenues from taxes, subsidies, development partners and carbon credits.
- Technology transfer and capacity-building to develop a critical mass of professionals in any country for implementing SCP activities.
- Information and outreach by raising the visibility of SCP to international agencies and regional ministerial conferences using information tools and SCP networks.
- Enhancing partnerships and collaboration with development agencies, Marrakech Task Forces, other SCP round tables and SCP research centres of excellence.

35. It is important to focus on some concrete priority SCP projects at the regional level and then mobilize support for their implementation. The following priority projects to be implemented in the region in the short term were identified during the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) 2008-2009, held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 26 June 2009. The potential implementing organizations for the different projects as identified during the meeting are given in italics in parentheses.

1. **Capacity-building for national SCP action plans** (*UNEP, ARSCP, Marrakech Taskforce (MTF) on Cooperation with Africa and MTF on Sustainable Public Procurement*)
 2. **African local SCP initiative** (*ICLEI Africa, ARSCP, UNEP and Miffs*)
 3. **Regional programme on resource efficiency and cleaner production, including building capacities of national action plans and SCP institutions** (*UNEP, UNIDO and RECP*)
 4. **African Eco-labelling Mechanism** (*African Organization on Standardization, ARSCP, Marrakech Taskforce (MTF) on Cooperation with Africa*).
 5. **Promoting an integrated solid waste management system in Africa** (*UNEP, local Governments (ICLEI-Africa, ARSCP)*)
 6. **Education for sustainable consumption and production in Africa** (*ARSCP, MTFs on Education for SCP and Sustainable Lifestyles, ICLEI-Africa*)
 7. **Sustainable building and construction in Africa** (*Green Building Council – South Africa, ICLEI-Africa, MTF on Sustainable Building and Construction, ARSCP*)
 8. **Promoting small-scale renewable products and biomass-based co-generation** (*UNIDO, UNEP, ARSCP*)
 9. **Regional knowledge management and information exchange on SCP in Africa** (*ARSCP, Marrakech Taskforce (MTF) on Cooperation with Africa*)
36. Development partners are invited to support these projects, which will have a significant impact on the promotion of SCP in the region.

37. In conclusion, the ongoing economic and social restructuring in Africa offers a unique opportunity to establish more resource-efficient SCP patterns. There are many opportunities to “leapfrog” towards more SCP patterns before consumption-driven impacts reach the levels observed in developed countries. SCP strategies applied now will safeguard against unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in the future. Africa as a region is at the forefront of the global Marrakech Process on the 10-Year Framework Programme, its regional 10-YFP supported by the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa being the only region-focused taskforce under the global support mechanism. Africa as a region has therefore established appropriate structures, political goodwill and mechanisms for sharing information, which need to be supported by Governments, AMCEN and development partners. The Marrakech Process has not only contributed to the development of the regional 10-YFP, but it is also a substantive forum for dialogue and cooperation on SCP issues among Governments and other stakeholders at the regional level.

38. Even with regional and international support, SCP is a concept that needs to be built from the national level. Change towards SCP is a systemic challenge. Businesses, consumers and policymakers usually cannot solve problems alone, but must work together in a “triangle of change”. There is also a need for enhanced political will and commitment at all levels. SCP is a broad agenda, affecting almost all economic activities. It will inevitably overlap with the activities of many agencies that focus on energy, mobility, water, waste, etc., but that do not label their activities as SCP. The strategy described in this review report tries to push forward the SCP agenda through an integrative vehicle that covers most economic processes. Lessons learned from niche experiments and pilot studies and the sharing and replication thereof throughout the region will help in mainstreaming SCP into national policies and strategies, and in changing the socio-economic landscape for more SCP patterns and green economies in Africa.