

**XIX SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
New York, 2 – 13 May 2011**

HIGHLIGHTS OF SIDE EVENTS

2 May 2011

Interagency Collaborative Programmes on SCP for the 10-Year Framework

Sponsored by DESA/DSD and FAO, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNWTO, UNESCO and UN Regional Commissions.

This side-event focused on the interagency collaboration for sustainable consumption and production (SCP), and the move towards a 10-Year Framework on SCP. The event was an opportunity for agencies to share plans in moving forward, and help to address unresolved issues in the framework itself. Although motivated by different issues within the SCP paradigm, common principles are sought, such as efficiency, empowerment, inclusiveness, accountability, coordination and better coherence between agencies.

Three different ways to achieve a 10 Year Framework for SCP were outlined;

- A single secretariat in the manner of the Montreal Protocol Secretariat, which manages the process and has accountability but does not promote empowerment;
- A distributed secretariat delivering as one, in the manner of the millennium development goals that encourages the empowerment of stakeholders;
- A voluntary action model in the manner of the Marrakesh Process, where the secretariat lightly facilitates through common action.

A 10-Year Framework for SCP would cover the following areas; sustainable food systems, sustainable production, sustainable transport, sustainable tourism, sustainable lifestyles and education, and mainstreaming SCP and sustainable strategies. Speakers in each of the key areas outlined current programmes and taskforces that address these issues. In discussion, the need to regroup the current programme models, with an integrated model to address all issues that arise was voiced, specifically in rural areas where programmes are often mono-sectoral and therefore less efficient in delivery.

The need for research was stressed, with presentations from UNWTO, UNESCO and the NGO Major Group all highlighting the importance of research in achieving sustainable lifestyles. Along with this, education was also seen as important, with consumer choice and education being important factors in overall consumption, particularly in developed countries. In the discussion, these points were also raised, with the need for research being highlighted as critical in bridging the gaps within the sustainable development framework. New channels were seen as needed to communicate through, and several audience members were encouraged by the interagency cooperation that facilitates this.

The need to build on existing programmes and capabilities was also highlighted. All agencies presented existing programmes and taskforces, often in collaboration with UNEP. Several speakers emphasised the existing technologies ready to be scaled-up, and this was reflected in the discussion. The need for a multi-stakeholder approach that has a bottom-up approach, particularly on the local level that encourages the empowerment of local actors, was also highlighted as

key for the success of any framework. By building on these key stakeholders, and existing programmes, assessments can be made on the current situation and synergies sought for future action. Additionally, by building on existing programmes, the cost to transition to SCP would be purely incremental with little additional start-up costs. All agencies represented currently have SCP Programmes and staff that would provide a base for scaled-up action.

The need to engage the public into the SCP debate, particularly on the issue of consumption was also mentioned by the Major Groups. It was noted that the UN works in acronyms, and this is not the kind of communication that will easily make it into the public domain. Rather, what is needed is a process that takes the notion of SCP and makes it a global concern. The suggested route of this would be to engage and educate governments to begin the process of supportive acts to change consumption and production patterns.

More Food, Less Chemicals, Less Waste

Sponsored by FAO

This side event was hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and aimed to explore the current food system, pesticides regime, and the fair trade exhibition and conference, entitled Save Food. The aim of the event was to explore the issue of safe food consumption and the wastage of food within the context of a growing population and the pressures this places on the food supply.

Speakers included; Mark Davis, FAO; Hans Herren, President of the Millennium Institute and Co-chair IAASTD; Werner Dornscheidt, Düsseldorf trade fair group; and Dr Agnes Soares, Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

The notion of nourishing as opposed to feeding the population was used by Hans Herren to set the discussion, and a re-examination of the kind of respect that should be shown to food. This new paradigm in food systems would be seen in a reduction of pesticide use, reduction of energy use and the maintenance of current natural resources and ecosystem integrity. The technology to achieve this is available, but the implementation has been difficult, and the likely result would be higher levels of employment and greater long term yields. However, the restructuring of the current labour force and market is off-putting for many stakeholders.

Currently, there is 4,000 calories per person of harvested food around the world per day. Due to current production processes and packaging constraints, along with consumer waste in developed countries, this adequate level of food production still results in malnourished people. With population expected to increase to 9 billion people by 2050, those currently experiencing shortages of food are expected to experience even greater levels of deprivation. One way suggested by Werner Dornscheidt is 'Save Food' exhibition, which aims to address food loss and wastage. By looking at the agriculture, food production and packaging processes used, wastage can be minimised and developing countries can gain access to packaging that extends the shelf life of produce. This international congress and exhibition will be held on 16-17 May for two days, and is co-sponsored by the FAO.

Dr Agnes Soares spoke on the topic of pesticides, and the relationship they have with health. Concentrating on the Pan-American region, it was shown that pesticide use has increased dramatically in the past decades, while the information about such heavy pesticide use, along with the cross-exposure of pesticides, has not been adequately explored. What is known, however, is that all pesticides and chemicals have some affect on human health. Pesticides have

been addressed on an international level since 1963, with the First Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residue convened by the FAO and WHO.

Mark Davis stated the need for an agricultural system that can still be practiced in 50 years time. At the current moment, agriculture is not sustainable in this way, and so must be reassessed. Pesticides in particular are dangerous, as they are designed to be used on food and are designed to be toxic. However, they are better managed than other chemicals, due to the Joint Meetings convened by the FAO/WHO since 1963. However, in developing countries, pesticides are often misused due to a lack of education, a lack of access to technologies, and sometimes even a lack of interest in using the safety equipment available. Issues such as these must be met by governments, as currently it is the pesticide and seed companies themselves providing the education in both developed and developing countries.

The inter-active discussion showed the importance of the topic within the CSD-19 context of SCP. The need to include the negative externalities from current agricultural and production processes was recognised as key in creating the new paradigm of an 'agro-ecosystem', that incorporates a waste reduction and nourishment agenda to improve food security for all countries. To do this, all externalities must be taken into account in agriculture, and this is not being achieved within the current processes. Additionally, the issue of waste and the cumulative effects of transport and poor roads as well as adequate packaging was highlighted, with the need to find bottom-up solutions to this from the farmers themselves, potentially through information and knowledge sharing which the FAO has a key role within the UN system.

Furthering Sustainable Mining: A Stakeholder Perspective

Sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations

The side event on Furthering Sustainable Mining was organized as an interactive session attended by representatives of Member States, featuring panelist presentations by representatives of private sector (Umicore) and UN agencies, (UNDP-Division for Crises Prevention).

The Permanent Representative of Gabon, Amb. Mr. Nelson Messone shared a perspective from the developing country point of view. Mining has become a considerable influential element of peace and security. The sector is regarded as crucial means of development for many developing countries. Amb. Jan Grauls, the Permanent Representative of Belgium, pointed out that our daily life, development and economy rely largely on the use of mineral resources, while he also stressed the negative impacts brought by mining such as pollution, damage, corruption, child-labor, etc.

It was recognized by stakeholders that a cooperative, comprehensive and transparent approach is urgently needed towards a sustainable mining. Industrial companies should carry out mining activities under comprehensive legal framework. A broader partnership among stakeholders helps to better identify each other's expectations and to enhance the common knowledge base on environmentally related issues.

To avoid conflicts and crimes related to mining, the ownership of land, local audits and capacity building are among the main challenges at the national level, while international efforts made by UN agencies, international NGOs and multinational companies also play a key role. Throughout the interactive discussion, the representatives of Member States and of UN agencies recognized the need to fit the existing positive mining initiatives into countries' specifics.

3 May

Sustainable Transport Policies, Eco-efficient Infrastructure and Green Economies in the Americas.

Sponsored by ECLAC and Columbia University

This side event aimed to look toward sustainable transport policies, eco-efficient infrastructure and the green economy within the context of Rio+20 Summit. The Latin American and Caribbean situation was outlined, with ECLAC and Columbia University presenting sustainable transport activities and findings in the region. The Caribbean perspective was also highlighted, and the differences facing SIDS within the context of transport services was explored.

Panellists included; Amb. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, the Permanent Representative of Spain to the U N; Ricardo Jordan, ECLAC; Ricardo Sanchez, ECLAC; and Morana Stipisic, Urban Design Lab, Earth Institute, Columbia University.

The importance of transport service provision and infrastructure to sustainable development is vital, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean where 80% of people live in urban areas. In this way, transport is also a vital base within any Green Economy action, as a way of achieving sustainable development. Toward this, the ECLAC report entitled 'Time for equality, transport and infrastructure' was discussed to articulate the concept of equal rights within sustainable transport and the Latin American experience.

Equality was highlighted as an important aspect of sustainable transport, and sustainable development as a whole. Within this, economic growth was seen as vital for sustainable development, and they must go hand in hand if social development is facilitated and reduction in income inequality achieved. Public transport service provision and infrastructure development was shown to have a positive impact on the lowest income groups, and help to reduce income inequality. Despite this, a large part of Latin America has fallen behind in public transport provision, with even those countries that have invested in the sector not achieving efficient levels.

Morana Stipisic identified this shift to sustainable transport as needing to come from national governments. In presenting the ECLAC, ESCAP, UN-Habitat and Columbia Urban Design Lab report, "Are we Building Competitive and Liveable Cities", guidelines were given to policy-makers in achieving more sustainable urban areas. With more than 50% of the world's population, and 80% of Latin America's, living in cities makes urban issues key to the sustainable development agenda. Slums in particular were highlighted as a growing group in absolute numbers, which is particularly worrying if you define a slum as an area lacking in infrastructure and services provision. Added to this, economic growth is centred on cities, with 80% of GDP in Asia coming from urban areas. To achieve sustainable transport within a sustainable development context, a bottom-up approach is needed, facilitated by top-down strategies to lead change. To do this, the dynamics of individual cities must be taken into account, public-private partnerships utilised to achieve change, and a clear examination of the current situation and future goals envisioned.

Eco-efficiency as a goal has been defined, but the 'how' in achieving this is still being formed. Decisions made today in urban infrastructure, set future consumption patterns in place. However, the difference between the Latin American experience and the Caribbean experience varies greatly. Even within the Caribbean, the size of urban populations, densities of populations, levels of urbanisation and access to services varies greatly and create very different

challenges for sustainable transport planning. This is complicated further in the Caribbean by the economy's reliance on tourism and the different transport pressures this creates. Despite these differences between Latin America and the Caribbean, leadership was identified as crucial in the local context in achieving sustainable transport objectives.

During the interactive discussion, the issue of road safety was raised, and the General Assembly Decade on Road Safety, in particular. It was acknowledged that this was an important area of interest for all regional commissions and WHO, but that currently transport issues need to become more comprehensive, as currently issues such as road safety are often dealt with on an individual basis. The idea of the 'optimum' city size was also raised during the discussion. It is difficult to be defined, with the suggestion that instead policies must target the locale of the city and work within the environmental setting.

Design for Sustainability. A Global Overview: Opportunities and Challenges. How to promote and disseminate Eco-design in companies?

Sponsored by the Delegation of the European Union

The side event on Promoting and Spreading Eco-design in Companies was organized with the main objective to stress the potential of Eco-design in leading the private sector towards a resource-efficient and high added-value economy. Opportunities and challenges of current production and recycle processes were outlined by the representative of UNEP, while regional Eco-design pioneers shared success stories and concrete experiences from Europe, Canada and Latin-America.

Impacts of products' use and disposals are not understood well enough compared to the understandings on the production process. The low awareness about resources use implications and the low level of innovation in many developing and emerging economies urge the need of a holistic manner during the product's whole lifecycle. Overall, 60%-80% of products' environmental impacts are determined at the design stage. Through the Eco-design approach, the environmental dimension of a product is taken into account from the early stage of design throughout its life cycle which covers the procurement, manufacture, use and disposal phases.

According to panelists from companies, it is necessary to know that private-sector-driven investments are different from those driven by governments in terms of dependence on the market. Persuading entrepreneurs of economic values of the Eco-Design remains the main challenge to promote this life-cycle thinking approach. More coaching efforts are needed to help companies with good understanding of users' needs in the context of market transition towards the sustainable development.

4 May

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture, Food Production and Waste Management: Exploring the Link Between Fertilizer and Hypoxic Zones

Sponsored by the U S Department of State and UNEP

This side event highlighted the work of the Global Partnership on Nutritional Management (GPNM), which was launched at CSD17 with multiple partners including member states, UNEP, NGOs and different industry bodies. This presentation aimed to provide an update on the current situation, along with the new and emerging challenges. To achieve better nutrient management, the GPNM

aims to provide a knowledge platform through facilitating knowledge transfers between different stakeholder groups.

The session was opened by John Matuszak, US Department of State. Panellists included: Greg Crosby, US Department of State; Dr. Arab Hoballah, UNEP; Dr. Laura Beal Moody, Fertilizer Institute USA; Dr. Kilaparti Ramakistra, International Nitrogen Initiative; and Dr. Chuck Chaitovitz, Global Environment and Technology Foundation.

The issue of fertilizer and nutrient management was cited as an important one within the concept of sustainable development, considering the linkages with population increases, poverty reduction, food security and water shortages. Although urban agriculture and community gardens are growing in popularity, there is increasingly less land to expand agricultural practices, and so agricultural land must become more productive. This is very difficult without the use of organic or inorganic fertilizers, and so the proper use of these inputs must be achieved to increase food supply. To address these issues, the GPNM aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of fertilizer and nutrient use, and avoid the creation of hypoxic zones such as the Gulf of Mexico and the Chesapeake.

All panellists spoke of the importance of engaging farmers within this nutrient and fertilizer debate and saw it as vital in achieving sound nutrient management. Low-tech and low-cost solutions are currently available, but these need to be backed-up by income generation to be taken seriously by farmers and policy makers alike. Local involvement and local investment in programmes needs to be encouraged as well to have successful outcomes. Examples of the importance of this in the reversal of hypoxic zones was shown, with the example of the Danube-Black Sea zone where the hypoxic zone was reversed through investment by GEF and the UNEP, as well as local involvement.

Currently, the food security of two thirds of the world relies on fertilizers. Over the last 30 years, nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizer use has increased dramatically, with the overuse and misuse of inputs increasing, whether due to a lack of access to the correct nutrients, or having an excess of nutrient use due to industrial or agricultural activities. Evidence suggests that fertilizers are often over-applied, or applied at times when they cannot work to their full affect. This has lead to a drastic increase of hypoxic zones, from 9 recorded zones in 1960 to 415 zones in 2007. Currently, research suggests nitrogen levels globally have gone beyond the earth's limits.

Incomplete and inconsistent nutrient management was given as one major reason for the increase in these zones. Additionally, within the Upper Mississippi River Basin, a survey suggests that nitrogen movements and leaking have been exacerbated by the sound management of erosion in the area, resulting in over-fertilizing. This suggests that land and agriculture management must be integrated to achieve maximum yields, environmental health and economic gains. However, in many countries there is often only one type of fertilizer used, despite the broad range of crops and soil needs that would be better addressed with a broader nutrient base.

The optimum use of fertilizers varies country-to-country, region-to-region, and even within fields. The true costs of benefits and costs in fertilizer use must be calculated, but these cost assessments are often very costly. However, tests linking nutrient management, health concerns and food production must be done on some scale to appropriately assess the situation. In discussion, local level testing by farmers was addressed, along with the varying access to reliable testing in the developed and developing countries. This technological gap was

large, but potentially overcome in developing countries through collaborating with universities, or plot testing to assess the different fertilizer combinations.

During the discussion, the use of GM crops was raised, and more specifically, the high fertilizer intensity crops that came to prominence with the green revolution. Although these crops still have high input levels for maximum yields, fertilizer inputs in corn varieties have been decreasing with new varieties coming on the market. The issue of petro-chemical inputs into fertilizer was also raised within the context of peak oil, but currently the panellists saw few organic alternatives that could produce on the levels needed for global food supply exist. This statement was challenged by some discussion participants.

The Right Green Economy

Sponsored by the International Presentation Association

This side event explored the notion of a 'green economy', and how market mechanisms may help or hinder the move toward sustainable development. Key issues highlighted as important in preparation for the coming Rio+20 Summit were poverty eradication, food security, and environmental health. Panellists included: Darcey O'Callahan, Food and Water Watch; Peter Mann, WhyHunger; and Anil Naidoo, Blue Planet Project.

The green economy was defined as a strategy for sustainable development that uses market mechanisms to counter environmental damage. The inherent tension within this for panellists is the price placed on nature, and the assumption that it is the only way to include the environment in the green economy debate. Rather, a replacement of this market-based commoditisation of nature is called for, that is transparent, participatory and community-based that prioritizes the human right to food and goods, and the right of the earth to maintain an ecosystems balance. In doing this, the dual goals of climate change and feeding a growing population can be met.

Currently, the world is facing water and food crises, which are being exacerbated by climate change. These issues are at the heart of the new green economy, and relate to both human rights and the rights of the earth. In response to this, many community level movements have emerged, highlighting the justice and democracy issues associated with reduced access to resources and corporatisation of access to these resources. These issues, and the responses to them, are happening across both the developed and developing world.

Hope was called upon, mixed with both commitment and a little bit of anger in dealing with the move toward green economy in preparation for Rio+20. Next year's Summit was recognised as being highly important in framing issues and preparing for future action. The UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio 1992 was recognised as achieving so much, but that since then there have been mixed results in an international context. Rio+20 is an opportunity, but it must be recognised that there is no silver bullet to sustainable development, and that an over-reliance on technology to solve some of these issues is unrealistic. Rather answers lie in bottom-up community action, and a vision provided top-down by the UN.

This wariness about the green economy and its aims was reflected in discussion. Concerns over the 'green washing' of corporations in their efforts to achieve profits and 'green' credentials was stated, but at the same time hope was communicated in the actions of these corporations in moving towards a greater consciousness on these issues. While hope was being communicated in discussion about the potential for corporations to evolve, worry was also being

communicated about government action on the green economy, at both the national and international level, along with the possibility of increasing corporate influence at both national governments and the UN itself.

Global outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production(SCP) Policies Sponsored by the European Union

During the side event UNEP/DTIE presented the results of the Global Outlook on SCP Policies Report which reviews the existing SCP policies at the global level. Representatives from national environmental authorities presented SCP initiatives in their countries, in particular, Thailand, South Africa and Mexico.

In Asia and the Pacific, green growth is more largely recognized than SCP in terms of terminology. Existing regional approaches include the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED), Green Growth, the ASEAN Declaration on environmental sustainability and a newly established working group on SCP since April 2011.

SCP strategy and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean is endorsed by the Forum of Environmental Ministers and the sub-regional Mercosur mechanism. Regarding other regions, the UN Economic Commission for Europe serves as a cooperation mechanism on SCP related issues for Europe, Canada, the Central Asian republics, Israel and the USA. There is also the SCP and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan established in EU since 2008.

Throughout the session, examples of national policies in developing countries were shared, these includes the national adaptation efforts, success stories and opportunities for strengthening implementation. While continuing commitment to the 10 YFP, it was stressed by panelists that efforts are needed in a long-term perspective through education, public awareness, sustainable lifestyle, etc.

Institutional cooperation, as the main challenge in many developing countries, calls for a more prominent role of government to guide related stakeholders, especially the civil society which plays a crucial role in improving the linkage between government and private sector in the SCP promotion. UN agency efforts on providing cost-cutting SCP initiatives are also urgently expected by developing countries.

5 May

Schools as Agents of Change Sponsored by UNESCO

This side event focused on how schools can act as local agents for change, through education for sustainable consumption within the greater move towards sustainable development. The side event was moderated by Victoria Toresen, PERL. Panellists included Francois Jegou, Director of Strategic Design Scenarios, Belgium; and Sue McGregor, Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada.

The role of schools in history has been to formally and informally reinforce behaviours and norms to strengthen the status quo. In more recent times, this role has expanded to become a tool for more specific aims such as colonialisation, nationalisation and industrialisation. This has more recently evolved into teaching commercialism and consumerism values. However, we are reaching a point where schools are being recognised for their potential as agents of change toward sustainability.

When talking about sustainability, we need to ask exactly what is being sustained. The answer is life; life for humans, non-human species and ecosystems, and the viability of life for future humans, non-humans species and ecosystems. Currently, the way people consume is not sustainable. A key problem identified is that although all are consumers, not everyone knows how to consume. This is the role of education, and specifically education for sustainable consumption.

Traditionally, consumer education has focused on helping people make decisions in the market place so their self-interest is served in buying and owning things. Education for sustainable consumption focuses rather on consumers' responsibilities as citizens, as well as the markets role in serving people and society, not the other way around. This shift must be achieved through educating on issues such as mutual interests and responsibilities, and recognising the global effects of consumption. The role of schools in this is to educate the next generation of global citizens in being aware of their consumption choices, within the sustainable development framework.

Three alternative course structures were proposed, where sustainable consumption is taught either as a stand-alone course, gradually infused into existing courses and curriculums, or using an integrated sustainable consumption curricular with connections made across all subjects.

Project-based learning was also explored, within the notion that education grounded in real world learning is positive for both students and the communities in which they are learning. Three case studies were given to demonstrate this. The first example from the DESIS Network showed the benefit of taking university students into the community, using university programmes to support social innovation. Examples of these programmes were given for China, India, Kenya and Italy. The second example used the LOLA (looking for likely alternatives) didactic tool to approach sustainability using investigative social innovation. This tool is often very important when the teacher has limited knowledge about sustainability. The third example was called La27eRegion, and looked at colleges, and how they evolved within themselves and their interactions with each other.

During the discussion, the need for more than sustainable buildings was emphasised, with the need to focus on the hardware as well as the software in colleges. Consumer values were also discussed, and the pervasive nature of our current consumer culture that is difficult to shift. Emphasis was placed on the need to equip students with skills to make informed decisions, whatever the circumstances. This was reiterated in the context of teaching sustainable consumption in developing world contexts.

Mining - Current Realities and the Need for Change

Sponsored by Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)

This side event addressed the issue of indigenous peoples and community rights in three different case studies centred on mining. Peru, Kazakhstan and Philippines examples were given to highlight the unequal stakeholder relationships with local communities, international mining companies and governments.

The case study of Puno, Peru highlighted the lack of community consultation and rights, the pollution created from mining activities and the lack of environmental follow-up that was a legal obligation of the mining company. After extraction, the

whole area was severely degraded and environmental liabilities continue to exist. Several communities have been affected through acidic rivers, mine waste, toxic dust and heavy metals pollution in the local Lake Choquene. The Condoraque River is acidic enough to kill sheep and lamas, and the local wetlands are dead. This environmental degradation was raised at CSD18, but further action has been slow.

The case of Kazakhstan's uranium mining was also raised, with details of birth defects, sickness and environmental degradation from 50 years of mining activities being documented, even if only coming to light after the fall of the Soviet Union. Kazakhstan's current expansion in its uranium mining activities is worrying because of these past negative affects, as well as because of lack of current environmental and social concerns due to the big economic potential for exploiting this natural resource.

The third case study presented the aggressive expansion of mining in the Philippines, and the community action against this. Although there is guarded hope with a more progressive government having been recently voted in, mining policies that encourage expansion of the mining industry are still being promoted. Additionally, local governments in some areas have rejected proposed mines because of church and citizen protests. However, the issue is complicated with both local people and mining companies currently not being able to get use of the land, despite the legal and cultural claims then have. Particular issues for protesters include the weariness of local leaders to the challenges being faced, lack of younger leaders to keep up the intensity and the unknown threat of 'carbon cowboys' with little understood schemes such as Redd+.

Discussion showed solidarity to the cause, and the importance of sustainable development in all its forms for our age. Mining was understood to be intrinsically unsustainable due to the scarce nature of minerals, which brings into question the very viability of 'responsible mining'. The colonial model of mining companies was also highlighted as a cause for concern. Finally, the issue of 'free prior informed consent' was brought up, due to the discussion in negotiations to remove it from the CSD19 negotiated text. There was much concern expressed over this, and the ramifications it might have on the situation of indigenous and local communities in future mining activities.

6 May

State-of-the art Innovative and Sustainable Technologies in Waste Management, Mining, Transport and Chemicals

Sponsored by the Scientific and Technological Major Group

The side event was organized as an interactive dialogue between Country representatives, scientists, engineers, economists and entrepreneurs from innovative industry companies. Panelists briefed on the current situation of the use and development of innovative and sustainable technologies in waste management, mining, transport and chemicals was. Presentations were also focused on the potential of these technologies in motivating the processes towards sustainable development.

Civil engineer D. Danyluk pointed out that the value of waste as a source of resources is under awareness. The emerging technology manages to recycle and reuse up to 80% of heat during the materials and nutrient cycles of waste management. But waste management is still limited to few areas, for example the PET bottle tubs. Efforts are made by the engineering sector for an innovative sorting system which is crucial to better reuse resources source.

Regarding mining environmental management, D. Shields from the Department of Economics of Colorado State University stressed the importance of integrating sustainability into engineering. The use of minerals should respect the sustainability to maintain the stream of benefits from these resources. Engineers are expected to take the responsibility of evaluating risks of emerging technologies against sustainable development.

M. Bianchini from EU Government Affairs & Public Policy of Dow Chemical presented its FILMTEC Reverse Osmosis Membranes project to produce safe drinking water through desalination in coastal areas, which can serve as a concrete example of sound chemicals management. Throughout the session, panelists also recognized that technology should be used in right consideration of people's needs.

9 May

Implementation Challenges and Solutions for SCP programmes in developing countries: The case of SWITCH-Asia

Sponsored by the European Union

The side event illustrated the concrete example of the SWITCH-Asia Programme which aims at helping Asian developing countries to promote the implementation of sustainable consumption and production. Panelists discussed the role played by governments, business and development partners in the process.

Started in 2007 with a budget of €150 million over the period 2007-2013, the SWITCH-Asia Programme has been providing assistance to Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand and also supporting UNEP in the SCP aspect. Governments and policy makers play a central role in encouraging SCP programs. Governments also have a crucial function in reinforcing responsible business actions, which are recognized as important to mainstream SCP practices.

Developing countries often face implementation challenges due to the lack of resources and capacity building. Development partners including academia, business associations, civil society and international organizations can take the role to support national policy priorities and help strengthening their implementation.

Based on a good understanding of different functions of governments, business and development partners, the SWITCH-Asia Programme aims at replicating SCP practices on the ground in the manner of interlinking all stakeholders. Continuous efforts will focus on encouraging a switch of both supply and demand towards a sustainable practice. Besides, a new component of the programme was established to help policy makers in areas of awareness raising, capacity building and institutional framework design.

Illegal Mineral Extraction in Local Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Sponsored by Women Environmental Programme (WEP) and Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI)

The discovery of the natural resources have been a curse among some developing countries in Africa as opposed to the expectations that it would bring the revenue to contribute to the development of local host communities and the country. This side event, organized by Nigerian NGOs illustrated the recent tragic events in Zamfara State in North Western Nigeria.

According to the speakers most of the mining in Nigeria is carried out illegally and it is usually done by a 'cartel' that just shows up in these communities and begins to cart away the minerals in collaboration with ignorant and vulnerable community members. Illegal mining activities caused significant environmental and health problems. The trenches dug for these mining activities become death traps and easy entry points for devastating gully erosions since they are abandoned after the mining is over. For example, the gold ash was intermingled with deposits of lead (impurities) in Zamfara State.

High degree of environmental lead contamination can cause serious health problems. In 2010 the inhabitants of gold-bearing communities Anka and Bukkuyum in Zamfara faced significant health problems. About 335 suspected cases of strange ailments were reported in several local hospitals. 163 lives were lost and the majority of them were children between the ages of 5 to 10 years old. It is suspected that this is due to lead poisoning. Lead poisoning, as in the case of Zamfara, can persist in the environment for up to 15 years. Lead affects the reproductive functions of both men and women by interference with enzymes that process testosterone and other androgens, and it also bring other long-term problems such as permanent learning and behavioral problems and brain damage.

Illegal mining has the most significant impact on women and children. It was apparent from the death toll in Zamfara State that women and children were the worst-hit groups. More than 60% of illegal miners in Nigeria are women. Children often become victims of child labour schemes since many of them drop out of school in pursuit of the token pay they receive when they engage in mining.

The followings summarize some suggestions for improvement: People-oriented development schemes; better monitoring system for the mineral sector; enhancing the capacities of host communities to become aware of impacts of mining activities on their environment, and on their constructive engagement in negotiations and advocacy; better coordination of the side of government on issues relating to extraction and mining; and up-scaling the role of CSOs/NGOs.

10 May

Road to the WSSD 2020 Chemicals Goal

Sponsored by the European Union

Panelists provided background information on the legal basis and cooperation framework of chemicals management. Presentations made by representatives of Member States and related international agencies were focus on the current situation of chemicals management approaching its 2020 goal.

Sound chemical management is a crucial component of sustainable development. Chemicals issues have a strong link with the waste management and the Green Economy, the two important themes of CSD 19 and Rio+20 respectively. To many developing countries, chemicals issue is considered as a central element related to poverty eradication since this issue can result in pollution and food security problems.

The WSSD Chemicals Goal was set that by 2020, chemicals should be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Challenges of meeting this goal were addressed during the side event. Urgent needs to a sound chemicals management include practical policy tools, renewed political commitment, closed

institutional cooperation, strong financial support and comprehensive and updated chemicals legislation such as regulations on classification and labeling, pesticides and biocides.

Progress made was indicated by panelists during this mid-term review. There is advanced safety chemicals list produced by the International Council of Chemicals Associations (ICCA). An inter-organization programme driven by IOMC with support from FAO, ILO, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, World Bank, WHO is aiming at a broader partnership on enabling developing countries and countries in economic transition to identify and implement efficient chemicals management initiatives on the ground.

Sustainable Public Procurement (MTF and SPP): Experiences made with the implementation of the SPP tool developed by the MTF on SPP

Sponsored by the government of Switzerland

Sustainable public procurement (SPP) is an important driver to bring forward the agenda on sustainable consumption and production. In most countries the Government is the largest single buyer and can lead by example by implementing sustainable public procurement. SPP allows to spend taxpayers' money in a responsible way. When taking life cycle thinking into account SPP contributes to saving money in the long term, helps to foster innovation and allows firms to be competitive on the global market. SPP also contributes to the use of natural resources more efficiently, to reduce environmental impacts, to create human well being and social justice. SPP actually adds sustainability to a green economy.

The methodology created by the Swiss led Marrakech Task Force on SPP (MTF on SPP) allows countries to introduce or further develop sustainable public procurement (SPP) in a systematic way. The MTF approach is currently being tested in different countries. This side event, organized by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) of Switzerland, provided a short overview on the approach and the achievements of the Task Force who has partnered with UNEP to implement the approach in developing countries.

According to Eveline Venanzoni, from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the holistic and flexible nature which allows for steady progress in implementation and horizontal cooperation between the participating entities in the project is the strength of the MTF approach. The approach is not designed to offer a 'one size fits all' solution but is owned by the country concerned. MTF approach progresses through the process of status assessment, legal review, market readiness analysis, SPP policy plan, training, and finally, implementation.

With regard to the findings from the SPP projects process until now, selection of the right product or services for the SPP as a starting point, which have the most significant environmental impact, is important. It was stressed that public procurement authority should designate the national focal point who is in charge of managing the implementation of the Approach in project country - key for the successful MTF. Capacity building for all stake holders, who are directly responsible for the procurement, is another key factor.

Some representatives of different pilot countries discussed about their experiences and lessons learned with implementing the approach. Premcoomar Beeharry presented the lessons learned from Mauritius' SPP implementation of the Procurement of vehicles project in 2008. He stressed that capacity building of stakeholders should be completed first, and country wide awareness session should come prior to implementation.

From Ghana's experience, the importance of the technology to the developing countries as well as further funding from Development Partners for technical cooperation involving transfer of sustainable technologies was highlighted. Chris Browne emphasized the importance of targeting quick win areas, using leverage to drive change, and money savings for the reform.

11 May

**Launch of the Publication "Synergies Success Stories":
Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam
and Stockholm Conventions**

Sponsored by DESA-DSD, Secretariats of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, UNEP, FAO

The ongoing synergy in the areas of chemicals and wastes and the practical ways of implementing the conventions in a coordinated manner, was showcased at this side event. The panelists included Dr. Tariq Banuri, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development /DESA, Ambassador Franz Perrez of Switzerland, Minister Luis Ferrate of Guatemala, Mr. Jim Willis the Head of the joint Secretariats of Basel and Stockholm Conventions and Mr. Donald Cooper the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention. During the side event the joint publication "Synergies Success Stories" of UNDESA, Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, UNEP and FAO was launched.

The importance of strengthening synergies and cooperation among UN conventions and bodies related to chemicals and waste management is stressed by many Member States during the discussions at CSD. Synergies can result in significant benefits across bureaus in areas of communication, administration, legitimacy-related issues as well as on health and environmental protection issues.

Throughout the session, a number of success stories in the synergies process between the three MEAs as well as with other UN institutions were shared by stakeholders at the level on national coordination mechanisms, information management systems, regional cooperation and capacity building activities. As it was pointed out, the synergies process of the three conventions is considered a successful example to other parts of the global environmental agenda. This process can also be expected to contribute to the preparation of Rio+20, where the institutional framework for sustainable development will be one of its main themes.

**Decoupling Natural Resource use and Environmental Impacts from
Economic Growth**

Sponsored by Republic of South Africa, Federal Republic of Germany, and United Nations Environment Programme

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) International Resource Panel has released a report "Decoupling Natural Resource Use and Environmental Impacts from Economic Growth" launched at the side event. This side event was a special preview to hear answers from the authors and partners of this report and to learn how the report's scientific findings can support decision making for a green economy.

The report addresses the definition of the 'decoupling' and it explores some of the challenges of decoupling. The report has sought to apply the concept of decoupling economic growth and human wellbeing from negative environmental impacts and escalating resource use. This is to address the dilemma of expanding

economic activities equitably while attempting to stabilise the rate of resource use and reducing the environmental impacts.

The report stresses that the technological, financial and social innovation is the key to decoupling from escalating resource-use and environmental impacts, thus, massive investment is needed for innovation in these areas. It highlights that decoupling is about shifting from *debt-financed consumption* (which is unsustainable) as the primary economic driver of our economies, to *sustainability-oriented investments* in innovation as the primary economic driver of our economies.

This concept of the 'decoupling' is important since it provides developed economies with a way out of the recession by creating new opportunities for investment, and it ensures that poverty is eradicated in the developing world using policies that result in real resource efficient growth rather elite consumption premised on new infrastructures that foster resource and energy intensive growth. The report suggests that the trend towards urbanization provides assistance in decoupling since cities allow for economies of scale and more efficient service provision, including water delivery, housing, waste management and recycling, energy use and transportation.

Some of the challenges of decoupling in the use of natural resources and environmental impacts from economic activity can be learned from country cases of Germany, Japan, South Africa, China that have made an effort to address their sustainability challenges at least partly through decoupling. Governments are responding to concerns about increasing resource scarcity that is affecting economic growth; None have full-fledged policies for achieving comprehensive resource and impact decoupling, but all are taking significant steps toward more sustainable use of resources and reduced environmental impacts; The language of resource efficiency, resource productivity, dematerialization, and material flows has entered mainstream policy development, in different ways in each country; Diversity in approaches to decoupling is to be expected, but the general logic of the approach is appealing.

12 May

Sustainable Consumption and Production -The Building Block for a Greener Economy

Sponsored by the Finnish Government and the Nordic Council of Ministers

With the objective to look forward to Rio+20 and discuss the inter-linkages between Sustainable Consumption and Production and Green Economy policy instruments and implementation, the side event was organized a high-level dialogue. Discussants included the Permanent Secretary of Finnish Ministry of Environment Hannele Pokka, the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency Jacqueline McGlade, the Danish Minister for the Environment and Minister for the Nordic co-operation Karen Ellemann, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa Rejoyce Mabudafhasi and the President of IUCN Council and Co-Chair of UNEP Resources Panel Ashok Khosla.

To achieve a green economy, pragmatic approaches and feasible instruments are needed for both developed and developing countries to approach low-carbon and small-footprint societies. Implementing SCP patterns and strategies and programmes can contribute to sustainable development. According to discussants Green Economy is about providing new opportunities and creating new demands. Green jobs and new business opportunities appear due to Green Economy.

Innovation was regarded as a key ingredient in a transition towards a green economy.

The issue of Green Economy also contributes to create new values in policy debates, bringing new inspiration to governments. Innovation was considered a key ingredient in a transition towards a green economy. It stresses on one hand on rethinking the current business model in order to have a broader and more comprehensive partnership, and on the other hand on putting specific attention to civil transformation related issues such as civil rights, gender equality, young generation protection related issues.

According to the discussants Sustainable Development is still considered to be the overarching and long term goal of the mankind. The speakers further reiterated their view that the encouraging agenda of CSD-19 provided an important platform to all stakeholders to share valuable knowledge and experience.

Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste

Sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE-Japan), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs/ Division for Sustainable Development (DESA/DSD), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

Moving towards "zero waste" society for the global sustainability is important under the circumstance of the growing scarcity and degradation of natural resources around the world. "Zero Waste" needs to become central to policy making, and it calls for partnerships within and between various stakeholders, such as communities, businesses, industries, and all levels of government.

The Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN Amb. Tsuneo Nishida delivered opening remarks. The main objective of the side event was to officially launch the International Partnership for expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA), which was unanimously endorsed during the CSD Intersessional Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving towards Zero Waste, held in February 2011 in Tokyo. During the side event, the challenges for Local Authorities in the world in providing efficient waste management, and the concept of the IPLA as well as its importance were discussed.

Mr. Hideki Minamikawa, Vice-Minister of the Environment, Ministry of the Environment, Japan presented the outcome of "CSD Intersessional Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste". Providing waste collection to all the people, while raising the environmental standards of waste disposal, is a major challenge for Local Authorities (LAs), which lack required institutional, financial and technical capacity. Growing urbanization as well as diversification of wastes caused by new emerging waste stream (such as e-waste which contains dangerous chemicals and metals) will further compound the waste management challenges of local authorities. Thus, empowering and developing capacity of local authorities and public waste utilities, and partnerships as the basis for sustainable waste management were two of the main items on the agenda raised during the CSD intersessional conference.

IPLA was introduced and endorsed as an international partnership to address the need of local authorities in expanding their waste management services. Mr. Minamikawa stressed Japan's contribution to IPLA through the activities of the framework of the 'Regional 3R Forum in Asia' established in 2009, as a co-organizer of the forum. The 'Regional 3R Forum in Asia' aims at mainstreaming the 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) into the major national policies in Asian countries.

Dr. Prasad Modak, Executive President of Environmental Management Centre, India, presented the benefits and opportunities of IPLA. IPLA aims to become a “decentralized network at local level” and a “knowledge platform that emphasizes practice” whereby regional and local authorities and public waste utilities could access to meaningful information, and interact and network with partner institutions (cities, the private sector, professionals and research institutions, international financial institutions, the UN and donor organizations, etc.) actively engaged in sustainable waste management.

Mr. Choudhury R.C. Mohanty, Environment Coordinator of UNCRD, stressed that partnership is key to expand waste management services of local authorities that lack resources, institutional capacity, and technological know-how. Partnerships combine the advantages of the private sector (dynamism, access to financial resources and latest technologies, managerial efficiency, and entrepreneurial spirit, etc.) with social concerns and responsibility of the public sector (public health and better life, environmental awareness, local knowledge and job creation, etc.) Partnerships also provide win-win solutions both for the public utilities and private sector—if duly supported by appropriate policy frameworks. Such partnerships could lead to savings in municipal budgets where waste management usually consumes a large portion. The private sector, on the other hand, may use this opportunity to convert waste into environmentally friendly products and energy that could also serve as income generating opportunities.

13 May

Chinese NGO Experiences and Perspectives on Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in China

Sponsored by China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)

The side event started with a review of sustainable development related content in the Chinese Twelfth Five Year Programme 2011-2015 (5YP). The remaining part of the session featured by presentations on introduction of Chinese environmental NGOs’ actions, specific projects on the ground, concrete examples of SCP implementation in Xiamen City, and the sharing of youth’s experiences and perspectives in SCP promotion.

It is indicated in the Chinese 12th 5YP that by the end of 2015, non-fossil fuel should account for 11.4% of primary energy consumption, water consumption per unit of value-added industrial output to be cut by 30%, energy consumption per unit of GDP to be cut by 16%, and carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP to be cut by 17%. The 5YP also endorses the acceleration of development of resource recycling industry, the application of resource-reduced technologies and the continuous efforts on building low-carbon cities.

An introduction of Chinese NGO’s actions and programmes were given by CANGO. Nowadays, the China Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN) consists of 15 members; 18 cities partners have joined the Green Commuting Network Distribution programme; 17214 persons from 295 organizations are connected to the environmental communication web tool; the Green Choice Alliance has achieved to involve 74 member organizations in total; the Chemical Safety and Environmental Community is leading projects on the ground; and the NGO partnership strengthening is on the daily schedule of the Association. Aiming to help China building a carbon market and raise the social awareness in the country, CANGO works closely with its partner the Environmental Defense Fund on environmental enforcement and the demand creation in the environmental markets.

A local representative from Xiamen City in Fujian Province shared rich experiences in promoting SCP actions such as the promotion of Car-Free Day, the SCP training programme to entrepreneurs and the green education to primary school teachers. Chinese young generation is devoted to the promotion of sustainable development and making efforts to make a stronger voice in Chinese NGO actions. The leader organization of this type, the China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN) is leading the programme of Campus/Community Mobilization on Sustainable Lifestyles in China with over 60 member universities involved in the programme. The importance of inter-cultural communications between Chinese NGOs and foreign NGOs especially between the youth was stressed by the representative from CYCAN.