

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2018

“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific”

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Report of Roundtable on SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production



The Roundtable was co-organised by **UN ESCAP**, **UN Environment** and **UNIDO**.

Moderator: Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division – ESCAP

Presenting the Goal Profile: Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division – ESCAP

Panelists

- Mr. Arab Hoballah, Team Leader of the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility – Thailand
- Mr. Noer Adi Wardoyo, Head of the Center for Environment and Forestry Standards, Ministry of Environment – Indonesia

Discussant from civil society: Ajay Kumar Jha, Director PAIRVI & CECOEDECON (Center for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society) - India

Working group moderators

WG1: Ms. Marit Nilses, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division - ESCAP

WG2: Dr. Thumrongrut Mungcharoen, Member of the Board of Trustees, Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP)

WG3: Ms. Cecilia Lopez y Royo, UN Environment

WG4: Ms. Natalie Harms, Environment and Development Division - ESCAP

Rapporteur: Mr. Karma Tshering, Policy and Programming Services, National Environment Commission Secretariat - Bhutan

Outcome of the Roundtable

To further the implementation of SDG 12 in Asia and the Pacific, sustainable consumption and production (SCP) policies should be integrated into core economic agendas and sectoral plans, with centralized or coordinated mechanism for SCP policies and initiatives, and clearly identifying roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.

Multi-stakeholder networks should be strengthened by engaging scientific organizations, private sector, and civil society to develop and adopt sustainable solutions. Circular economy initiatives should be promoted, prioritizing sustainable public procurement policies. Sustainable consumption and production should be seen as an enabler of other goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Governments are encouraged to shift towards an integrated and inclusive circular economy approach by: 1) identifying interlinkages across SDGs at the target level and applying a cost-benefit analysis to identify synergies and trade-offs; 2) strengthening statistical capacity by investing in frameworks and databases that incorporate economic, environmental and social accounts for evidence-based policy making; and 3) establishing inter-ministerial dialogues and consultative multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships to inform inclusive and impactful policies as well as coordinate joint implementation of a circular economy approach

Outcome of the working groups

1. Working group 1 on “Current status on SDG 12 in Asia and the Pacific, including areas where good progress is made and areas requiring specific attention and associated key challenges”

Comments on the status as presented in the Goal Profile:

1. The report covers quite well with quite a lot of details, but too much focus on resource and waste management. The current/agreed targets and indicators risks limiting the discussion, while we need a visionary look at how to achieve sustainable consumption and production (SCP);
2. Lifestyle change is missing, and a discussion around implementation modalities, including the importance of bottom-up approach, community involvement, stakeholder ownership and consensus building to make policy measures effective;
3. Decoupling and circular economy needs further emphasis, while indicators for private issues, such as sustainable lifestyles, or new business opportunities such as circular economy needs to be developed;
4. The discussion around corporate sustainability is too focused on reporting, need to also focus on sustainable investing, accountability and the links to company valuation;
5. Areas requiring specific attention: education; tackle production through removing fossil fuel subsidies and ensure proper pricing of externalities (e.g. in relation to materials use);
6. Emerging issues could be reasoned around, e.g. the impact of digitalization and how it changes sustainable consumption and production; the sharing economy and enabling less dependency on product ownership; and the relationship between consumption and wellbeing of society.

Validation of the Goal Profile:

The report covers quite well with quite a lot of details, but too much focus on resource and waste management. The current/agreed targets and indicators risks limiting the discussion, and we need a visionary look at how to achieve SCP.

2. Working group 2 on “Promising innovation and best practices to build upon for making further progress on SDG 12 in Asia and the Pacific”

Comments on the status as presented in the Goal Profile:

1. Behavior change communication: children change their parents’ behavior better than the government, schools use innovative approach/methodologies/ communications to

educate their students to engage SCP/circular economy approach and integrate SCP in their curricular activity;

2. Local circular economy approaches could be promoted and scaled up (for example, minimal food waste in traditional practices, recycling waste in farms, fermentation beer from rice);
3. Industries as well as individuals are responsible parties. Communities should own their SCP best practices and be engaged in planning and implementation (for example, One Tambon One Product - OTOP);
4. Promotion of local community products, promote traditional food systems, consumption of food from local farmers and markets;
5. Many SCP solutions wrongly assume that communities are well organized, hindering their implementation.

Validation of the Goal Profile:

The group agreed on the goal profile, but suggested that SCP community education should be emphasized; and standards and labelling systems should be carefully designed as they have limitations (consumer rights, labelling costs and technical barriers).

3. Working group 3 on “Policy recommendations on priority for action, to be ideally structured around: thematic areas, means of implementation (as per SDG 17) and regional collaboration”

Priority policy actions to make further progress on SDG 12 in Asia and the Pacific:

1. Consolidate SCP approaches, policies and initiatives through centralized mechanism or coordination. Engage economic and finance ministries and coordinate with other ministries, clearly identifying roles and responsibilities, to implement SCP;
2. Document best practices and build on successful initiatives, including circular economy and innovative solutions implemented by the private sector;
3. Integrate SCP policies into macroeconomic policies and link them to sectoral plans and the core economic agenda. Review incentives and financial instruments, and envisage new business models linking sustainable consumption and production;
4. Strengthen multi-stakeholder networks to develop and implement SCP policies. Engage scientific organizations to develop sustainable solutions for the private sector, and engage civil society to adopt sustainable practices;
5. Address consumption, including consumer information, in particular by building a strong narrative, awareness raising and integration of SCP in education practices.

6. Promote integrated circular economy to support the implementation of SCP. Prioritize sustainable public procurement policies;
7. Highlight SCP as an enabler of other goals of the 2030 Agenda.

4. Working group 4 on “Policy recommendations to address interlinkages between goals- a background document will be provided on this, mapping interlinkages between SDG 12 and other SDGs”

Policy recommendation for integrated SDG 12 implementation with other SDGs in Asia and the Pacific:

Governments are encouraged to shift towards an integrated and inclusive circular economy approach by: 1) identifying interlinkages across SDGs at the target level and applying a cost-benefit analysis to identify synergies and trade-offs; 2) strengthening statistical capacity by investing in frameworks and databases that incorporate economic, environmental and social accounts for evidence-based policy making; and 3) establishing inter-ministerial dialogues and consultative multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships to inform inclusive and impactful policies as well as coordinate joint implementation of a circular economy approach.