



Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fifth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-5)

Pre-session of the 12th Session of the African
Ministerial Conference Environment (AMCEN)

Midrand, South Africa
6 June 2008

The Fifth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-5) was organized as a pre-session to the 12th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and was held from 04-06 June 2008 at the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) Training Center in Midrand South Africa. The Roundtable was attended by more than 100 participants from 33 countries. The main objective of the Roundtable was to take stock of what has been done in the development and implementation of the African 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production which was approved by AMCEN in March 2005 and discuss the elements of the way forward. The Roundtable consisted of seven plenary sessions and six parallel sessions that covered activities and issues related to the African 10-Year Framework of Programs (10-YFP). The following are the key conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and production (ARSCP-5).

1. Africa as a region is at the forefront of the global Marrakech process on the 10-Year Framework of Programs as it has: i) a regional framework program that is approved by AMCEN and included in its work plan, ii) created a regional institutional mechanism by establishing the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) as a regional focal institution, and iii) the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa supported by the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany as the only region-focussed taskforce under the global support mechanism.
2. The experience presented from the four pilot countries on the development of national and local sustainable consumption and production programs taking existing national development policies as a basis, strategies and action plans has proven to be an effective way of demonstrating the contribution of SCP to national sustainable development objectives.
3. Besides its direct contribution towards promoting resource-efficiency at all levels of production and consumption, the development and implementation of an SCP program 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 that facilitates the inter-sectoral cooperation in the context of SCP program development and implementation.
4. The effective development and implementation of sustainable consumption and production in African countries could be significantly facilitated through the mainstreaming of SCP in the priorities and decision making criteria of bilateral and multilateral development financing agencies. Hence development partners are called upon mainstreaming SCP approach in their bilateral financing procedures.
5. The proposed launching of the African Ecolabelling Mechanism (AEM) under the general guidance of the African Union Commission and with a secretariat based at the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) is believed to contribute towards improving the environmental and social profile of African products and expand market access for African products.
6. The sessions on sustainable public procurement, sustainable building and construction and sustainable lifestyles which were organized in partnership with the respective Marrakech Taskforces led by Switzerland, Finland and Sweden respectively have clearly shown the linkage and contribution of the work under these taskforces to the African 10-YFP and the outcomes from the sessions are expected to lead to some concrete follow-up activities in the region.

7. Development and implementation of region-relevant education and awareness programs covering all levels of the society including youth groups constitute an important instrument to address the existing lack of awareness on the contribution of SCP and create the required capacity for promoting sustainable consumption and production in the region.
8. The promotion of efficient development and utilization of African resources with a particular focus on energy, water and mineral resources is of high importance to the region. In this context, the promotion of resource efficiency and demand-side management programs need to be given high consideration by all African countries.
9. 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 for the achievements that have been registered so far and for the significant level of interest amongst development partners to work with the region.
10. Considering that sustainable consumption and production is one of the thematic focus of the 18th Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-18), it is recommended for the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) to take the leading role in preparing the Regional Review Report on sustainable consumption and Production for the CSD-18 under the guidance of AMCEN and UNEP and in close consultation with other UN Agencies including UNIDO and UNECA.