

The Fifth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-5)

**3-5 June 2007, UNEP Gigiri
Nairobi, Kenya**

Organized by

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

In collaboration with

The African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN)

and

**The African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and
Production (ARSCP)**

Supported by

The Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa

The background

The Regional Roundtables on Sustainable Consumption and Production are forums that are promoted and supported by UNEP to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing amongst the increasing number of institutions and practitioners that are engaged in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production. The African Roundtable has been one of such regional forums that have been supported by UNEP. Accordingly, in August 2000, UNEP organised the First African Roundtable on Cleaner Production and Consumption in Nairobi, Kenya. The Second African Roundtable on Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption was organised by the Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania (CPCT) in collaboration with UNEP and was held in January 2002, in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Third African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-3) was held in May 2004 in Casablanca, Morocco and led to the establishment of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production as a not-for-profit regional networking organization (www.arscp.org) and identified thematic areas and priority activities for the African 10 Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-4), that was held in May 2006, was jointly organized by UNEP and the Secretariat of the ARSCP and was hosted by the Ethiopian Cleaner Production Center (ECPC). The African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was approved in March 2005 by AMCEN, was launched during a high-level launch session that was held in conjunction with ARSCP-4 and was jointly organized by the African Union (AU), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNEP.

The thematic focus of the ARSCP-4 was the 'Implementation of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production'. ARSCP-4 was opened by His Excellency Girma Wolde Ghiorgis, President of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and was attended by more than 80 participants from 32 countries. The Roundtable consisted of four plenary sessions, four parallel thematic sessions and four regional working group sessions. A total of 28 presentations were made during the plenary and parallel thematic sessions covering different topics related to SCP. Participants of the Roundtable held working group session aimed at identifying the key priority areas and actions that need to be taken in further developing and implementing the African 10YFP. Accordingly, ARSCP-4 identified the following five areas for follow-up activities.

- Efficient water utilization and services
- Labelling of African products to regional and international markets
- Promotion of integrated solid waste management
- Production and use of biofuels
- Information and knowledge management for SCP

Based on the outcome from ARSCP-4, UNEP in collaboration with the Marrakech taskforce on Cooperation with Africa and other regional partners developed a project on supporting the implementation of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP. The ARSCP-5 is expected to review the lessons from the follow-up implementations and lay down the basis for subsequent activities including the regional preparation for CSD 18 & 19 which will be focussing on sustainable consumption and production.

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Objectives of ARSCP-5

The overall objective of the ARSCP-5 is to review the lessons from the on-going activities related to the African 10-YFP on SCP and identify the key steps that needs to be taken in order to strengthen SCP activities in the region. The specific objectives are to:

- Review and discuss the outcomes from the various activities undertaken in the context of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production and identify ways of strengthening them;
- Explore existing sub-regional, regional and international collaboration programmes and mechanisms and explore ways of effectively utilizing and replicating them in promoting SCP in Africa;
- Review the report from the Secretariat of the ARSCP and propose ways on further strengthening the activities of the ARSCP.

The thematic structure

The following five topics are selected to be the thematic focus of the ARSCP-5 out of the key activities that are being carried out in relation to the African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

- Development of SCP programmes at sub-regional, national and local level
- Ecolabelling of African products
- Businesses and SCP in Africa
- Mainstreaming sustainability in African Universities
- The Marrakech Taskforces and Africa

In addition to the above five topics which will be covered by plenary sessions, there will be parallel workshops covering specific issues that are relevant to the promotion of SCP in Africa.

The Proposed Sessions

Session one: Development of SCP programmes at national and local level

The African 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP which is now part of the AMCEN workplan identified a series of activities that need to be carried out under four thematic areas, namely: water, energy, urban development and industry. The effective implementation of these activities would require the contextualization of the regional 10YFP to sub-regional, national and local levels. As a follow-up to the ARSP-4, UNEP and its partners have been supporting this process of contextualization. This session will deliberate on the key lessons obtained from this process and generates inputs to the activities to be carried out as a follow-up.

Session two: Ecolabelling of African Products

The expansion of market access to Africa by improving the environmental profile of African products was one of the key priority activities by ARSCP-4. UNEP in partnership with the AU and UNECA and with the support from the Marrakech taskforce on Cooperation with Africa has been initiated a project on developing an African Ecolabelling Mechanism. UNEP is also implementing another project on Ecolabelling textile and leather products from Africa for the European Union market. This session will review the outcomes from the on-going activities on Ecolabelling of African products and suggests ways of strengthening their effective implementation and dissemination.

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Session three: Businesses and climate change in Africa

In view of the critical role that businesses play in an increasingly globalized economy and considering the growing active role that businesses are taking in the promotion of sustainable development, it will be critical to look at ways of enhancing the involvement of businesses in promoting SCP in Africa. This session looks at the existing business initiatives in the promotion of sustainable development in general and SCP in particular, including activities under the UN Global Compact Initiative, and identify the specific mechanisms through which African businesses could be more actively engaged in addressing climate change issues in Africa and contribute to the further development and implementation of the African 10YFP on SCP.

Session four: Mainstreaming sustainability in African Universities

The development of new culture and skills that promote sustainable consumption and production would require undertaking a concerted effort on environmental education and training. To this effect, UNEP in collaboration with other partners has been implementing a programme on 'Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities' (MESA). This session will review the available tools that have been developed under MESA and deliberate on the specific actions that need to be taken in order to further strengthen the impacts of the programme.

• Session five: The Marrakech Taskforces and Africa

In addition to the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa, there are six additional thematic taskforces launched as part of the international mechanism established for the implementation of the 10YFP (Marrakech) process. It has been found that the specific themes and activities that these taskforces are addressing have direct relevance to the activities identified under the African 10-YFP. Through an inter-taskforce consultation that was facilitated by the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa, it was agreed to explore and strengthen the possible cooperation between the various taskforces and Africa. This session will focus on developing a better understanding about the taskforce activities and exploring possible ways of cooperation with regional partners in the context of the African 10YFP.

Roundtable duration

The Roundtable is scheduled to be held over three days with a possibility of one day dedicated for parallel theme-specific workshops on selected topics that are relevant to the African 10YFP.

Material submission

Key note presentations for each of the thematic session will be prepared by invitations. However, institutions/individuals who wish to make presentations under one of the session or wish to organize parallel thematic workshops should submit their abstract/proposal before 29 February 2008 to Mr. Desta Mebratu at desta.mebratu@unep.org with a copy to secretariat@arscp.org.

Registration for the Roundtable

The registration form for the Roundtable can be found from the homepage of ARSCP at www.arscp.org and the African 10YFP homepage at http://www.unep.org/roa/Projects_Programmes/10YFP/index.asp