INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING
ON THE 10-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES
FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Marrakech, Morocco, 16-19 June 2003

Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting

I. Introduction

1. The International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003.[1] The meeting was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme. Financial support for the meeting, particularly for the participation of experts from developing countries, was provided by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden.

2. Participants in the meeting were experts on sustainable consumption and production from government agencies, international organizations, consumer organizations, business and industry. Some 115 experts from 59 countries and 9 international organizations participated in the meeting.

3. The meeting was organized in response to the call, in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Chapter III, for actions at all levels to:

> "Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries, through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries. (para.15)

4. The Co-chairs of the meeting were H.E. Mr. M'hamed Elmurabit, Secretary of State for the Environment of Morocco, and Ambassador Viveka Bohn of Sweden. Ms. Pernille Sorensen, Ministry of Environment, Denmark, served as Rapporteur for the meeting. For the closing session, Mr. Mohammed Arrouchi, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations served as Co-Chair on behalf of Mr. Elmurabit.

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[1] Hereinafter referred to as the Marrakech Process.

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. M'hamed Elmurabit, who welcomed the participants to Morocco, and to Marrakech, which has been the site of a number of important international meetings on issues of environment and development. He noted that while many people in the world could not meet their basic needs, patterns of living in the rich countries were associated with waste, overexploitation of resources, pollution and resource depletion. Following the Johannesburg Summit, we are all called upon to act to promote eco-efficiency and sustainable consumption, taking into account the needs and capacities of developing countries. Morocco, which is currently chair of the G77 and China, is convinced of the need for sustainable development in the countries of the South and therefore calls for greater cooperation between North and South. He also noted a variety of actions taken by Morocco to promote sustainable consumption and production, including the establishment of a cleaner production centre, a Fund for Clean Industry, and a Centre for the Development of Renewable Energy, and the development of eco-labels, recycling and organic agriculture.

6. The Director of the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, Ms. JoAnne DiSano made an opening statement noting that the International Expert Meeting was one of the first major international meetings to be organized as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with emphasis on moving from policy debates to practical action. She noted that consumption and production patterns, particularly in developed countries, would have to change if the needs of growing populations with improving standards of living, particularly in developing countries, were to be met. The work of the United Nations on sustainable consumption and production was based on the principle that developed countries should take the lead and all countries should benefit. She also noted the importance of cooperation and coordination among international organizations to meet the needs of member States.

7. Mr. Bas de Leeuw, of the United Nations Environment Programme, noted the importance of regional processes, such as those recently held in Argentina and Indonesia, in developing the 10-year framework of programmes. He also noted the importance of addressing issues of poverty eradication and employment, and involving the business community and consumer groups. The framework should take account of differing national priorities, and international organizations should support national and regional programmes.

8. Mr. Majid Boutaleb, President of the Moroccan Cleaner Production Centre, noted that cleaner production could improve profitability while reducing waste and pollution. In Morocco, cleaner production had been promoted through voluntary public-private partnerships, for example in the cement and chemical industries, as well as partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society.

9. Ambassador Viveka Bohn, in her introduction to the meeting, noted that providing people with a better quality of life would require increased consumption for the poor and different consumption for the rich, while ensuring that what we produce and consume does not have negative effects on health, natural resources and the environment. In promoting sustainable consumption and production, linkages with trade, poverty eradication and agriculture must be considered and win-win situations identified that meet consumer demands, promote trade and protect the environment. She called on participants to identify national priorities and areas in which they need international support. She noted the need for increased coordination and

cooperation among international organizations, and for monitoring and assessment to be able to identify gaps in implementation. She stressed the need for more partnerships and involvement of all stakeholders. She also called for efforts to improve the integration of economic, social and environmental issues.

10. The meeting received reports from two regional expert meetings on sustainable consumption and production, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 22-23 April 2003, and in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 21-23 May 2003, both in response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

11. Mr. Ariel Carbajal, of the Secretariat for Sustainable Development of Argentina, presented the report of the meeting in Argentina, which recommended central policy elements for sustainable production and consumption, including internalization of environmental costs, elimination of subsidies with negative environmental impacts, promotion of supply and demand for green production and services, and environmental information and education to motivate consumers to adopt sustainable consumption patterns. Other recommendations included harmonization and strengthening of regulatory frameworks, corporate social responsibility codes, promoting of investment in industry and transfer of technology, cooperation between government, the private sector and civil society, national systems for strategic environmental evaluation, and sustainable consumption by the public sector. Sustainable consumption and production could be promote through a range of regulatory, economic and social policy instruments and instruments for monitoring and evaluation. These recommendations are to be presented to the 14th Forum of Environment Ministers of the Region.

12. Mr. Susanto Sutoyo, of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, presented the report on the meeting in Indonesia. The report noted that the Asia-Pacific region was becoming the main manufacturing hub of the world and that current consumption and production patterns would lead to enormous pressure on the environment and natural resource base of the region. To address those pressures, the meeting recommended that governments establish integrated policies and strategies for operations, investment and planning, with greater involvement of stakeholders in policy making. It was also recommended that Governments implement the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection, in particular the new section G on sustainable consumption. The meeting called on the business community to conduct self-assessments, define strategies addressing economic, social and environmental issues, provide credible product declarations, and develop and apply codes of conduct.

13. In a keynote speech, Ms. Laura Lucia Vieira Ceneviva, of the Department of Environmental Planning of Sao Paulo, Brazil, described the environmental protection efforts of the City of Sao Paulo, with a focus on "Public Purchasing Power: A Tool to Change Consumption and Production Patterns." Sao Paulo's programmes for environmental planning include the Green Seal programme and the Sustainable Purchasing Good Practices Register; an Eco-Procurement programme; a Cleaner Production Roundtable; the development of environmental management systems of the city administration, including efforts for energy and water conservation; and a waste separation programme, with city authorities providing assistance to paper collectors' cooperatives as a means of promoting social inclusion.

14. Mr. Ralph Chipman, of the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, presented the Discussion Paper prepared for the meeting by the Division in consultation with UNEP and a number of other organizations and experts. He noted that the scope of the Paper was based on chapter III of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with the exclusion of energy and chemicals, which were large and complex issues being considered by other international processes. The Paper included evaluations, judgements and suggested priorities, intended not as proposals for approval by participants, but as a starting point for reaction and discussion. The suggested initial priorities for international cooperation under the framework were based on issues that were identified as priorities for a range of different countries and for which there were established techniques that offered economic, social and environmental benefits.

15. Mr. Rajan R. Gandhi, of Consumer Unity and Trust Society, India, delivered a keynote speech on "Consumer Behaviour and Sustainable Development." He noted that purchasing decisions are influenced by economic factors, such as price and income, as well as by other factors such as quality, availability and packaging. Purchasing decisions are dictated by overall income level and by disposable income at a given point in time. They are also influenced by social and cultural factors and national icons or models whom consumers can emulate, for example Mahatma Gandhi in India. In promoting sustainable consumption, consumer protection and information tools, such as standards and eco-labels, can be useful as long as they are not used as trade barriers. On the public policy level, public procurement and fiscal instruments can change consumption patterns of both public institutions and private consumers. He emphasized that efforts to promote sustainable consumption must go hand in hand with efforts to promote sustainable production.

16. Detailed discussions of sustainable consumption and production were held in four parallel Working Groups:

(a) Human settlements and sustainable consumption and production, Co-Chaired by Mr. Alf Wills, Department of Environment, South Africa, and Mr. Bernard Mazijn, Directorate-General of the Environment, Belgium;

(b) General policy instruments and analytical tools, Co-Chaired by Mr. James Riordan, Environment Canada, and Mr. Ariel Carbajal, Secretariat of Sustainable Development, Argentina;

(c) Promoting sustainable consumption patterns, Co-Chaired by Mr. Susanto Sutoyo, Department of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia, and Ms. Aira Kalela, Ministry of Environment, Finland;

(d) Tools for changing production patterns, Co-Chaired by Ms. Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, Ministry for the Environment, Germany, and Mr. Young-Woo Park, Korea National Cleaner Production Center.

II. Work of the Working Groups

17. The Working Groups were requested to consider the above themes, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, in light of the following questions: (a) What works, what doesn't? (b) What are the main challenges in implementation? (c) What are the

priorities for future work on sustainable consumption and production at the national level? and (d) What actions at the international level are needed to support national action to promote sustainable consumption and production?

18. The Working Groups met on 17 and 18 June to discuss their respective themes and questions. On 19 June, the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups presented draft summaries of the work of their Groups to the plenary for discussion. Following those discussions, the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups prepared the following summaries.

Working Group 1
Human Settlements and Sustainable Consumption and Production
Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group

A. Introduction

19. The Working Group on Human Settlements and Sustainable Consumption and Production included 24 participants from 19 countries and 4 international organizations. The Working Group was Co-Chaired by Mr. Alf Wills, Department of Environment, South Africa, and Mr. Bernard Mazijn, Directorate-General of the Environment, Belgium.

20. The Working Group began with an exchange of views on the most pressing consumption and production issues that need to be addressed, and welcomed the commitment by the participant from UN HABITAT, recognized as the leading UN agency on human settlements, to submit the report of the Working Group to UN HABITAT and its Governing Council for consideration and further collaborative action.

21. The Working Group identified and focussed its work on 4 key issues which have high leverage impact in terms of changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in human settlements, as follows:

(a) Waste management;

(b) Transportation;

(c) Construction; and

(d) Water and sanitation.

22. For each issue, the Working Group considered successful initiatives being implemented by various countries and regions, the challenges limiting progress, priorities for further work, and actions at the international level needed to support national action.

B. Successful initiatives and challenges

1. Waste management

23. Effective management of all waste streams remains a fundamental challenge to achieving sustainable production and consumption patterns. Simply put, high consuming developed countries generate unsustainably high per capita volumes of waste, while developing countries lack the capacity to manage their waste, even though the per capita volume of waste generated is relatively low. In addressing these issues, countries have developed a wide variety of waste management approaches, each with its own set of challenges.

24. Modern waste management and disposal is commonly done through either landfills or incineration with energy recovery. Incineration with energy generation has benefits, particularly in densely populated areas, but also has risks of hazardous emissions. Waste incineration plants

may also require large volumes of waste with specific characteristics, which, in turn, may constrain other waste management programmes such as recycling. Sanitary landfills, properly sealed, can be effective, but may take up large areas of valuable space. Waste management facilities are often considered to be undesirable by neighbours, presenting problems for siting - the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) reaction.

25. In densely populated urban areas, effective waste management requires large-scale controlled operations, with separation of domestic waste, medical waste and hazardous waste at source and separate collection, treatment and disposal regimes.

26. However, waste collection and separation and recycling of paper, containers, plastic and metal provide a wide range of employment generating opportunities. In many countries, these activities are conducted directly in the street or in landfill sites in a relatively uncontrolled manner, but provide important livelihoods for very poor people, thus rendering a valuable environmental, social and economic service for society. In some cases, this selective collection of domestic waste has proved to be more effective in poor communities, where people were more open to the idea of recycling. On the other hand, these people may also open waste containers on the street, thus frustrating efforts to separate waste streams at source and increasing the cost of keeping streets clean. Many small businesses are based on reuse, repair and recycling of waste paper, scrap metal, glass, used appliances and other waste. Furthermore, within larger-scale public waste management systems, there are opportunities for extensive employment creation, including for unskilled workers.

27. Hazardous waste, including waste imported from other countries, is a major problem in many countries. In many developing countries, the problem is compounded by the lack of awareness of many people about the health hazards of such products as batteries.

28. The "3R" approach to waste management – reduction, reuse (and repair) and recycle – has been effective in many countries. Flea markets, for example, sometimes for charity causes, are one means of promoting reuse of objects no longer wanted. Deposit/return systems are widely applied to bottles, and in some countries to batteries, electronic products, appliances, and even cars. In some countries, domestic waste collection charges by the container are an effective incentive for waste reduction at the household level. However, waste charges also provide an incentive for illegal dumping, which therefore requires strict and effective control. Some countries encourage safe disposal of hazardous household products such as paint and chemicals by offering free disposal at convenient locations.

29. Traditional societies often have little problem with domestic waste disposal due to both low waste generation and traditional household responsibilities for keeping public areas outside the home clean. The medinas of Arab cities, for example, were commonly very clean due to such systems of community responsibility. With development, the traditional systems may break down well before "modern" systems of waste management can be established. Furthermore, unemployment and poverty may reduce the incentive or the means for proper waste disposal.

30. It is the experience of many countries that effective waste collection requires cooperation between residents and the formal collection system or service, and negotiations between

community organizations and public authorities may identify cooperative ways to manage waste effectively and efficiently.

31. It has been found that effective and efficient waste management, including recycling, may require the decentralization of responsibility among a large number of small local authorities. In such cases, cooperation between national agencies with policy-making authority and technical expertise, and local authorities is essential and presents a challenge for many countries. This is particularly true in cases where public-private partnerships are used to enhance effective implementation of waste management services.

32. For reducing high volumes of domestic and/or industrial waste, a variety of approaches have been used, including regulation, technical assistance, and information dissemination. New technologies, such as sending large-scale commercial food waste to water treatment plants for biodegradation and methane generation, or controlled burning of used tires to generate energy, can turn waste disposal costs into revenue.

33. Product design (eco-design) can play a crucial role in reducing waste, including hazardous waste. Batteries, for example, have been redesigned to eliminate mercury, although new technologies are still needed to reduce other toxic heavy metals. Products can also be designed to reduce waste generation through longevity and repairability. Public procurement contracts can be used to promote or require eco-design. For most current product design, waste reduction is not a consideration. Repairing products to extend their lifetime is particularly difficult for exported products.

2. Mobility and Transport

34. While efficient, affordable and reliable transport is essential to sustainable development, transport is also a major source of air pollution and has now become the leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, as well as raising problems of environment and health, congestion and accidents. Transport therefore needs to be addressed in an integrated manner as a critical element of changing consumption and production patterns for sustainable development. It is also important to note that more than 1 billion people in the world are currently without access to affordable, reliable and safe transport, which contributes to opportunities for sustainable economic and social development. The economic, social and environmental consequences of providing these people with mobility must also be considered

35. Many countries have promoted a culture of using non-motorised transport, including measures to promote bicycling in view of the benefits to health and the environment. These initiatives have been accompanied by the redevelopment of road infrastructure to provide for bicycle lanes and systems of free deposit-and-return bicycles as essential elements to create an environment conducive to the widespread adoption of these non-motorised modes of transport. However, there is a need for education and awareness to promote use of non-motorised transport in other countries and counter the current prioritisation of vehicles over alternative transport modes. However, some alternative modes of transport may be impractical in countries with extremely hot or cold climates or where long distances have to be travelled.

36. Significant emission reductions have also been achieved through increased efficiency provided by improved technologies. These include the development of clean fuels and low emission technologies such as fuel cells, hybrid engines and compressed gas. A few countries have adopted public procurement policies to promote the adoption of these "green" transport modes, particularly for the public transport system. However, efficiency gains have been out-weighed and overwhelmed by increased consumption levels.

37. Further means to develop sustainable transport systems include the use of economic incentives and disincentives. These include tax levies on polluting technologies, road toll disincentives to reduce traffic loads, the removal of inner city parking space, and incentives for use of non-motorised transport. On the other hand, in some countries, low-cost fuel and low taxes on vehicles promote increased use of unsustainable transport modes. These forms of subsidies that encourage the use of unsustainable modes of transport need to be removed, where appropriate.

38. Developed countries generally have well developed public transport systems, which are an essential element of sustainable transport. Other countries have underdeveloped or poorly maintained and managed, unsafe, chaotic and inefficient public transport infrastructure and systems. For SIDS, these problems are exacerbated by the additional requirement for reliable and affordable sea and air transport systems. The high cost of developing effective public transport systems and infrastructure remains an apparently insurmountable barrier for many developing countries.

39. Most countries have developed various regulatory interventions to address the critical problems created by unsustainable transport systems. These include setting high standards for vehicle emission control and maintenance, switching to unleaded petrol, prohibiting imports of vehicles less than 3 years old, and at a local level, "road pricing" and the implementation of extreme measures such as "no car days". However, many countries have inadequate capacity to effectively regulate transportation and hence have low standards in practice. Least developed countries also suffer from imports of old, polluting vehicles and a demand for transport which outstrips supply.

40. Some countries, particularly least developed countries, lack the capacity to develop basic transportation infrastructure, such as paved roads and separation of vehicles from pedestrians, and therefore suffer from high accident rates. There is a clear need for support and technology transfer to enable these countries to develop sustainable transport systems and the capacity to manage them.

41. The poor generally pay a disproportionate share of their meagre incomes for transport service compared to the rich. Both the urban and rural poor either have no mobility at all or pay an exorbitant price for crowded, uncomfortable and unreliable transport. In some developing countries, upwards of 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings are spent on imported energy to run the road transport system, which, in some cases, only 10 per cent of the population can afford to use.

42. Effective transport planning is essential to optimise transportation efficiencies. Initiatives include the promotion of staff mobility plans in private sector companies, including car pooling, the development of multimodal transport infrastructure, and integrated electronic real-time traffic management systems.

43. A common problem experienced by most countries is the effective coordination of implementation between the different levels of government, particularly with respect to national standards and local transport improvement projects. Further, many countries have inadequate capacity to develop energy efficient multi-modal transport systems which are integrated with spatial development planning schemes. These planning schemes should also be aimed at increasing efficiencies through linking employment centres with residential development while, at the same time, taking into account current urbanisation and urban sprawl phenomena.

3. Construction

44. Existing buildings and related infrastructure around the world, together with the current predominant methods and materials for construction, lead to cost, energy and social development inefficiencies and hence contribute significantly to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

45. The rehabilitation and renewal of buildings and open green spaces in human settlements can be an engine for sustainable local development. Rehabilitation of old buildings can modernize services and optimise eco-efficiency, while conserving the historical, cultural and natural landscape heritage value as a driver for local socio-economic development through tourism, recreation, sport, leisure, arts and craft activities. State support for such efforts can be good value.

46. Buildings are being made more energy efficient through construction codes that set standards for such factors as insulation. In some countries, governments provide eco-labels, technical support, subsidies and other incentives for energy efficient buildings. Rainwater collection systems and passive and active solar systems can also make buildings more eco-efficient by factors of four to ten. Such projects often have a high return on investment in the form of lower operating costs. Wider use of such techniques requires education and awareness-raising among architects and developers as well as end users.

47. Some countries introduced subsidies for building insulation at the time of the oil crisis of the 1970s. As a result, national energy consumption has remained stable since, despite economic growth. However, these 30 year old insulation installations require upgrading.

48. Traditional construction techniques and materials are often more environmentally efficient that modern construction techniques. Thick stone walls, for example, help keep buildings cool in hot climates, and conserve heat in cold climates. These traditional construction techniques are often being lost. In some cases, there is a need to improve the old, local materials and to promote their wider use.

49. The efficient use of labour-intensive construction techniques, especially for roads and water and sanitation infrastructure, including irrigation systems, can provide new employment and income opportunities as well as vocational and management skills. Such techniques can also enhance local maintenance and repair capacities and other community support mechanisms that help ensure the sustainability of such infrastructure.

50. Effective urban and land use planning plays an important role in reducing travel, saving time and money, and reducing congestion and pollution. In some countries, supermarkets are banned from areas outside towns unless they are accessible by public transportation. Other efforts to limit urban sprawl and reduce transportation requirements are incentives for building on open "brownfield" sites within cities. Other countries have provided financial support to poor informal or squatter settlement dwellers, whose makeshift shelters are extremely energy and water inefficient, in the form of "site serviced" low-cost housing. Some countries have collected and disseminated best practices in urban management for use by other cities.

51. Many countries have regulations limiting construction in floodplains or other risky sites. In some cases this requires coordination among different levels of government.

52. The management of heating, lighting and other services can also be important in conserving energy. Some governments are setting an example for others concerning the efficient management of building. In some former centrally-planned economies, the old building services were extremely inefficient and need to be improved.

4. Water and Sanitation

53. Inadequate integrated management of water resources and sanitation services for domestic, agricultural, industrial and ecological purposes have lead to high levels of consumption, waste and other inefficiencies, which are unsustainable. In many developing countries, large numbers of people, particularly in rural areas, are without access to safe water and adequate sanitation. In addressing these issues, countries have developed various water resource management, supply and sanitation service approaches.

54. In recent years, as the costs of increasing water supply have grown, emphasis has shifted in some countries from developing new water supplies to water conservation and demand management. Water efficient appliances, low-flow shower heads, and public information campaigns have, in some cases, effectively addressed water shortages at much lower cost than expanding water collection, treatment and distribution systems.

55. Water pricing by volume of consumption, in some cases with higher prices at times of peak demand, has made people more sensitive to the cost of water and encouraged water conservation. Some countries have reduced total water consumption through such measures. Where water bills are not related to actual consumption, there is no incentive to conserve water. To ensure that water is available to all, some communities provide a basic amount of water to households free or at low rates, with rates rising with increasing consumption.

56. In some countries, water quality is effectively protected through national water standards and permit requirements for industrial users, with strict enforcement of permit conditions. Water pollution from agricultural runoff is regulated through such means as constraints on fertilizer applications. Such measures can virtually eliminate water-borne diseases. Water protection measures must be adapted to local conditions, such as water resources and population density.

57. As people are often more willing to pay for water supply than for sewage systems and water treatment plants, some communities require water utilities to provide both water and sewage systems and to cover the costs of the sanitation systems through water charges. In some cases, land developers are being required to pay for infrastructure for the new areas, including water and sanitation infrastructure.

58. Some countries have successfully used collaboration among agricultural water users, urban residential and industrial users, and environmental groups to resolve competition for limited water resources, while protecting species endangered by water shortages. In one case, negotiated reductions in phosphorous effluent from chicken farming proved to be much cheaper than water treatment to remove the phosphorous.

59. Some countries where freshwater is scarce have used desalination to produce freshwater, but the cost is very high. Costs can be reduced somewhat by using waste heat from power plants, but the capacity of such systems is limited. Furthermore, water distribution systems, generally designed to distribute water from uphill sources to downhill users, may not be well suited for distributing desalinated water from coastal sources to inland users.

60. In many developing countries, the infrastructure for collecting and distributing freshwater is inadequate, and large numbers of people, particularly in rural areas, are without access to safe water and adequate sanitation. In many cases, wealthier people connected to public water systems receive clean water at low prices, while poor people are forced to buy unsafe water from private sellers at 4 or 5 times the price of the public water. In many countries, sewage is dumped untreated into rivers, lakes or coastal waters. In such countries there is a need for technological and financial assistance to develop water distribution and treatment systems. In areas with no access to electricity, there is a need for solar or wind power to pump water.

61. Subsidies for water, energy or other resources are generally given to rich and poor alike. Since most of the subsidies generally go to the rich, they are a very inefficient means of supporting the poor. Even free quotas of water or electricity for the poor are problematic as they require that the suppliers decide who is poor and keep special accounts. An alternative approach is to collect all subsidies and distribute the money as direct economic support of the poor.

62. In many countries groundwater resources are being depleted and water tables are falling as groundwater is pumped faster than it is replenished by rainfall infiltration. Salinization and contamination of groundwater are threats to health in many places.

63. During the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), many villages were provided with wells and water pumps, but the pumps were often not maintained or

repaired and were abandoned. Participatory approaches, including financial participation, are now being used to encourage users to take responsibility for water systems.

64. Public-private partnerships, including concessions and management contracts, have been used to increase investment and improve and expand water supply and sanitation services, although there is disagreement about the effectiveness of such arrangements. In some cases, proposed arrangements requiring companies to supply poor as well as wealthier communities have not attracted companies due to the perceived risks. UNITAR, in partnership with some countries, is providing capacity building for developing countries to improve their ability to negotiate public-private arrangements for water supply and sanitation.

65. Some countries are trying to reestablish traditional practices such as rainwater harvesting in order to provide safe water to people without other access.

66. It was noted that water supply and sanitation are part of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg targets, that 2003 is the International Year of Freshwater, and that water and sanitation, along with human settlements, are the themes selected for the first two-year cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development after the Johannesburg Summit.

C. Priorities for future work

67. Based on the discussion of successful initiatives and challenges, the Working Group concluded its work by discussing priorities for future work. All priorities should be considered in the broader context of sustainable development, taking into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions. Public participation and the involvement of stakeholders are regarded as essential elements of sustainable development. Equity and access were explicitly identified as issues for further consideration, together with the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries, small island developing States, land-locked developing countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

68. The priorities for human settlements and sustainable consumption and production are:

- To improve enabling environments for public-private partnerships;
- To stimulate employment generation;
- To support the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity building;
- To use an optimal mix of instruments, including regulatory, economic and communicative instruments, as well as strategic environmental impact assessments;
- To create a sound institutional context, with attention to linkages between different levels of decision-making, between sectors, and between programmes, and with linkages to local Agenda 21s;
- To stimulate urban, land-use and spatial planning in an integrated way;
- To support programmes for education, awareness-raising and training;

- To learn from traditional knowledge and to take into account the cultural and natural heritage.

D. Actions needed at the international level to support national action

69. The Working Group formulated the following recommendations as an input to the forthcoming two-year cycle of the Commission for Sustainable Development, and for appropriate use by all relevant partners in the process:

(a) UN-DESA, together with UN-HABITAT, and in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant organizations, including ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD and UNITAR, and relevant financial institutions, including the World Bank and GEF, should be invited to prepare, based on the work of this Working Group, and in particular on the priorities listed above, a report on the actions needed at the international level to support national action in the waste, transportation, construction, and water and sanitation sectors, indicating the agencies, organizations, institutions, etc. that should be involved in each action.

(b) In drafting the report, these organizations are urged to consider international action in the following areas:

- Developing tools for information management and dissemination, e.g. accessible databases on best practice and national and regional priorities;
- Establishing a coordinating initiative to maintain the momentum begun in Marrakech on the subject of human settlements and sustainable consumption and production;
- Developing, collating and disseminating material for education, awareness-raising and training;
- Cooperation in the field of research and development of appropriate tools in support of implementation as well as monitoring the impact of national initiatives;
- Facilitating and mobilizing concrete partnerships around implementation at the national level.

(c) Public authorities at the regional, national and local level are encouraged to set priorities;

(d) The international community should bear in mind that changing unsustainable consumption and production in human settlements is an ongoing process, and extends beyond the next two-year cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development; the donor community is therefore called upon to support these efforts.

Working Group 2

General Policy Instruments and Analytical Tools for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group

70. Working Group 2 discussed general policy instruments and analytical tools for sustainable consumption and production. There were 29 participants from 22 countries, with good representation from all regions, and 3 international organisations. The Co-Chairs of the working group were Mr. Ariel Carbajal, Secretariat of Sustainable Development, Argentina, and Mr. James Riordan, Department of Environment, Canada.

71. The discussion was very productive and took place in a positive atmosphere. There was general consensus on the need to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development - environmental, social and economic - in the strategies for sustainable consumption and production (SCP). There was general agreement on the need to use policy mixes rather than one single instrument, and not stacking instruments or using various instruments in isolation. There was also agreement on the importance of using positive measures and that countries should avoid using environmental policies as barriers to trade.

72. Most participants considered that success of policy tools depends on the institutional, political and economic conditions of the country which is implementing them. Participants identified a number of key elements and approaches that could integrate a successful sustainable consumption and production strategy. These are elements that national governments can use based on their own priorities and their national context. The table below shows, in no order of priority, the elements of a public policy framework, programme approaches, and policy instruments and analytical tools that governments can use to analyse the best combination of elements that could be effective in their countries to help promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

73. The group agreed that one of the overarching goals of sustainable consumption and production strategies is poverty reduction and the meeting of basic human needs (health, food, shelter and education).

74. While participants generally recognized the value and potential of integrated product policy and encouraged interested countries to implement that approach, there was some concern expressed by participants from developing countries over the inclusion of integrated product policy in the table above because of its perceived potential for use as a trade barrier.

75. Participants highlighted the potential of cooperation between governments, business and civil society to encourage continuous technological improvement and sensitization of industry to sustainable consumption and production needs.

76. Concerning means of implementation, including finance, transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies and capacity building, the group decided to refer to the applicable section in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Public Policy Framework	**Programme Approaches**	**Policy Instruments and Analytical Tools**
• Policy coherence (integration and coordination within and across government institutions). • Policy mixes and combination of tools. • Participatory approaches and partnerships for policy design and implementation (public participation including all relevant stakeholders). • Setting objectives and priorities. • Policy principles (e.g. precautionary principle, polluter pays principle). • Policy evaluation, design and reform. • Sector-specific policies. • Internalisation of environmental and social costs. • Enforcement and compliance.	• National sustainable development strategies. • Sustainable consumption programmes at the national, regional and international level. • Sustainable public procurement. • Sector strategies. • Corporate social responsibility and accountability. • Elimination of harmful substances and materials. • Integrated product policy. • Extended producer responsibility. • Improving product design. • Development and diffusion of sustainable technologies. • Consumer protection. • Research and development programmes.	• Regulatory instruments (e.g. technology, performance and product standards). • Economic instruments (e.g. taxes, tradable permits, deposit-refund). • Remove environmentally harmful subsidies and promote environmentally sound incentives. • Voluntary approaches. • Social instruments (e.g. information, education). • Monitoring and assessment (e.g. indicators, LCA, CBA). • Environmental management accounting. • Information between governments • Product and service certification and mutual recognition. • Eco-labelling and energy labelling. • Risk assessment. • Green accounting. • Delineation of property rights for natural resources. • Intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge.

77. It was recognized that the level of development of countries is a condition that cannot be ignored in policy development. Participants agreed that while important differences exist between developed and developing countries, there is a potential for learning from each other through partnerships and information exchange.

78. It was emphasized that some countries produce what they don't consume and consume what they don't produce, raising the question of "missing markets", the need for information and the desire to stimulate changes in these conditions. In this context, support for a move towards sustainable industrial development is necessary.

79. In order to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns, it is important to de-link economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste.

80. Participants recognized the need for capacity building for decision makers from governments and business related to the use of policy tools and instruments.

81. Participants pointed out that clearly defining sustainable consumption and production is key. Following detailed debates on the breadth and scope of the subject over a significant period of

time (10 years), the challenge is to move from the more generic to the specific and focus on implementation of the approaches.

82. In general the group agreed that the efficiency of instruments depends on the conditions prevalent in each country and recommended policy mixes over single instruments.

83. The participants also emphasised the need for programmes to allow countries to assess their own situation and to decide the best combination of policies for their conditions. Developing countries recognized the need for assistance in the identification of best practice and in the selection of appropriate tools. Emphasis was placed on the need for knowledge of the processes by which the proper policy tools are selected.

84. The group highlighted the importance of designing national cleaner production strategies and national technology substitution strategies as an integral part of national sustainable development programmes.

85. Setting objectives should be part of all sustainable consumption and production frameworks. Additionally, evaluation tools should be designed in order to provide methodologies to assess the degree of sustainability of government policies.

86. A participant from a developing country brought up the issue of limitations set by international financial institutions, which do not allow countries to fully develop proper policy options, such as the limitation of tariff and tax exemptions imposed by the IMF.

87. The participant also mentioned the need to establish regulations to avoid the importation of products or technologies that are currently banned for consumption, but not production, in the source country.

88. The participants expressed the need to understand the relationship between environmental policies and international trade agreements, adaptation to new trade conditions and compliance. Participants also emphasised that tools for sustainable consumption and production should not be used as disguised trade barriers, as established in Chapter III, paragraph 15(e) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

89. Participants agreed on the need to explore the creation of an "early warning system" to advise governments about emerging environmental policies in other countries that could be perceived as trade barriers and to facilitate adaptation to new conditions with trading partners.

90. Participants mentioned the need to integrate gender mainstreaming into sustainable consumption and production strategies.

Challenges for the Implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies

91. The Group acknowledged the existence of a number of different challenges. Many participants emphasised that among these is the need to achieve real integration of the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic.

92. There was recognition of the need for both institutional and social capacity building, including investment in social capital. Support is needed to improve the capacity of government decision makers in the design and implementation of sustainable consumption and prodution policies.

93. Participants agreed on the need to promote the development of sustainable technologies and their diffusion, as well as the capacity for adapting the technologies. Also mentioned was the need to develop mechanisms to facilitate technology transfer.

94. Another challenge mentioned by several participants was the issue of trade and sustainable consumption and production. They identified the need to establish incentives for the creation and improvement of markets for sustainable goods and services, to reduce the barriers to trade, improve access to markets and promote fair trade. This is key to ensuring the competitiveness of sustainable goods and services

95. A major challenge at the national level is the internal resistance of some stakeholders to implementing sustainable consumption and production programmes. In such cases, it will be necessary to increase the level of political will and commitment for the implementation of sustainable consumption and production strategies.

96. Another challenge is the short-term planning horizon of political decision makers, which is exacerbated by the fact that changes in consumption and production will often have winners and losers, thus encouraging short-term planning.

97. Related to information and education, the Group agreed on the need to improve consumer information, to strengthen environmental education and awareness-raising programmes and campaigns to empower all stakeholders. Making sustainable consumption desirable for consumers remains a challenge. Creating informed consumers will contribute to this goal.

98. Participants acknowledged that while in general there is no shortage of information, there are deficiencies in information flow and dissemination and well as the need to improve the rationality and applicability of the information available.

99. A participant suggested the use of models, outlooks and scenario projections as a new policy tool.

100. There is a need to work with the media and advertising sectors to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Need for International Cooperation to Support National and Regional Strategies and Programmes

101. The last topic discussed in the Working Group focused on the actions needed at the international level to support national and regional programmes and initiatives to promote sustainable consumption and production.

102. Participants mentioned the need to improve the quality of international cooperation. They asked for more exchange of information and cooperation among the United Nations agencies such as Habitat, UNIDO, UNEP, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNCTAD, etc., as well as cooperation with other international economic organisations such as the World Bank, OECD and WTO. The participants also mentioned the opportunity to work with UNCTAD on issues related to trade and sustainable consumption and production. More coherence in the support provided by the international community was also encouraged.

103. The group emphasized the need for international cooperation to support national and regional initiatives on sustainable consumption and production. They mentioned that two regional meetings had been held, one in the Latin America and Caribbean region and the other in the Asia-Pacific region. In both meetings, regional priorities were identified. Participants asked UNEP and UN-DESA for support to implement strategies on these priorities and for technical cooperation and finance assistance. They also requested the cooperation of UNEP and UN-DESA to develop means of implementation. Also, more cooperation between UNEP and UN-DESA was requested to help other regions identify their priorities and implement them.

104. There was a general agreement among participants on the importance of creating partnerships within and between countries and also with international governmental organisations. Participants emphasised that those partnerships should look at the whole development of the project, recognise the need for financial assistance, and recognise local resources and traditional knowledge.

105. Overall the group supported implementation of the initial priorities described in the Discussion Paper for the meeting, which recommends "examine the current taxes, subsidies, tariffs and other trade and investment policies and their impacts on sustainable development, including resource conservation, environmental quality, health, poverty and other issues; and consider alternative policies to promote economic and social development while reducing environmental impacts and conserving natural resources".

106. There was also general interest in the "Survey of International Activities on Consumption and Production Patterns" carried out by UNDESA. Participants recommended expanding the scope of the survey in order to make it more comprehensive and make it available to all countries in order to disseminate information on activities and priorities on SCP.

107. The need for international cooperation to develop and identify the means of implementation for technology transfer and for sustainable consumption and production strategies was highlighted.

108. Access to finance and the creation of co-financing mechanisms were highlighted as urgent needs. International finance initiatives are especially helpful for the development and implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

109. Some participants supported the efforts of the programmes of different international organisations, such as the creation of cleaner production centres, public procurement programmes, integrated product policy, life cycle analysis, policy evaluation, indicators, environmental education and awareness raising, and public campaigns on sustainable consumption, and asked for the continuation and dissemination of this work.

110. In international cooperation, national governments also play an important role. They should cooperate in this regard and institutionalise international and national partnerships and programmes.

111. Sustainable consumption and production strategies should also build on multilateral environmental agreements and bring into them the synergies with sustainable consumption and production.

112. The need for capacity building for international negotiations was also mentioned.

113. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group recognised that this was the first meeting in a long-term process to contribute to the work of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development and other decision-making organizations, specifically with regards to the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They emphasised that governments want more inter-governmental and institutional communication and cooperation in the design and implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies and programmes. The Co-Chairs expressed special thanks to the working group participants, who devoted significant time and effort to a positive and collaborative effort which contributed to this report.

Working Group 3
Tools for Promoting Sustainable Consumption Patterns
Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group

114. The Working Group on Tools for Promoting Sustainable Consumption Patterns included 27 participants from 20 countries and 4 international organizations. The Working Group was Co-Chaired by Mr. Susanto Sutoyo, Department of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia, and Ms. Aira Kalela, Ministry of Environment, Finland.

115. Participants agreed to focus on the elements as highlighted in the Discussion Paper. They recognized that consumer information tools, such as awareness-raising, education, the role of the media, and advertising, should be considered as priority activities for changing consumer behavior and therefore should be implemented throughout the ten-year framework of programmes. They also discussed activities to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guidelines on Consumer Protection (section G on sustainable consumption).

116. The Working Group also considered sustainable procurement and environmental management, and eco-labelling, recognizing the differences in priorities and needs that different countries might have regarding their implementation. Finally the Working Group discussed inter-linkages with other issues, such as price, quality and availability of products and services, and corporate social responsibility (which are addressed in the Working Groups on general policy instruments and on sustainable production).

117. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating the issue of consumption and production patterns into sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, including where applicable, into poverty reduction strategies (as indicated in paragraph 17 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation).

118. Participants recognized that promoting sustainable consumption patterns requires a mix of instruments, such as information tools, regulations and incentives, as well as infrastructure.

119. In considering various tools for sustainable consumption, it was emphasized that progress in implementation and the impact of the tools need to be measured. Development of indicators was considered important for this purpose. Strengthening the capacity of developing countries was regarded as another challenge for further work.

A. Consumer information tools (eco-labelling, awareness-raising, education, media and advertising)

1. Exchange of experiences at the national level

120. Several participants presented successful examples of eco-labelling schemes, and some noted that eco-labels were much more than information tools and should be regarded as starting points for wider communication and education strategies. In order for eco-labels to be successful, criteria that could be traced back to credible authority were considered essential. The importance of involving stakeholders was also stressed.

121. It was noted that developing labelling schemes was expensive and required institutional capacity. Some participants noted difficulties met in developing eco-labelling schemes. One participant noted that eco-labels might not be relevant for the situation in some countries, citing the example of labels for recyclability where there were no recycling facilities.

122. Participants also described experiences with social and fair trade labels to improve economic and social conditions. It was considered that these experiences could generate partnerships between developed and developing countries. Others expressed concerns with social labels.

123. Note was taken of the various types of labels, such as those covering only one factor such as energy; others based on environmental and/or social criteria; and self claims. In general, energy-efficiency labels were considered successful since they can communicate cost-saving to the consumer quite clearly.

124. Some participants expressed concerns regarding labels as trade barriers and noted the on-going debate in the new negotiating round of the World Trade Organization. It was considered that such impacts were not clear beforehand. Eco-labels would promote sustainable consumption from the consumer's point of view, while from the point of view of market-access, the effect would not always be clear.

125. Eco-labels were considered as only one way of providing information to consumers, and would have to be complemented by other information tools. It was noted that other ways were emerging, due, in particular, to information technology development. Participants considered that eco-labels were a good basis to develop information campaigns in order to change unsustainable consumption patterns. An example of an innovative way to provide information relevant to the needs of consumers was presented, using the case of "science in the box" being developed experimentally by a detergent company using the Internet. It was noted that the information was not verified by a third party. Another example of working with retailers and designers in the case of textiles was also presented. Participants emphasized the need for making links to fashion and other positive incentives for consumers rather than preaching environmental messages.

126. Participants recognized the importance of education and awareness-raising tools, in addition to information tools. It was also noted that education includes both formal and informal education. The importance of the work place as a provider of education and training was noted, as well as other forms of informal education, such as empowerment of youth groups.

127. Participants also considered the pros and cons of the role of television (eg. soap operas) and other media such as radio, theatre and popular drama.

128. It was noted that labels are useful for purchasing decisions, but that it was also important to influence the "use" stage of consumption. On the other hand, it was also noted that consumption was still strongly dictated by factors other than sustainability, such as price, quality and availability. There was a major challenge in overcoming the perception of eco-labelled products as expensive, as well as in conveying information on the long-term benefits of life-cycle thinking.

129. For developing countries, lack of financial support to create national certifying offices was considered a potential barrier. Capacity building was also considered important, notably through enhancing the services of existing Cleaner Production Centres and similar organizations. The establishment of an International Declaration on Sustainable Consumption and Production might also contribute to further development of information tools.

130. It was recognized that evaluation of education and awareness-raising programmes was generally lacking. It was also stated that in the development of education tools, it was doubtful whether replicability was ever tested.

131. Education and awareness-raising programmes would be more effective if social and economic aspects were integrated. Several participants stressed the need for stakeholder related strategies, taking into account the different levels of awareness of different actors. It was also stressed that the relationship of confidence between information providers and information recipients is very important.

132. Some participants noted that it would be useful to consider the effects of eco-labelled products on the state of the environment.

133. Some participants felt that the advertising of unsustainable products in the context of consumers who were not well informed would be an obstacle to sustainable consumption. There was reference to a successful project on teaching children how to respond to media and advertising. One participant called for regulating advertising for unsustainable consumption patterns. Other participants stressed the need to use the skills of advertising agencies for promoting sustainable consumption. It was also suggested that alternatives to material lifestyles, such as sports or cultural or social activities, could be widely promoted.

2. Priorities for future work at the national level.

134. The participants noted the importance of cooperation at the national level utilizing existing national mechanisms such as national labelling committees, or sustainable development committees and local Agenda 21 processes, where governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations could cooperate. It was noted that stakeholders could develop networks of collaborative arrangements to promote sustainable consumption at the national level and serve as focal points for regional and international cooperation. A participant noted that these networks should also involve other ministries in addition to those for environmental affairs (e.g. economic affairs, social affairs, finance, trade, transport, and physical planning).

3. Actions at the international level needed to support national action

135. While eco-labelling has been applied successfully in several countries, it was felt that for other countries, further work needs to be done, in particular in developing countries. Impacts on trade and market access should be examined, as well as effectiveness for promoting sustainable consumption and production. Capacity building and financial support would also be necessary.

136. Participants felt it would be useful to expand the Survey of International Activities on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns prepared for this meeting by UN/DESA to include a compendium of on-going activities by relevant intergovernmental and international

non-governmental organizations in this field. It was considered that UN/DESA and UNEP could serve as facilitators in cooperation with other organizations in developing such a compendium.

137. The Group emphasized the development of partnerships and welcomed some 20 partnerships relevant to information tools that were launched at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. The need for capacity building in developing countries to develop such tools was emphasized. In particular, there is a need to develop capacity in formulating credible eco-labelling schemes with clear criteria and independent certification authorities. Some participants called for support in establishing certification authorities and requested the support of international organizations for research, training and awareness-raising. UNEP was asked to explore the feasibility of a partnership with the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) to build a knowledge pool and promote dissemination of the results.

138. In considering the information, education, media and advertising elements of the 10-year framework of programmes on consumption and production, the Working Group considered it important to tie the effort to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which is to start in 2005, and encouraged UN/DESA and UNEP to discuss this with UNESCO. Further development of a strategy for education for sustainable development was agreed at the recent "Environment for Europe" meeting in Kiev, and successful work on that strategy could serve as an inspiration for other regions.

139. The work of cleaner production centers was considered very useful, and it was recommended that they could also serve as sources of information on sustainable consumption, including procurement.

140. UNEP was asked to broaden its existing information exchange platform with the advertising industry to include other networks, such as communication, media and education, and consider the prospects of new information tools (internet, mobile phone) as well as consider establishing guidelines for media experts. Reference was also made to the importance of establishing partnerships with market researchers, and to link the work with corporate social and environmental responsibility as promoted in the United Nations Global Compact.

141. There was wide agreement that international icons and heroes – such as pop stars or football players - could play an important role in awareness-raising, possibly through nomination as UN Ambassadors for Sustainable Consumption. There was also agreement that sustainable consumption should be given real leadership at the highest level, such as G8 meetings.

B. UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, in particular section G (Sustainable Consumption)

1. Exchange of experiences at national level

142. Participants reported progress in the implementation of the Guidelines (as expanded by the General Assembly in 1999) and considered them very useful for implementing sustainable consumption policies, as well as starting points to build new partnerships with civil society. It was felt that the Guidelines address many concerns of developed and developing countries.

There was reference to the UNEP Governing Council decision calling for activities to facilitate implementation of the Guidelines, following a survey project in cooperation with Consumers International. Convincing national governments to revise legislation was however not yet successful in many countries.

143. The view was expressed that consumer protection and sustainable consumption are closely related since such aspects as transparency, access to information and consumer rights are required in order to implement sustainable consumption policies. They should be better integrated to strengthen the role of sustainable consumption in consumer policy.

2. Priorities for future work at the national level

144. It was noted that the Guidelines on Consumer Protection should be widely implemented, promoted and supported at the national level. Several participants stressed the importance of providing training programmes and toolkits to facilitate implementation.

145. Some participants felt that the role of civil society in promoting the Guidelines should be strengthened. Parliamentarians should also be informed.

3. Actions at the international level needed to support national action

146. There was general agreement that UNEP and Consumers International should be supported in carrying out a training programme to promote a better understanding and a wider implementation of the Guidelines on Consumer Protection.

C. Sustainable institutional procurement and environmental management

1. Exchange of experiences at national level

147. Several activities at the national level were reported, and it was felt that sustainable procurement was a useful channel for product innovation, bringing sustainable products from niche markets to mainstream markets, creating economies of scale and reducing prices.

148. Cost savings from sustainable procurement were reported by some participants, while others felt that sustainable procurement activities would be expensive. Some participants noted existing legislation as an obstacle to progress.

149. Some felt that sustainable procurement policies in developing countries would lead to higher costs and the need to import products, since national suppliers would not be able to meet the product standards. Some participants noted that implementation would be affected by the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on related elements such as transparency. A participant noted that developing countries receive donations, for instance hospital equipment and computers, which do not always meet the standards.

150. It was noted that sustainable procurement policies also address environmental management systems (good housekeeping). It was also observed that these activities were not restricted to public organizations, but were conducted by other institutional consumers (hospitals, schools) and businesses as well.

151. It was also noted that sustainable institutional procurement could also be used to reduce poverty and to promote social inclusion. The educational and awareness-raising potential of work place assessments was noted, since these are participatory and can lead to direct benefits from savings on, for instance, water and electricity. Such projects have been carried out in various countries and in various industries and were appreciated by workers, which also lead to sustainable behavior in their domestic life.

2. Priorities for future work at the national level

152. Best practices of sustainable institutional procurement activities should be widely disseminated, including opportunities for cost savings. Regulatory frameworks also need to be developed.

3 Actions at the international level needed to support national action

153. Most participants agreed that capacity building and training was an immediate priority. Reference was made to UNEP's training programme on sustainable procurement, which was welcomed and should be supported, in cooperation with other relevant UN organizations. Communication about the benefits of sustainable procurement should be included in the training programmes.

154. For developing countries, further work needs to be done, especially with regards to the means of implementation, including capacity building and training, technology transfer and international support to promote investment in sustainable production by industries in developing countries.

155. UNEP and UN/DESA were invited to explore the possibilities of establishing a UN code on sustainable procurement and environmental management. Furthermore there was wide agreement that the United Nations itself should adopt sustainable procurement and environmental management programmes for its offices and operations.

D. Inter-linkages with other issues

156. It was generally agreed that price, quality and availability of sustainable products and services, as well as corporate social and environmental responsibility, are all of vital importance for enabling consumers to change their consumption behaviour. The relevance of taxes, cost internalization and the removal of subsidies (discussed in other Working Groups) was noted, as was the need to involve the retail sector, which through its intermediary role can influence both consumers and producers.

157. Several participants stressed the need for research on the costs of sustainable products and services, which, they felt, were not necessarily higher than those of unsustainable alternatives. It was observed that consumers sometimes just perceive the cost as being higher and the quality as being lower. This is not necessarily the case and consumer information and education should take this into account.

Working Group 4
Tools for Changing Production Patterns
Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group

158. The Working Group on Tools for Changing Production Patterns included 20 participants from 14 countries and 4 international organizations. The Working Group was Co-Chaired by Ms. Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, Ministry for the Environment, Germany, and Mr. Young-Woo Park, Korea National Cleaner Production Center.

A. Policy Goals

159. The group agreed that the policy goals for changing production patterns are to improve the productivity and competitiveness of business, with economic, environmental and social gains, create employment opportunities, improve corporate responsibility and accountability, ensure sustainable management of natural resources, with environmental, economic and social gains, internalize environmental and social costs in market prices, stimulate technology and social innovation, improve dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders, especially between employers and workers, and increase transparency. The group recognized cleaner production, cleaner products, and the replacement of products by services as important strategies for moving towards sustainable production patterns.

B. Instruments and tools

160. The group shared experiences in using different instruments for changing production patterns. It was agreed that changing production patterns requires a mix of instruments with a regulatory legal framework as the basis. The group also agreed that voluntary approaches, economic instruments and "soft-tools" are important and often effective in promoting sustainable production. It was recognized that not all instruments work in every country and in every situation, and that the policy mix has to be adapted. While developed countries are putting in place proactive programmes, the main challenge for many developing countries is to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework and to respond to international obligations. Despite the differences in challenges for countries, there was a common view that it was necessary to bring the issue of sustainable consumption and production "to the top" of government, private sector and civil society.

161. The group identified the following instruments and tools as having a positive impact on changing production patterns:

(a) **Regulatory legal framework:** The regulatory framework is the basis for the whole policy system. The Group recognized that enforcement and compliance are priorities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Environmental audits, sanctions and fees were recognized as effective tools to enforce minimum requirements. It was also noted that regulatory frameworks help to educate industry about their responsibilities. The Group agreed that proper institutional administrative structures with appropriate monitoring systems help to promote sustainable production.

(b) **Economic instruments and voluntary approaches:** The group heard examples of effective economic incentives and disincentives, such as taxes on CO_2 and sulfur emissions and energy and fertilizer use, as well as subsidies for renewable energy. Voluntary approaches such as labeling, standards and reporting were recognized as equally important and effective tools. A three-tier approach, composed of compliance with regulations, organized voluntary initiatives, and other voluntary initiatives, was presented and considered useful by the group.

(c) **Institutional settings and government programmes:** The group recognized that institutional settings to mobilize all stakeholders, such as social dialogue in enterprises and tripartite dialogue of unions, business and government, are successful in promoting sustainable production. The sector-specific advisory bodies developed in certain countries have proved helpful in policy development. Government programmes such as green procurement were also considered effective in promoting sustainable consumption and production. An integrated policy framework was recognized as necessary, and the development and implementation of integrated product policy was recommended.

(d) **Information, education and capacity building:** The group agreed that information, education and capacity building targeted at producers and consumers are essential for success in changing production patterns, thus stimulating supply and demand for sustainable production, products and services. The activities of national cleaner production centers in providing information, training and technical assistance have been very successful in promoting sustainable production and should be disseminated. Awareness raising campaigns, labeling, guidelines and manuals are important for assisting stakeholders in taking actions. It was recognized that governments, business and consumer organizations play an important role in providing information on products and services. The group identified a need to make greater use of the potential of media and advertising for promoting sustainable consumption and production.

(e) **Tools:** The group discussed a number of tools that are useful in promoting sustainable production such as sustainable development indicators, green accounting, life cycle assessment, environmental impact assessment, eco-design, environmental management systems, and supply chain management.

(f) **Partnerships:** The group agreed that partnerships between governments, international organizations, the private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders are successful instruments to promote sustainable production.

(g) **Research and development:** The group recognized the contribution of research and development to sustainable production. However, there is insufficient dissemination of information and know-how. More research and development is needed to develop leapfrogging eco-efficient technologies.

(h) **Technology transfer and finance:** The group noted that efforts are needed to enhance technology transfer, which was regarded as an important instrument to promote sustainable production. It was recognized that activities in the area of sustainable production often suffer from lack of funds.

C. Main challenges in implementation

162. The group agreed on a number of areas where challenges remain to be addressed. These challenges include:

(a) **Raising awareness on the benefits of cleaner production.** Many of the participants presented examples to demonstrate the environmental, economic and social gains achieved through cleaner production practice. However, these gains have not been widely recognized by producers, investors, trade unions, consumers and governments. Effective tools such as reporting, indicators, benchmarking and awards need to be promoted to increase transparency. Means and mechanisms for disseminating information on the benefits need to be explored and implemented, in particular to small and medium size enterprises.

(b) **Building capacities for wide adoption of cleaner production, especially in developing countries.**

(c) **Engaging small and medium size enterprises in adopting sustainable production patterns.**

(d) **Integrating cleaner production and sustainable development into formal education systems and vocational training.**

(e) **Changing consumer behaviour and consumption patterns, including by stressing the positive health and other social aspects of sustainable consumption and production**

(f) **Improving product design:** Product design has decisive impacts on production and consumption patters. The group pointed out that product design is mainly carried out in developed countries while developing countries are mostly involved in manufacturing. Production patterns in developing countries thus are often determined by the design done in developed countries.

(g) **Strengthening cooperation at international, regional and national levels:** The group highlighted the need for cooperation among international organizations, and for policy integration in particular at the national level. It was recognized that partnerships among all stakeholders are essential and need to be promoted at the national, regional and international level.

(h) **Obtaining political commitment and financial means.**

D. Priorities for future work at the national level, and action at the international level needed to support national action

163. The Group stressed the urgent need to mainstream sustainable consumption and production in all countries and institutions. It was recognized that sensitizing and capacity building at all levels and cooperation at and between all levels is essential for promoting a

culture of sustainable production and consumption. The Group suggested that sustainable management of natural resources be fully integrated with sustainable production. It was also mentioned that more financial means are needed for the implementation of sustainable development in developing and developed countries. The Group identified the following priorities:

(a) **Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production:**

(i) By bringing the issue of sustainable development, including sustainable consumption and production, to the highest level of governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to ensure proper decision making;

(ii) In the work of international and regional organizations, agencies and programmes in relation to their respective mandates. The group called for governments to bring the issue to the respective governing bodies;

(iii) In the work of national governments, the private sector and civil society;

(iv) In all relevant national strategies, with international support as appropriate;

(v) Into sector-specific policies for delinking economic growth and environmental degradation, including by setting targets and using appropriate instruments and tools;

(vi) By stimulating technology innovation and alternative business models;

(vii) By removing gradually with a view to phasing-out environmentally harmful subsidies;

(viii) By promoting sustainable product design.

(b) **Promoting stakeholder involvement and partnerships through:**

(i) Active involvement of stakeholders in all relevant international fora, and partnerships at all levels;

(ii) Active stakeholder participation on the national level through mechanisms such as stakeholder committees on sustainable consumption and production;

(iii) Calling on business and business associations to implement sustainable consumption and production, including through business-to-business partnerships at all levels, and promoting a sustainable business culture;

(iv) Strengthening efforts to promote corporate responsibility and accountability.

(c) **Disseminating information and practical tools, capacity building and education through:**

(i) Harmonizing methodologies and tools by providing guidelines, manuals, databases etc.;

(ii) Developing and disseminating practical tools for decision-making, such as environmental management accounting and life-cycle analysis;

(iii) Pursuing efforts to integrate the social dimension into accounting;

(iv) Implementing, where appropriate, and sharing experiences on integrated product policy approaches through international initiatives such as the UNEP-led life-cycle initiative;

(v) Creating additional cleaner production centers with support from UNEP, UNIDO and donors, and strengthening cooperation with similar efforts, such as the Asian Productivity Organization;

(vi) Developing adequate mechanisms to disseminate information on sustainable consumption and production to small and medium-sized enterprises;

(vii) Strengthening the ongoing work on sustainable development indicators by UN/DESA;

(viii) Integrating cleaner production and sustainable development into formal education and vocational training.

(d) **Undertaking future work on the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production by:**

(i) Calling on governments to specify their priorities in the area of sustainable consumption and production so that targeted responses can be formulated by international and regional organizations;

(ii) Calling on UNDESA and UNEP to:

- Expand the survey of international activities on consumption and production patterns prepared for this meeting with regard to the identified priorities;
- Create an interactive website for information sharing;
- Take the lead in coordinating work on sustainable consumption and production in the United Nations system;
- Create and facilitate, with support from donor countries, an informal mechanism, such as a task force or a roundtable on sustainable consumption and production, to promote progress regarding the 10-year framework.

III. Conclusions by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting

164. The Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, in which a number of priorities were identified, is a basic step towards the development of a 10-year framework of programmes, which needs to be further encouraged and promoted in order to ensure effective support to national and regional initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of the ecosystems.

165. In this respect, and while recognising the effectiveness of a set of actions which should be further pursued and reinforced at all levels, a number of challenges in implementation were identified which remain to be solved with respect to the four themes which had been identified for discussion.

166. The Marrakech Process emphasized the importance of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in formulating policies for promoting sustainable consumption and production. It further underlined the importance of ensuring the integration of sustainable consumption and production in national sustainable development strategies and, where applicable in poverty reduction strategies.

167. The Marrakech Process indicated that clearly defining sustainable consumption and production is key. After detailed debates on the breadth and scope of the subject over a significant period of time (10 years), the challenge is to move from the more generic to the specific and focus on implementation.

168. The need to obtain political commitment to the issue for sustainable consumption and production at the highest level in governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society was highlighted. Raising awareness on the benefits of sustainable consumption and production and mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production at all levels was considered essential.

169. The Marrakech Process recognised the importance for governments to specify their priorities in the area of sustainable consumption and production in order to ensure an effective and well targeted international cooperation.

170. For furthering progress in promoting sustainable consumption and production, institutional and social capacity building was seen as a major challenge. In addition, the need for development and diffusion of sustainable technologies and financial means for implementing policies and programmes for sustainable consumption and production was recognized.

171. Dissemination of information was considered important in promoting sustainable consumption and production and the need for effective use of practical tools, including awareness-raising, education, training, media and advertising was highlighted.

172. It was agreed that active involvement of all stakeholders in relevant fora at all levels is essential and should be promoted. Partnerships involving governments, international

organizations and civil society were considered a successful instrument to promote sustainable consumption and production.

Future work

173. The Co-Chairs of the International Expert Meeting welcomed the findings of the Working Groups on the future work. The four Groups identified a number of useful and concrete proposals, which should be considered at the national, regional and international level. The development of the 10-year framework is a continuous process towards the achievement of sustainable consumption and production patterns, which should be further elaborated through enhanced international cooperation.

174. The Co-Chairs recognised that this was the first meeting in a long-term process to provide input to the intergovernmental decision-making process and recognised the importance of more intergovernmental and institutional communication and cooperation on sustainable consumption and production. They also recognised the importance of strengthened interagency cooperation, coordination and follow up in support of national, sub-regional and regional activities.

175. This process should take into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development as well as public participation. Equity and access should also be taken into consideration, especially in relation to developing countries. For developing countries further work needs to be done, especially with regard to the means of implementation, including capacity building, training and technology transfer, with national as well as international support to promote investment in sustainable production by industries in developing countries.

176. The ongoing Marrakech Process should consist of:

(a) Targeted responses by international organisations corresponding to governments' priorities in the area of sustainable consumption and production. On this basis, UN DESA and UNEP are asked to expand the "Survey of International Activities on Consumption and Production Patterns" compiled by UN DESA, with regard to the identified priorities for the Marrakech Process to make it more comprehensive and make it available to all countries;

(b) Establishment of mechanisms that encourage and support information and experience sharing, network building, and dissemination of best practice. Such mechanisms could be interactive web sites and expert meetings on specific issues under the sustainable consumption and production umbrella;

(c) Involvement of all stakeholders and establishment of concrete partnerships. Business and business associations were called on to implement sustainable production and consumption including through business-to-business partnerships at all levels, and promote a sustainable business culture;

(d) An invitation to UN-DESA, together with UN-HABITAT, and in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant organizations and relevant financial institutions, to prepare, based on the work of this meeting, and in particular on the priorities identified at this meeting, a report on

the actions needed at the international level to support national action in the waste, transportation, construction, and water and sanitation sectors, indicating the agencies, organizations, institutions, etc. that should be involved in each action;

(e) Strengthening of regional processes in all regions, which would also contribute to the international process. At the international level, the Marrakech Process should include a broad expert meeting for the 10-year framework of programmes in two years time, supported by international organizations and donor contributions. The ongoing Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production should be supported by informal task forces or round tables on sustainable consumption and production, with participation of experts from developing and developed countries, to promote progress on the 10-year framework and the implementation of Chapter 3 in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) Subsequent international expert meetings to address a wide range of sustainable consumption and production issues, also taking into account the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(g) Dissemination of this report to other UN agencies, international financial institutions, NGOs and business. Governments are invited to take into account the outcome of this meeting in the preparations for the governing bodies of all relevant UN agencies and programmes.

177. The Meeting welcomed the intention of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to submit this Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 12th session, in April 2004.

178. The Co-Chairs, Working Group Co-Chairs and participants thank the Kingdom of Morocco for its generosity and hospitality in hosting this meeting and starting the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production. They also expressed their appreciation to the countries which provided financial support for the meeting, particularly for the support for the participation of experts from developing countries.