Towards Effective International Sustainable Consumption Policy

Beyond the Marrakech Process

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Pillars of International SCP Policy

“the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production...”

Agenda 21, Chapter 4

“To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption”

Rio Declaration, Principle 8
“A multipronged strategy”

“measures at international level...must take fully into account the current imbalances in the global patterns of consumption and production...”

“A 10-year Framework of Programmes...”

“Governments, working with appropriate organizations, should...develop a domestic policy framework...”

Agenda 21, §4.17

“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”

JPOI, §15
The Marrakech Process

Lessons learnt...

Challenges

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Framing the issue

Glass half-empty or glass half-full...?

How SCP is presented to stakeholders will determine how it is accepted or rejected

- Good Communication
- Positive examples
- Involve Stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement

To give the process/policies legitimacy
To get more viable/feasible policy options
To get public acceptance (e.g. through NGOs)
Practice what you preach

Government must be an example of the change they want to see:

- Green Public Procurement
- Green public buildings
- Including sustainability criteria in state funded programs

A framework of policy tools

- Education for sustainability
- Needs vs. wants
- Sustainable Lifestyles
- Consumption behavior & trends:
  - Consumer information
  - Right-to-Know
  - Values, norms & behavior

- Eco-labeling
- Packaging
- Pricing
- Transportation
- Advertising reform
- Trade

- Socially Responsible Investment
- Eco-taxes/shifts
- Subsidy reform
- Government procurement
- Investment guidelines
- Financial institutions reforms

- Life Cycle Analysis
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Polluter pays
- Integrated Product Policy
- Health & safety standards
- Clean production
- Industrial ecology
- Precautionary Principle

Sustainability Assessment:
- Analysis of impacts of current practices
- Analysis of effectiveness of policies
- Identification of obstacles
- Strategies for overcoming obstacles
Increasing Asian Regional Collaboration on SCP

- Develop Shared Vision for the region
- Collaborative research on regional specifics
- Exchange information and best practices
- Develop policies, plans and actions
- Implementation
- Monitoring, assessment of progress and identification of obstacles
- Contribute to international policy process and represent regional perspectives at global level
- Joint capacity building, innovative projects, campaigns

Strengthening the shift to SCP

- Move SCP responsibility up to strategic position within the government
- Take an integrated approach to SCP
- Ensure both “hardware” and “software” of SCP
- Develop national focal points
Be brave...

...and bold!

Thank you