

CSD Thematic Seminar Series

By Division for Sustainable Development

Seminar Series Overview

The focus of the two-year cycle of CSD-18 and CSD-19 is on reviewing progress and fostering implementation of sustainable development in the areas of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

In preparation for the CSD-18 Review Session, the CSD Secretariat is launching a new and innovative Thematic Seminar Series that will present scientific and technical information on the issues under review by the Commission to Second Committee delegates and others who are active in the CSD process. The CSD Thematic Seminar Series features presentations by technical experts, video documentaries highlighting challenges and successes, and interactive discussions. It is designed to add value to the CSD process by preparing CSD-18 participants to be informed about the latest research, data, case studies and challenges that will underpin the discussions during the CSD-18 Review Session.

Each three-hour seminar focuses on one of the five thematic issue areas and will be chaired by a member of the [CSD-18 Bureau](#). Expert speakers representing the UN system, governments, major groups, inter-governmental organizations, partnerships and inter-agency networks will serve as panelists and lead the discussions.

Seminar on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

The Sustainable Consumption and Production seminar will be held **Tuesday 23 March 2010** (10:00 am until 1:00 pm) at the **UNHQ - Conference Room 4**.

Chaired by Dr. [Ulf Jaekel](#), CSD Bureau member from Germany

Based on the Secretary General Report on “[Review of implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation \(JPOI\): 10 Year Framework of Programmes in support of Sustainable Consumption and Production](#)” DSD has prepared the following list of issues to be discussed:

Secretary General Report’s Summary (to be used to advertise the event)

“Accelerating the shift to Sustainable Production and Consumption -A 10 Year Framework of Programmes” DSD has prepared the following list of issues to be discussed:

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) calls on Governments and other stakeholders 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.”¹

The Secretary General’s report and the Division for Sustainable Development’s Trends Report on sustainable consumption and production conclude that eco-efficiency has been improving throughout the past century. However, absolute consumption of resources has continued to increase with population and GDP in both developed and developing countries. Absolute consumption of resources has even accelerated since 2000 with the rapid development of emerging economies. It is also becoming clear that development has exceeded the carrying capacity of ecosystems in various geographic areas, whether measured by the footprint analysis or by the number of endangered species, degraded ecosystems and land, deforestation or decrease in fish stocks. It is also clear that social inequalities are not being reduced with growth and globalization.

Therefore, more concerted efforts will be needed to delink or decouple economic growth from natural resource extraction, environmental degradation, and social inequities. Sustained efforts are needed to mainstream SCP, within a lifecycle perspective, in policy development and implementation. This is especially true on the consumption side where progress has been limited. The concept of green or sustainable growth is gaining acceptance and best practices are emerging on sustainable procurement, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green buildings, sustainable supply chain governance, and mainstreaming corporate responsibility. Less is known about the proper mix of measures, voluntary, market-based and mandatory, that can lead to SCP. Yet, constraints seem to be behavioral and political rather than technological, thus requiring more awareness raising, education, and pro-active policies.

Over the past two years the world has witnessed the emergence of multiple global crises related to food, fuel, and finance. Rapidly rising energy and food prices, global food shortages and water scarcity have, most recently, been overshadowed by a global financial crisis. Adding to the complexity of the situation is climate change, which is exacerbating the impact of each global crisis. The effects are felt across the globe and have specific implications for the achievement of the MDGs and sustainable development, while taking a disproportionate toll on the poor.

The challenge of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP is to ensure a quick shift in damaging consumption and production patterns to remain or return within the carrying capacities of ecosystems while ensuring upward convergence in standards of living across the planet and political and economic stability.

¹ Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, para. 15.