

An expert group meeting in preparation for HLPF 2018:
Advancing the 2030 Agenda: Interlinkages and Common Themes at the HLPF 2018

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United Nations Headquarters, New York

Session 8: SDG 12: Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns

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Building on synergies through Interlinkages between SDG 12 and other SDGs

Presentation by Loraine Gatlabayan, Executive Secretary, APRSCP Board of Trustees

My presentation will focus on why Interlinkages of SDG 12 and other SCP related goals are important to the Region. I will also highlight the importance of SCP, not only through its stand-alone goal, but also on how mainstreaming SCP into strategies, policies, implementation, and monitoring across sectors and thematic areas facilitate in achieving the SDGs.

With the adoption of the 10YFP on SCP and the SDGs, the frameworks for cooperation are now firmly in place. One of the great strengths of the SDGs is that recognition of the importance of restoring and maintaining the health of the natural resource base as a necessary condition for eradicating poverty and sustaining economic progress for all. That is why SCP has been identified as an over-arching objective, as a stand alone Goal SDG 12 and as a central component, an integrative approach, that addresses multiple linkages with other goals under various targets, thematic areas, and indicators. There are interlinkages between SDG 12 with SDG 2, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 through its targets and indicators and has indirect impact to other SDGs.

In Asia and the Pacific, unsustainable consumption and production patterns have led to increased deforestation, water scarcity, food waste, and high carbon emissions. These challenges are intensified with the region continually experiencing massive losses from natural disasters and climate change leading to more environmental destruction, economic loss, and loss of lives. The challenge remains today as the Region continues its prioritization of economic growth and infrastructure investments, which is increasing consumption and resource use.

However, despite these challenges, changes can be seen through the emergence of a strong regional approach for cooperation on SCP implementation. There has been significant progress in promoting and implementing SCP in the region through stakeholder involvement and through a continuous effort for knowledge sharing, private-public partnerships and the use of SCP tools and instruments. It is important to ensure that these efforts are in line with the global frameworks for cooperation, particularly its contribution to the achievement of the SDG 12 and related SDGs.

SDG 12 under Target 1 is important for the Region to ensure SCP is mainstreamed in various sectors and thematic areas, providing a monitoring framework to achieve the SDGs, and providing support through its six programmes from developed to developing countries.

Much has been done on implementing SCP through the global, regional, and sub-regional platforms such as the 10YFP on SCP, the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production or APRSCP, the sub-regional forums in the ASEAN and South Asia, and through the SWITCH-Asia Program, involving the UN Environment among others. It is important to build on what has been done through these initiatives and to further enhance collaboration through partnerships with governments, business sector, communities, and other stakeholders on the ground to build up this momentum.

APRSCP is a regional convening network that has been providing a sound platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships to advance SCP in the region. In the past 20 years, we have convened 13 Regional Roundtables on SCP and the upcoming 14th APRSCP will be hosted by the Government of Indonesia, which will be held middle of next year.

The APRSCP has been collaborating with partners particularly in the development of the two Asia Pacific Roadmaps on SCP since 2014, being initiated by the UNEP, supported by the 10YFP Board Members in Asia, the Governments of Japan, South Korea, and Indonesia and through the technical support from the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies.

The Roadmap aims to set a shared agenda for delivering on SCP related SDGs at regional and national levels, including through the 10YFP on SCP and other SCP mandates in Asia Pacific. The Asia Pacific roadmap identified the interlinkages of the SDGs to SCP under key priority SCP sectors and activities. The roadmap creates a platform to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support SCP initiatives in countries of the region. However, the Roadmap has to be aligned to the formal process particularly within the 10YFP on SCP and other formal SDG Process for it to be implemented.

Mainstreaming SCP through policy, technical and social innovation has been done through the Region's cooperation mechanisms, strategic thinking, regional and national policy designs, and implementation efforts with key partners. A number of countries in the region have already formed their national action plans on SCP that identified needs and priorities of stakeholders and formulate recommendations towards a shared agenda in terms of delivering on SDG12 and the SCP related targets under other SDGs, as well as the 10YFP on SCP and other SCP mandates. For implementation and monitoring of these national action plans, much support is needed coming from regional and global platforms to provide support through initiatives in advancing data availability, science, technology and innovation, financing, and capacity development.

However, at the end of the day these top down initiatives could only prosper through political will to implement actions on the ground. Most important of all is the need for a high-level commitment for integration that takes into account these SDGs interlinkages that may be formalized, elaborated, and supported in strategies and policy frameworks to give clear guidance for concrete trade-offs and prioritizations that need to be made at the project design and implementation level.

It is important that global and regional efforts will create a platform to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support SCP initiatives in the national and local level.

It is important to invest in frameworks, knowledge and data generation and indicators as SCP requires data and indicators that incorporate economic accounts, as well as environmental and social accounts. These datasets inform National Governments to make better policy decisions across sectors related to the SDGs.

Based on the Report “Resource use in the Asia Pacific” published by UN Environment in 2015, the Asia-Pacific region consumes more than half of the world’s materials with increasing rates of growth and increasing material use per person.

The use of materials in the Asia-Pacific region increased from 5.7 to 37 billion tonnes per year between 1970 and 2010. Global material consumption is 70 billion tonnes per year, so the Asia-Pacific region uses approximately 53%. Energy consumption has increased more than fourfold in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and is dominated by non-renewable energy sources. Water use per person is decreasing and water efficiency is improving, driven by the agricultural sector and irrigation. Despite a fourfold increase in GHG emissions in the region, there has been a dramatic reduction of carbon intensity in developing countries.

It is also important for countries to get available data for better policy decisions and monitoring, and to build their capacity in developing national SEEA reports to facilitate the integration of environmental and economic statistics. There are many resources and initiatives out there as well to take account such as ESCAP’s work through statistical yearbook 2017; there are support provided to countries to get reliable data and statistics **on sustainable cities and infrastructure** (HABITAT III); support and capacity building provided by international organizations such as the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES - World Bank) ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts; or **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity** (TEEB led by UNEP) with the objective to mainstream the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels.

The UNEP report “Indicators for a Resource Efficient and Green Asia and the Pacific” – provides relevant data available for 26 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which was developed by UNEP together CSIRO, in partnership with the APRSCP and went through consultations with 19 countries within the region. This ensures collaboration

It is therefore important to understand better the trends of resource use and resource efficiency in the region as a vital step for designing policies to tackle inefficiencies, which influences its policy decisions towards achievement of the SDGs. There is still much work to do in mainstreaming the SCP in the global approaches in economic development and trade, and finance. There is a need to mainstream life-cycle approaches and long-term thinking in global models, systems and institutions.

There is a need to undertake further research and capacity-building initiatives among stakeholders in the global, regional, and national level on understanding SCP interlinkages and in the use of SCP strategies and tools to various stakeholders from concerned sectors to achieve the SDGs.

With the view to catalyzing implementation and delivery of SCP on the ground, APRSCP will work more with practitioners on the ground, advocating the bottom up approach in Asia Pacific Region in collaboration with Partners, and channeling the voice of stakeholders of the Region to the International Community. Let's collaborate.