

Intervention by Dr. Saroj, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, on the Secretary General's Report on 10 Year Framework of Programmes in support of Sustainable pattern of Consumption and Production(SCP) – CSD-18, 7 May 2010

Distinguished Chair,

Permit me to thank you for allowing me to present by delegation's views on this vital subject of Sustainable pattern of Consumption and Production. May I also take this opportunity to complement the Secretary General for the Report on SCP.

Mr. Chairman, we fully understand the importance of moving towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production; a proposition which is at the heart of our collective commitment to sustainable development. We agree that individual governments should be making efforts towards sustainable public procurement; however this should be in conformity with their domestic policies. We would also like to draw attention to para 50 of the Secretary General's Report on SCP wherein it has been said that the UN has adopted a strategy to move towards sustainable management systems, including its procurement needs, in all its programmes, funds and specialized agencies.

We believe the UN greening process should be an 'example setting process' and should not possibly result in handicaps for developing

countries that are part of the existing procurement system. An adequate phasing out time should be provided to the developing countries to adapt themselves to the changing requirements.

Mr. Chairman, the Secretary General's Report states that certification schemes have helped make progress on reducing resource and pollution intensity of products and have had positive social impacts in developing countries. We believe that while this may be true in certain cases, the general feeling in many developing countries is that there is a risk of such standards, which prima facie appear to be voluntary in nature, of becoming barriers to trade.

The report also highlights the leadership of multinational corporations in promoting sustainable production practices along their global supply chains. To this, we would like suggest that commensurate care ought to be taken that such policies of MNCs do not come in conflict, in the context of equity, especially for development of the small and medium enterprises in developing nations.

Developing countries, including India, have been working towards strengthening their internal enabling environment for sustaining adequate levels of SCP investments. However, far more financial resources and transfer of technologies are required to support research and development and innovation in critical areas of SCP

action. Taking up initiatives for the development of clean energy alternatives like the solar option and low polluting cost effective technologies for the SSI sector would be steps in the right direction.

Thank you.