

EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Views of Turkey on Sustainable Consumption and Production

High Level Segment: Round Table 1

12 May 2010

Thank you Madam Co-Chair.

Distinguished delegates,

Manmade pressure on the earth's ecosystem urges fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume. One of the most important elements of sustainable development is sustainable consumption and production which balances economic, social and environmental factors in the life cycle of products and which is among the key development priorities of many countries.

We note that many countries have already implemented a diversity of policy measures such as using and promoting clean technologies, increasing environmental awareness in production and consumption and increasing efficiency in the use of resources, and ensuring a balanced economic and social development as well as mitigating environmental damages by changing the patterns of production and consumption of goods and services.

Madam Co-Chair,

Existing measures promoting cleaner production like financial incentives for the environmentally sound investments, R&D support, project financing, voluntary agreements with subsidy awards minimum performance standards for buildings, transportation vehicles have only supply side impact. However it is essential to find solutions to manage the demand side as well. Unless behaviors and life styles of some societies are shifted, sustainable consumption so the sustainable production cannot be achieved.

All countries can learn from each other. Developed countries have experience in sustainable production that can be transferred to developing countries. Developing countries have experience in sustainable consumption practices that developed countries can learn from. Good practices and means of partnerships should be established in these themes.

Many countries have concern that such sustainable production practices may become a bottleneck for growth. We should build trust among all nations that top priority is to improve quality of life of all people in a healthy environment. Therefore, policies promoting sustainable production and consumption should be country driven and participation should be on voluntary basis. However, a vision, global objectives including partnerships and implementation mechanisms with a progress tracking system is needed.

Madam Co-Chair,

Some SME's may negatively impacted because of the initiatives of sustainable production like blacksmiths impacted with the invention of motorized transportation. We have to let it go, we have to let some polluting producing systems go if we have a better and a greener production option. What we need Madam Co-chair is incentives awarding good practices only.

In concluding, it is our expectation and hope that this Review session will pave the road to a productive and successful policy development session next year.

Thank you.