



Statement
by
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on
10 – Year Framework of Programs on
Sustainable Consumption and Production
at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting
for 19 th session United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

Mr. Chairman,

Drawing lessons from the Commission's review of activities in the area of sustainable consumption and production last year, it is clear that more programmes and initiatives are necessary to help create mutually supportive consumer-producer partnerships across the world, which support long-term economic development in a manner that protects and manages our natural resource base more wisely. Here, Governments can play an important role in fostering a shift from current habits towards more sustainable means of consumption and production practices by adoption of cross-sectoral policies. Furthermore, they can try to lead by example, through instigating sustainable consumption practices and management of their impact in the daily conduct of government business.

As a Mediterranean country, enjoying rich natural and cultural heritage, Croatia is fully aware of the strategic importance of minimizing the negative impact of its economic development on its basic common goods. With that aim in mind, the Croatian Parliament enacted a National Sustainable Development Strategy in 2009.

With the support of UNEP, Croatia is currently developing an Action Plan for sustainable consumption and production to serve as an implementation tool for its National Strategy for Sustainable Development. This Action Plan aims to introduce the fundamental principle of systems and life-cycle thinking. Furthermore it aims at making Croatian national policies more sustainable by taking a more synergetic approach through the integration of other policies in the areas of industry, transport, energy, agriculture, tourism, research and development, as well as education.

Through the ongoing work of a mutli-stakeholder and mutli-sectoral working group mandated to develop the Action Plan, already there is a recognition that even small scale measures can bring significant benefits. However, it is also recognized that major investments will be required especially in the industrial sector. This will involve implementing measures for cleaner production, pollution prevention and control. Croatia has started employing an integrated approach to control environmental impacts of certain industrial activities through a single permitting process.

Within Croatia's private sector, there is a growing recognition that corporate social responsibility is a very important. Commercial entities are becoming more aware that they can simultaneously increase their sustainable practices whilst further developing their enterprises. In supporting further promotion of the CSR concept a CSR Index has been developed as a voluntary evaluation model of such practices for Croatian businesses.

Mr. Chairman,

Fully aware of the critical role education plays in this issue, Croatia has developed an Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development, which is currently undergoing a public consultation process. We would like to highlight here one of the measures therein aimed at educating civil servants on sustainable development and their role in designing and promoting effective policies. Under a project implemented last year, 20 trainers were trained to hold workshops on sustainable development within the regular training programme of the Ministry of Administration.

Needless to say, there exists a strong linkage between SCP and a Green Economy. In an effort to strengthen regional collaboration to address these two important topics and contribute to both CSD and RIO + 20 processes, Croatia and Serbia, in partnership with UNEP, will convene a „South Eastern European Green Economy/Sustainable Consumption and Production“ meeting to be held in April this year in Belgrade.

To conclude Mr. Chairman,

A very important outcome of CSD 18 was the call for a unifying framework of programmes that could reduce the current fragmentation and dissonance among various initiatives and instruments. Looking forward, it is our hope that CSD 19 will result in an agreement as to a vision for the 10 YFP. However, it is important that any institutionalized global mechanism draws on existing structures, involving major stakeholders, and is integrated, where possible, into existing cooperation activities in this area. Furthermore, the Framework should be designed so as to address all pillars of sustainable development and foster implementation of global sustainable development commitments. Finally, to ensure implementation on the ground, as you pointed out Mr. Chairman, it should facilitate mainstreaming of SCP objectives into national policies.