

Executive summary – Africa Chapter

Africa is the world's second largest continent covering an area of approximately 30.3 million square kilometers, with 54 countries and is characterized by a great socio-economic, environmental and cultural diversity hosting a total of a total of 1,186 million people. According to Africa review report on sustainable consumption and production issued by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in 2009, the African region faces particular challenges when it comes to operating the shift towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Addressing the environment, economic and social pillars of sustainability simultaneously is a true imperative for African countries' development. The capacity of the region to satisfy the basic needs and aspirations of their people as well as of future generations: "For many poor people in Africa, the quality of their environment and the natural resource base is a matter of survival".

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, Heads of State adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, a **global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries.** The central role of this framework in achieving sustainable development is affirmed under Agenda 2030 as a standalone target (12.1) calling for its implementation.

The Framework aims at creating a global movement and generating collective impact through multiple channels, including six multi-stakeholder programmes (food systems, public procurement, consumer information, lifestyles and education, tourism, buildings and construction), which serve as "accelerators" to develop, replicate and scale up policies and initiatives at all levels. It also fosters knowledge and experience sharing, and facilitates access to technical and financial resources for developing countries. UN Environment serves as the Secretariat.

Africa is the world's second fastest growing economy following East Asia and is expected to remain so until at least 2020. Africa's contribution to the global GDP also remains marginal: for instance, Sub-Saharan Africa generates only slightly more than 2% of the global GDP and contributes only modestly to world trade. In the mean time, Africa's GDP per capita in 2015 remained more than five times less (1,898) than the global average (10,005). **The limited diversification of African economies is among the main reasons given for this phenomenon,** beyond the diversification of economies. According to the Economic Commission for Africa, the **low value attributed to natural resources on international trade markets** is also at issue, as it means that those countries with comparative advantage in natural resources are put at a paradoxical economic disadvantage, the costs of natural resources being largely under-estimated and still considered as "externalities." **Transferring wealth into improved well-being and reducing inequalities remains the biggest challenge for Africa,** to which sustainable consumption and production must also respond

Africa is also one of the continents that are the most vulnerable to environmental degradation, although it has the smallest ecological and CO2 footprints per capita in the world (1,4 ton/ha per capita, versus respectively 2,8 ha per capita and 4,9 ton-capita in average globally). In another note, according to International Resource Panel, the region's Material Footprint (MF) per capita is 2,86 tonnes per capita in average, 3,5 times less than the world average which is 10,1 tonnes per capita. Several factors put Africa at risk of increasing their deficit rapidly and endangering the already fragile foundation of their development, especially if sustainable consumption and production patterns are not further advanced. Although Africa has the smallest ecological and material footprints among all regions, big disparities can be observed:

according to the World Economic Forum, based on the data provided by the Global Footprint Network for 2013, of the **52 countries in Africa with available data, 30 countries are in environmental deficit**. In this context, transitioning to sustainable consumption and production represents a great opportunity for Africa, not only to support the economic development of the region, but also to address poverty and reduce inequalities. In the same time, the transitions were also strengthening the efforts of the region towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

This report presents an overview of policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production advanced by the governments of the African region. Although not pretending to present an exhaustive overview of those policies and initiatives, the report was developed based on a broad literature review, including key reports produced by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, as well as on the results of a pilot survey conducted by UN Environment serving as Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP end of 2015, and to which nine African countries participated. It provides key elements of the African region's socio-economic and environmental profile, which sets the scene, an introduction to regional frameworks and networks promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns across Africa, as well as an initial review of relevant national policy frameworks and instruments, with two objectives: **understanding on-going efforts to create the conditions for an economy of sustainable development, and laying the foundations for a baseline that can serve as a starting point to track progress on sustainable consumption and production policies in the region, in the context of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

This report also presents several case studies from Zambia, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, as well as a country success story from Mauritius, as inspiring examples of government-led initiatives for sustainable consumption and production.

Africa's approach to SCP

Sustainable consumption and production is anchored in Africa's regional cooperation frameworks, and networks, started with the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in 1985. One of AMCEN flagship is in the creation of a Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa to hasten the implementation of global 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the region. **In the same time continuous efforts in replicating and scaling successful activities and initiatives in partnership with primary regional institutions being harnessed** such as with the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) and the African Union (AU). Activity areas for the African Partnership for SCP included: seeking additional partners and secure funding, providing **capacity building** on SCP at regional and national levels, **mainstreaming SCP strategies**, and action plans in the national sustainable development agendas, **support and strengthening the existing initiatives.**

Many African countries envisage the shift to sustainable consumption and production as a growing opportunity to provide sustainable solutions to their most essential needs

and strategic priorities. According to this report, **at least from 21 African countries concern in this study, 57% of the countries have or are developing a specific national SCP action plan, 47% have integrated SCP as a key development priority within their national sustainable development strategy and 38% in their national green economy strategy. In total, SCP has been addressed at a national and cross-sectoral level in at least 21 of the 54 African countries, nearly 40% of them.**

The shift towards sustainable consumption and production systems is also perceived as a unique opportunity to “leapfrog” to a new model of growth and development, which can avoid the consumption-driven impacts, observed in so-called developed but also be emerging economies worldwide. **There are already some positive indicators reflecting the huge potential of Africa for economic development and innovation** also an immense potential for shifting quickly towards sustainable but also competitive consumption and production systems.

The sample of national SCP policies and initiatives collected through the 10YFP Secretariat’s global pilot survey conducted end of 2015, and to which 9 African countries had responded, reflects some evolution. In total, **36 policies and initiatives were reported.** With regards to the type of policies reported, more than half of them are sectoral policies (58% of the whole sample), mainly on food and agriculture (38%), energy and climate (29%), biodiversity, water and forests (19%), tourism and waste in a more marginal way (respectively 10% and 5%). Overarching policies – policy frameworks, strategies and action plan – represent 22% of the whole sample, while cross-cutting policies represent only 19%.

The region is also developing a lot of efforts to facilitate business development: in 2014-15, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for about 30% of the regulatory reforms intended to facilitate business development, followed by Europe and Central Asia. Those indicators can be interpreted as signs of a “potential industrial take-off” – making sure these investments and this development are sustainable is essential to the future of Africa.

The evolution of direct foreign investment in the region seems to confirm the growing role of manufacturing and consumer goods in the economy. According to the African Development Bank, countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, which are not considered as “resource-rich,” received an estimated 37% of Africa’s foreign direct investment in 2015, compared to 30% in 2010.

Major cooperation and development platforms funded by the European Commission have been established to support the mainstreaming of the green economy, and sustainable consumption and production approaches in Africa through SWITCH Africa Green and also SWITCH Med. Furthermore, **the United Nations Development Account (UNDA)** also funded an SCP mainstreaming initiatives through sustainable agriculture in Zambia.

Key challenges and opportunities

- Africa is in a unique position to build resource-efficient and competitive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns. The region can respond to significant social needs and to boost its economic development through a smart diversification of activities. Also, an approach to adopt an inclusive and sustainable model of development such as industrial acceleration, sustainable infrastructure and energy, agriculture, tourism, and ICT which could provide employment, enhance incomes and raise financial resources needed to stimulate growth

- A high political commitment in addressing SCP by anchoring those policies in the context of the national development strategies is a key for African countries to make progress under Agenda 2030, and they have built a robust framework for cooperation to achieve this objective. There is also a high coherence between the regional and national levels of action. However, stronger links with other key related instruments on sustainable development, climate change policies and resource mobilisations (especially on funding and investment) are needed.
- A number of recurrent obstacles to implementation are frequently identified during the design phase of the policy such as the lack of coordination and communication among actors, insufficient law enforcement, lack of technical capacities, and scientific knowledge with regards to resource consumption and associated economic cost or benefits as well.
- Despite the complexity and diversity of the challenges identified by the pilot survey conducted in 2015 by the UN Environment participating countries, and to be successful in mainstreaming and implementing SCP, a stronger consensus, however, to be emerging with regards to capacity building needs. The capacity building should focus on strengthening institutional capacities for project management, implementation and monitoring, policy design, knowledge transfer, learning and information sharing, as well as communications and awareness-raising, and education.

Executive Summary – Europe Chapter

The pan-European region, comprising Europe including Israel and Turkey, Russia and the Central Asia region, is an enormous and diverse region with a population of almost 1 billion. Despite the severe shock of the 2007 – 2008 economic crisis and the on-going difficulties faced by many countries within the region, pan-Europe remains a pre-eminent part of the global economy. This is particularly due to the presence of the European Union which is the world's largest single market and also Russia, a large country with significant natural resources. Regardless of economic disparities the region is predominantly urbanized and also has high levels of human development (as measured by the human development index).

This report gives a non-exhaustive examination of the national policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production in the pan-European region. It is based on the results of a pilot survey conducted end of 2015 by UN Environment, serving as Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes, to which 18 countries from the pan-European region responded. However it should be noted that the vast majority of the responses were from countries within the European Union or European Free Trade Area. The report provides: 1) key elements of the region's socio-economic and environmental profile; 2) an introduction to regional frameworks and networks promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns; as well as 3) an initial review of relevant national policy frameworks and instruments. The report aims to develop a baseline understanding of current situation with the region towards highlighting both gaps and opportunities and potential for integration into Agenda 2030.

Pan-European Approach to Sustainable Consumption and Production

The European Union has been able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 20% from their 1990 levels by 2015. However, this can partially be seen as a result of globalization. As the economies of the countries of the European Union have increasingly switched to service orientation, much of the high emissions industry has been moved to Asia masking the real impact of European citizen behaviour. Nevertheless the European Union has a positive impact on cleaner production globally due to its environmental standards which must be complied with for access to the market. Examining from the point of view of the ecological footprint indicator (whereby the environmental impacts of production are measured at the point of consumption, not production) pan-European citizens live beyond the earth's carrying capacity to a significant degree. This is most pronounced in the European Union but there are no countries within the region living within carrying capacity.

This impact has been increasingly acknowledged in recent years with lifestyles and consumption based approaches starting to emerge in government policy, highlighting the global impact of consumer behaviour and raising awareness of the issue. Moreover, with the advent of Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production there is a significant opportunity for the pan-European region to align its work with the global framework. With its large resources and also global impact through its considerable soft power, the European Union and the pan-European region as a whole have a significant opportunity to lead the shift towards more sustainable living through their on-going initiatives as well as the 2030 Agenda.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

European countries leading the way on consideration of lifestyles, with growing awareness of the impact of the European consumer.

The pan-European region, particularly the European Union, is one of the key sources of global consumer demand. This being the case, it is well situated to positively impact global consumption and production through encouraging sustainable consumption patterns within the region as well as positively impacting cleaner production processes through its import regulations. Countries which have been particularly forward thinking in this area include Finland, Germany, Israel and Sweden who have made addressing people's lifestyles across a variety of domains such as food, mobility and housing explicit parts of their national strategies.

Monitoring and measuring issues

The European Union and its member states have developed deep environmental datasets which have assisted considerably in understanding the current situation in Europe and accompanying trends. However there are now a variety of datasets and with the advent of Agenda 2030, work on integrating the variety of indicators which have been developed is on-going. Outside of the EU and EFTA, the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy has indicators which appear implied rather than actual. Countries also tend to have a limited number of indicators relating to sustainable consumption and production.

Greater stakeholder engagement

A need for greater stakeholder engagement was highlighted by the responses to the survey, with less than 50% of the responding countries have participation of business or academia in institutionalized set-ups for SCP policy-making at the national level. Moreover, whilst a variety of ministries are often involved in SCP policies due to its cross cutting nature, SCP tends to be part of sustainable development efforts rather than having a focus of its own. Further efforts to integrate a wider variety of stakeholders and increases in the involvement of the voluntary sector and youth will be needed to ensure the successful implementation of sustainable consumption and production regionally.

Unification of approaches under the Agenda 2030 and European Frameworks

The European Union and the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy have broadly created a regional framework and approach for SCP as a subset of sustainable development approaches. Agenda 2030, specifically the sustainable consumption and production goal (goal 12), provides an opportunity for a greater direct focus on the topic. The initial work on sustainable lifestyles in particular demonstrates a potentially effective and engaging means of raising awareness and increasing participation by all stakeholders and at all levels.

Executive Summary – LAC

Latin America and the Caribbean is an extremely diverse region environmentally, economically and culturally, with great opportunities for sustainable development ahead. However, the region also faces great challenges, which range from poverty, to demographic dynamics and urbanization, vulnerability to extreme natural events, exacerbated by climate change, as well as dependency on the environment and natural resources. **Almost 80% of the population lives in cities**, which makes this region the most urbanized one in the world. According to the World Bank, **the average GDP per capita of the region was USD 8,499 in 2015**, close to global average, while the **region's Material Footprint (MF) per capita (10,3 tonnes)** stands just above global average. In the meantime, 30 million people are at risk of sliding back into poverty or vulnerability. **Latin American and Caribbean economies, especially those from South America, have been heavily based on exportation of commodities.** With the new global economic scenario, which is notably based on lower commodity prices, the region is in search of **new opportunities for diversification, which sustainable consumption and production markets could offer.** In Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes 6 of the 17 megadiverse countries of the planet, the **bio-capacity per capita is the highest in the world (5.31)**. Biodiversity is therefore of great value to this region, which also represents only **5% of the global Greenhouse Gas emissions**. In this context, transitioning to sustainable consumption and production represents a great opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean, not only to support the economic development of the region, but also to address poverty and reduce inequalities while strengthening the efforts of the region towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, Heads of State adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, a **global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries**. The central role of this framework in achieving sustainable development is affirmed under Agenda 2030 as a standalone target (12.1) calling for its implementation. The Framework aims at creating a global movement and generating collective impact through multiple channels, including six multi-stakeholder programmes (food systems, public procurement, consumer information, lifestyles and education, tourism, buildings and construction), which serve as “accelerators” to develop, replicate and scale up policies and initiatives at all levels. It also fosters knowledge and experience sharing, and facilitates access to technical and financial resources for developing countries. UN Environment serves as the Secretariat.
More information: www.scpclearinghouse.org

This report presents an overview of policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production advanced by the governments of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Although not pretending to present an exhaustive overview of those policies and initiatives, the report was developed based on extensive literature review as well as on the results of a pilot survey conducted by UN Environment serving as Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP end of 2015, to which 12 Latin American and the Caribbean countries responded. The report provides key elements of the Latin American and Caribbean region's socio-economic and environmental profile, which sets the scene, an introduction to regional frameworks and networks promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as an initial review of relevant national policy frameworks and instruments, with two objectives: **understanding ongoing efforts to create the conditions for an economy of sustainable development, and laying the foundations for a baseline that can**

serve as a starting point to track progress on sustainable consumption and production policies, in the context of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report also present several **case studies from Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Costa Rica, as well as a country success story from Brazil**, as inspiring examples of government-led initiatives for sustainable consumption and production.

Latin America and the Caribbean's approach to SCP

Latin American and Caribbean governments have a long history supporting sustainable consumption and production on the political agenda at the national, regional and international levels. The region has been cooperating in the context of a solid political framework established as soon as 2003, which led to the establishment of the Regional Council on Sustainable Consumption and Production (formerly *Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production*) as well as to the adoption of one of the first regional strategies for sustainable consumption and production. The region has continuously reiterated its commitment since then, including in March 2016 through the Forum of Ministers of Environment, which committed to support the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and to maintain an active role in its promotion.

Many Latin American and Caribbean countries envisage the shift to sustainable consumption and production as a rising opportunity to provide sustainable solutions to their most important needs and strategic priorities. According to this report, **at least 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries have, in the past or recently, addressed sustainable consumption and production through national policy frameworks.** The region was a pioneer in establishing national cleaner production policies, starting in 2004, and in developing specific sustainable consumption and production policies since 2010, reflecting the evolution of the approach globally, and the increasing importance of sustainable consumption issues. Even more recently, circular economy, sustainable development and green economy/green growth policy approaches have been used to address sustainable consumption and production themes.

Business-oriented interventions play an important role in the region when it comes to promoting sustainable consumption and production. The sample of policies countries reported on through the pilot survey conducted in 2015 by UN Environment shows a particularly strong focus on **industry, corporate social responsibility, green jobs or technologies.** Partnerships and voluntary agreements are also an important component of the reported policies, particularly as a means of engaging the private sector. On the other hand, **economic and financial instruments** do not represent many cases among the reported policy instruments, despite international recommendations. Those instruments, such as taxes, can effectively influence consumers' behaviour but also often come along with high political costs.

Efforts have been deployed at the regional level to develop a monitoring scheme dedicated to measuring progress towards sustainable consumption and production, including through the development of pilot indicators. Such a monitoring framework is needed to support countries in measuring the benefits resulting from the implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies or instruments, as well as to continue making strategic choices.

Key challenges and opportunities

- Implementing the regional strategy for sustainable consumption and production is key for Latin American and Caribbean countries to make progress under Agenda

2030, and they have built a powerful framework for cooperation to achieve this objective. There is also a strong coherence between the regional and national levels of action. However, stronger links with other key related instruments on sustainable development, climate change policies and others are needed. There is a strong interest in developing South-South cooperation within the region, as well as to see specific initiatives such as the “Sustainable Consumption and Production for SIDS Initiative” better supported. Resource mobilization, through funding and investments, could also be approached from a regional cooperation perspective.

- Together with the business case, capacity-building efforts are needed for institutional actors to capture the benefits associated with an economy based on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production patterns. Communications and awareness raising, as well as strengthening policy design and institutional capacities are perceived as priorities in terms of capacity-building.
- Countries’ efforts to advance sustainable consumption and production can only be successful with full engagement of all stakeholders, especially from the private sector, including in order to triggering the investments needed to transform the economy at scale. A lot of work is still needed for sustainable consumption and production objectives to be integrated into business models and management, and along the value chains in general, with the active engagement of Small and Medium size Enterprises and multinational companies.
- Many remain unaware of the consequences the “business as usual” development path, together with lifestyles based on consumerism, will have in the short term. Awareness-raising and communications are key to better inform citizens and promote sustainable lifestyles, not only highlighting environmental benefits but also social and economic ones. This is also a condition for the development and extension of a domestic markets for sustainable products in the region.

Executive Summary – Asia Chapter

Asia is rapidly growing and urbanizing, leading to ever-greater resource use and environmental stress. Global value chains are an important part of Asian income and employment growth (ADB 2014). As broadly conceived, the region is indeed economically structured towards trade, with 13 out of 38 developing economies in the Asia-Pacific reporting a total value of exported goods and services being more than 50% of GDP. In the meantime, ecological footprints are increasing rapidly with some industrializing countries already operating beyond planetary boundaries. In response to this, stakeholders across the region are increasingly utilizing sustainable consumption and production approaches and a sound foundation for such work has been laid. Opportunities but also challenges to not only achieve resource efficiency but also adopt more holistic and integrated approaches are huge in Asia. In this regard, the advent of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the 10-Year Framework Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production represent a clear opportunity to bring together a currently fragmented approach and build upon the promising foundations laid.

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, Heads of State adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, a **global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries**. The central role of this framework in achieving sustainable development is affirmed under Agenda 2030 as a standalone target (12.1) calling for its implementation.

The Framework aims at creating a global movement and generating collective impact through multiple channels, including six multi-stakeholder programmes (food systems, public procurement, consumer information, lifestyles and education, tourism, buildings and construction), which serve as “accelerators” to develop, replicate and scale up policies and initiatives at all levels. It also fosters knowledge and experience sharing, and facilitates access to technical and financial resources for developing countries. UN Environment serves as the Secretariat.

More information: www.scpclearinghouse.org

This report looks at national policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production in Asia, without pretending to offer an exhaustive inventory of such policies and initiatives. It was developed based on literature review, integrating information collected through key regional projects such as SWITCH Asia and SwitchMed¹. The report is also based on the results of a pilot survey conducted end of 2015 by UN Environment, serving as Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes, to which only 7 countries from Asia (including Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand for the Asia-Pacific region, and Jordan, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates for West Asia) responded. In this context, the report provides: 1) key elements of the Asian region’s socio-economic and environmental profile, which sets the scene; 2) an introduction to regional frameworks and networks promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns; as well as 3) an initial review of relevant national policy frameworks and instruments. The report has two objectives: understanding ongoing efforts to create the conditions for an economy of sustainable development, and laying the foundations for a baseline that can serve as a starting point to track progress on sustainable consumption and production policies in the region, in the context of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report also present several **case studies from Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, as well as a country success story from Malaysia**, as

¹ For more information on the EU-funded projects SWITCH Asia and SwitchMed, please visit: <http://www.switch-asia.eu/> and <http://www.switchmed.eu/fr>.

inspiring examples of government-led initiatives for sustainable consumption and production.

Asia's approach to sustainable consumption and production

Efforts in Asia with regards to sustainable consumption and production have so far predominantly focused on the manufacturing sector, cleaner production, pollution control, waste management and efficiency approaches, as evidenced by the emphasis on the development of resource focused policies, such as those for energy and water. Policies reported in 2015 reflected this tendency, with emphasis being put on manufacturing but also, to a certain extent, on market-based instruments such as eco-labeling and public procurement. In recent years, some countries, such as Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam, have also started addressing social aspects, as shown through efforts towards considering sustainable consumption. As a major global production centre, Asia has indeed the potential to be a model for sustainable manufacturing, consumption, and takeback system. Building on good practices from the region, introducing progressive circular economy instruments, such as remanufacturing and refurbishing, and creating sharing economy business opportunities and other service industries will be a further opportunity.

In terms of the policy landscape, there are currently few national plans specifically dedicated to sustainable consumption and production in the region. Examples include Viet Nam and Malaysia, which have developed national plans and Indonesia, which has developed a national framework in line with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. In West Asia - Mashriq countries in particular, Jordan and Lebanon have also specific national action plans in 2016 and 2015, respectively. Other countries, such as China with its National Plan on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrate sustainable consumption and production into a broad sustainable development strategy, whiel green growth has increasing prominence in the region. The approach is welcomed by Asian countries who wish to both industrialise without going through a heavily polluting phase as well as placing economic growth in the context of sustainable development.

Key challenges and opportunities:

1. Towards more holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable consumption and production

Building on and strengthening the excellent existing efforts in the production side and infrastructure, the region could move forward to transitional and progressive policies addressing lifestyles through a systemic approach. The role Asia plays in global value chains Asia is central and offers large opportunities for developing resource efficient production practices, but it is also at a turning point to to integrate sustainable consumption dimensions and prevent industrialisation and urbanisation from leading to an unsustainable high consumption culture. Enhancing such a transition would be urgent in high-income countries, where consumption and footprint hits the highest level in the world. It is also important that low to middle income countries understand the positive role of sustainable consumption and production in their development - not as a means of austerity, but of improving the quality of growth and thereby the quality of life.

2. Unification of approaches under the Sustainable Development Goals framework

A sound foundation for sustainable consumption and production exists within the region, through multiple and complementary approaches, and can be further advanced with the unifying framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as with the

support of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes, Sustainable Consumption and Production. At the national level, the opportunity to develop national sustainable consumption and production plans, as mandated under Sustainable Development Goals indicator 12.1.1, could be used to conduct baseline research to understand the current national situation and then develop holistic national plans using a multi-stakeholder approach.

3. Increase in capacity building, technical and financial support, as well as in domestic investments

Sustainable consumption and production is currently mainly externally driven in Asia, with many processes requiring technical assistance from and funding of external actors. However, external funding remains insufficient and will need to be expanded dramatically if the Sustainable Development Goals and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes are to be successfully implemented in the region. On the other hand, a number of countries in the region are increasing their roles as international donors. For example, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and China are estimated to be 5th, 9th, and 16th contributors of ODA as gross disbursements in 2014, respectively. There is an enormous potential of these emerging donors to contribute on mainstreaming and foster the shift towards sustainable consumption and production inside and outside of the region. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, its regional processes and implementing partners can also serve as catalysts to enhance mobilization and coordination of donors and regional resources. At domestic level, policies and initiatives need to be consolidated through a centralized mechanism, but also support by investments and financing tools, such as public-private partnerships, increased taxation and improvements in tax collection.

4. Greater involvement of other stakeholders

Engagement of and a role for non-government stakeholders in Asia is not always clear, though references to them are often made within plans and strategies on sustainable consumption and production. To ensure the most effective policy-making, non-government stakeholders should be engaged in the policy making process at the earliest possible opportunity. Multi-stakeholder approaches are a firm foundation, which can be built upon as countries seek to institutionalise sustainable consumption and production. Sub-national actors, especially regarding lifestyle and education aspects, have a key role to play as this can frequently fall under the remit of local governments who are the closest to citizens.

5. Monitoring and measuring progress

A lot of progress has been made, especially in Asia Pacific, to create the conditions for monitoring and measuring progress on sustainable consumption and production, including through the identification of key indicators and development of broad databases. In West Asia, on the other hand, no clear mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and evaluation were defined at the regional level. Nevertheless, at the national level, only a limited number of countries established clear and eligible national sustainable consumption and production indicators. Identifying such indicators and collective data while adopting a comprehensive sustainable consumption and production perspective - such as integrating basic needs, well-being, and lifestyles, and including all aspects of natural resources, socio-economy, and policies at both process and impact levels – will be crucial.

Executive Summary – North America Chapter

The North American region consists of the United States of America and Canada, two geographically large countries with populations, industries, and environmental concerns that are both diverse and deeply integrated.

This report presents an overview of policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production advanced by the governments of the US and Canada within their individual borders, as well as regional policy actions undertaken across the North American region. It was developed based on extensive literature review and in close consultation with the governments of the United States of America and Canada to take stock of key policy frameworks and instruments conducive to sustainable consumption and production at both regional and national levels. It provides key elements of the North America's socio-economic and environmental profile, which sets the scene, an introduction to regional frameworks and networks promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns across North America, as well as an initial review of relevant national policy frameworks and instruments, with two objectives: understanding ongoing efforts to create the conditions for an economy of sustainable development, and laying the foundations for a baseline that can serve as a starting point to track progress on sustainable consumption and production policies in North America, in the context of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

A North American approach to sustainable consumption and production

Policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production in North America are **context-specific and flexible**. They are largely characterized by a **strong emphasis on cross-scale and cross-sectoral partnerships** between local, provincial, state, and federal governments alongside private and civil society sector actors. Policy-making and federal initiatives aim to enable and **enhance the decision making capabilities of public agencies, private industry, non-profits and individuals**.

Four policy case studies are presented in this report to highlight these features:

- Multi-level and multi-stakeholder partnerships are highlighted in the case focused on the **Canadian whole-of-government approach to sustainability policies through the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (p. 16)**
- **Canada's SCP-related policy landscape is also the focus of the North American region country case**, highlighting important features of policy making and implementation in Canada, including policy innovations such as equivalency agreements between the federal and provincial governments (**p. 9**)
- **Local governments across the region are demonstrating leadership in developing and implementing SCP-related policies**, and one case study outlines municipal efforts to shift urban consumption patterns toward sustainability (**p.9**)
- A policy case presents a number of **consumer information programs** on energy, water, and toxins, which are created and used by the US government to support the decision-making capabilities of individuals, firms, and agencies in the marketplace (**p. 25**)
- , The **United States public procurement case outlines policies specifying environmental and social purchasing requirements** which are designed to create markets, to reduce costs and risks to business, and to catalyze innovation and skills development (**p. 14**)

Key challenges and opportunities

There is a strong foundation for sustainable consumption and production action in the region, but to foster more systemic and broad-based action, policy gaps need to be addressed and existing strengths should be built upon. The challenge lies responding to environmental risks, including climate change and water shortages, changing demographics, urbanization and other increasingly pressing regional issues, while in addressing income disparities and social inequalities. One of the approach to overcome those challenges is through resource and impact decoupling with focus on sustainable use of natural resources without compromising economic growth and human needs by engaging private, public, and state actors, as suggested by the International Resource Panel (IRP). North America is succeeding in improving environmental conditions in many domains through multi-stakeholder approaches backed by supportive regulation and policies, institutions, data collection and assessment. These efforts need to continue at a rapid and large scale across public and private sectors, levels of government and across sectors, in particular through:

- A better integration of sustainable consumption and production principles across government policy frameworks and strategic plans can help break the silos across government departments in the formulation of sustainable consumption and production policies and projects across sectors. Concepts such as sustainable materials management and sustainable development, which are the main conceptual frameworks being used in North America, have the potential to provide the basis to design and implement integrated policies for sustainable consumption and production. The objective is to foster collaboration among national institutions with different mandate to achieve common objectives while addressing economic and social as well environmental challenges.
- The provision of data and decision support tools to inform policy should continue to evolve and expand. While cross-cutting initiatives such as those focused on decision-making tools such as life cycle assessment are promising for advancing integrated approaches, framing related policies and initiatives in compelling ways is also essential. This includes highlighting how sustainable consumption and production advances objectives such as economic prosperity , job creation community health and wellbeing, for example, through the effects of resource efficiency gains, technological and business innovation opportunities, and pollution reductions.
- Additional policies and initiatives to directly address consumption-related opportunities and challenges based on resource and/or impact decoupling approach are to be enhanced. In North America particularly, action on sustainable consumption and production is critical to achieve an absolute reductions in material and energy consumption while enhancing ecological, community and individual wellbeing in a way that also advances social justice. Reinforcement of national and sub-national actions, effectively implementing good policies in places, reforming some that block the shift to sustainable consumption and production, and expanding existing and multiplying partnership.
- A more concerted regional approach to sustainable consumption and production while enhancing the capacity of existing partnerships to reinforce the multi-level, multi-stakeholder approach that North American countries have successfully used to advance sustainability objectives across the region.

