Strategy Task Force

Minutes of the 3rd meeting – March 19, 2018

Chair: Annika Lindblom, Commission on Sustainable Development, Finland

Introduction
The third and final meeting of the strategy task force follows circulation of the draft strategy to the network and the feedback received thereafter. The feedback has included many reactions and suggestions from the network – more than 250 entries - to help strengthen the strategy. The feedback has included a broad and enthusiastic support on the need for, timeliness and usefulness of such a strategy to provide broad consensus and direction across the One Planet network. Furthermore the feedback supports the strategy is concise and practical, emphasising the links to Agenda 2030, the re-definition of messaging on SCP and the 10YFP among others.

There have also been a number of important recommendations from the network in order to further strengthen the strategy as a key document to guide the next five years. These recommendations can be grouped in six main categories of recommendations which are:

1. Raise the level of ambition of the strategy
2. Strengthen the connection between the Indicators of Success and the strategy vision and pillars
3. Strengthen the pillar on demonstrating impact
4. Present SCP as an approach to address/solve key issues
5. Envisage addressing the financing of measurable change
6. The progress measurements of the strategy create some confusion

The objective of this meeting is to review the key groups of recommendations and agree on how they will be addressed in the strategy.

1. **Recommendation : Strengthen connection between the Indicators of Success and the strategy vision and pillars**

Examples of suggestions received: There is a reference to the indicator framework and to Goal 12 but no reference is kept here on achieving such indicators / advancing on them. We would like to see these important means of work to be introduced and explained as they are crucial in achieving the SDGs and the mission/objectives of the 10YFP/network. Can we include them and link them to the objectives above?

**Proposal:**

1. To align objective 2 of the strategy with the solutions provided rather than focusing only on practices *(Catalyse ambitious action by providing tools and solutions that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production).* This would include 10YFP indicators of success on production of knowledge and tools, use of knowledge and tools, trainings, technical assistance, implementation of policies, changes in practices.
2. To align objective with leading and influencing the shift to SCP 3 *(Lead a systemic and cohesive implementation of sustainable consumption and production).* This would include 10YFP indicators of success on network, coordination, outreach and communication, commitments.

**Comments from Strategy Task Force**
- Support for the proposal of addressing the concern about strengthening the coherence between how we measure what the strategy does, and what the indicators are already measuring.
- **Proposal adopted**
2. **Recommendation: Strengthen the pillar of the strategy on demonstrating impact**

Examples of suggestions received: How does the One Planet network demonstrate impact around the work that they are doing? Focus on the demonstration of impacts rather than on the communication. It would be great to elaborate a bit further on what to measure in which way.

**Proposal:**

1. Integrate in Objective 4 specific references on knowledge, understanding and data on SCP impacts – resource efficiency, environmental impact (greenhouse gas emission, pollution reduction and biodiversity) and human well-being
2. The communication elements can be moved to objective 3 since this objective includes actions on influence, outreach, advocacy and commitments, etc.

**Comments from Strategy Task Force**

- Important to make links between SCP and cross-cutting issues such as poverty alleviation.
- Strategy is at a macro level, which can then be adapted into relevant action plans at the programme level.
- **Proposal adopted**

3. **Recommendation: Present SCP as an approach to address/solve key issues: e.g. SCP to address plastics, SCP to address pollution, etc**

Examples of suggestions received: SDG 12/SCP as a strategy to implement Agenda 2030 in an integrated way. Link SCP with key topics like poverty alleviation, resource efficiency, pollution prevention, climate change, biodiversity loss, and others. SCP can be positioned as a strategy to address key social and environmental challenges. Include explicitly SMEs and integrated waste management, as crosscutting issues, in the programmes.

**Proposal:**

1. Include under objective 4: Demonstrating how sustainable consumption and production is a systemic approach to address key environmental and social challenges, such as poverty alleviation, pollution, biodiversity, health;
2. Move to objective 4: key cross cutting topics – circular economy, plastics, marine litter, e-waste with specific reference to SMEs and waste as per the request of Latin America.

**Comments from Strategy Task Force**

- We have the mandate, legitimacy and responsibility on the implementation of SDG 12. This is where the work of the network is and should be anchored. This does not limit the notion that SCP and SDG 12 are a strategy/approach to implement/contribute to other SDGs.
- SMEs and Integrated waste management: the Latin America and Caribbean region has formally requested that SMEs and integrated waste management be a cross cutting topic of the programmes. There is appetite among the programmes to work on cross-cutting topics, but not all topics may be relevant to all programmes. The Executive Meeting in May 2018 will provide an opportunity for regional representatives to make the case for certain topics to all programmes.
- **Proposal adopted**, with the additional inclusion that reference to SCP/SDG 12 as enabler of Agenda 2030.

4. **Feedback: The progress measurements of the strategy create some confusion**

Examples of suggestions received: They are not strategic. They are not ambitious. They are too ambitious. They belong to an action plan rather than a strategy. They are too process oriented. None of them are connected to the implementation of SDG 12.

**Proposal:**
1. Progress on the implementation of the strategy to be undertaken through disaggregated targets of the indicators of Success.

Comments from Strategy Task Force
- The current measurements are not aligned with the type of ambition that this strategy should have. These revised targets are going in the right direction.
- Proposal adopted
- Secretariat to share the overview table with the new targets with the strategy task force

5. **Summary addressing the first 4 recommendations**
This table summarises main changes agreed concerning the 4 recommendations discussed so far. The main objectives which include changes are objectives 2, 3 and 4. Objective 1 remains unchanged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1:</th>
<th>An effective implementation mechanism of Goal 12 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective 2:</td>
<td>Catalyse ambitious action by providing tools and solutions that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective 3:</td>
<td>Lead a systemic and cohesive implementation of sustainable consumption and production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 4:</td>
<td>Demonstrate the impacts of sustainable consumption and production and its role in addressing key environmental and social challenges.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Objective 1 includes: supporting SDG 12 implementation, monitoring trends, supporting national implementation and country level coordination, leveraging HLPF, strengthening the Trust Fund. Objective 2 includes: Knowledge and technical tools, Technical assistance, Training and capacity development, Promoting successful practices, Business sector solutions, Capitalising on successful initiatives; Joint creation of products and solutions. Objective 3 includes: Authoritative voice on the current state of knowledge, Setting the agenda, Influencing national/international action, Joint vision & key messages, Financial institutions Engaged/committed partners. Objective 4 includes: Knowledge and data on impacts, Building on science, Quantification of impacts in policies and practices, SCP a systemic approach to address key issues, Cross-cutting topics including SMEs and waste, SCP as enabler of Agenda 2030.

6. **Recommendation: Envisage addressing the financing of measurable change**
Examples of suggestions received: Financing is a very important aspect for the implementation of the programmes. The main text should include a section on financing. While keeping the strategic importance of a meaningful trust fund, also consider funds that are mobilised for an activity or unlocked by partners. To leverage serious and credible funding there is a need to have clear and measurable indication of the change that will be made through this funding.

**Proposal:** Funding is fundamental to the success of this network, and it is proposed that it be integrated across several sections of the strategy rather than having a stand along section, in addition to reference to the Trust Fund under objective 1, this would include:

1. Include financing in the way forward;
2. Include mainstreaming SCP in financial institutions programmes under objective 3
3. Include funding catalysed, unlocked or saved through actions supported by the One Planet Network, under objective 2.

Comments from Strategy Task Force
• Proposal adopted

7. **Recommendation: Raise the level of ambition of the strategy to really become a platform to implement SDG 12**

Examples of suggestions received: I miss a measure of ambition in this first page: how much of it? Accelerate... to what speed? What scale? How do we know the mission is accomplished? To what scale? In all countries? In 50% of the countries? Companies responsible of 40% of global GDP? It would be valuable to try to identify some language text from the targets and indicators from the 2030 Agenda, it will further specify and quantify the objectives. The first pillar of the strategy as overarching, a stronger connection between the 1st pillar and the other 3 pillars. This strategy polishes what has already been happening rather than questioning approaches to achieve more significant impact. Push the 10 YFP to a more strategic level, at the HLPF.

Addressing this feedback is crucial for the credibility of the One Planet. Without a clear indication of what change we can catalyse, it will be extremely difficult to mobilise political support, engage the right partners or mobilise resources. To be taken seriously as an implementation mechanism for SDG 12, need to think at scale. The 10YFP will be assessed by what is done at the country level, so the network needs to think about the potential for change in countries that can be accomplished given adequate funding.

“With action focused in a country, sufficient funds and the shared responsibility of national authorities and programme partners - what is the tangible change that Programmes aspire to catalyse?“: This question was used as a basis for informal consultations with programmes, UN Environment and IRP secretariat. The main takeaways of the informal consultations are: i) whereas catalysing initial decoupling would be ideal, this is unrealistic within a 4-5 year timeframe, as it is more of a 15-20 year vision, ii) the aspired change needs to go beyond policies and practices that we are currently supporting and monitoring, it is rather: the actual change that these policies enable.

Examples from consultations:
**With action focused in a country, sufficient funds and the shared responsibility of national authorities and programme partners - what is the tangible change that Programmes aspire to catalyse?**

- 20% of public procurement is sustainable
- 30% of the share of products in biggest retailers in the country are sustainable
- 25% reduction in food waste and loss
- 20% reduction in waste generation, material use, and water use in buildings and construction.
- xx% Recycle rate (tons of material recycled)
- Amount of public and private financial resources supporting the shift to SCP catalysed, unlocked or saved through actions supported by the One Planet Network (5 USD catalysed or unlocked for every USD invested)

Comments from Strategy Task Force
• This type of information is helpful to visualise the change we aim for
• Targets can be included in order to mobilise support and raise credibility, with a caveat that they are flexible.
• There is a risk in these targets being identified as a commitment rather than an ambition.
• The targets would need to be indicative and apply at national level rather than globally.
Further consultation with programmes will be necessary, though the time for finalization of the strategy may not be sufficient.

Whereas it would be useful to visualise change that the network aspires to enable, there may be insufficient time to reach an agreement on targets before finalisation of the strategy. In this event, a flexible wording may be integrated while consultations are finalised.

Next Steps

- Circulation of the revised overview table ‘strategy in brief’ with the revised objectives and progress measurements
- Share the last recommendation on ‘raising the level of ambition’ with the programme coordination desks for feedback and propose a flexible text for the strategy.
- Circulate revised strategy on the week of 27th of March
- Any final feedback by the strategy task force to be provided within 1 week from circulation.
- Strategy finalisation: early April