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## Submission from CEEweb for Biodiversity on the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

### INTRODUCTION

Transitioning to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production (SCP) is at the heart of sustainable development, and international co-operation is essential to effect that transition. Recognizing this, governments at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 called for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production that will promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

Therefore, all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including, *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Chapter 4 of Agenda 21 on changing consumption patterns, Chapter III of the JPOI on Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

### HOLISTIC SCP APPROACH

CEEweb welcomes the initiative: moving towards SCP requires systemic change. Bringing about this change, however, is a huge challenge since systems of production and consumption are constrained by existing operating contexts (infrastructures and institutions, paradigms, social norms and practices, legal and institutional framework, economic framework).

Therefore, these socio-economic drivers need to be tackled in order to reach SCP globally before overstepping planetary boundaries. This goal can be achieved with well-designed holistic responses based on reforming the current regulatory frameworks.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REVISION OF THE 10YFP

#### **1. Limiting natural resource use for reaching sustainable consumption and production globally**

The current unsustainable consumption and production patterns are causing the use of Earth's natural resources 1.5 times beyond its carrying capacity. Therefore, in order to realize the definition for SCP adopted at the CSD International Work Programme in 1995 ("SCP is the use of services and related products which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life-cycle so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.") legal instruments and economic measures should be set for limiting natural resources.

These instruments and measures should equally reflect on all three attributes of the state of environment and thus avoid trade-offs among them. They shall relate to:

- The abundance of natural resources on genetic, species and ecosystem level,
- The spatial structure, reflecting on the coherence and connectivity among ecosystems,
- The quality of environment, determined by pollution, the spreading of IAS and GMOs.

Without taking this holistic approach to environment and the pressures on biodiversity, actions might lead to the shifting of environmental pressure in space or time.

A most effective way, which can horizontally limit the environmental pressures, is changing the boundary conditions of the economy through limiting the total input into it. This shall include a global and absolute limitation of the use of natural resources, including species and ecosystems, as well as the use of space by humans. For achieving this, economic measures shall be applied for natural resources use, while effective spatial planning policies shall be applied for limiting the use of space and ensuring coherence and connectivity. It must be clear from the revised 10YFP that without an absolute limitation of environmental pressures reaching SCP globally is not possible.

## **2. Proposed limiting natural resource use perspective (beside the Life Cycle one) for elaborating the programmes named in the 10YFP**

Limiting natural resource use would mean making them more scarce globally. A horizontal and fundamental change like this would have, however, positive social consequences and contribute to poverty alleviation in various ways:

- Limiting resource use also means limiting the use of energy. This inevitably results in the “glocalisation” of the economy, where production and consumption is based much more on local resources. This benefits local economies and poor, marginalised areas, which are now under great pressure within the globalised economy for their natural resources.
- Limiting natural resources also increases the competitiveness of human labour, as labour intensive, but material and energy poor products and services become relatively cheaper on the market. This has a positive impact on employment, while also spur innovation for higher resource efficiency and recycling.
- Limiting the total environmental pressure and by that stopping further environmental degradation ensures the maintenance of ecosystem services, which is the basis of local livelihood and of the well-being of people.

**CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.**