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Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

Jetwing Lagoon Hotel, Negombo, Sri Lanka

26 to 27 February 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

I. Session 1: Opening Session

- A. Mr. Gamini Gamage, Additional Secretary on Environment Policy & Planning representing the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Sri Lanka welcomed participants of the Meeting. He mentioned that Sri Lanka is working on projects with collaboration from SWITCH Asia on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and UNEP and thank them for their continuous support. He also mentioned his appreciation on SACEP for the work they do that benefit not only Sri Lanka but also the South Asia Region and stated that the Ministry is glad to host SACEP Secretariat since established in 1982.

He stated the importance of establishing the South Asia Forum on SCP, which is important and timely for Sri Lanka and the South Asian Countries. He mentioned the objectives of the event as follows:

1. To provide a venue for policy dialogue and collaboration on SCP national, regional, and sub-regional strategies, planning and implementation including technical support to Countries in South Asia.
2. To provide a venue for discussion on research and innovation for SCP patterns that can support tailored, effective policy design and actions.
3. To develop a resource pool and to explore opportunity for capacity building to support governments and other stakeholders at national and regional level in a transition to SCP, and to support public awareness campaigns on SCP
4. To encourage discussion on emerging issues on SCP including the development of links with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and other regional bodies to promote cooperation on SCP.

Lastly, he highlighted the importance of introducing and implementing good environmental governance in policies through SCP programs to implement national policies. He wished everyone a successful event.

- B. Mr. S.M.D.P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General of SACEP welcomed the participants. He mentioned the need to strengthen regional cooperation through the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Roadmap of the Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), as well as the 2013 SACEP Governing Council Decision 10.2.2 to promote SCP within policymaking mechanisms of South Asian countries. He highlighted the sub regional challenges in South Asia and the need to go further and accelerate progress to build a green economy through SCP, to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including poverty eradication, and to develop a strategy on SCP forwarded by SACEP secretariat through the establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP.



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- C. Ms. Janet Salem, Programme Officer on SCP from UNEP extended her thanks to the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and SACEP for hosting the meeting and to the EU Delegation for the support given to hold the meeting through the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Programme. She stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possible sub-regional cooperation that can be pursued such as policy dialogues and capacity building on priority areas in the Region and how financial and technical support can be mobilized. She mentioned the important voices that have come together to address this, that are country focal points of SACEP, SWITCH Asia, 10YFP, representatives from the Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP), and SAARC. She reiterated the importance of the meeting as mentioned by Mr. Jayatilake on linking the 10YFP to the establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP and the SDGs focus on SCP.

She then explained how the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component (RPSC) Programme could provide sub-regional support such as through an established South Asia Forum on SCP. She also briefly informed the participants about the establishment of the ASEAN Forum on SCP and how this can be replicated in other sub-regions to facilitate promotion and implementation of SCP.

II. Session 2 – SCP in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

A. 10YFP on SCP

Ms. Sandra Averous, Associate Programme Officer, 10YFP Secretariat, in UNEP provided an overview of SCP status in the SDGs process under the post 2015 development agenda, and updates on the implementation of the 10YFP on SCP and the Asia Pacific 10YFP Regional Roadmap. She mentioned that last 19 July 2014, the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs included the proposed goal 12 “ensuring SCP patterns” as well as targets related to SCP, in many other SDG goals. SDG 12 targets on SCP includes implementation of 10YFP, natural resource management, reducing food waste, capacities towards SCP, SD impacts for sustainable tourism, among others. She then discussed the 10YFP programmes and related targets, and the Asia Pacific 10YFP Roadmap on SCP with a set of Outputs and Activities under 6 programmes of 10YFP: Consumer Information, Sustainable lifestyle and education, Sustainable Public Procurement, Sustainable Buildings and construction, Sustainable tourism including ecotourism and sustainable food systems (under development). She mentioned the collaboration between the 10YFP and SWITCH Asia, as a platform for SCP implementation in South Asia.

B. The Post-2015 Agenda for South Asia

Ms. Priyankari Alexander, Programme Officer of SACEP presented the Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda (SADA) Report, which was launched at the 1st UN Environmental Assembly held in Kenya last 26 June 2014. The launching was organized by SACEP in Collaboration with Islamic Republic of Pakistan & UNEP. The Report provides information on the history of Sustainable Development, Key Environmental Issues on Population and Urbanization, air pollution, sanitation and solid waste management, climate change, natural disasters, SAARC and SACEP Regional collaborations – initiators in the Sub-region, and South Asian Priorities for Action particularly on eradicating poverty, conservation and protection of natural resources endowment, securing economic base, and strengthening Institutional Systems.



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C. Q&A Sessions and Roundtable Discussion

1. One question raised was on how are these mechanisms from the regional level be facilitated in the national or local level. One answer provided is through the work of SWITCH Asia providing policy support in the national, sub-regional, and regional level. 10YFP also support country level implementation, mainly through the 10YFP Trust Fund.
2. There was a request for clarity on UNEP's stand regarding the long debate on SCP being a cross cutting issues. Ms. Averous highlighted that in the proposal from the Open Work Group on SDGs, SCP is reflected as a cross-cutting enabler (in the form of both targets and means of implementation) for the achievement of many of the SDGs as well as a stand-alone goal on "ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns". UNEP is providing support on indicators and on implementation for those targets.
3. Regarding the question on SACEP's role from regional to national level, Mr. Jayatilake responded that SDG items are incorporated in the priority areas in SADA.
4. There was also suggestion to provide information on how SCP can help and support the SDGs through the UNEP website. [More information on UNEP's work on SCP in the context of the SDGs can be found at:
<http://www.unep.org/10yfp/Activities/InternationalActivities/tabid/106470/Default.aspx>]

III. Session 3 – Regional Work on Resource Efficiency and SCP

A. Mr. Rathnadeera, Senior Programme Officer, SACEP presented on the work of SACEP on SCP, providing key regional activities on information campaigns and capacity building, facilitation of regional meetings/forums, and assisting member countries on implementing projects, as well as providing a regional policy making platform on environmental issues. In particular, he mentioned the Training of Trainers on SCP supported by SWITCH Asia RPSC in 2012 where priority SCP areas for the region were identified by participants: SPP, Tourism, Industry, Energy efficiency and waste management. SACEP also helped in preparing the Concept Paper on Promoting SCP in Sri Lanka. The SACEP Governing Council also decided to promote SCP within policymaking mechanisms of South Asian countries, and recommended that concrete proposals through which the concept of SCP can comfortably be dovetailed within the policy making mechanisms of member countries of SACEP. The proposal to establish the South Asia Forum on SCP is a means to provide that policy platform, building knowledge and networks for South Asian policy makers and stakeholders on how SCP policies can support sustainable development and continued growth for the expanding consumer and producer base in South Asian countries.

B. SAARC Work on SCP and Resource Efficiency

Mr. Singye Dorjee, Director of SAARC provided an overview of SAARC, which was established in 1985. He provided SAARC's Objectives and the Role of the Secretariat to coordinate implementation of SAARC activities and service meetings. He mentioned the areas of cooperation under SAARC mainly: poverty alleviation, agriculture, rural development and food security, trade, economic and financial cooperation, environment, climate change, and natural disasters, energy cooperation, transport and connectivity, science and technology, S&T, among others. He gave emphasis on key areas of cooperation particularly on the following: Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Disasters, and Biotechnology. He highlighted the Memorandum of Understandings with partners such as SACEP and UNEP to provide a framework for cooperation (SAEO-2014). SAARC is open to



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further cooperation to enhance collaboration and avoid replication of implementation of SCP activities.

C. Open Discussion

1. There was a question on SACEP regarding who were trained in the ToT Workshop and Mr. Rathnadeera answered that the Ministry of Environment undertakes their national activities and training was provided to representatives of Officials within these National Ministries.
2. On the question on how to address the avoidance of duplicating activities between SACEP and SAARC, Mr. Rathnadeera reiterated that SACEP and SAARC has an MoU regarding collaboration of areas and not to duplicate on implementing those activities. Mr. Dorjee added that it is better to work together to avoid duplication and emphasized that SAARC has no specific agenda or program in promoting SCP. However, SAARC shares knowledge on exiting priorities of issues to member states.
3. There was request for clarification on what are the achievements made in relation to SCP. Mr. Rathnadeera mentioned that under SACEP, there are identified actions and targets under the post 2015 Development Agenda but there are no specific priority areas on SCP. On the Governing Council Decision instructing the Secretariat to come up with concrete proposals, proposals were made but no committed funding was established. On Support to promoting knowledge in Society focusing on SCP, SACEP is coordinating with other agencies and member countries to provide information and capacity needs and proposed to deliver in a more institutional based level – connecting member countries.
4. One suggestion raised was to look at a low cost approach where knowledge can be extracted to expand knowledge based society by putting emphasis on monitoring and evaluation. There was also suggestion to work with other UN institutions to expand network on SCP. The 10YFP SCP Clearinghouse website can be a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration in the Region.

IV. Session 4 (Part 1) – Sharing of Experiences

Country Presentations

National representatives gave a presentation on their respective country activities and initiatives related to SCP.

- A. **Afghanistan.** Mr. Mohd. Basir Amin, Head of Pollution Analyzing, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Kabul, Afghanistan presented. He stated that there was no development under the Taliban regime for about 5 years and after 2001, they had to start from zero with a new constitution and government. Under their Vision 2020, the Ministry of Commerce introduced new policies on sustainable production and the Afghanistan Consumers Protection Law was newly enacting. Under the National Environment Protection Agency, there was focus on key areas such as Agriculture, Mining and Petroleum Industry, Commerce and Industry, Food Processing and Dairy. In the future, there was emphasis on the need for more laws, sector planning and policy introduction on SCP. On Questions raised, answers were provided that Afghanistan has no policy yet on SCP and Solid Waste Management. As for key environmental issues in the country, answers provided are as follows: Construction and Infrastructure and key environment challenge is the pollution in the City. The key problem is still security in the country. Ms. Castro from UNEP mentioned the opportunity for UNEP to work in Afghanistan as shown in the Post 2015 Development Agenda linking Human Security and Environment (water, food).



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- B. **Bangladesh.** Mr. Abi Abdullah, Deputy Director of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust provided an overview of Bangladesh Vision 2021. He mentioned that all development initiatives are in place but there are no specific SCP policies. However, there are a number of policies/strategies, which are related to SCP.

Issues related to SCP have been incorporated in the draft Environment Policy 2014, which is in the process of approval. He enumerated the key initiatives related to SCP particularly on Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Development, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Promoting Alternative energies, REDD+ approval of the Readiness Program, Low Carbon Development Strategy, Clean Development Mechanisms among others. On the Initiatives from Bangladesh Climate Change Trust, there are 37 projects on mitigation and low carbon development, sustainable agriculture, and waste management. There are also key initiatives in the banking sector.

He enumerated possible support needed in the form of policy support, technical assistance, training, financing, technology and capacity building for promoting SCP in the key priority areas as well as integrating into the development process. Specifically, support is needed for Framing Policy on SCP or Integrating SCP into existing plan/strategy/relevant policy through SCP Policy tools and instruments and support for capacity building for understanding and promoting concepts of SCP. He provided suggested topics for the Working Groups of the South Asia Forum on SCP: Cleaner industrial production, Resource efficiency and waste management, Energy efficiency in transport sector, Renewable energy development, Expansion of ICT-based services for SCP, Sustainable agriculture and food systems, Green public procurement, and Ecolabelling. He also enumerated suggested SCP projects that can be followed up through 10YFP Support: Drafting and adopting a National SCP; Dissemination of green technologies, particularly for industries and transport sector; Capacity building of concerned stakeholders on green procurement, resource efficiency, cleaner production methods, and eco-labelling; Implementation of 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) strategies in all municipal areas; Massive expansion of the use of solar energy; and Installation of biogas plants in rural areas across the country.

Questions raised were the following: How do you make projects sustainable? Were you able to sustain the outputs? Mr. Abdullah mentioned that there were no SCP policies developed yet and agencies are working on this and the sustainability of the project. There was also a question on how they got to mobilize the resources for the Climate Change Trust fund. Mr. Abdullah answered that funds for projects come from interest from revenue budget (National Budget).

- C. **Bhutan:** Mr. Karma Tshering, Senior Programme Officer, Policy and Programming Service, of the National Environment Commission Secretariat, Bhutan gave an overview of Bhutan's implementation of SCP. He stated the Agreement signed with UNEP in November 2014 amounting to USD 200,000. There were five activities selected mainly: mainstreaming SCP into national policymaking; sustainable tourism; sustainable public procurement; SCP learning in TVET and national education curricula; and Green Public Office practices through paperless operations.

He stated the suggested topics for the Working Groups of the South Asia Forum on SCP: How to link to Environment strategy and SD Strategies; Mainstreaming of SCP into Policies and Plans; Mainstreaming tools and methodologies; LCA capacity building and exchange of success stories of LCA application; Fund and technological support. He also stated Country states priorities for SCP projects that can be followed up through 10YFP Support: Timely Implementation of SCP activities under 10YFP Programs; Awareness, advocacy and Capacity building on SCP; Linking SCP to Policies and Plan; and Linkage with the National Environment Strategy.

A question was raised on how they do the review of policy protocol and policy screening tool.



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Mr. Tshering mentioned that the policy protocol was developed by the Planning Commission, with a set of rules and processes in terms of consultations (national and regional). They initiated how to factor SCP in the Screening Tool and the tools can be accessed at the government link: (www.nec.gov.bt). Another question was the promotion of electric cars for the transport sector.

Mr. Tshering stated that Bhutan is declared to be carbon neutral and they have various initiatives for low carbon development and technologies.

- D. **Maldives:** Ms. Aishath Niyaz, SCP Focal Point for 10YFP from the Ministry of Environment and Energy provided an overview on Maldives. She mentioned the associated policies and strategies that add value to the promotion on SCP: National Strategy on Sustainable Development, National Environmental Action Plan, Tourism Master Plan, National biodiversity strategy action plan, and Energy Policy. She also mentioned the SCP national activities and initiatives focusing on Maldives as a Biosphere Reserve, integrated solid waste management project, renewable energy initiatives, integrated water resources management project, eco-tourism, and MSC Certification. She identified policy gaps on SCP: Building and construction, Transport and mobility, Manufacturing and consumer goods, Public procurement, and Biodiversity. Possible SCP projects they have identified are as follows: Sustainable Procurement for the tourism sector; Developing standards for effluent discharge in industries; Zero waste in the fish processing industry; Consumer Awareness; Green Public Procurement; and Resource mobilization for SCP by generating from domestic and accessing funds from abroad. One Question asked was on regulation in terms of the fishing industry. Ms. Niyaz mentioned that there are regulations banning large-scale fishing. She also mentioned that there is no policy on consumer protection.
- E. **Nepal:** Mr. Raju Babu Budasaini, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology & Environment of Nepal presented an overview on the institutional policies and arrangements in relation to SCP. He mentioned that the SCP policy is in progress and draft form. SCP is integrated in sectoral policies (agriculture, forest, industry, land use, energy, irrigation, tourism, environment, transportation and etc). He then provided an overview of the institutional arrangements relating to SCP. He mentioned the Thirteenth Three Year Plan (2014/2015-2017/2018) incorporating the Sustainable Development Agenda. Activities ongoing are as follows: EIA and IEE; Climate resilience program and DRM programs; Promoting and preserving social and cultural and heritage; Alternative energy promotion of renewable/alternative energies; and Formulation of standards for management of waste.

He provided key recommendations for the South Asia Forum: providing a forum for sharing national experiences, best practices, encouraging for development and replication of models; providing technical support in developing national policies/programmes; expanding and strengthening networking for SCP; identifying and exploring for capacity development opportunities; acknowledging and documenting best practices on SCP; encouraging member states for documentation and sharing of SCP relating initiatives, and promoting collaborative efforts for SCP in South Asia.

Suggested topics under the South Asia Forum are as follows: Agriculture, Industry, Tourism, Procurement, Energy, Education, Land Use, and Waste Management, which focuses on Enhancing roles and responsibilities of SACEP, Strengthening South Asia Forum for SCP, Expanding and strengthening of network, Enhancing capacity at all levels, and Identifying and getting assurance from member states on common SCP strategies. He enumerated the proposed priorities for SCP support under the 10YFP: Capacity enhancement, Research and development, Technical Support for national policies/programs on SCP, best practices for replication in South Asia, Mobilize international resources, Expand networking, Support through participation programmes, and Establish a strong clearing house on SCP at SACEP.



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F. Pakistan. Mr. Muhammad Irfan Tariq, Director General (Environment) of the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan gave the presentation starting with an explanation of policies pertaining to SCP. He highlighted that there is still a need for policies pertaining to SCP and RE as priority areas. There is a need to promote integration of the “Cleaner Production” strategy in the Industrial sector by making more efficient use of inputs such as energy, water and raw materials.

He mentioned the key priorities for SCP: Improve eco-efficiency by changing the production and consumption patterns and enabling the internalization of environmental costs into pricing mechanisms; Enhance sustainable consumption by sensitizing end users/consumers on environmentally friendly choices through awareness raising and other measures such as eco-labelling, equipment energy rating systems, information disclosure, corporate rating system and promotion of consumer associations; Establishing building codes to ensure that energy efficiency measures are also incorporated in building designs (green buildings); Promoting sustainable production system by decoupling the increasing intensity of resource use from the rate of economic growth in the first phase and to follow it up with dematerialized growth in the next phase; and installing Combined Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in all major industrial areas to facilitate cleaner production. On the suggested topics for the Working Group on the South Asia Forum he mentioned that there should be clearly defined differentiated responsibilities for LDCs as their level of consumption and waste is insignificant. Most of the specific targets articulated under this focus area are either not applicable for LDCs or they are highly capital and technology-intensive. He also mentioned the need for provisions and mechanisms for access to technologies for building resilience and adaptive capacity in developing nations.

There were then discussions on the need to work more on sustainable consumption as focus is on cleaner production initiatives and the need for SCP tools as a screening tool in public private partnerships.

G. Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment The National Action Plan for the Haritha (green) Lanka Programme was presented providing the missions and the SCP related strategies and actions under the plan particularly on the National Cleaner Production policy and Strategy. She also mentioned the key national supporting policies on SCP particularly the National Green procurement Policy and Guidelines in Sri Lanka. The Zero draft of the Green Procurement Policy has been developed and expected to finalize in 2015. She also explained the sustainable consumption guidelines that include short term and long-term guidelines on water and energy consumption, pollution control and guidelines for maintaining a good health among human community and healthy eco system. She mentioned key programs being undertaken in partnership with UNEP under these priorities such as the UNEP project on Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco labelling (SPPEL), Eco-innovation approach on SCP in SMEs, and the EU project on SCP Switch-National Policy Support Component. She then enumerated other SCP related projects and partnerships such as with the National Cleaner Production Centre that provides services related to the policy advocacy, training and capacity building, information dissemination, Consultancy, and Advisory Services.

V. Session 5: Identifying SCP Policy Priorities

The following are highlights of the discussions on SCP policy priorities and concerns on establishing the South Asia Forum on SCP. These are expanded upon in Annex 1 as well.:

A. Key Concerns:

1. **Resource Mobilization:** Concerns on SACEP’s human resource and the funding to support the South Asia Forum on SCP. Expedite on exploring resources for this and to identify
2. **Research:** SACEP has to develop a tool or lens to facilitate a concept paper to review



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policies with SCP perspective, which can be instrumental on integrating SCP in national policies and countries can make alignment within country programs and projects.

3. **Policy Dialogue:** Get consensus on common issues that has to be addressed in South Asia collaboratively then we can move forward. SCP is not a primary area of government and there is a need to sensitize government decision-makers and highlight this as an issue of importance. There is a strong role of SACEP having a strong regional program with a programmatic approach for this collaboration.
4. **Information sharing:** Collaboration between SACEP and SAARC, among Ministries and stakeholders through information sharing and knowledge exchange.
5. **Institutional framework:** SACEP's mandate to put forward proposals for the Governing council to decide and approve. Role of SACEP is to mobilize funds and provide support for regional activities but implementation of activities is done in the national level.
6. **Public Awareness and Education:** Recommendation to introduce SCP in the formal education system.
7. **Capacity Building:** Strengthen capacities on key priority issues and involving government and stakeholders (Private sector as well) and in the use of SCP tools and policy screening tool (with Gender component), strengthen strategic environmental assessment and national and regional indicator system. The ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme, the Winter School on SCP, or other examples of ASEAN and regional based training and capacity development activities can be models for sub-regional implementation under this South Asia Forum on SCP to be replicated once it is launched..

Ms. Sara Castro closed the Session emphasizing that under the 10YFP Roadmap and SWITCH Asia – both are committed to advance this work. There is support until 2020 from UNEP side. Support is there but to what degree will depend on country request. Funding will grow under the new SDGs framework, as this will unlock a wide range of funding to support the SDGs implementation, including on Goal 12 for implementation of SCP activities.

VI. Session 6: Discussion on a South Asia SCP Cooperation Mechanism: Objectives, Structure and Activities of the South Asia Forum on SCP

Mr. Sena Peiris, Executive Director of National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) of Sri Lanka and Immediate Past President of APRSCP presented on the Eco-Innovation Project supported by UNEP. Afterwards, Ms. Loraine Gatlabayan from UNEP an APRSCP Secretariat presented the summary of discussions on priority issues identified. (See Annex 1.)

A. Discussion on a South Asia SCP Cooperation Mechanism: Activities of the South Asia Forum on SCP

1. Policy Dialogue

1. Policy Dialogue suggestions:

- Annual meeting of Forum members
- High-level dialogue under SACEP and back to back SAARC Meetings

Questions for the discussion:

- Should the Forum consider periodic (annual or bi-annual) Ministerial policy meetings?
- Should the annual meeting of the forum organized back-to-back with another standardized or high-level SAARC, SACEP, or other sub-regional meeting?
- What should the communication mechanism for members be during the interim periods of the year?



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Key Discussion Points:

- Separate meetings can be annual or bi-annual. There should be means of communication through teleconference on the regular basis and working group online to share best practices.
- This can be done through the Global SCP Clearinghouse to exchange globally and learn to exchange practices. A specific working group for South Asia can be started, and managed by SACEP and the 10YFP. This is a process to get feedback from member states as well as to create greater knowledge networking on country activities for SCP.
- Collaboration can be strengthened and the forum can go categorically with national priorities in accordance with regional priorities and localizing in the local context.
- SACEP to lead the Policy Dialogue in consultation with SAARC

2. Research:

Research suggestions:

- National factsheets on SCP, including review of the status on consumption and production patterns, in line with UNEP South Asia State of the Environment Reports and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Development and Publishing of Studies on Policy Priorities as expressed by member countries
- SCP Indicator Data Sets

Questions for the discussion:

- How can this workstream complement the progress assessment to be required under the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What topics are priorities requiring further study to advance SCP in South Asia? – e.g. population and resource use, inequalities in consumption, eco-labels/consumer information in SA, SPP in SA.

Key Discussion Points:

- Look at the Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda Report on policy priority areas.
- Research on Indigenous practices and SCP should be incorporated.
- National Assessments can contribute to the objectives of the Forum. Studies can be conducted on how the concept of SCP is aligned with their national development strategy and how to be able to influence sectors.
- Many of the South Asia countries faced with Climate change impacts. This should be included (vulnerability assessments)

3. Capacity building and Technical Assistance

Capacity Building Suggestions:

- Training for public sector including training of trainers on topics linked to working groups
- Technical assistance available to countries from 10YFP and UNEP

Questions for the discussion:

- What training programmes exist? What else could be done to support more public sector training?
- How can 10YFP and UNEP complement with technical assistance for policy support in SA countries?

Key Discussion Points:

- In terms of capacity building, support through training programs is needed for government sector. It is also important to engage the private sector and NGOs in the national and local level. (One avenue is through the National Cleaner Production Centre to institutionalize knowledge to the private sector)
- Higher level of sensitization of policy and decision makers on line function and from national, provincial and local level. Capacity building (Training the trainers) is needed for government level and important decision-makers on policy and planning for them to mainstream SCP in policy processes, as it is important to dovetail these activities in the main processes of the government.



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- Regarding type of training programs, suggestion is to collect information from Member states. Collect countrywide priority issues and get priority of SACEP and work on that.
- It is important to have access to the network for expertise for these trainings. On selecting speakers for training of trainers, it is important to select speakers who are practitioners.
- Awareness-raising for the youth on SCP is also important for behavioral change.
- Besides training workshops, online courses for South Asia can be explored.
- Conducting the Winter/Summer School on SCP in the sub-regional level.
- Information sharing and consultation on results of work done through research and capacity building.

4. Cooperation

Cooperation Suggestions:

- Joint events (on a case by case basis) with APRSCP, SWITCH-Asia, regional commission events, etc.
- Study tours and events to share best practices

Questions for the discussion:

- What are the known events on SCP in the next 18 months?
- How to link work on SCP with other priority topics under SAARC/SACEP Post-2015 SADA?

Key Discussion Points:

- Suggestion for a side event during SACEP conference/Governing Council and what can be for exhibit there.
- South Asia Calendar of Events can be useful. (1-2 Years Calendar of activities in the regional, national, and local level to share with countries). Recommendation to share and compare SAARC and SACEP Calendar of Activities.
- Information sharing on best practices on SCP from public and private sectors.
- The March 2016 12th APRSCP Symposium can be a platform for engagement of key stakeholders (Policy makers, academics, private sector and NGOs) for information exchange, sharing of best practices, and collaboration opportunities from the sub-regional level through the collaboration of South Asia Forum and ASEAN Forum on SCP.
- Involvement of youth and students in key activities (school engagement)
- Important to have coordination in the national level within and between each member state and also coordination between SAARC and SACEP to factor in SCP in key activities.

B. Ms. Gatlabayan presented an overview of the APRSCP and the ASEAN Forum on SCP.

- There is no link so far on the South Asia Forum on SCP and APRSCP as the Forum has yet to be established.
- There is proposal to have a roundtable in the 12th APRSCP in March 2016 bringing together the ASEAN forum on SCP and the South Asia Forum on SCP to share experiences and lessons learned.
- A back to back event will be conducted during the 12th APRSCP providing results of the implementation of the 10YFP Asia Pacific Roadmap, and launching the second 10YFP Roadmap for the region from 2016-2018.

C. Discussion on a South Asia SCP Cooperation Mechanism: Objectives and Structure

1. Proposed Coordination Principles

Suggestion: Establish the South Asia Forum on SCP with the following principles and mechanism:

- The Forum will be a voluntary initiative.
- For the first few years the Forum will consist only of government participation, then expand to engage relevant non-governmental stakeholders.
- UNEP in consultation with SACEP agree to provide Technical Support Services to the Forum,



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with specific considerations to be defined.

Key Discussion Points:

- There should be clarity on the role of SACEP in terms of implementing the activities.
- There should also be clarity on those to involve as representatives in the Forum.
e.g. Regarding representation and decisionmaking the following are open questions: Level of members in terms of decision-making and technical level, or are there the SWITCH Asia Focal points or SACEP focal points? How many members can represent and for how many years? In the SACEP level, SACEP informs their focal point in the Environment Ministry and ask them to nominate. They can decide on the suitable agency to participate in this forum as it is up to countries to decide.

Key Discussion Points (cont.):

- The SACEP Governing Council can provide the mandate to pursue the South Asia Forum.
- Suggestion for a Co-Chair country to host the forum annually, giving a member state the host role to lead the forum during that year
- Report to the Governing Council the progress of the forum.
- A mapping of needs for a Forum for the region is important. The needs would define where the forum goes on the design process. It was mentioned that the Governing Council of SACEP adopted the decision to come up with SCP principles in the region. This is the basis in the policy level and for the forum to be the platform to accomplish this. SWITCH Asia also established the needs assessment for the countries where some country work programs were based on but not yet done in South Asia.
- There is a need to look at the structure and scope of the Forum and ensure proper engagement of stakeholders. Engagement of the Forum with stakeholders has to be clarified. There was also emphasize on a consultative process approach and access to participation and the need to bring in private sector (Chamber of Commerce, NCPCs) and NGOs in the Forum.

VII. Concluding Decisions and Follow-up:

1. There was agreement among member states representatives to establish the South Asia Forum on SCP and agreed for SACEP to come up with the proposal based on the suggestions on the modalities of the forums and possible priority areas as discussed.
2. To get started, SACEP will lead the development of the proposal on the establishment of the South Asia Forum based on suggestions in the meeting and through a consultative process following government protocol before submission to the SACEP governing council.
3. The meeting report will be circulated for feedback and comments and the proposal will be drafted by SACEP incorporating what has been discussed in the meeting and then will be put forward to SACEP Governing Council for final decision-making.
4. The current funding is available from the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Programme until 2020 and afterwards as well through future funding possibilities from SDG Goal 12 framework.
5. UNEP and other possible UN and regional agencies/organizations in consultation with SACEP agree to provide Technical Support Services to the forum with specific consideration to be defined.



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VIII. Closing Session

Mr. Jayatilake from SACEP gave his closing statement. He emphasized that the concerns, comments, and inputs discussed among member states will be considered and further discussion will be conducted on modalities. He thanked the participants for their valuable contribution to the meeting.

Ms. Janet Salem from UNEP formally concluded the session and thanked SACEP for handling the procedures to establish South Asia Forum. She emphasized UNEP in collaboration with UN Agencies are willing to provide support to the sub-region to fill the basic gaps through capacity building. There is a need to fill the basic gaps, share best practices and provide the building blocks on SCP. She gave assurance on the transparency and participatory matter on the way forward taking into account the sensitive concerns but not taking too much time before we start. She mentioned that engagement of other partners and key stakeholders are welcome in the process and 10YFP give a good structure on that. She thanked everyone for their contribution and look forward for SACEP to send revised proposal to the participants.



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Annex 1: The following were identified as **SCP Policy Priorities and Programs for Cooperation in South Asia** by Country representatives during **Session 5 of the meeting**.

	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Observers
1. Organizational Structure <i>Strengthening support for regional implementation of the South Asia forum on SCP.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening SACEP to facilitate the South Asia Forum on SCP in terms of human resource and resource mobilization Ensure collaboration between SACEP and SAARC to avoid overlap of activities To formalize the South Asia Forum, decision to go through SACEP's governing council. SACEP to provide proposals on key priorities. Role of SACEP to provide a regional program with a programmatic approach supporting SCP 				X	X	X		
			X		X	X		
			X					
	X		X			X		
Identified SCP Policy Priorities and Programs	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Observers
2. Capacity Building and Policy Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Support to provide comprehensive guidelines on mainstreaming SCP in national policies Consensus on common issues that has to be addressed in South Asia collaboratively Technology Transfer CB on use of SCP Tools Strengthened the national and regional SCP indicator system 			X	X				
					X			
					X			
							X	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic environmental assessment Policy support for National SCP plan 		X				X		
3. Research and Knowledge Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACEP to develop a tool or lens to facilitate a concept paper to review policies with SCP perspective Collaboration between SACEP and SAARC for information sharing taking it down on the national level. 					X			
4. Awareness Raising, Communication, and Education on SCP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness for government decision-makers SCP to be introduced in academic syllabus Sharing experience, Networking among Ministries to increase Public Awareness and for knowledge exchange – best practice sharing 	X	X				X		
5. Key Sector Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green/Sustainable Public Procurement Sustainable Tourism Sustainable Transport Sustainable Building and Construction Improving Land use policies and Zoning Urban Policies 3Rs and waste management Cleaner Production Consumer awareness / education Agriculture Private sector practices enhancement 		X	X X	X X (SPP for tourism sector)	X X		X X X X	
6. Other Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Mainstreaming in key SCP areas (Agriculture and Tourism) Resource mobilization for SCP work 				X	X			X