

Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

*“Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to
achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”*

1 – 4 MARCH 2021

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-theme of the Regional Forum: responsible consumption and production

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SDG 12 is widely adopted by UN members States.

It is effective in helping countries decouple GDP growth from energy and resources intensity, meet social development plans, while sustaining the planetary boundaries.

It help achieves those co-benefits as it is ambitious, cross-cutting, and synergetic with many SDGs, and even the aspirations of the Agenda 2063.

This session discusses African countries' progresses on SDG 12, focusing on

- a) Good practices in harnessing those synergies
- b) Major challenges and lessons learned
- c) Transformative actions for African post-COVID recovery plans.

Major milestones made on SDG 12



Overall, African countries perform comparatively well on SPC patterns (*Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Reports, 2019, 2020*).

10-Year Framework Programme on SCP is widely adopted, and the related implementation roadmap has been revised for alignment with the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

National SCP plans have been developed and mainstreamed as priority or target into national development plans, in several pilot countries.

SWITCH Africa Green programme (UNEP/EU), and **GO4SDGs Initiative (UNEP/BMU)** (to be launched in Mar/Apr 2021) have been designed to accelerate further implementation.

Multilateral conventions for the control of hazardous wastes (Montreal Protocol, Rotterdam Conv., Basel Conv., Stockholm Conv. are widely ratified. Transboundary movements of wastes are significantly restricted.

Major progress made in other SDGs having synergies with SDG 12



Science, technology and innovation policy environment has been improved at country level in accordance with the AU's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA) 2024.

This increases the opportunities for emergence of endogenous capabilities for science, technologies and innovations for SCP.

Fossil fuel subsidies reform/elimination have been announced in several countries, including in Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

This will reduce market distortions and increase the opportunities to development and adoption of renewable and clean energy technologies that reduce chemicals and many other pollutants.

Lack of clearly defined methodologies to collect data on many targets and insufficient good quality and reliable data prevails. Particularly, gap in data on food waste and food loss, R&D, science and technologies for SDCP is manifest.

Financial resources devoted for the implementation many targets are insufficient and the related sources are not clearly identifiable/defined.

There are no indications of sufficient institutional capacities to harness the synergies of SGD 12 and other SDGs in the development planning.

Insufficient political will and weak institutional framework for consistent promotion and implementation of SCP programmes

The COVID-19 pandemic confounds the above challenges.

Transformative actions / key messages



Scaling up solutions for inclusive green economies & sustainable consumption and production, promote telecommuting, and greener public procurement: Key message: Policy coherence:

Advancing circularity and access to green financing

Key message: SMEs innovations

Empowering youth for sustainable lifestyles and scale-up advocacy and education plans against unsustainable consumerism;

Key message: Youth Empowerment

Devise a stimulus plan to accelerate implementation of 10-YFPSCP in all countries as part of Africa Green Stimulus programme.

Key issues: size of the stimulus and mobilization plan?

Accelerate adoption of resource efficient and cleaner production so as to promote productivity and competitiveness in Africa

Key issue: Green business development



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Ideas
to
Action