

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM – SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (02 July 2015)

Thank you moderator and the presenters for such insightful presentations.

Moderator, the current and future social, environmental and economic challenges are interlinked and must be **addressed through an integrated approach**. These challenges are mounting as the world population **is forecast to reach 9 billion by 2050**, with one billion people to be lifted out of absolute poverty and an additional **1 to 3 billion middle class consumers joining the global economy by 2030**. In this regard, a goal on SCP could play an integration role of all the dimension of sustainability in our quest to implement and achieve the transformative agenda of sustainable development.

SCP brings together **economic elements of production and consumption, social aspects** driven by and resulting from production and consumption patterns and **environmental impacts from across product lifecycles**. Therefore, the SCP addresses the interface **between the economy, environment and society, and the resource use and waste flows that result from consumption and production activities**. Such an inherently integrative nature of SCP means that the goal need to be implemented in a more systemic approach.

SCP to be practically implementable as a goal would require nothing short of a critical review of the **culture of consumerism that become pervasive through mass media and advertisements**. Therefore, SCP has the potential not only to change aggregate consumer demand, but to transform production practices across economic sectors in both developed and developing countries.

In this regard, I agree with the Global SD report that effective implementation will require regulatory **instruments, economic instruments, information instruments and behavioural instruments**. Furthermore, the **SCP provide a system approach to the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable growth and to managing related trade-offs**.

Implementation of 10YFP is complemented by among other initiatives the SWITCH Africa Green and PAGE initiatives. We embedded our strategy for sustainable development into Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) to ensure that necessary resource are provide. We have structures such as the National Cleaner Productions Centre and the Green Fund that support a transitioning towards a resource efficiency trajectory

At the Rio+20 Conference, we reaffirmed that Sustainable Consumption and Production is a **cornerstone of sustainable development**. As a country we have noted progress made on the implementation of the 10 YFP and believe that collectively we are making great stride.

Let us build towards achieving **"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 of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of further generations"**

Thank you