Intervenção do Brasil - SCP - HLPF - 2/7/2015

The Rio Earth Summit of 1992 recognized that sustainable development requires a transformation of consumption and production patterns.

At Rio+20, our Heads of State and Government highlighted SCP as one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for sustainable development, together with poverty eradication and the management of natural resources. It was also in Rio, 3 years ago, that we decided to adopt and implement the 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP crafted in Johannesburg.

The importance of SCP for sustainable development was further reinforced in the SDGs. One of the 17 goals is fully dedicated to the subject, which is also mainstreamed throughout most, if not all, the other goals.

SCP needs to be implemented on the basis of a truly universal undertaking. At the same time, it is also one of the most concrete manifestations in the whole Post-2015 Agenda of the differentiation between developed and developing countries in light of CBDR. In Rio+20, we agreed that all countries must promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process.

Universality, as agreed in Rio, does not mean equal responsibilities. Implementing SCP is redressing the unfair situation in which some over-consume while many underconsume.

The 30 odd rich countries of the world, while accounting for only 17% of the global population, respond for more than 50% of the global electricity consumption and nearly 40% of global CO2 emissions.

The average electricity consumption in OECD countries is about 16 times that of Africa; while the average consumption of energy in South Asia is about half the global average and 8 times less than that of OECD average.

This means that SCP is also directly related to another important SDG, the one on inequality. The UN report on 'Inequality Matters - World Social Situation 2013' points out that in 2010, high-income countries generated 55% of global income, while Low-income countries created just above 1% of global income even though they contained 72% of global population.

Ultimately, what we agreed in Rio is: the more overconsumption, the more the responsibilities to reduce it; the more underconsumption, the greater the need to make use of natural resources, increase access to basic services and lift people out of poverty and hunger.

Brazil is doing its part. Notwithstanding our clean energy matrix and relatively low consumption of natural resources per capita, we have launched in 2011, the National Plan of Action for Sustainable Production and Consumption, which comprises actions in education for sustainable development, sustainable public procurement, environmental agenda for the public administration, recycling of solid waste, sustainable retail and sustainable construction. We believe our example shows that SCP can be universal.

SCP can also be a crucial driver of poverty eradication. To be truly sustainable, consumption and production must not only respect the environment, but also be socially inclusive and economically viable by fostering decent work, increased wages and gender equality, among positive externalities.

Indeed, if we understand SCP from this broader perspective it is easy to see how it could represent the great transformation that we will to make happen in order to bring about the future we want.