

CSD-19 high level Thursday 12 May 2011 at 10:00-13:00

**Roundtable 1: DEVELOPING PROGRAMMES AND A FRAMEWORK TO
ACCELERATE THE SHIFT TOWARDS SCP**

Statement by Permanent Secretary Hannele Pokka, Finland

Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this CSD-19 session we have an excellent opportunity to make things happen. The Johannesburg Summit in 2002 recognized the need to launch the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and the preparatory work has been going on for several years. We should now finalize the work.

While supporting the statement made on behalf of the European Union, let me hereby convey some of the Finnish views and reflect the questions presented by the secretariat.

The 10-year framework of programmes should underpin a common vision on sustainable consumption and production shared by all countries. It should provide valuable input to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Fulfillment of basic needs is a necessary condition for poverty eradication and decent quality of life. However, these needs should be met in the carrying capacity of our ecosystems.

The developed and developing countries paths to sustainable consumption and production are highly interlinked. In industrialized countries, we should focus on moderating our material consumption and improving our resource-efficiency. In developing countries, the biggest challenge is lifting people from poverty and improving human wellbeing. It requires increasing energy and raw material consumption. In the long run the challenge is, however, how the developing countries can maximize the lessons learnt and move to low carbon and clean technology solutions.

A shift to sustainable consumption and production requires a mix of policies, economic instruments, regulations, regional and international cooperation and long-term vision and planning. All actors have a role to play but the Governments should sit in the driver's seat. They should provide with clear signals to producers and consumers, and create effective and transparent legal and administrative measures. Moreover, by using the life-cycle approach, our efforts on sustainable consumption and production can turn social and environmental challenges to business and employment opportunities.

Finland has been closely involved in building the process on the 10-year framework of programmes. We have prepared a national strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production in 2006 which is currently under review. We have also taken actively part in the Marrakech process by leading the task force on sustainable buildings and constructions. Without undermining the multiple on-going national initiatives around the world, it has become clear to us that we need stronger and more focused action at international level.

As a concerted UN-effort, the 10-year framework of programmes could provide an important set of tools to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns worldwide. In order to be effective, it should be supported by an efficient institutional structure. We consider that UNEP has the comparative advantage to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the framework, and we are pleased with the progress in this regard. The actual programmes should be set up on a voluntary basis while meeting the commonly agreed criteria. It is also important that the 10-year framework will be monitored and reviewed periodically.

The 10-year framework of programmes should deepen and make use of the globally recognized scientific and policy knowledge base. We see the role of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management central in this work.

I hope that this CSD-session will become a milestone in the history of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.