

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Recommendations

Third International Expert Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production
Stockholm, Sweden (26 – 29 June 2007)

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)¹ participating at the 3rd International Expert Meeting² present the following recommendations to the Steering Committee to improve the process and outcome of the Marrakech Process.

A) The Goal of the Marrakech Framework Must Be to Reverse Worsening Social and Ecological Trends by 2021

The “Framework of Programmes” must aim to reverse trends by 2021 rather than slow them down. This requires going *beyond* improvements in efficiency and moving towards sufficiency, as well as addressing both over-consumption and under-consumption.

The Background Papers propose a good list of initiatives for countries and regions to implement as well as mechanisms for dialogue in the coming years (e.g., Task Forces). However, **the current draft does not identify the actual institutional framework or specific programmes.**

Going forward, the Steering Committee needs to:

1. Identify **how the Framework will support national and regional initiatives** shifting production and consumption patterns in the 10 years following 2011.
2. Identify the international bodies that will be **responsible for administering** programmes in support of national and regional initiatives³
3. Propose a **list of specific programmes** to support national and regional initiatives
4. Create **space for substantive dialogue** to frame the context for the Marrakech process (e.g., on equity, well-being, reduction / efficiency...) with greater outreach towards all nations and stakeholders
5. **Define “corporate⁴ accountability”** particularly as it relates to the mix of voluntary (i.e., “corporate responsibility”) and regulatory approaches necessary for the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns
6. Develop a strong multi-stakeholder **monitoring and evaluation component** into the Marrakech process, to track the “Framework of Programmes” as well as the impact of resulting national and regional initiatives

¹ There is no universal definition of NGOs. For this paper, we’re referring to NGOs as organizations committed to the public interest (e.g., environment, development, women’s and consumer groups, research organizations, indigenous and social justice organizations, trade unions, etc.), in contrast to business / industry and government.

² These recommendations were prepared in the lead-up to the 3rd International Expert Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production. They were refined in Stockholm during the NGO Forum on 26 June, 2006 and subsequent informal NGO meetings. NGOs have many other ideas on how to strengthen the Marrakech Process.

³ There is a practical concern with the 2021 date: CSD does not have an official mandate beyond 2017.

⁴ This refers to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) as well as larger corporations.

B) Implement Agenda 21 Objectives on Production and Consumption

The Marrakech Process must result in implementing Agenda 21's objectives and commitments on sustainable production and consumption, beginning with Chapter 4.⁵

The Steering Committee needs to:

- Coordinate a comprehensive **multi-stakeholder review** of efforts, success and failure since the Rio Earth Summit to implement the Agenda 21 objectives and action commitments on production and consumption agreed to in 1992 by governments.
 - a) Identify those objectives in Agenda 21 which have not been implemented
 - b) Identify and address the **barriers** (political, economic, cultural, etc.) that keep countries from developing domestic policy frameworks and action plans on sustainable consumption and production
 - c) Include case studies such as implementation of the revised UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection
 - d) Present a draft to the 4th International Expert Meeting in 2009 with the main report to the CSD in 2010

C) Strengthen Meaningful Participation (and Diversity) of NGOs in the Marrakech Process

NGOs appreciate the space provided at this meeting for an NGO Forum. NGOs will continue to play an important role in the Marrakech Process, by:

- Being closely engaged in the **development of the “Framework of Programmes,”** including through task forces and facilitating informal NGO dialogue
- Participating in **research, programme design, planning and implementation**
- **Lobbying governments** in their own regions and countries
- Ensuring that the **“silent voices”** are heard (conservation; landless citizens; representatives of gender as an issue; etc.)

In order to have NGOs as equal partners, we call on the Steering Committee to:

1. Support a formal **NGO Forum** be held and supported by the United Nations between the 3rd and 4th International Expert Meeting
2. Include NGO representative(s) as members of the **Steering Committee** for the 4th International Expert Meeting
3. Support NGO representative(s) in order to play a meaningful role in the **Task Forces**. For example, identify and address constraints to their inclusion (e.g., support to attend meetings), provide operational guidelines for new and existing Task Forces.
4. Work more closely with NGOs involved in the process to **identify additional NGOs** – ensuring wider representation and participation among the various NGO communities

⁵ Agenda 21 was agreed in 1992 by Heads of State and has been adopted by over 180 governments.