



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2024

Original: English

2024 session

27 July 2023–24 July 2024

Agenda item 6

**High-level political forum on sustainable development convened
under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council**

Progress report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General transmits herewith the progress report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as secretariat of the 10-Year Framework, and building on an annual reporting mechanism for Member States and stakeholders. The present report, covering the period from January to December 2023, is prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [67/203](#), [68/210](#), [69/214](#) and [70/201](#). The objective of the report is to share with Member States and other stakeholders progress achieved in 2023 on the implementation of the 10-Year Framework, based on reporting of Member States and stakeholders. In addition, the report presents key messages for decision-makers for the consideration of the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development.



I. Introduction

1. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, adopted in 2012 by Heads of State as part of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (see [A/CONF.216/5](#)), is a universal framework to accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production at the regional and national levels. The 10-Year Framework is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focused on Sustainable Development Goal 12, and serves as a reference for decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.¹

2. Section II provides perspectives from the 10-Year Framework secretariat and the secretariats of the organizations leading the 10-Year Framework programmes on the theme of the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development, “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. Section III contains updates on progress achieved in 2023, based on official reporting of Member States on Sustainable Development Goal target 12.1; the activities of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes; and three initiatives launched in 2023 by the 10-Year Framework in the context of the approved results framework and budget of the 10-Year Framework secretariat (2023–2024).² Section IV presents key messages for decision-makers for the consideration of the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the General Assembly.

II. Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda in times of multiple crises through sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy approaches

3. Better resource management is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda. According to the 2024 edition of the *Global Resources Outlook*, the question is no longer whether a transformation towards sustainable resource management is necessary, but how to make it happen urgently. The scale of impacts linked to the way material resources (biomass, fossil fuels, metals and non-metallic minerals) are extracted and processed for the global economy is increasing; such processes account for over 55 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, up to 40 per cent of particulate matter health-related impacts, and over 90 per cent of land-related biodiversity loss. If not addressed, the impacts of the current trajectory of resource use will derail the aim of meeting multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.³

4. At the heart of more sustainable resource use is an accelerated shift in resource productivity, together with responsible consumption. Fairer and more responsible consumption can be facilitated by strategic investments in public and private infrastructure and provisioning systems to guide the global economy towards more sustainable and equitable resource use and management.⁴

¹ Sustainable consumption and production, captured in Sustainable Development Goal 12, is recognized as an overarching objective of and prerequisite for sustainable development (see [A/CONF.199/20](#) and [A/CONF.199/20/Corr.1](#)), and therefore serves as a key enabler for all 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

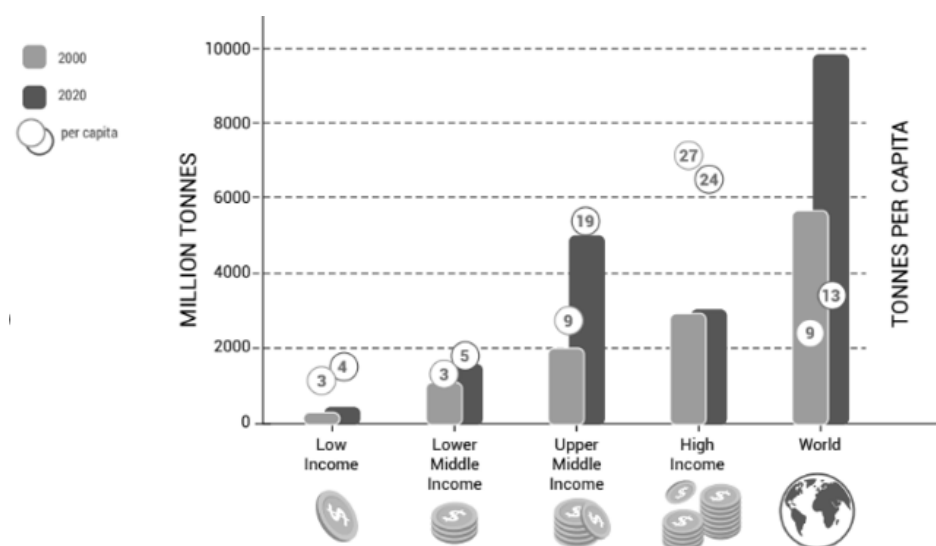
² Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/from-crm/10YFP%2520Results%2520Framework%2520and%2520Budget%25202023-2024%2520Final.pdf.

³ United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Resources Outlook 2024 Summary for Policymakers: Bend the Trend – Pathways to a liveable planet as resource use spikes* (Nairobi, 2024).

⁴ Ibid.

5. Eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities requires an urgent shift in current patterns of production and consumption, with high-income countries taking the lead. According to the International Resource Panel, high-income countries consume six times more materials and contribute ten times more to climate impacts than low-income countries.⁵ Over the last 20 years, upper-middle-income countries have more than doubled their material footprint⁶ and material footprint per capita, fast approaching the level of high-income countries, which has remained constant over the same period of time (see figure I). More concerning, the material footprint of low-income countries – where there is an urgent need for improvements in material standards of living – has remained low and almost unchanged over the past 20 years.⁷ As a global community of nations, we are failing to achieve the goals set for more sustainable consumption and production.

Figure I
Material footprint by income group



Source: United Nations Environment Programme International Resource Panel global material flows database

6. Resource efficiency and supporting policies, including circular economy approaches, can reduce material resource use and dramatically reduce environmental impacts in high and upper middle-income countries (absolute decoupling), while also improving well-being and boosting economic growth. This can also create the space for resource use to grow where it is most needed. For instance, dietary changes that reduce consumption of commodities with high environmental impacts, such as animal protein, and policies that reduce food loss and waste could decrease the land needed for food by 5 per cent by 2060 compared with 2020 levels, while more equitably ensuring adequate nutrition for all.⁸ Figure II illustrates recommended strategies for reducing resource use across four provisioning systems (food, built environment, mobility and energy), which cut across two sectors covered by the 10-Year Framework.





⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Material footprint is a measure that attributes all the material resources mobilized globally to the final consumer. It is used as an indicator to report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.2.1 (material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP).

⁷ United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Resources Outlook 2024 Summary for Policymakers: Bend the Trend – Pathways to a liveable planet as resource use spikes* (Nairobi, 2024).

⁸ Ibid.

Figure II
Recommended strategies for reducing resource use across four provisioning systems and expected outcomes based on scenario modelling by the International Resource Panel

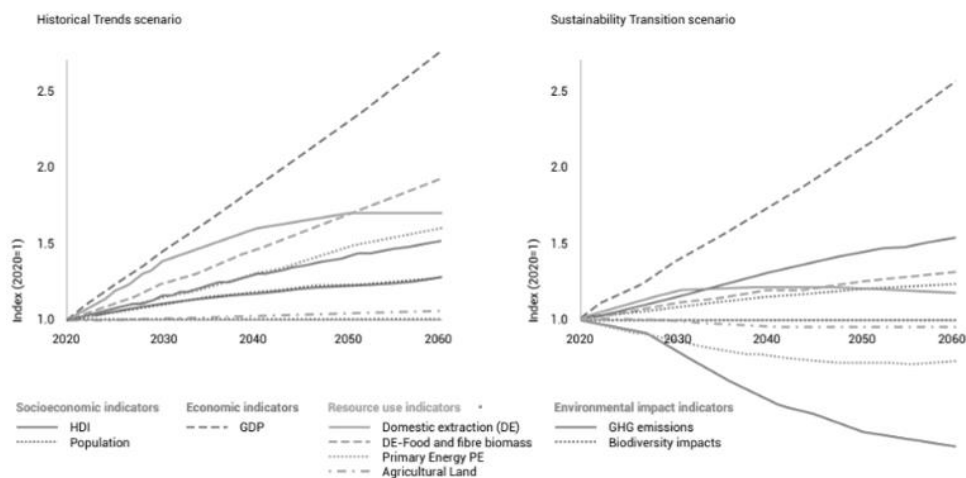
Provisioning system	 Food	 Built environment	 Mobility	 Energy
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the demand of the most impactful food commodities Reducing food loss and food waste Protecting and restoring productive land while meeting demand for nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assuring sustainability of the new building stock Retrofitting the existing building stock More intensive use of buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities moving towards active mobility and public transportation Reducing carbon-intensive frequent traveling modalities Decreasing emissions intensity of transport modalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonizing electricity supply through the scaling up of low-resource renewable energies and increased energy efficiency
Outcomes from policies modelled in Scenarios	Can decrease the land needed for food by 5% compared to 2020 levels while more equitably ensuring adequate nutrition for all	Can decrease building material stocks by 25% by 2060, leading to a 30% decrease in energy demand, and 30% decrease in GHG emissions compared to current trends.	Can reduce related material stock requirements (-50%), energy demands (-50%) and GHG emissions (-60%) by 2060 compared to current trends.	Can drive a sharp decrease in energy demand, with reductions of climate impacts by more than 80 per cent.

Source: United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Resources Outlook 2024 Summary for Policymakers*.

7. It is possible to reduce resource use while promoting sustainable development, reducing inequality, improving well-being and dramatically reducing environmental impacts. This requires system-based approaches across sectors. The International Resource Panel contrasts two outlooks for resource use. The first, a “historical trends” scenario, explores the consequences of established patterns of resource use continuing. The second, a “sustainability transition” scenario, demonstrates how an integrated approach, combining action on resource efficiency, energy and climate, food and land, would achieve significantly larger positive effects than any one of those shifts in isolation (see figure III). Taken together, by 2060, such actions could lead to a global gross domestic product (GDP) about 3 per cent larger and a global human development index 7 per cent higher than could be expected by following historical trends. Such measures could also mitigate growth in material use by 30 per cent, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80 per cent from current levels by 2060, consistent with the Paris Agreement, along with absolute reductions in energy use, agricultural land area, and other pressures.⁹

⁹ Ibid.

Figure III
Comparison of the “historical trends” scenario and the “sustainability transition” scenario



Source: United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Resources Outlook 2024 Summary for Policymakers*.

8. A shift towards circular economy approaches, as compared with business-as-usual, could also result in a global net increase of 7–8 million jobs by 2030.¹⁰ In 2023, the 10-Year Framework and its One Planet network have therefore concentrated on scaling up multilateral action to accelerate this shift, with a focus on jobs, income and supporting a just transition.

III. Accelerating the shift to sustainable consumption and production at national and global levels

A. Member States’ leadership at the national level to implement the 10-Year Framework under Sustainable Development Goal target 12.1

9. This section will cover policies officially reported in 2023 under Sustainable Development Goal target 12.1 and highlight the increasing importance of circular economy policies and approaches in promoting the shift to SCP. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, one third of Member States (64 States) have reported policies and actions to implement the 10-Year Framework, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal target 12.1. From 2019, when official reporting under the 10-Year Framework was initiated, to December 2023, 516 policy instruments to accelerate the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns were reported. This represents an increase of 7.7 per cent compared with 2022.

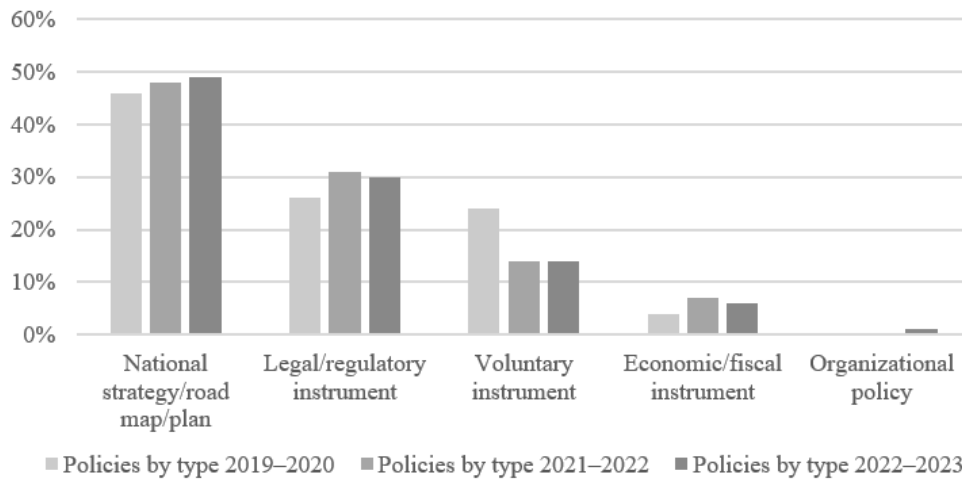
10. From January to December 2023, 41 policy instruments, including national strategies for a circular economy, were reported by the 10-Year Framework national focal points of 13 Member States (Australia, Cambodia, France, Hungary, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Niger, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and United States of America).

11. Policies and initiatives reported in 2023 were mainly national road maps and strategies (49 per cent). The objective of such policies was mainly to align the roles

¹⁰ International Labour Organization, *Skills for a greener future: key findings* (Geneva, 2019).

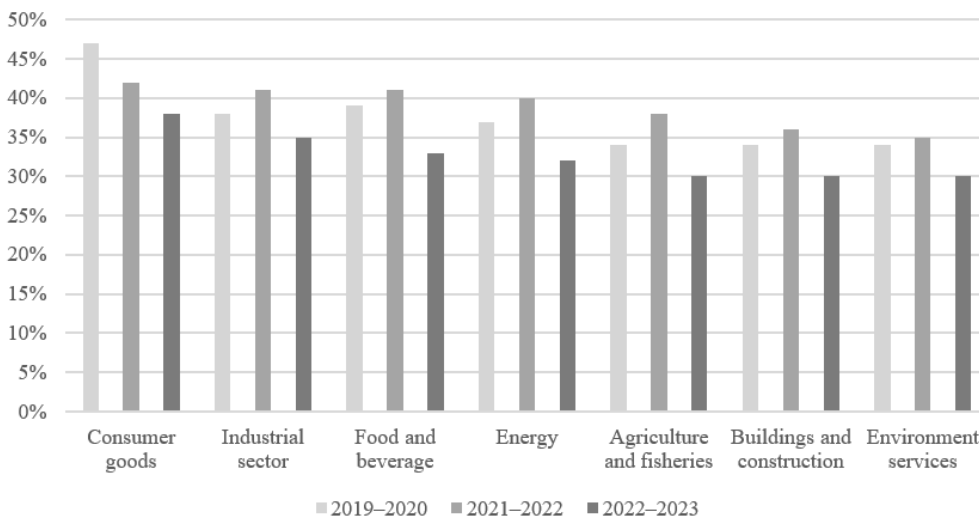
and responsibilities of key stakeholders at the national level and generally raise awareness of sustainable consumption and production. Some countries took further steps to enforce sustainable consumption and production through legal instruments (30 per cent). The share of voluntary instruments reported decreased during the reporting period, to 14 per cent (see figure IV).

Figure IV
Policy instruments reported in 2023, as classified by Member States



12. More than one third of the policies reported by Member States in 2023 continued to show an increased focus on applying circular economy approaches across high-impact economic sectors, such as consumer goods, agriculture and fisheries, buildings and construction, energy and transport (see figure V). While significant acceleration is needed to meet all targets of Sustainable Development Goal 12, progress has nevertheless been achieved in 2023 in terms of recognizing circular economy approaches in the context of sustainable consumption and production as tools for economic diversification, value creation and sustainable resource management.

Figure V
Prioritized sectoral distribution of sustainable consumption and production policies reported by Member States



13. In 2023, four Member States (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique and Niger) submitted their first official national report under Sustainable Development Goal target 12.1, signalling a positive trend in the implementation of Goal 12. The policy instruments on sustainable consumption and production submitted by three of those Member States show a positive trend towards connecting sustainable resource use with economic and social benefits. For example, Mozambique launched a 20-year national development plan to promote sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and progress towards a circular economy. Its national plan encourages the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials and incorporates actions to promote sustainable lifestyles and education. The Niger adopted a national strategy and action plan for integrated management of oasis ecosystems. The action plan emphasizes public procurement as a tool to implement its strategic priorities and recognizes the coordinated assistance from the United Nations system. Cambodia adopted its first national sustainable consumption and production road map, which is focused on supporting the transition towards a circular economy approach and sustainable pathway. The national road map contains components that cut across education policies, research and communications, monitoring and gender and social inclusion measures.

B. Action taken under the 10-Year Framework to support sustainable consumption and production

14. Inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration, in all its different forms and at all levels, is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda and addressing the environmental crises that are perpetuating and worsening inequalities globally. That message is at the core of the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030 and all the One Planet network programmes and initiatives supporting its implementation. The present section summarizes progress achieved in 2023 by the 10-Year Framework, which represents a trend towards mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production and circular economy approaches in high-impact sectors, by strengthening the main enablers for sustainable consumption and production, such as consumer information, public procurement, lifestyles and education approaches, as well as measurement and disclosure measures.¹¹

1. Sustainable Public Procurement Programme

15. Strengthening public demand for sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy approaches, is crucial. Public procurement represents on average 13–20 per cent of GDP (annually, across countries), and global expenditure in

¹¹ The 10-Year Framework of Programmes and its One Planet network comprise seven global multi-stakeholder programmes and initiatives: the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme, led by the China Environmental Development Centre of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; the Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme, led by Germany, Consumers International and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme, formerly led by Japan and Sweden; the Sustainable Food Systems Programme, led by Switzerland, the World Wide Fund for Nature and Costa Rica; the Sustainable Tourism Programme, led by the World Tourism Organization; the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme, which was superseded in 2023 by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction Materials Hub, co-managed by the One Planet network and the Life Cycle Initiative, and its three working groups (Circular Built Environment, led by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Whole Life Cycle Policy Coalition, led by the United Kingdom and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and Bio-based Materials, led by the Argentine Centre of Engineers); and the Digitalization 4 Circular Economy Impact Initiative, in collaboration with the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability.

procurement is estimated at nearly \$9.5 trillion.¹² National and local governments can leverage their purchasing power to advance key environmental and social policy objectives through ambitious sustainable public procurement policies in high-impact sectors. Public procurement can translate into ambitious investment strategies and drive market innovation and transformation, including through sustainability information and standards for sustainable products and services. However, the potential of public procurement has not been fully realized. For example, only 10 per cent of the 194 parties to the Paris Agreement that have submitted their first nationally determined contributions have expressly indicated public procurement as a strategic policy instrument.

16. National and local governments play a key role in steering the transformation of the construction sector towards sustainability and circularity as regulators, investors, and urban and territorial planners. Indeed, decisions made at the financing, planning and design stages are those that exert the greatest influence and largely determine what type of construction is built and where, how much is built, and how it is built, thereby shaping activities along the rest of the value chain, together with the social and environmental impacts.¹³

17. Supporting national and local governments in their efforts to use their planning, managing and purchasing power to accelerate the uptake of sustainability and circularity in the construction sector has become one of the strategic objectives of the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme. With the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the One Planet network flagship initiative “Mainstreaming Circularity in the Construction Sector Leveraging the Power of Public Procurement” was initiated in 2023, under the leadership of the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme and the Circular Built Environment working group of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Materials Hub). Also in 2023, the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework took preparatory steps to establish an international advisory group to guide the flagship initiative, and developed an engagement and outreach strategy, leading to the holding of the Buildings and Climate Global Forum co-organized by UNEP and France in March 2024.

18. Given the substantial demand for food from the public sector, sustainable public food procurement plays a crucial role in determining the type of food purchased, the source of procurement, and the production methods employed. Those three factors can help to address food security and nutrition, livelihoods and environmental sustainability. Notably, school feeding programmes, which serve as one of the largest social safety nets globally, benefiting 418 million children and accounting for an annual investment of \$48 billion,¹⁴ present a unique opportunity.

19. In 2023, the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme and the Sustainable Food Systems Programme established a joint interest group on sustainable food procurement, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, with the participation of over 30 organizations. That effort led to the development of a partnership between UNEP and FAO, which aims to formulate recommendations for sustainable public procurement practices that integrate social and environmental considerations holistically into public food procurement processes in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Launched in December 2023, the outcomes of the project will serve as a foundation for implementing a flagship initiative that leverages sustainable public procurement to advance sustainable food systems and provide in-country technical support on the matter in 2024.

¹² World Bank, “Global Public Procurement Database: Share, Compare, Improve!”, 23 March 2020.

¹³ United Nations Environment Programme, *Catalysing science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production: The value-chain approach and its application to food, construction and textiles* (Nairobi, 2021).

¹⁴ World Food Programme, *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2022* (Rome, 2022).

2. Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme

20. Making markets work for people and the planet requires empowered consumers who have access to healthy and sustainable products, and to accurate and comprehensive sustainability information. The Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme promotes consumer protection policies that level the playing field and guarantee that institutional and individual consumers are well informed about the environmental and social impacts of the products and services they consume.

21. In 2023, the Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme implemented a comprehensive outreach initiative aimed at raising awareness of the critical role played by sustainability information among diverse stakeholder groups, including government representatives, consumer groups and businesses. The outreach efforts included the Consumer Information Global Conference held in Bogotá in November 2023, dedicated sessions at the Consumers International Global Congress held in Nairobi in December 2023, and a series of workshops and webinars aimed at equipping stakeholders with the necessary tools to engage with sustainability information regulation, labelling and best practices.

22. The EcoAdvance project, implemented by UNEP, the German Agency for International Cooperation and the Öko-Institut with the support of the International Climate Initiative, was launched in 2023 to support five Latin American countries – Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico – to create incentives for cleaner production, focusing on high-impact sectors (building and construction, electronics and textiles), through the use of eco-labels to convey the environmental impacts of products and services to consumers and public authorities.

23. Aligning consumer protection and information policies and instruments with the multilateral environmental agreements and the global sustainable development agenda was another priority area for the 10-Year Framework. In 2023, a partnership agreement between UNEP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the co-lead of the Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme, was established to promote, from a regulatory and consumer protection perspective, the uptake of sustainability information principles and guidelines developed by the Programme as tools to facilitate the implementation of international environmental agreements. One of the objectives of the partnership is to identify the conditions required to develop a multidimensional global standard for consumer information on products and services with regard to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and to inform the future strategic directions of the Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme in 2024 and beyond.

3. Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme

24. Institutions, policies, infrastructure, markets, business models, products and services all contribute to shaping our ways of living. In 2023, the 10-Year Framework secretariat supported the Indian presidency of the Group of 20 in the development of the “G20 High Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development”. Principle 4 contains a reference to the 10-Year Framework and its One Planet network and calls for the engagement of all stakeholders to drive synergies while delivering on development, environment and climate goals through sustainable production, as well as to create and scale up sustainable ecosystems that are socially inclusive and promote decent jobs to encourage sustainable lifestyles and consumer choices for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.

25. Circular economy policies and solutions, often focused on production and management practices, can also enable sustainable consumption patterns. Following expert and multi-stakeholder consultations conducted in 2023, the 10-Year

Framework secretariat, in partnership with Chatham House, initiated the development of a report on achieving well-being and transforming consumption through circular policies and solutions. The report is expected to be presented as a background document of the 2024 One Planet Network Forum, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September 2024, under the overarching theme “Reducing inequalities and achieving just transitions for all through sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy”.

4. Sustainable Food Systems Programme

26. Food systems transformation is a whole-of-society and whole-of-government task that requires active engagement and effective participation of all actors across all sectors, leaving no one behind. Multi-stakeholder collaboration mechanisms that enable the meaningful participation of stakeholders who have often been excluded from policymaking processes, such as Indigenous Peoples, small-scale farmers, women, young people and informal food systems workers, are essential to creating food strategies and actions that simultaneously benefit food security, environmental and socioeconomic goals.

27. In 2023, the Sustainable Food Systems Programme convened its fourth global conference, entitled “The Transformation We Need”, focused on how food systems need to be transformed to overcome the multiple, deeply rooted and interlinked crises that undermine the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The conference also served as a preparatory meeting for the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment. The outcome document of the conference¹⁵ contained high-level messages, which subsequently influenced other international processes in 2023, such as the United Arab Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convergence Initiative of the Food Systems Coordination Hub.

28. The Sustainable Food Systems Programme also promoted other initiatives, in particular the publication of a guide by UNEP, FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled “Rethinking our Food Systems: A Guide for Multi-stakeholder Collaboration”; a series of shared learning events on the implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation in support of the 2030 Agenda; and a webinar series with a focus on the Mediterranean region on topics including the role of consumers, women, and green growth in promoting sustainable food systems. To facilitate knowledge-sharing and support implementation, the Sustainable Food Systems Programme also launched a Food Systems Knowledge Hub, which provides guidance and tools for promoting and implementing such approaches.

5. Sustainable Tourism Programme

29. Sustainable tourism has the capacity to drive economic development and create jobs, while conserving and protecting fragile environmental and cultural ecosystems. If well managed, tourism can also be a catalyst for sustainability in other sectors, such as food, buildings and transportation. The Sustainable Tourism Programme, led by the World Tourism Organization in collaboration with the 10-Year Framework secretariat, demonstrates that collaborative and pre-competitive platforms, where tourism businesses, destinations and other relevant organizations can share best practices and develop tools, methodologies and solutions to implement sustainability and circularity, can drive the transformation of an entire sector.

¹⁵ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/Final%20outcome%20document_4th%20global%20SFSP%20conference_v28APR2023.pdf.

30. The Sustainable Tourism Programme continued to engage the tourism sector in combating climate change and promoting inclusive transitions through the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, included in 2023 as an initiative under the Global Climate Action Portal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Glasgow Declaration acts as a catalyst and has continued to secure commitments from the tourism sector in 2023, with 80 new signatories (mainly businesses) out of a total of 868. The Portal tracks progress in implementation, particularly through the collection and review of the climate action plans that signatories must submit within a year after joining the initiative. The Glasgow Declaration Implementation Report 2023 contains an overview of the rapidly developing engagement of the tourism sector with the strategic pathways of measurement, decarbonization, regeneration (adaptation), collaboration and finance. The report presents a review of the 420 progress updates and 257 climate action plans received in 2023. Most of the climate action plans were submitted by business signatories (59 per cent), followed by supporting organization signatories (30 per cent) and destination signatories (12 per cent).

31. In 2023, 59 national tourism administrations nominated a national tourism climate focal point to the World Tourism Organization and participated in consultations to develop policy guidance to support climate action by national tourism administrations.¹⁶ The guidance is intended to assist government agencies in the development of tourism climate action policies and initiatives to support the low-carbon transition, with a focus on integrated mitigation and adaptation approaches. The guidance was developed with technical support from UNEP and released in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

32. In 2023, the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative of the Sustainable Tourism Programme secured 73 new signatories, bringing the total number of signatories to 215, of which 74 per cent are from the business sector. The signatories have made ambitious commitments on the circular economy of plastics and agreed to track progress in implementation. Initial analysis based on data collected in 2023 shows that at least half of the signatories measuring plastic weight have reported lower usage intensity of plastics (certain signatories, including large hotel chains, tour operators that own properties, cruise lines and suppliers, have to disclose the weight of plastics in their operations on an annual basis), and that accommodation providers are making steady progress in eliminating unnecessary or problematic plastics, as well as in introducing reuse models. To further support those efforts, a series of training sessions and pilot activities focused on phasing out unnecessary and problematic plastic packaging and items in the operations of tourism businesses took place in 2023, in cooperation with several tour operators and companies.

33. To foster more sustainable food systems within the tourism sector, the Global Roadmap for Food Waste Reduction in the Tourism Sector was launched to promote the sustainable management of food so that it does not become waste. It proposes a systemic approach and is complemented by a series of nine fact sheets on procuring food sustainably,¹⁷ which emphasize sustainable procurement strategies across various food types, detailing their climate and water footprints, as well as ethical considerations such as fair trade and organic sourcing. In addition, the Sustainable Tourism Programme has produced seven case studies¹⁸ and continuously updated a database of resources to assist tourism businesses in adopting sustainable food

¹⁶ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/policy-guidance-support-climate-action-national-tourism-administrations.

¹⁷ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-tourism/sustainable-food-systems/procurement-factsheets.

¹⁸ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-tourism/food-waste-reduction/case-studies.

practices. To raise awareness, a sustainable food management toolkit¹⁹ was developed, in three different versions aimed at policymakers, businesses and tourists, complemented by a video showcasing chefs' recommendations on reducing food waste and sustainable procurement.²⁰ Those initiatives were highlighted during a panel discussion on circular solutions for reducing food waste, held in the framework of the eighth World Tourism Organization World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism.

C. Initiatives launched in 2023 by the One Planet network

34. The Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030 identifies various pathways in which the international community can concentrate its efforts to accelerate the 2030 Agenda. Building on ongoing partnerships of the 10-Year Framework and its One Planet network, three solution-driven initiatives were launched in 2023. The initiatives address gaps and opportunities for disclosure and mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production, including through circular economy approaches.

1. Building circularity into nationally determined contributions – a practical toolbox

35. Demand for materials is a key driver of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and waste production worldwide. With existing mitigation measures in nationally determined contributions mainly focused on the energy sector, representing approximately 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, there is vast potential for circular economy approaches to contribute to closing the gap on the remaining 45 per cent and raise the ambition level of new nationally determined contributions.²¹

36. In the outcome of the first global stocktake, adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Conference of the Parties noted the importance of “transitioning to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production in efforts to address climate change, including through circular economy approaches” and encouraged efforts in that regard.

37. To support countries to raise the ambition level of their national climate plans (nationally determined contributions) through circular economy approaches, the UNEP One Planet network, UNDP and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change co-developed a practical digital toolbox²² and accompanying user guide for building circularity into nationally determined contributions.²³ The toolbox was launched during the Middle East and North Africa Regional Climate Week in October 2023. The toolbox platform received over 1,400 unique visitors and over 4,380 site visits in the first two months, making it the most visited page on the host website.

38. The digital toolbox platform is structured as a stepwise methodology that includes key questions, checklists, case studies and sectoral examples, enabling countries to:

- (a) Identify greenhouse gas emissions from material use to prioritize sectors and sub-sectors for circular economy interventions;

¹⁹ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-tourism/sustainable-food-systems/sustainable-food-management-toolkit.

²⁰ Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mMR4ueZmXA>.

²¹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, “Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change” (2019).

²² Available at www.learningfornature.org/en/building-circularity-into-nationally-determined-contributions/.

²³ Available at www.undp.org/publications/building-circularity-nationally-determined-contributions-practical-toolbox.

(b) Select circular economy interventions for the prioritized sectors and sub-sectors for the nationally determined contributions and update targets;

(c) Identify policy instruments, indicators and finance for the implementation of selected circular economy interventions;

(d) Track and report progress in the biennial transparency report, if desired.

39. Enhancing the use of the toolbox and accelerating implementation is essential, as current nationally determined contributions, if fully implemented, fall short of fully achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement.²⁴ In 2023, the toolbox was rolled out in three pilot countries (Ecuador, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe). Over 30 countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific took part in regional workshops for capacity-building, learning and knowledge exchange on the circular economy and nationally determined contributions. The activities also allowed for the identification of technical and financial support needs for the next phase of the project.

2. Promoting disclosure on circular economy approaches by private sector actors through a global circularity protocol for business

40. In 2023, the One Planet network, in collaboration with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, spearheaded the global circularity protocol for business, a business-led initiative to accelerate circularity by providing a voluntary framework for businesses on circularity. It is intended to provide companies with a standard corporate performance accountability system for circularity, resulting in harmonized circularity methodologies and accounting metrics for reporting and disclosing their circularity performance, target-setting, assurance, and communication. It will also provide policymakers with practical policy levers to address the roadblocks that impede leading companies from scaling and speeding up their circular transition.

41. The global circularity protocol for business addresses the pressing need for standardized metrics and targets, aligning with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards and other existing metrics for the circular economy. Moreover, it promotes the involvement of businesses and stakeholders in taking an active role in addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The benefits of a circular transition are substantial, potentially unlocking \$4.5 trillion in economic growth and creating 6 million new jobs through activities such as recycling, repairing, renting and remanufacturing. In the textile industry, for example, switching to more circular business models, including fashion rentals, re-commerce, repair and refurbishment, could enable the industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 143 million tonnes by 2030.

42. The global circularity protocol for business will be developed through a collaborative and inclusive process, engaging stakeholders from diverse geographical, sectoral, policy and value chain backgrounds. Regional consultations will further fortify this approach and enhance the participation of the global South, ensuring a comprehensive and representative framework. To lay the foundation for the development of the global circularity protocol for business, an impact analysis has been initiated to estimate the effects of the circular transition on various aspects, such as the value chain, climate, biodiversity and social indicators. Subsequently, the focus will shift to the development of a comprehensive corporate performance and accountability system specifically tailored for circularity. It will foster harmonized circularity methodologies and accounting metrics for reporting and disclosure, thereby enabling comparisons between businesses. Lastly, the development of a

²⁴ [FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/12](#).

policy framework for circularity will support policymakers in creating the right incentives and establish a level playing field for businesses.

3. Advancing a sustainable and circular built environment

43. The construction sector is critical to our economy and well-being, representing an estimated 10–13 per cent of global GDP^{25,26} and some of the greatest present and future investment opportunities.²⁷ The construction sector also consumes almost 50 per cent of the total material footprint across the global economy.²⁸ This translates into a heavy contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (37 per cent), mainly associated with the production and supply of construction materials and the operation of buildings. Construction and manufacturing each account for around 40 per cent of first resource use.²⁹ This trend is expected to intensify, both in terms of resource use and associated impacts: 50 per cent of the buildings that will exist in 2050 have not been built yet. Construction materials are set to dominate resource consumption in fast-growing developing economies, with associated greenhouse gas emissions expected to double by 2060.³⁰

44. In 2023, a new partnership between the One Planet network and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction was established at the World Circular Economy Forum 2023 and the annual assembly of the Global Alliance.³¹ Its main objective is to foster change across the construction and materials ecosystem by promoting circular principles and sustainable practices throughout the entire lifecycle. The main platform for the partnership is the Materials Hub and its three working groups, led by Finland and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Circular Built Environment), the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (Whole Life Cycle Policy Coalition), and the Argentine Centre of Engineers (Bio-based materials).

45. Building on the legacy of the One Planet network Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme, the first global programme that mapped circularity indicators of the construction sector against the Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted the importance of the global South to lock in sustainable and circular approaches in buildings and construction, the Circular Built Environment working group engaged with a core set of partners and organizations in 2023, such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the World Green Building Council, UNOPS, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Habitat for Humanity International, the University of Cape Town and Energies2050, to support policy development, capacity-building, knowledge creation and market transformation.

46. With the support of Finland and the Circular Built Environment working group, the 10-Year Framework secretariat, in partnership with UNOPS and UN-Habitat, launched the development of a standardized circularity assessment framework for the

²⁵ UNEP, *Catalysing science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production: The value-chain approach and its application to food, construction and textiles* (Nairobi, 2021).

²⁶ McKinsey & Company, “The next normal in construction: How disruption is reshaping the world’s largest ecosystem” (2020).

²⁷ International Finance Corporation, *Green Buildings: A financial and policy blueprint for emerging markets* (Washington, D.C., 2019).

²⁸ UNEP Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspots Analysis Tool.

²⁹ UNEP, *Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future* (Nairobi, 2020).

³⁰ UNEP and International Energy Agency, *Global Status Report 2017: Towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector* (Nairobi, 2017).

³¹ World Circular Economy Forum session entitled “Building blocks for a circular future: trends, policies and solutions”, 31 May 2023, and accelerator session entitled “Building a circular environment”, 1 June 2023; Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction annual assembly, 1 and 2 June 2023.

construction sector at the national level, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed objectives. The aim is to develop and pilot in 2024 a standardized yet flexible set of qualitative and quantitative indicators, as well as methodological guidance, to help countries, in particular developing and emerging economies, to assess the performance and challenges of their buildings and construction sector with regard to circularity, thereby supporting their efforts to shift to a just and equitable circular economy model in that sector.

IV. Key messages for the consideration of the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the General Assembly

47. **Economic transformation and shifting to sustainable consumption and production patterns requires addressing inequalities.** Current economic models are based on overconsumption and exploitation of natural resources, with soon-to-be irreversible consequences for our environment and capacity to thrive as societies and individuals. On a global level, humanity is overconsuming and overexploiting finite resources, such as fossil fuels and minerals, as well as renewable resources that ecosystems cannot replenish at the rate they are being consumed. Ecosystems are unable to cope with excessive resource extraction rates, resulting in biodiversity loss and the deterioration of the natural environment and ecosystem services. The long-term effect of overconsumption is ecological overshoot and a reduction in the planet's carrying capacity. In this regard, the One Planet Network Forum 2024 will offer an opportunity to the international community and key partners of the 10-Year Framework to showcase concrete solutions and make commitments that bring together the sustainable consumption and production and social development agendas.

48. **Circular economy approaches in the context of sustainable consumption and production present opportunities for economic diversification, value creation and skills development, and to address the triple planetary crisis, but challenges remain.** Evidence of the co-benefits of circular economy approaches need to be further elucidated and elevated into decision-making and policy processes. While the evidence base is growing, the circular economy is far from being the norm, and the challenge remains to move from piloting to scale. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach, policies for a circular economy transition need to ensure an inclusive upskilling of the national workforce, including informal workers, while maintaining and creating dignified and green jobs and livelihoods.³² Economic policies and incentives need to reflect the true costs of resources and redirect finance towards sustainable resource use.³³ There is still a tendency to focus on waste management (downstream interventions), whereas the aim of a circular economy should be to keep materials at their highest value for as long as possible along the value chain and encourage the regeneration of natural systems to reap the greatest benefits overall.³⁴ Scaling up circularity in policies and practices also requires increased data availability, technical capacities, finance and alignment on indicators for monitoring and reporting in both public and private sectors.³⁵

³² UNEP, *Turning off the Tap. How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy* (Nairobi, 2023).

³³ UNEP, *Global Resources Outlook 2024 Summary for Policymakers: Bend the Trend – Pathways to a liveable planet as resource use spikes* (Nairobi, 2024).

³⁴ UNEP, UNDP and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, *Building Circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions: a Practical Toolbox User Guide* (Nairobi, 2023).

³⁵ Ibid.

49. Member States are called upon to establish a multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable consumption and production, as set out in the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030.

This dialogue could take place under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the General Assembly. The global dialogue, convened and moderated by the 10-Year Framework secretariat in coordination with relevant United Nations entities, could provide a platform for securing and monitoring concrete commitments for action across sectors and stakeholder groups, and promote sustainable consumption and production actions through awareness-raising, experience-sharing and communities of practice. To inform the global dialogue, future cooperation and decisions, all countries should be encouraged and supported in their efforts to report on their national sustainable consumption and production policies and related impacts in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.
