

Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production policies and circular models: Best practices and recommendations

Online consultation with Member States, 24 September 2020

UNEA-4 Resolution 1 Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production

Background – UNEA-4 follow-up

The project ‘**Mainstreaming coherent and effective sustainable consumption and production policies, including through circular economy models: Best practices and recommendations**’ supports the implementation of Resolution 1 ([UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#)) adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2019, on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production and its operative paragraph 15, which requests “*the Executive Director to submit a report providing an overview of best practices, including their impact on the design of products and services, minimizing harmful environmental impacts, and coherent product policies to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation through sustainable consumption and production, and providing recommendations for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session*”.

Scope

The report [Global Resources Outlook 2019](#) launched by the International Resource Panel shows that disconnecting natural resources use and environmental impacts from economic activity and human well-being is an essential element in the transition to a sustainable future.

The purpose of this online consultation is to **explore how coherent product policies can support a systemic transformation i.e. a profound change on how we consume and how we produce**, to successfully transition to an inclusive and sustainable future. Building on your experience and recommended solutions, recommendations will be formulated and submitted for UNEA-5 attention.

“**Product policies**” refer to the policy instruments which aim at minimizing the negative impacts of a product throughout its lifecycle (i.e. during design, extraction of natural resources, production, distribution, use, end-of-use).

Product policies include policy instruments on:

- extraction of natural resources,
- eco-design, green technology, use of chemicals, industrial symbiosis,
- consumer information, eco-labels, sustainable/green public procurement,
- waste management, extended producer responsibility schemes, single-use products ban,
- and any other policy supporting driving the demand and/or supply sides towards more sustainability.

Product policies encompass both voluntary and mandatory instruments.





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The online consultation will be structured around the following key questions:

- (1) How impactful product policies have been in your region to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation?
What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies and to create further coherence among them?
- (2) How is the region performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services, which minimize harmful environmental impacts?
What are the requirements to replicate and scale up these design practices?
- (3) What role UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community should play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

Agenda

10 am – 10.05 am: Introduction on the mandate of the UNEA-4 Resolution on SCP, and on the key components of the follow-up (*UNEP*)

10.05 am – 10.10 am: Presentation of the consultation objectives and key questions (*UNEP*)

10.10 am – 10.30 am: Status overview of the inventory of product policies by CEPS Researchers and an example of a national product policy framework **10.30 am – 10.35 am:** Status overview of the collection of examples of innovative design practices by CEPS Researcher

10.35 am – 11.20 am: Discussion, in plenary or breakout groups depending on number of participants

10.20 am – 11.30 am: Closure and next steps

How to connect

Day, time: 24 September 2020, 10 - 11.30 am (CET)



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Link to connect

Confirm participation to: