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Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme of responsible consumption and production

Background paper on sustainable consumption and production (in reference to Sustainable Development Goal 12)

Key messages

1. The following are the key messages that emerge from the integrated analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals, set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union that are covered by this sub-theme:

(a) Although the disruptions and social costs stemming from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are untold, States should endeavour to learn as much as possible from their post-COVID-19 initiatives and plans, including those intended to promote economic recovery. With political will, governments can successfully steer consumers and societies away from consumerism and, through the adoption of simple and smart measures such as social distancing, telecommuting, consumer advocacy, and greener public procurement, towards behaviour and lifestyle choices that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and more responsible environmental stewardship. African member States should use lessons learned in that regard as an impetus for reshaping and scaling up education and advocacy plans and policies with a view to building communities of responsible consumers, accelerating the continent's transition towards sustainable consumption and production, decoupling economic growth from the consumption of finite resources and decreasing energy and materials intensity.

(b) A stimulus plan is urgently needed to accelerate implementation of national sustainable consumption and production plans, including those that have been mainstreamed into national development plans in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Appropriate action should, moreover, be taken as a matter of urgency by the many African countries that are making insufficient progress in terms of sustainable consumption and production so as to accelerate the adoption of sustainable natural resource management policies, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

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(c) Action is needed to strengthen the capacity of countries to reduce fossil fuel subsidies in ways that safeguard social and political stability, ensure the continuation of the downward trend in subsidies observed in several countries, and promote the efficient reallocation of those subsidies to support action in other national priority areas, including research and development in sustainable consumption and production patterns, renewable energy, the education of women and girls, and other initiatives to address entrenched gender inequalities that leave women and girls behind.

(d) It is critical to support the adoption by women of sustainable technologies that reduce indoor air pollution and other health hazards in households. This can be achieved through educational programmes and policies aiming to increase women's access to financial resources and salaried employment and achieve intrahousehold gender equality. Across regions, progress made in intrahousehold equality is enabling women and girls, who are often responsible for cooking meals, to adopt cleaner cooking technologies and reduce their use of solid fossil fuels, including charcoal and firewood. That shift can significantly reduce concentrations of toxic chemicals and dangerous microparticles that are often associated with respiratory, eye and other diseases among household members, particularly women and children, who, because of their household activities, are often disproportionately exposed to those substances.

(e) There is also a need to close gaps in the technological capabilities of countries to promote sustainable consumption and production. Countries must increase the resources they allocate to research and development, which are often far below the target of 1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), established by African Union, and establish strong North-South and South-South partnerships in research and development, innovation and policy development.

I. Introduction

2. This background paper was prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with contributions from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

3. The paper focuses on Sustainable Development Goal 12 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns". Goal 12 sets out 11 targets[1] and was adopted with a view to increasing human well-being while also decoupling economic growth from the unsustainable use of finite resources and safeguarding the environment.

4. Responsible consumption and production is a theme addressed under several of the aspirations of Agenda 2063, including the first aspiration, namely "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development", and the second aspiration, "An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of African Renaissance".[2]

II. Interlinkages and synergies among the Goal 12 targets and the targets of other Sustainable Development Goals

5. Goal 12 is closely aligned with many other Sustainable Development Goals, and progress on those Goals can therefore facilitate the achievement of Goal 12 targets. Progress on target 12.2, on the sustainable management and efficient use of

[1] The Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are set out in General Assembly resolution 71/313, adopted on 6 July 2017. The resolution is available at: ggim.un.org/documents/A_RES_71_313.pdf

[2] The seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 are available at: au.int/agenda2063/aspirations

natural resources, and target 12.3, on global food waste and food losses along production and supply chains, will, for example, be facilitated by the adoption of policies and legislation to achieve Goal 17, and specifically targets 17.6, on North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, 17.7, on the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, and 17.8, on the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism and the use of enabling technology. The achievement of Goal 12 will also be facilitated by action on Goals 8, 14 and 15, and particularly on targets 8.4, on global resource efficiency in consumption and production and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, 14.2 on marine and coastal ecosystems, 14.4, on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, and 15.4, on safeguarding mountain ecosystems. Additionally, progress on targets 17.6 and 17.7 will accelerate progress on target 12.5, on reducing waste generation. Meanwhile, progress on targets 6.a, on international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes, 7.a, on international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, 9.5, on scientific research, technology and innovation, 9.a, on sustainable and resilient infrastructure development, and 14.a, on marine technology and research, will facilitate the achievement of target 12.a, on strengthening the scientific and technological capacity of developing countries to help them to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

6. Conversely, progress on targets 12.2 and 12.3, and on target 12.4, on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, can accelerate progress on the targets of the other Goals, particularly Goals 13, 14 and 15.

7. Although the linkages between Goal 5 namely “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and Goal 12 are often overlooked, recent empirical evidence reveals that progress towards intrahousehold equality and women’s empowerment through education and enhanced access to, and control over, financial and other important resources, can enable women and girls to adopt more sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through their adoption of cleaner cooking technologies and a reduction in their use of solid fossil fuels. Initiatives aimed at closing entrenched gender gaps, and the reallocation of fossil fuel subsidies can also facilitate the emergence of more sustainable consumption patterns.

III Key trends and progress towards the achievement of selected Goal 12 targets

8. The 2020 Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard, published by the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa and covering all African countries, shows that African countries perform comparatively well in terms of ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns.[3] There is, however, a notable lack of relevant data to track progress. More comprehensive and more accurate data is therefore needed.

9. The population of Africa is growing rapidly and is expected to double to 2.5 billion by 2050. Furthermore, half of all Africans are likely to be living in urban areas by 2035. The continent’s rapid population growth, coupled with rising per capita consumption, is set to increase pressure on water, land, forests

[3] For further information, see: The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2020 – Leave No one Behind to Achieve the SDGs in Africa* (Kigali and New York, July 2020). Available at: s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2020/2020_africa_index_and_dashboards.pdf

and biodiversity, further undermining efforts to establish responsible consumption and production patterns.

10. African countries have made significant progress towards the achievement of target 12.1, including within the context of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was approved by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in 2005. The Roadmap for implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme has been revised twice, most recently in 2018 in order to align it with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.[4]

11. The Roadmap builds upon established initiatives in the region, including the SWITCH Africa Green programme,[5] implemented by UNEP with assistance from the European Union, and is designed to accelerate implementation of the international agenda on sustainable consumption. It addresses the need for enhanced regional partnerships to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of sustainable consumption and production-related targets. Table 1 provides an overview of linkages among sustainable consumption and production priorities in Africa, selected Sustainable Development Goal targets and the examples of corresponding aspirations, goals, priority areas and flagship projects of Agenda 2063.

Table 1

Sustainable consumption and production priorities in Africa, examples of corresponding Sustainable Development Goal targets and corresponding aspirations, goals, priority areas and flagship projects of Agenda 2063

Sustainable consumption and production priorities in Africa	Examples of corresponding Sustainable Development Goal targets	Corresponding aspirations, goals, priority areas and flagship projects of Agenda 2063
Establishing an enabling policy framework	1.b: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumptio production… 12.1: Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns… 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources… 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse… 12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity… 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization… 17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability… 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development Goal 4: Transformed economies and jobs Priority areas: Sustainable and inclusive economic growth Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Priority areas: Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation

[4] The Framework is available at: www.unep.org/resources/report/african-10-year-framework-programme-sustainable-consumption-and-production

[5] Further information about the programme is available at:www.unenvironment.org/switchafricagreen/

Greening business activities	9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization… 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries…. 12.1: Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns… 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development Goal 4: Transformed economies and jobs Priority areas: Sustainable and inclusive economic growth; Science, technology and innovation driven manufacturing, industrialization and value addition; Economic diversification and resilience Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Priority areas: Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation
Improving waste management	12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle… 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Priority areas: Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation
Enhancing transport systems and infrastructure	9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure… 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries… 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Goal 1: A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Priority area: Modern and liveable habitats and basic quality services. Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Priority areas: Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation Aspiration 2: An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of African Renaissance Goal 10: World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa Priority area: Communications and infrastructure connectivity Flagship projects: Integrated high-speed train network; Establishment of a single African air transport market

Improving access to green energy	7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix… 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency 7.a: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology… 12.c: Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Priority areas: Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Renewable energy Flagship project: Implementation of the Grand Inga Dam project
Improving access to safe and affordable water	6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all… 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality… 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater… 6.a: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Goal 1: A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Priority area: Modern and liveable habitats and basic quality services. Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Priority areas: Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation; Water security
Strengthening knowledge sharing and cooperation	12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels… 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation… 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms… 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries… 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development… 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships…	Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Goal 2: Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation Priority area: Education and science, technology and innovation skills driven revolution Aspiration 7: An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner Goal 19: Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence Priority areas: Africa's place in global affairs; Partnership Flagship project: An African virtual and e-university

12. Sustainable consumption and production-related plans have been formulated by many countries in Africa, including Algeria, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia[6]. UNEP notes that those countries have adopted a range of strategies to mainstream those plans in their national policies.

13. Sustainable development in Africa has been severely impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic. To strengthen indicator 12.a.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely "Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies", significant investment in resource-efficient and cleaner production technologies and practices will be indispensable in the post-COVID-19 period. Financial support must be

provided, in particular, for projects aiming to develop local capacities to absorb, develop and deploy green technologies and infrastructure. The large-scale deployment of green technologies, facilitated through the adoption by African countries of green economy plans and strategies, could have a very positive impact on power generation, agriculture, industry, transportation and numerous other production and consumption systems, and could significantly reduce air, land and water pollution.

14. Insufficient data is available to inform indicator 12.3.1 (Global food loss index.) and the relevant methodology for monitoring that indicator is still under development by FAO and UNEP.[7] It is clear, however, that measures taken by governments during the pandemic to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted agrifood value chains and exacerbated food losses. Those measures included restrictions on movement, office shutdowns, marketplace closures, and restrictions on imports and trade. In addition, farmers have felt the repercussions of global economic shocks, and have frequently been negatively affected by measures taken outside their home countries. Restrictions on individuals' movement, whether between or within countries, have reduced the number of workers available for harvesting, post-harvest handling, transportation and storage activities, leading to high post-harvest losses, especially of perishable crops. Challenges at the farm level include disruptions to agricultural input distribution networks. Furthermore, the reduction in the number of points of sale for fresh and processed food products has exacerbated food losses, especially for perishable products, while shortages of essential spare parts needed by agroprocessing and storage facilities, including hermetic bags, have also increased losses. Closures or restricted operations for rural and urban food markets may have serious repercussions for food producers, processors, transporters, wholesalers and retailers and reduce the incomes of all participants in food value chains. FAO is continuing to provide support to countries to help them limit post-harvest losses, including in the form of training sessions and food loss assessments, especially in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. FAO is also helping countries improve their food storage technologies; in Ethiopia, for example, it has facilitated the adoption of advanced storage technologies, including the use of hermetic metal silos.

15. With regard to target 12.4, countries have intensified their efforts to reduce hazardous waste generation and promote the environmentally sound management of such waste. In particular, they have sought to strengthen restrictions on the transboundary movement of hazardous waste in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management and transparency enshrined in relevant regulatory instruments. Countries should, however, continue to strengthen their scientific capacity to ascertain the hazardous potential of waste and other materials that are transported and/or exchanged within their jurisdictions. Significant gains could be achieved in that regard by redirecting financial resources and scientific and technological research to support the development of sustainable consumption and production technologies that can accelerate progress on indicator 12.a.1, while also leveraging lessons learned from efforts to achieve targets 6.a, 7.a, 9.a, 9.5, 17 6 and 17.8.

16. With regard to indicator 12.4.1, significant progress has been achieved by several African countries that are party to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous wastes and chemicals. All United

[7] For further information, see: Carola Fabi and Alicia English, "Methodological proposal for monitoring SDG Target 12.3.1, sub-indicator 12.3.1.A: The food loss index design, data collection methods and challenges", Statistics Working Paper Series/18-13 (Rome, FAO, 2019). Available at: www.fao.org/3/ca4012en/ca4012en.pdf

Nations Member States have ratified the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was adopted with a view to phasing out the use of some 100 hazardous chemicals.[8] The majority of African countries have also signed and/or ratified the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,[9] the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,[10] and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.[11]

17. Further efforts are now needed to accelerate ratification and implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, particularly as the success of African and global conventions on the control of transboundary movement and management of hazardous waste depends on the concerted efforts and collaboration of all States, and not only of those States that are adversely affected by such waste. It is only with strong commitment and concerted action that African countries can successfully manage the risks posed by the growing trade in chemicals, by changes in their production patterns and by the relocation of chemical production from developed to developing countries. Countries should, in particular, seek to align action on the Bamako Convention with measures they are taking to ensure the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. With regard to target 12.c, on fossil fuel subsidies, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures significantly reduced transport-related fuel consumption in 2020 and have resulted in sharp decreases in fossil fuel consumption globally. The International Energy Agency estimates that subsidies for fossil fuel consumption in 2020 were lower than they had been at any time since 2007, when the Agency began tracking subsidy data. The Agency has underscored that the $180 billion plunge in subsidies in 2020 provides a historic opportunity to phase out fossil fuel subsidies altogether and/or other market distortions that encourage wasteful consumption.[12] As illustrated in table 2, progress on fuel subsidies has already been made in a number of African countries, including Egypt, Libya, the Sudan, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Action taken by those States should now be emulated by other countries in order to support sustainable consumption and production practices. Given the high cost of the COVID-19 pandemic to societies and governments, reforming fossil fuel subsidy regimes could unlock limited public resources, which could then be redirected to support critical development initiatives, including the education of women and girls, who are often responsible for cooking meals, and facilitate their adoption of cleaner cooking technologies that can help reduce the unsustainable consumption of solid fossil fuels while also reducing indoor air pollution and other health hazards in households.

[8] Further information about the Protocol is available at: www.unenvironment.org/ozonaction/who-we-are/about-montreal-protocol

[9] Information on the status of ratification of the Convention is available at: www.pic.int/Countries/Statusofratification/PartiesandSignatories/tabid/1072/language/en-US/Default.aspx

[10] Information on the status of ratification of the Convention is available at: www.basel.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/PartiesSignatories/tabid/4499/Default.aspx

[11] Information on the status of ratification of the Convention is available at: www.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/PartiesandSignatoires/tabid/4500/Default.aspx

[12] For further information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global energy sector, see International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook 2020* (October 2020). Available at: www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2020

Table 2

Key fuel subsidy reforms announced or implemented by African countries in 2020

Country	Policy changes
Egypt	Government has announced plans to cut spending on fuel subsidies by 47 per cent and increase electricity rates by between 15 and 33 per cent from August 2020.
Libya	Kerosene prices increased for industrial and commercial users.
Sudan	Government has announced its intention to eliminate fuel subsidies within 18 months and replace them with direct cash payments to poor households.
Tunisia	Government has launched an automatic monthly price adjustment mechanism to determine the price of petrol and diesel for domestic consumers. Fuel subsidies are to be eliminated.
Zimbabwe	Announcement by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe that fuel subsidies are to be eliminated.

Source: International Energy Agency, 2020.[13]

18. Although the methodology for collecting data for target 12.8, on raising awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles, is still under development, it is already clear that recent actions by governments in Africa and beyond have led to significant changes in consumer behaviour. Those actions include: encouraging telecommuting, which has reduced transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions; social distancing and lockdown measures, which have reduced the consumption of unnecessary goods; and promoting online education, virtual conferences and e-commerce. African member States should use lessons learned in that regard as an impetus for scaling up actions that can promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Table 3

Selected non-fiscal measures to facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12

Goal 12 targets	Measures adopted	Implementing countries
12.1: Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	African Regional Roadmap for the 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (2018–2023)	
	National sustainable consumption and production action plans	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

[13] For further information, see International Energy Agency, "Low fuel prices provide a historic opportunity to phase out fossil fuel consumption subsidies", 2 June 2020. Available at: www.iea.org/articles/low-fuel-prices-provide-a-historic-opportunity-to-phase-out-fossil-fuel-consumption-subsidies

Goal 12 targets	Measures adopted	Implementing countries
	Institutional set ups	National focal points on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in 34 countries[14]
12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	National green economy strategies (Partnership for Action on Green Economy countries)	Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, South Africa
	Standards on waste management	Mauritius
	Sector specific strategies – green manufacturing strategy	Uganda
	Building bylaws	
12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	National action plans/strategies on integrated waste management	Burkina Faso
	Guidelines – circular economy in waste sector	South Africa
12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	Green business development toolkits and training	Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda
12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	Greening laws and regulations on sustainable consumption and production	Mauritius, Uganda
12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa: an online course for African policy makers and sustainable consumption and production practitioners that is offered by the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership.[15]	Course has been taken by more than 300 policy makers and practitioners across the continent
	Sector-specific greening training manuals and capacity development	Ghana, Mauritius, Uganda
	Subnational level greening toolkit	Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya

[14] For the complete list of focal points, see: www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/10yfp-national-focal-point-contact-list

[15] An overview of the course is available at: unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=88&page=overview

IV. Gaps, constraints and emerging issues

19. The main gaps and constraints impeding the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns remain (a) the chronic lack of effective means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity development; (b) a lack of reliable data to measure and track progress, including a lack of clear methodologies, monitoring networks and data management; and (c) poor governance, weak institutions and a lack of institutional arrangements for the achievement of the targets. Those gaps and constraints have, to a certain extent, been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

V. Stepping up the pace and scale of implementation: opportunities for accelerated actions and transformative pathways

20. Sustainable consumption and production are critical if African countries are to achieve sustained economic growth and reduce poverty. With only 10 years to go until the 2030 deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, more needs to be done to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has hampered economic activity around the world, provides an opportunity for African countries to reassess their priorities and build back better by adopting sustainable and inclusive, resource-efficient and climate-resilient consumption and production patterns in all sectors of their economies.

21. A stimulus plan is urgently needed to accelerate the implementation of national sustainable consumption and production plans, including those that have been mainstreamed in the national development plans of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Appropriate action should, moreover, be taken as a matter of urgency by the many African countries that are making insufficient progress in terms of sustainable consumption and production so as to accelerate the adoption of sustainable natural resource management policies, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

22. There is also a need to close gaps in the technological capabilities of countries to promote sustainable consumption and production. Countries must increase the resources they allocate to research and development: On average, sub-Saharan countries currently allocate about 0.38 per cent of GDP to research and development: far below the target of 1 per cent of GDP established by the African Union. Countries must also strengthen their national science, technology and innovation policy environments with a view to accelerating the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, inter alia by promoting implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024. North-South and South-South partnerships in research and development, innovation and policy development can complement national and regional efforts in that area.

23. There is an urgent need to adopt innovative and efficient methodologies for collecting reliable data on the Sustainable Development Goal targets. Natural capital accounting and environmental-economic accounting can, for example, be used to monitor progress towards the achievement of Goal 12. Indeed, Rwanda and Botswana have already demonstrated that natural capital accounts can be used to inform indicators for Goals 2, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12.[16] The

[16] Arjan Ruijs, Martijn van der Heide and Jolanda van den Berg, “Natural Capital Accounting for the Sustainable Development Goals: Current and potential uses and steps forward”, (The Hague, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, 2018).

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy and the United Nations System of National Accounts can both provide information on fossil fuel subsidies, while SEEA-Material Flow Accounts can provide information on material footprints (the total amount of raw materials extracted to satisfy final consumption demand) and national recycling rates. Furthermore, data gathered within the context of the Tourism Satellite Account can facilitate the adoption of more sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector.

24. Action is needed to strengthen the capacity of countries to reduce fossil fuel subsidies in ways that safeguard social and political stability, ensure the continuation of the downward trend in subsidies observed in several countries, and promote the efficient reallocation of those subsidies to support action in other national priority areas, including research and development in sustainable consumption and production patterns, renewable energy and education. Given the financial distress induced in countries by the COVID-19 pandemic, reforming fossil fuel subsidy regimes could unlock limited public resources, which could then be redirected to support critical development initiatives.

25. It is important to encourage women to take action to reduce indoor air pollution and other health hazards in households. This can be achieved through educational programmes and policies aiming to increase women's access to financial resources and salaried employment and achieve intrahousehold gender equality. Progress made in intrahousehold equality can empower women and girls, who are often responsible for cooking meals, to adopt cleaner cooking technologies that emit far lower concentrations of pollutants.