

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 9. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Intervention by the Ukrainian National Environmental NGO “Mama-86”¹

NGOs play significant role in SCP principals’ promotion and implementation in countries of EECCA region. In 2007-2008, Mama-86, in cooperation with Eco-Accord, Georgian Environmental League and St. James Research executed project “Elucidating national and subregional progress on SCP policy development in Western and South Caucasus EECCA countries” including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

First findings were discussed during tele-communication bridge Kyiv-Tbilisi-Amsterdam-London-Copenhagen-Geneva in 2007 and I would like to use this opportunity to thank leading SCP experts of UNEP, EEA and ANPED for their active participation in the bridge. In 2008, with support of Swedish Society of Nature Conservation, we published the Report “SCP Policy Review of Western and South Caucasus EECCA countries”. It was based on survey results done by 19 independent experts from 14 NGOs and research institutes.

Results demonstrated that there are no specific policies targeting SD and SCP issues in the reviewed countries. Only Belarus among 7 countries adopted so far NSDS. Some SCP principals are included into Belarus NSDS and other parts of policy pieces in other 6 countries, but SCP and SD terminology is not being used. SCP principals, where existed, are uncoordinated through different programmes, rarely included into socio-economic strategies and more often being reflected in sectoral strategies such as: energy use reduction and energy efficiency, like in Russia, Ukraine and Armenia, or agriculture development (like in Moldova and Ukraine). At the same time, energy efficiency policy seems dominating agenda (at least, in declarations), but it is not yet cross-cutting issue. Usually, SD is understood either as steady economic development, while the environmental issues are often considered as an obstacle to economic growth. Hence, the environmental policy is developing separately from sectoral policy, but there are recent examples of environmental policy integration attempts. The Concept of National environmental Policy adopted by Ukrainian Government in 2007, is based on integrated environmental governance approach and suppose to green such sectoral policies as energy, industry, transport and agriculture.

It is important to note, that without public participation even such little progress on a path toward SD would not be possible in surveyed countries. Therefore, the public participation in EECCA countries, together with countries participation in multilateral agreements, are two of main decisive factors in integration of SCP concerns and targets into the political processes there.

Therefore, the environmental policy reforms has been and still is being induced in EECCA countries by the external factors, such as the decisions of the “Environment for Europe” process, UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), Multilateral and Bilateral International Co-operation. (Worth to note) Unfortunately, surveyed countries’ participation in

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.

Marrakech process is slow and inactive and citizens' groups are kept uninformed in it. Therefore, we call upon UNECE member countries to build more intensive and regular intergovernmental dialogue on SCP policy and instruments packages development.

Last but not least,

It is huge deficiency of knowledge among reviewed countries about existed SCP instruments and experience of its implementation in the Pan-European region, therefore experience exchange and trainings are extremely necessary. Special dedicated capacity building programme on SCP policy and instruments planning and implementation should be established and implemented. Since frequent government changes permanently occur in EECCA countries, more stable NGO institutions could play more practical role in research, information dissemination, organising trainings and skill shares, and we think that this (NGO) role should be better recognised.

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