



Concept Note
Roundtable on Climate Action and
SDG 12: Impacts for a more sustainable and
responsible consumption

UNFCCC COP 24
Katowice, Poland

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Saturday, 8 December 2018
15:00 – 16:30

High-Level Champions

MPGCA SDG 12: Impacts for a more sustainable and responsible consumption

Description

Focus on how demand-side management for sustainable and responsible consumption is critical to climate action aligned with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Supply policies, technologies, and investments alone cannot deliver the needed reductions in time to meet the 1.5C goal.

Overall Narrative/Background

SDG 12, “Responsible consumption and production”, aims in making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services. Parties and non-Party stakeholders must contribute to changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including through the mobilization of financial and technical assistance to strengthen rapidly developing countries’ scientific, technological and innovative capacities to move towards more sustainable forms of consumption and production.

A supply chain is a system of organizations, people, activities, information, and resources involved in moving a product or service from supplier to customer. There are many exchanges encountered in the supply chain, between different companies and between companies and consumers. In these exchanges the main objective for companies is a maximization of their revenue, focussing in one actor of this chain: their consumers.

Companies are therefore interested in what consumers want. This can impact what goods are produced and how they are produced. This matching of supply and demand can impact positively towards more responsible and sustainable consumption based on what companies produce and how they distribute goods.

Changes to the demand and supply chain have already started. For example, circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

However, more focus on the demand side is still needed to understand the interest of the consumers and how to induce changes their behaviour and consequently change the current level and type of consumption. It is important to understand the demand dynamics, in particular the interface between consumption shift, market creation and policy change.

Objective of the event:

The event looks at the demand side and what can be done to mainstream responsible and sustainable consumption. The UNFCCC process has been focused on the supply side to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Very little has been done on the demand side, including studies and data. To achieve the Paris Agreement there is need for a lifestyle shift. This can only be done by increasing awareness and providing attractive co-benefits for consumers, for example health co-benefits.

Lifestyle change has not included in any climate change models or scientific reports. However, if lifestyle change is included in a climate change model, for example less intensive meat diet, less intensive transport modes, less use of heating and cooling and reduction of several domestic appliances, this would help achieving the 1.5 C goal without depending only on technologies for negative emissions.

Therefore, it is imperative to shift all societies toward sustainable consumption. The international climate change arena must consider solutions that are needed to meet the 1.5°C goal, including solutions for a more responsible and sustainable consumption. The roundtable will then reflect about:

- What is needed to achieve the 1.5 C goal?
- What are solutions being framed now?
- What goals are various actors pursuing?
- How behavioural change and demand management can help to achieve these goals?
- What are the actions/levers needed?

The roundtable will therefore aim to highlight what is the data available about consumption and what is still needed in the research arena. It will showcase examples of life-style changes that have been improving sustainable consumption and could be informative and inspirational. It should also present the co-benefits of these changes besides climate.

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