



Outcome Document

The second in a series of UNEMG Nexus Dialogues on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) “Sustainable living and aspirational consumption to address the triple planetary crises and support the SDGs” was held at UNESCO on 11 September 2023. Hosted by UNESCO, the event brought together experts and thought leaders from across the UN system, governments and research institutions to discuss the importance of enabling a transition to sustainable lifestyles, consumption and production patterns.

The dialogue provided a platform for fruitful discussions with key actors from UN entities and offered cross-cutting insights on aspirational consumption. It highlighted the importance of driving sustainable consumption to tackle the triple planetary crises.

The dialogue encompassed representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Finance Initiative and the One Planet Network), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UN-Habitat; high-level government representatives from Brazil, Costa Rica, Japan and India; non-profit organisations including Consumers International, Global Partnership for Education, and the University of Canterbury representing academia.

Main takeaways from the dialogue

- A shift in demands of resources is imperative for the future of our planet. The way we consume is not sustainable, including the way societies consume and produce. Measures can be undertaken to address in particular consumption patterns in urban areas, as the majority of people live in cities.
- Infrastructure planning and regulations on land use, housing and energy can serve as mechanisms for sustainable living.
- Policies can help drive a movement towards sustainable consumption and sustainable living practices. Consumers International shared that only 30% of countries have sustainable consumption as part of their agendas.
- Education and training are key for a climate resilient movement in sustainable living. Multi-stakeholder collaboration between UN entities, governments, the private sector, and academic institutions are key to enhancing policies and strategies that change market dynamics towards resource efficiency and zero waste.

Lessons learned and gaps in furthering sustainable consumption and enabling a global change:

- India has augmented government decision-making to address the triple planetary crisis. Around 60% of government measures are envisaged to make sustainable lifestyles possible in the country by creating the infrastructure that can enable them, enhancing the required market conditions, promoting local knowledge and raising public awareness campaigns. In this context, the LiFE (Lifestyles for Environment) Campaign was introduced by India at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow (2021) as a global mass movement for climate justice, sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production.¹
- Japan shared its experience of a national campaign to encourage behavioural and lifestyle changes among citizens and consumers to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and the 2030 reduction targets.
- Brazil's Ministry of Finance announced an ecological transformation plan translated into mainstreaming climate, biodiversity, and pollution. Key efforts include "sustainable finance," "technological density," "bio-energy", "circularity," and "new infrastructure." Brazil will continue actions that address the climate crisis under the G20 leadership.
- The Global Partnership for Education introduced a [seven dimension framework for action](#) to leverage potential entry points and address gaps within national education systems to strengthen the resilience and relevance of education to climate change and environmental degradation.
- UNESCO together with other partners has established the [Greening Education Partnership](#) as a whole-of-system approach to support countries in tackling the climate crisis by harnessing the critical role of education.
- UNICEF is working together with ILO, UNCHR, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for education and empowerment of the youth – especially through programmes to engage young refugees in climate action. The "[PROSPECTS](#)" partnership is an example of such programmatic work in countries like Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Iraq, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Jordan and Uganda.

Opportunities and challenges in making sustainable living the default option:

- SCP is not sufficiently integrated into education systems. There is a need to increase awareness, make SCP as part of the curricula, rethink teacher trainings, and provide more teaching opportunities and evaluation tools.
- The Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC highlights that having the right policies, infrastructure and technology in place that enable changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can result in a 40-70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.²

¹ LiFE envisions three core shifts in the collective approach towards sustainability via three inter-linked phases – (i) Phase 1 involving sensitizing individuals, societies and communities to the challenges of climate change (ii) Phase 2, change in supply, envisions a gradual nudge to industries and markets as they respond to the changing in demands. (iii) Phase 3, change in policy aligned with the long-term vision of LiFE for triggering shifts in large-scale industrial and government policies that can support both sustainable consumption and production.

² [Press release \(ipcc.ch\)](#)

- Transformation of housing and buildings can enhance sustainable living. Less than 9% of materials used in construction are circular, leaving space for opportunities for better consumption practices.³

Conclusions and next steps

- The [10YFP's Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme](#) has worked since 2014, providing an enabling structure to re-think actions for sustainable living through multi-stakeholder collaboration. Sweden and Japan have been co-leads of this programme. The programme will continue its work to support global campaigns and the development of tools to raise awareness and strengthen education in collaboration with UN entities, governments and key actors.
- The [10YFP's Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme](#) promotes tools and frameworks for sustainable living and "[re-thinking buildings](#)" in urban areas in cooperation with UN-Habitat and other UN entities.
- The 10YFP's [Consumer Information Programme for SCP](#) with the leadership of Consumers International, UNCTAD and the government of Germany are undertaking efforts to inform consumers and enhance better policies. Next steps include the first in-person Consumer Information Programme Global Conference to be held in Colombia in November 2023 and the launch of the project "[Eco-Advance: Ecolabels and Sustainable Public Procurement](#)".
- The [Greening Education Partnership](#) will continue to target actions to adapt, mitigate and invest. At UNFCCC COP28, 38 countries are supporting the UNESCO Declaration on the common agenda for education and climate change, committing to incorporate climate education into their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans.
- Japan and India will continue undertaking efforts to promote sustainable living campaigns in collaboration with the UN system. India submitted a resolution proposal for UNEA-6 (2024) on Sustainable Lifestyles.

Credits

We would like to thank the panellists and organizations for their valuable contributions to the Nexus Dialogue.

Moderator:

Jorge Laguna Celis, Head of the One Planet Network

Panellists:

- **H.E. Giovanna Valverde**, Co-chair of the 10YFP Board and Ambassador and Permanent Representative UNEP and UN-Habitat
- **H.E. Jawed Ashraf**, Ambassador of India to France and the Principality of Monaco
- **Kawamata, Kotaro** (Dr./Mr.) Director, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)
- **Luiz de Andrade Filho**, Second Secretary Head for Climate Change and the Environment Embassy of Brazil to France
- **Ingrid Sanchez Tapia**, Senior Advisor Education, UNICEF
- **Fabienne Pierre**, Programme Coordinator, One Planet Network
- **Sarah Beardmore**, Senior Partnerships Specialist, Global Partnership for Education

³ Raf Tuts, UN-Habitat

- **Peter Andrews**, Director Consumer Rights – Innovation and Impact, Consumers International
- **Prof. Bronwyn Hayward** University of Canterbury, New Zealand, member of the IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report core writing team
- **Rafael Tuts**, Director of Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat
- **Peggy Lefort**, Resource Efficiency Coordinator UNEP FI
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- **Bernard Combes**, Programme specialist, Section of Education for Sustainable Development

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