

Policy Dialogue on SDG12 Report

Full Report

Policy Dialogue on SDG12 Reporting



Thursday, 21st November (09:00 – 13:00)
Hanoi, Viet Nam

Disclaimer

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List of Acronyms

EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
GIF	Global Indicator Framework
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
NFP	National Focal Point
NIF	National Innovation Foundation (India)
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG`	Sustainable Development Goal
SWITCH-Asia	
RPAC	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
VNR	Voluntary National Review
10YFP	10 Year Framework of Programmes

Key Messages



Ms. Isabelle Louis

Deputy Regional Director and Regional Deputy Representative for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

“Properly reporting progress is important in order to follow up on strong commitments and national policies contributing to SCP as well as to encourage cooperation on SCP and to highlight the progress achieved in order to get accelerate the implementation, share the challenges and lessons learned with others and get international recognition.”



Ms. Luz Fernandez

Programme Officer, SWITCH-Asia RPAC - UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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Mr. Chatchai Intatha

Environmental Official, Senior Professional Level - Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand



“In spite of the challenges that have been identified on conducting the report, Thai governmental agencies have worked extensively with various stakeholders on following the 20-Year SCP Roadmap which was launched as the basis for harmonizing SCP in the country and gather the views on the directions of Thailand to conduct a better and effective reporting to continue ensuring the commitments towards achieving targets under Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.”

Ms. Fabienne Pierre

10YFP Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



“Member states of the United Nations are encouraged for the reporting on SDG12.1 on National SCP policy and instruments. The report on SDG 12.1 can encourage strong cooperation on SCP across the governments and policy coherence, highlight key achievements and foster more visibility from the efforts of SCP relevant policy innovation and implementation.”

Ms. Elisa Tonda

Head of Consumption and Production Unit, Economy Division,
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



“The private sector and business associations play an important role in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in SDG12, Target 12.6 and Indicator 12.6.1 which specifically monitors the practices of business entities. While Indicator 12.6.1 counts on the number of companies publishing corporate sustainability reports, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the two custodian agencies for this indicator considers the indicator as an important opportunity not only to promote and monitor the growth in sustainability reporting, but also to encourage high quality reporting, and foster the integration of all dimensions of sustainability in management practices, thereby contributing to the continuous progress towards sustainable development “leaving no one behind.”

Ms. Bhawna Singh

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change,
Representing SWITCH-Asia National Focal Point, India



“Having detailed monitoring framework is a must to help implementing and reviewing progress on different SDGs, in particular SDG12. The main objectives of a study that has been carried out together with a support from SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy (RPAC) are to develop a knowledge product to support monitoring and implementation of SDG 12, which will map different kind of data available, identify data gaps, propose mechanism for data collection and compilation at different levels, and provide clear understanding on what kind of database’s template would be needed to monitor the whole progress. Different stakeholders will also be engaged in policy dialogue on knowledge product for outreach and capacity building.”

Background

Rapid economic growth in Asia and Central Asia has lifted many countries out of poverty. This has come at a cost of increased use of natural resources, growing GHG emissions and amounts of waste. Sustainability today is no longer simply about increasing efficiencies or complying with regulations. It is about making fundamental changes in the way business is done and the way the world consumes. Results can only be achieved rethinking our business models and supply chains and designing new consumption patterns. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) aims at improving the overall environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle, stimulates demand for better products and production technologies and helps consumers make informed choices. The European Union is committed to tackle these global challenges together with its partners in Asia and Central Asia. Launched in 2007, its SWITCH-Asia programme has achieved more than a decade of progress on SCP in 24 countries in the region. This has been possible through the joint efforts of the three SWITCH-Asia components:

- The Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) - implemented by UN Environment.
- The Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility - implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and adelphi.
- The SWITCH-Asia Grants Programme - directly managed by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission.

Event Summary

The event took place back to back the 2nd SWITCH-Asia Programme Steering Committee and brought together almost 90 participants including representatives from the governments of the countries covered by the Programme, EU delegations, SWITCH-Asia grants beneficiaries and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) experts from Asian and European countries. During the dialogue, reporting on the SDG target 12.1 was identified as a key action to encourage strong cooperation on SCP across the governments and policy coherence. On the other hand, the relevant role of the private sector and business associations in SDG 12 reporting was also remarked, taking into consideration that the SDG target 12.6 counts on the number of companies publishing corporate sustainability reports. Successful in raising awareness and facilitating the understanding of the challenges faced by countries in reporting on SDG 12, the policy dialogue showcased how Asian countries are currently reporting on this SDG and created a space for discussions to identify the best ways to support SDG 12 reporting from the SWITCH-Asia RPAC.

Detailed Event Information

a. Location and Date

Name: Policy Dialogue on SDG12 Reporting

Date: 20 November 2019

Venue: Pullman Hanoi Hotel, Vietnam

b. Objectives

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 which calls for responsible consumption and production, essentially decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and emissions and improving the management of hazardous substances and waste has identified eight (8) targets for reporting. The main objective of this policy dialogue is to encourage countries to report on SDG 12, taking a coordinated approach and in alignment with global indicators which will lead to more convergence of reporting systems and hence reduce reporting burden. Specific objectives are: i) raise awareness of the importance of reporting on SDG 12; ii) understand challenges faced by countries in reporting on SDG 12; iii) showcase how Asian countries are reporting on SDG 12; iv) identify the best ways to support SDG 12 reporting from the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component.

c. Description of the event

The dialogue focused on assessing the current situation reporting on SDG 12 in the region; what challenges countries face and how SWITCH-Asia RPAC could provide them with further support to increase and improve their reports both to the Global Indicator Framework and in their Voluntary National Reviews.

The dialogue was divided into 4 points:

1. Opening remarks - Why is SWITCH-Asia helping countries to report on SDG 12
2. How SWITCH-Asia countries are reporting on SDG 12
3. The Global Indicator Framework and SDG 12
4. How SWITCH-Asia RPAC is supporting countries to report on SDG 12

SDG 12 reporting in Thailand and SWITCH-Asia RPAC support to India and Pakistan were showcased during the dialogue.

d. Presentations

Opening remarks - Why is SWITCH-Asia helping countries to report on SDG 12 - Isabelle LOUIS, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)

One of the key priorities of the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy component-the European Union funded program and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is to support countries in their reporting of SDG12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Properly reporting progress is important in order to follow up on strong commitments and national policies contributing to SCP as well as to encourage cooperation on SCP and to highlight the progress achieved in order to get accelerate the implementation, share the challenges and lessons learned with others and get international recognition. Main objective for today's Policy Dialogue is: how to advocate for improving the SDG12 reporting process in the countries of the region and exchange the discussions on how SWITCH-Asia RPAC can provide supports through the national activities, the regional and sub-regional platforms and also through our capacity-building programmes.

How SWITCH-Asia countries are reporting on SDG 12 - Moderated by Luz FERNANDEZ, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)

- Presentation of the assessment “SDG 12 reporting in Asia: An Analysis of the reporting mechanisms” - Luz FERNANDEZ, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)

SDG Reporting is very important as it helps countries accelerate implementation and achieve their goals; follow up on commitments; mobilize necessary resources; share challenges and lessons learned; and get international recognition. Currently, Asian countries are not reporting as much as they could, and this is giving a wrong image of the progress and efforts made. Countries have at least two mechanisms to report: the Global Indicator Framework and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), which are complementary to each other.

As it comes to the GIF, there are 5 indicators currently classified as Tier I or Tier II, which means that countries could be reporting on. These are 12.1.1, 12.2.2, 12.3.1, 12.6.1, and 12.c.1. However, only 3 of those 5 count with reports from the countries in the region, as there are no reports on 12.3.1(a) “Food Loss”, and 12.6.1. “Companies publishing sustainability reports.”

Regarding the VNRs, 17 out of the 19 countries have submitted at least one Voluntary National Review, within which 14 of them have discussed some issues related to SDG 12. However, the SWITCH-Asia RPAC analysis on the VNRs showed that the average number of targets tackled by each country is less than 4 and sometimes only general information not related to any target is reported. Moreover, inconsistencies have been found both between actions taken and actions reported, and between reports to the GIF and the VNRs.

Some of the challenges for SDG 12 reporting in the region are the lack of data, the lack of technical capacity to understand and use the approved methodologies, the coordination between actors

implementing the actions and actors monitoring and reporting, and the integration of the different reporting mechanisms.

- Thailand's report on SDG 12: Why, What, How - [Chatchai INTATHA, SWITCH-Asia National Focal Point in Thailand, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment](#)

In Thailand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for setting up the VNR working group, which is conformed by 17 agencies and conducting the meeting for the group. It also drafts the format and timeframe of the VNR and it drafts the VNR by collecting data, computing and analysing and finally writing the report. After the VNR is finalized, it is approved by the NCSD and the Parliament, and then published in the HLPF.

The data which is computed and analysed for the VNRs are collected from both the central and provincial governments, local authorities, private sector, NGOs and other researchers.

While reporting in the VNR, Thailand pays attention the connecting with other targets, referring to activities and progress, localizing SDGs and including the engagement of different stakeholders.

Some of the pros of VNR reporting are the engagement of different agencies, the improvements of their reporting skills, and the fact that most agencies show more active to achieve improvements. However, VNR reporting is time consuming, it involved a budget and might also generate conflict among some organisations irresponsible to provide information.

Difficulty of data collection and computation; unclarity of some targets/indicators; lack of capacity; insufficient tools; credibility of data; and inability to collect data related to some of the targets are some of the main challenges of VNR reporting that Thailand has to face.

The Global Indicator Framework and SDG 12 - Moderated by [Luz FERNANDEZ, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component \(RPAC\)](#)

- Examples of approved indicators and methodologies: SDG 12.1 - [Fabienne PIERRE, One Planet Network \(10YFP\) Secretariat](#)

The reporting timeline for Indicator 12.1 will end on the 3rd January 2020. All 10YFP and SWITCH-Asia National Focal Points are encouraged to collect data and report on behalf of their country before that date.

There are several things that can be reported under this indicator: National strategies, roadmaps or plans; legal/regulatory instruments; economic/ fiscal instruments; and voluntary / information-based instruments are some of the main examples.

Countries that already reported in the past should do so again in order to update the reports and add any new steps taken. In order to report, information should be submitted via the online reporting platform (www.oneplanetnetwork.org) and SWITCH focal points can be granted access if allowed by 10YFP NFP. The next webinar to train NFP to report on SDG 12.1 will take place in December this year.

- Examples of approved indicators and methodologies: SDG 12.6 - [Elisa TONDA, Head of Consumption and Production Unit, Economy Division, UNEP](#)

SDG 12.6 was approved as Tier II in September 2019. ‘Sustainability Report’ can refer to a stand-alone sustainability report or sustainability information. However, not every document entitled like that will be eligible. As proposed by custodians, there are some minimum requirements to be met regarding institutional and governance, economic, environmental and social aspects.

Governments should communicate the methodology information to key relevant stakeholders, provide information to companies, identify relevant national reporting databases that will feed into the Global Platform, and engage in the validation of information.

How SWITCH-Asia RPAC is supporting countries to report on SDG 12 - Moderated by Luz FERNANDEZ, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)

- Learning from others - Examples from SWITCH-Asia RPAC support to Pakistan - [Luz FERNANDEZ, SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component \(RPAC\)](#)

The SWITCH-Asia RPAC is supporting Pakistan in the development of a monitoring and reporting system for its National Action Plan on SDG12 by hiring a national technical consultant, covering multi-stakeholder consultation meetings, and organizing trainings. This will allow Pakistan to have data to report.

- Learning from others - Examples from SWITCH-Asia RPAC support to Pakistan - [Bhawna SING, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Representing SWITCH-Asia National Focal Point, India](#)

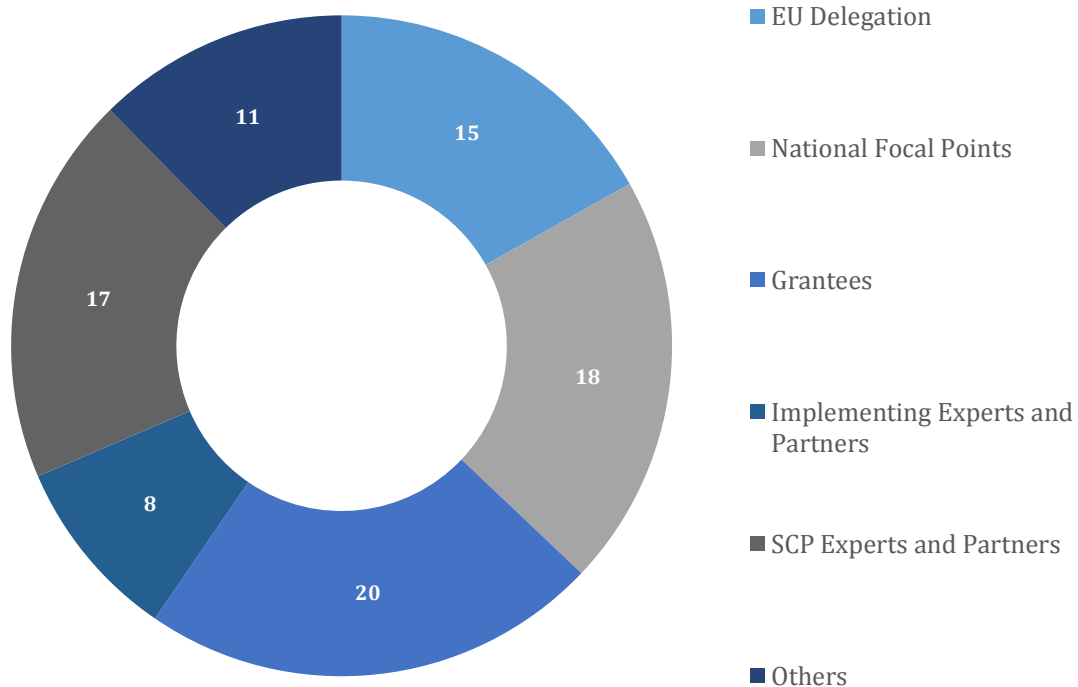
There are 17 indicators identified at the national level and only 5 of the national indicators align with the global indicators, and only 2 have data availability.

The SWITCH-Asia RPAC is supporting India through the development of a country knowledge product to support monitoring and reporting of SDG 12; through national policy dialogue based on the country’s knowledge product on SDG 12 implementation and reporting; and through a follow-up support mechanism on SDG 12 reporting. Mapping indicator frameworks, policies, etc.; making consultative processes engaging different actors; identifying priority indicators at the national level; building capacity; and contributing to discussions on NIF are some of the activities through which the SWITCH-Asia RPAC is providing support with the aims of establishing a SDG 12 Reporting mechanism in India.

e. Targeted Participating Organizations

Almost 90 participants including representatives from the governments of the countries covered by the Programme, EU delegations, SWITCH-Asia grants beneficiaries and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) experts from Asian and European countries.

Participants by Category



Event Analysis

a. Overview of the Analysis

The Policy Dialogue on SDG 12 Reporting held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 21 November 2019, involved almost 90 participants including representatives from the governments of the countries covered by the Programme, EU delegations, SWITCH-Asia grants beneficiaries and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) experts from Asian and European countries. The platform for the exchange of information and experiences of this dialogue was very much appreciated by the participants, who understood the great importance of reporting on SDG 12 as a way to accelerate implementation and follow up on strong commitments, as well as to avoid giving a wrong image of the progress and efforts made and getting international recognition.

Through the panel discussions on policy outlook, case studies, assessment information, recommendations and experiences on SDG 12 Reporting were shared with and among the participants, which allowed them to finish the dialogue with a clearer idea of how to proceed towards an improvement of their countries' reports.

b. Lessons Learned

- Reporting on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12) in the region is running behind and countries are not communicating appropriately the many good things that they have already done.
- If countries don't report what they are doing on SDG 12 this can't be accounted towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- There are two main mechanisms that governments can use to report on SDG 12: The Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- There are inconsistencies between actions taken and actions reported by the countries, as well as between reports to the Global Indicator Framework and to the VNRs.
- Some of the current challenges identified by the participants for SDG 12 reporting are the lack of data, the lack of technical capacity to understand and use the approved methodologies, the coordination between actors implementing action and reporting on them, and the integration of the different reporting mechanisms.
- Establishing a SDG monitoring and reporting mechanism can support countries to better implement their national policies and commitments.

c. Proposal for next steps for SWITCH Asia Programme

1. Elaboration of a survey on SDG 12 Reporting in the region

In order to better understand challenges faced by countries in reporting on SDG 12, participants from the governments are asked to complete this follow-up survey, which will provide a better picture of the functioning of the reporting processes in each country, and will facilitate the identification of the best ways to support their reporting on SDG 12 from the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component.

- 2. Building capacity and promoting information sharing.** Further consultation, dialogues and trainings will be needed to increase information-sharing between countries in the region and harmonizing the knowledge between those willing to share and those interested in learning. In this line, SWITCH-Asia RPAC is organizing the "Supporting decision making on SCP through training on Sustainable Procurement" in December 2019, in Bangkok, and will continue to organize events on this issue during 2020.

d. Visibility of the SWITCH-Asia at the event

The EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Advocacy visibility at the event is available on website, social media channels, Information and communication materials are as follows:

- **Website:** SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy logo and phrase on the below webpage

SWITCH-Asia website (event page): Content of SWITCH Asia' information was included.
<https://www.switch-asia.eu/news/press-release-switch-asia-organised-a-policy-dialogue-on-sdg-12-reporting/>

- **Social Media:** Information shared and posted on the following channels:
 1. **SWITCH-Asia's Facebook:** The event was posted on Facebook with the handles @europeaid and @EUSWITCHAsia and SWITCH-Asia's logo was also included in the posted picture.
 2. **Twitter:** The event was posted on Twitter with the handle @switchasia RPAC, and SWITCH-Asia's logo was also included in the posted pictures.
- **Banners:** displaying EU SWITCH-Asia regional Policy Advocacy logo and content of SWITCH Asia's information was included as follows:
 - Roll-up banners
 - A digital backdrop
- **Invitation letters** (with the phrase "The SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Environment Programme") sent out to participants
- **Programme leaflet in English:** EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy logo and content of SWITCH Asia' information was included
- **Information Sheet of the event:** EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy logo and content of SWITCH Asia's information was included
- **Event report (external):** EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy logo and content of SWITCH Asia's information was included



Follow-Ups

As a follow-up to this policy dialogue, the SWITCH-Asia RPAC will prepare a survey on SDG 12 Reporting, which participants are expected to complete, and it will continue supporting countries to report on SDG 12 through trainings, knowledge products and national activities. Participants are

also expected to reach out to those responsible for reporting. In addition, SWITCH-Asia RPAC will technically support countries to report on SDG Indicator 12.1.1.

For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/policy-dialogue-on-sdg12-reporting/>

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