

## Flash report

# Policy Dialogue on National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption & Production (NAP-SCP)



Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Venue: (Hybrid) Hotel Margalla, Islamabad, Pakistan

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## List of Acronyms:

<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>RPAC</b>	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
<b>SDPI</b>	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<b>MoCc</b>	Ministry of Climate Change
<b>NARC</b>	National Agricultural Research Council
<b>WAPDA</b>	Water and Power Development Authority
<b>PNAC</b>	Pakistan National Accreditation Council
<b>NCRD</b>	Akhtar Hameed Khan Niazi National Commission for Rural Development
<b>CSCCC</b>	Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>QAU</b>	Quaid-e-Azam University
<b>FJWU</b>	Fatima Jinnah Women University

## Background:

The Sustainable Development Goal-12- Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)- aims to improve the environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle by encouraging governments, businesses, and consumers to make it sustainable. The degradation and depletion of natural resources due to population explosion and agricultural and industrial development is a matter of concern for Pakistan in terms of environmental sustainability. The Government of Pakistan is taking tangible actions to restore ecosystems to replenish nature and its resources and to promote a sustainable consumption and production mechanism in the country.

Giving a high priority to SDG 12, Pakistan has developed its National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (NAP-SCP) to mainstream SCP-related policies into the overall sustainable development framework. The NAP-SCP is an over-arching document which is being implemented by multiple stakeholders including respective ministries, departments, and provincial governments. To ensure effective implementation at the federal level and to oversee the progress of NAP-SCP, the already notified 'National Climate Change Policy Implementation Committee' will also serve as the 'NAP for SCP Implementation Committee'. The task of the NAP-SCP committee is to regularly monitor, evaluate, and update the NAP for SCP after every five years.

To develop the NAP-SCP, the Government of Pakistan has taken on board various international organizations along with national, provincial, and local level stakeholders. The Ministry of Climate Change has played a lead role in collaboration with the EU SWITCH-Asia programme and the UNEP. Pakistan has been working with these international agencies to provide a basic framework in production and consumption to promote resource efficiency and green energy.

SWITCH-Asia is a programme funded by the EU to promote sustainable SCP across Asia Region. The SWITCH-Asia RPAC implemented by UNEP, is designed to strengthen dialogue at regional, sub-regional and national levels on SCP and thereby contributing to green growth and reduction of poverty in Asian countries. In this context, the SDPI has been engaged to review Pakistan's NAP-SCP in terms of implementation, monitoring, and reporting and to develop a way forward for other phases of NAP-SCP implementation in Pakistan. The SDPI is undertaking a study in this regard and would like to take opinions and advice from a selected group of experts during a policy dialogue on sustainable consumption and production.

## Objectives of the event

The objective of the policy dialogue was to validate the results comprising lessons learned and good practices from the implementation of Pakistan's NAP-SCP and to seek experts' opinions to further improve.

## Logistical information about the event

The policy dialogue on National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (NAP-SCP) was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in partnership with SWITCH-Asia.

## Summary of key messages:

In the policy dialogue on NAP-SCP, experts and representatives from different ministries, research organizations, industries and academia were present in-person as well as online. The experts were briefed about the situation on SDG 12 and the status of NAP-SCP implementation in Pakistan. The representatives from the EU presented their views, identified gaps which needs to be addressed in NAP-SCP and also proposed some strategies of implementation of the action plan in Pakistan.

During panel discussion, the experts shared complex nature of the SCP in Pakistan and difficulties in mapping the SDG12. The experts were of the view that there has been lack of awareness regarding the SCP-NAP. It was recommended during to develop a central monitoring body responsible for mapping SCP in all sectors through interlinkages with ministries and other relevant stakeholder. Furthermore, it was proposed to strengthen the local administrations in Pakistan for reporting the district level data in context to NAP-SCP. Also, there is a need to work towards implementation rather than only policy making and consultations.

It was also proposed that Pakistan may take the opportunity during the Voluntary National Review of SDGs to change the categorization of SDG-12 from 3 to 1 or 2 so that implementation becomes a priority backed by actions and resources.

## Welcome and Opening remarks

**Dr. Stephen Langrell,**

**First Counselor, Head Rural Development & Economic Cooperation, EU Pakistan**

Dr. Langrell in his opening remarks discussed that the policy dialogue is crucial, and it represents the need for progress on NAP-SCP. While discussing about the NAP-SCP formulation, he explained that five years ago the EU-SWITCH-ASIA in collaboration with MoCc developed NAP-SCP through extensive consultations with stakeholders from provinces and local levels. Furthermore, he added that the EU-Switch Asia supported the MoCc in two important areas: 1) Roadmap for green development growth and 2) Plastic waste management. He said that last year during the SWITCH ASIA annual conference on SCP actions progress, Pakistan could not report its progress. Moreover, he added that the reason was difficulties in primary collection of data. While expressing his concern for over population in the country, he added that the population will increase to 380 million by 2050 in Pakistan who has already exceeded its limit of bio capacity in terms of ecological footprint. Dr. Langrell affirmed that the EU Pakistan is working in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan to lower the ecological footprint and achieve sustainable economic growth. Because otherwise, Pakistan will not be able to achieve the goal of reducing the carbon footprint. Environmental sustainability and building back better after the COVID-19 are the global goals that Pakistan along with other countries share with the EU. So, in this regard, there is a need to work towards green transition and for that he said that there is reassurance from Pakistan, and EU will assist in the process.

## NAP-SCP Presentation

**Dr. Shafqat Munir, SDPI:**

While presenting the status of NAP-SCP in Pakistan, Dr. Shafqat Munir highlighted various issues in the institutional framework of the NAP-SCP. He stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Voluntary National Review (VNR) is underway, yet the progress on SDGs is not up to the mark. Even if it is, the data is either unavailable, under reported or not reported at all. He further remarked that the major issue with NAP-SCP implementation is the compliance and monitoring mechanism. He recommended to work on capacity building and resource efficiency for improving the status of NAP-SCP in Pakistan. He has suggested to change categorization of SDG-12 from category 3 to 1 so that implementation gets priority.

## Panel sessions

### **Dr. Saima Shafique, MoCc:**

She highlighted that the coordination with stakeholders and partners, unavailability of data, institutional framework issues, resource inefficiency are the major gaps for implementing NAP-SCP. However, she stated that although the NAP-SCP was developed by the MoCc but it was not a standalone task, rather all stakeholders from provinces were part of this process. The major issue was that the MoCc was not able to follow up on the implementation framework of NAP-SCP. The reason was that the limited resources were available through SWITCH-ASIA to the MoCc. She further added that for some indicators, data is available, but for some, data is unavailable at grass root level. Also, data is extensive and the MoCc need resources to compile data.

However, recently WWF has supported MoCc for SDG 12.2, 12.4 and 12.6 target reporting. Through collaboration, they have developed a pilot dashboard to map the data. Furthermore, the clean green Pakistan index is also capturing data related to resource efficiency. Dr. Saima also stated that they are trying to make linkages through IT based system but still there is a long way to go. However, she affirmed that MoCc with other stakeholders can work together to prioritize some targets of SDG 12 and start reporting data. Moreover, she highlighted another milestone that for textile sector, the MoCc has developed a dashboard based on the idea of creating a competition among the private sector stakeholders on greening the industry and improving the sustainability.

### **Syed Mahmood Nasir, former Inspector General Forests (MoCc):**

When discussing about different sectors specifically water and ecosystem, he suggested to follow the pattern as adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity. He said situation of microplastics is alarming, as they are found in freshwater systems. He recommended that every province needs to provide their progress report on the NAP-SCP. Another important suggestion was about packaging material which needs to be addressed because it becomes a part of over consumption and adds to carbon footprint.

### **Prof.Dr. Uzaira Rafique, FJWU:**

She recommended that there is a need to work through collaborations where academia and other stakeholders can collaborate to pool data at one platform. She said the academia is developing SDGs compliance report which could help to report data on SDGs.

### **Aisha Khan, CSCCC:**

SCP is about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. So, in this context, Ms Aisha stated that responsible consumption becomes more important. She recommended that shifting towards a green GDP might assist in that pursuit. Also, she suggested to monetize the cost of

consumption in terms of loss of biodiversity, so that it will become easier for us to address SCP. She further added that data challenges need to be addressed sufficiently along with the compliance issues which needs to be managed through a robust monitoring and verification mechanism.

**Dr. Ismat Gul Khattak, PNAC:**

Much stronger collaboration between public and private sector is needed for this task. She added that there needs to be a monitoring mechanism and a robust collaboration between stakeholders who must ensure accountability of the responsible departments as well.

**Syed Salar Khan, NCRD:**

Growing population is a major problem which will affect all other SDGs. Non availability of data is another problem. He suggested that district administration is a place where all the district level data related to any SDG can be easily accessed. Hence, they need to be taken on board and trained to handle data.

**Dr. Tahir Jameel, QAU:**

Redistribution of sources is missing. He proposed that we need a bottom-up approach to solve the problem of mapping SDGs. He further suggested that local governments need to be strengthened for mapping SCP in Pakistan.

**Imtiaz Hussain, PARC,**

We are losing our productive land to construction. He added that agriculture is main contributor of GHG emissions. So, in this regard, PARC is working on climate smart varieties and moving towards irrigation management in crops. He suggested that there is a need to focus on smart technologies to manage emission issues.

**Hassnain Shah, NARC**

Monitoring and data collection is the real challenge. We need good planning and implementation strategies. Social responsibility should be integrated into SCP programme.

**Mujahid Tanweer, WAPDA:**

The issue of untreated sewage is very alarming as it is contaminating the surface water and aquifers in Pakistan. We are trying to adapt to climate change, but our implementation mechanism is weak. We need to transfer the knowledge of climate change adaptation to our farmers.

**Closing Remarks:**

**Dr. Ulrich Thiessen, Development Advisor, EU Pakistan:**

He commended SDPI for the policy dialogue on NAP-SCP. He proposed the implementation must be done by the provinces. But he stated that the question is how can we make sure that provinces implement the plan? So, for this instead of policy making, we should directly jump to implementation of NAP in Pakistan. He suggested that there is a need for a strategy to develop a competition among the provinces based on incentives to implement NAP-SCP.

**Dr. Stephen Langrell, EU Pakistan:**

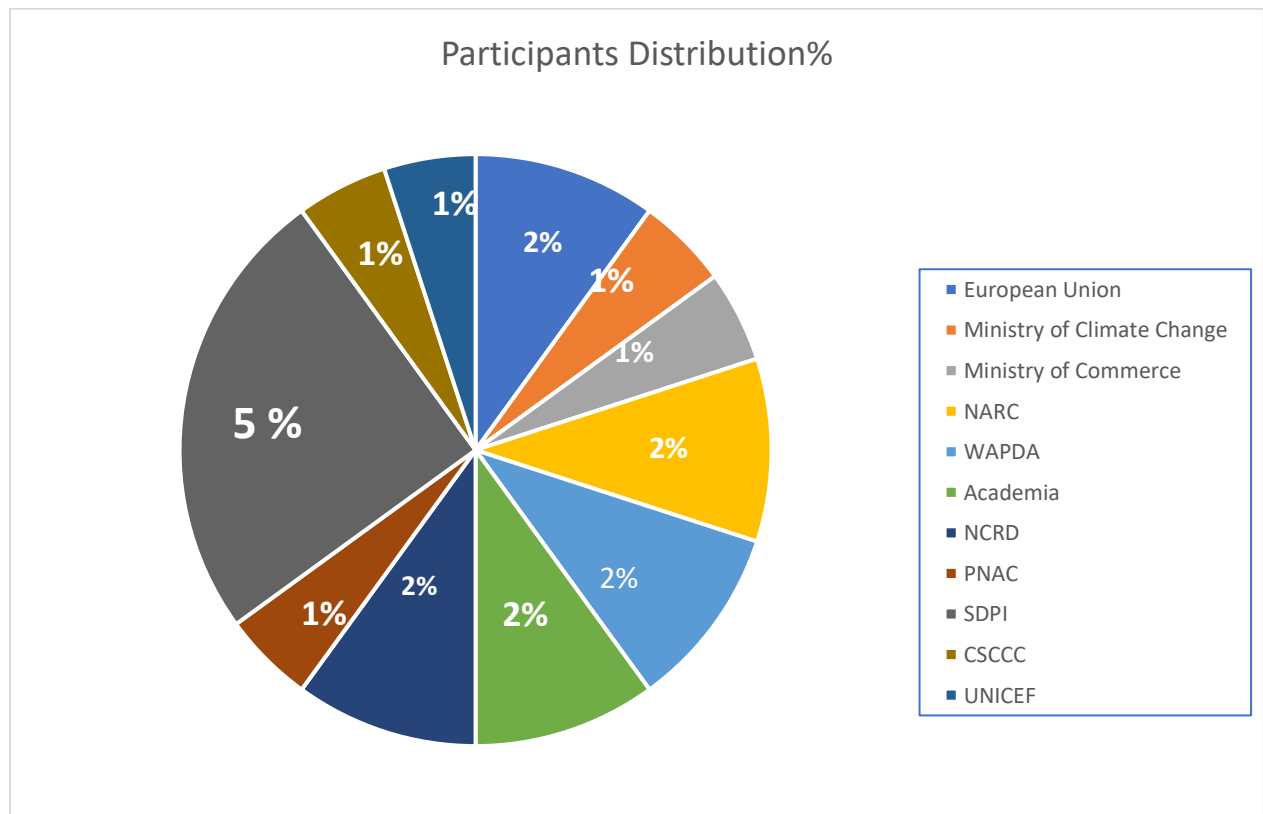
In his concluding remarks he commended the efforts of SDPI and stated that the event has highlighted some very important issues. Data is essential and the issue is its accessibility from provinces. In terms of moving forwards, for decision making he said that we need accurate data. Moreover, he warned that the time is ticking, so we must act efficiently to improve the situation before 2050. He added that this programme is for Pakistan, for your country, so if you don't act now, the consequences will be in the form of environmental degradation and social crisis. He suggested that the Government of Pakistan should not miss the opportunity to learn from such forums/dialogues and act.

**Shafqat Munir, SDPI:**

We will not end it here with just a review report and one policy dialogue on the issue of SCP; we need to undertake a multi-stakeholders' campaign, we need to take it to local level in next phase as this is a common responsibility of all stakeholders to reverse the trends of overconsumption and production.

**Review on Participants:**

Total 20 participants attended the dialogue. Most of them were present in-person while 3 joined virtually. The participants included stakeholders from the Ministry of Climate Change, the senior representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan, representatives from Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), National Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and academia/individual experts.





## Annex:

### Annex 1: The Final agenda

## Agenda

**Registration and Arrival of participants 10:30 to 11:00**

**Venue:** Hotel Margala, Islamabad + Online (Hybrid) **Date:** 29, March 2022

**Time:** 10:30 to 13:00 (GMT+5)

<p><i>Overview of the workshop</i></p> <p><b>Ali Rehmat/Salman Danish</b></p> <p>Research Associate, SDPI</p>	<p>11:00 to 11:10</p>
<p><i>Opening Remarks</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Stephen Langrell</b> European Union Delegation to Pakistan</p>	<p>11:10 to 11:30</p>
<p><i>Findings of the study followed</i></p> <p><b>Dr Shafqat Munir Ahmad</b></p> <p>Head Resilient Development Programme, SDPI</p>	<p>11:30 to 12:00</p>
<p>Discussion and opinions/feedback from the experts/participants based on NAP review Moderators: <b>Dr. Shafqat Munir Ahmad/Zainab Naeem</b></p>	<p>12:00 to 12:45</p>

<p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> <p><b>Dr Saima Shafique</b></p> <p><b>on behalf of Mr Muhammad Irfan Tariq</b></p> <p>Director General (Env. &amp; Climate Change), Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad (TBC)</p>	<p>12:45 to 13:00</p>
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**Lunch 13:00**

<p><b>Zoom Link</b></p>	<p>Please note that the event will be in a hybrid format - i-e: in-person + online. Zoom Link is provided below for those who are unable to join physically:</p> <p>SDPI Pakistan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.</p> <p><b>Topic: Policy Dialogue on National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption &amp; Production (NAP-SCP) Time: Mar 29, 2022, 10:30 AM Islamabad, Karachi, Tashkent</b></p>
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**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011540556?pwd=Wi9Jams3SW5JRlIWQkhiUzRubENkUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 820 1154 0556 **Passcode:** 849006

**For more information**

SWITCH-Asia event page:

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