

Forum: United Nations Development Program

Issue: Reducing environment waste by facilitating the use of responsible consumption and production

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Overview

The main purpose of changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources is to achieve economic growth and sustainable development so that the future generations can depend on.

Nowadays, 3 billion tons of food is wasted every year whereas 2 billion people are suffering from hunger. Furthermore, the food sector accounts for approximately 22% of greenhouse gas. By reducing the environmental waste, the environment and the economy will be better and to move toward more sustainable patterns of consumption in 2030. Furthermore, people are consuming more than ever and much of it are from people who live in developed countries. Urban areas in Asia generate about 1.21 million Mt (1Mt= 1 thousand kilograms) of municipal solid waste a day; in India, about 960 tons of solid waste is being generated annually;

To achieve these goals, efficiently managing the shared natural resources and carefully considering the way we dispose of pollutants is necessary. United Nation has been focused on environmental sustainability for numbers of years and achieving sustainable consumption and production (SCP) has been enlisted as part of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goal. In 2012 the UN adopted the program -10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) which is a global framework to enhance international awareness and move forward to sustainable production and consumption. It promotes resources efficiency and sustainability, funds specific projects, connects various groups of stakeholders. This is an essential approach towards SCP and both developed countries and developing countries will get benefits.

Different countries have different perspectives on the practice of sustainable consumption and production. Donald Trump, U.S current president, just cut 31% to Environmental

protection agency's budget and eliminate 3200 jobs and over 50 programs. Besides, Trump just pulled the U.S out of the Paris Climate Agreement. In contrast, France, Sweden and some other countries are aware of the issue and trying to solve over production and consumption.

Key Terms

Sustainable Consumption

Sustainable consumption is the use of resources wisely and minimize the waste and pollution. It often links with the use of reusable energy and develop alternative fuels.

Closed loop production

A sustainable supply chain approach that can help to achieve sustainable consumption by recycling used resources and generate new products.

Green chemistry

Green chemistry is a set of principles that focus is to design products and processes that minimize the use and production of hazardous substances in order to achieve better ecosystem.

Ecological Footprint

It shows how much nature resources we have and how much is left. It can be used to measure human's demand on nature and the quantity of nature resources that are needed to support human population. By changing the way we produce and consume resources we can reduce ecological footprint.

Ecosystem

Ecosystem is essential to human because they get resources from it. One way to preserve ecosystem is reasonable consumption and production.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

An agency of the UN that leads the developing and developed countries to defeat hunger. It is a leading organization who helps to coordinate projects on waste reduction.

Important Events/Timelines

Date	Event
1965	The United Nation Development Programs (UNDP) was founded on 22 November 1965. It provides supports to developing countries and tries to provide people a better life in the globe.
1987	In the UNEP conference, the commission stated the imbalance of consumption and the consequences it caused.
2003	UN lauched the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production at the first international expert meeting on the 10-year framework held in Marrakech.
2012	The UN adopted the 10-year Framework Programme on sustainable consumption and production.
2016	The sustainable goals came into effect in 2016 and they have been used to end poverty, protect the ecosystem and provide everyone peace and happiness. These goals will be continued to affect UNDP until 2030 and UNDP expects their goals to be accomplished by the year 2030.

Major Nations/Organizations

United Nation Environmental Program (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Program is an international organization that sets local environmental agenda and it is one of the most important organization that helps to advocate environmental issues.

United Nation Development Program (UNDP)

UNDP works to provides human rights, ensure all people get peace and prosperity, protect the environment and urges to make the world a better place. Their sustainable development programs are covered in more than 170 countries and territories.

Future Earth (NGO)

Future earth is a major international research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate transformations to a sustainable world. Future Earth will work with partners in society to co-develop the knowledge needed to support decision-makers and societal change at all scales and in diverse contexts, by focusing on three Research Themes.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility united 183 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

Important Documents/Passed Solutions

<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/one-planet-network>

<http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/goals/goal-12/en/>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-12-responsible-consumption-and-production.html>

Possible Solutions

The United Nations has been pushing for responsible consumption and production and attempts have been made. However, there are still things that can be improved to achieve the goal in 2030. In addition, countries hold different perspectives on protecting the environment and delegates need to be aware of that and research the issue in different perspectives.

First of all, the member states of the United Nations need to aware of the consequence of waste consumption and production. Waste production and consumption will result in the loss of energy, fuels and other natural resources that can be used for future needs. By reducing the problem, more people will not suffer from hunger, and the economy will be better as well as the ecosystem. Secondly, members states need to educate fellow citizens and companies and raise awareness in the nation. Different countries might have different approaches to the practice due to their positions but raising awareness is necessary.

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