

PRESS RELEASE

ARSCP Holds its 9th Regional Meeting on SCP in Kampala Uganda, 30th May to 1st June 2016

The African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) is a regional (Africa) non government not for profit organization with a mission of promoting sustainable consumption and production in Africa. It was established by African SCP practitioners in Casablanca in 2004 and registered in Tanzania which hosts its Secretariat. The African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) meeting at Midrand South Africa in 2008 endorsed this organization as its technical arm.

Among the objectives of the ARSCP is to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing between SCP promoters at regional and international levels. In line with this it has held nine regional meetings on SCP since year 2000. Towards the end of May and early June 2016, Kampala City in Uganda was vibrant with a number of activities taking place with regard to SCP. Among the successful events that were held was the 9th Africa Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) meeting. The meeting was attended by 280 local and international participants.

This meeting was held at Hotel Africana in Kampala from 30th May – 1st June 2016 under the theme “*Sustainable Consumption and Production as a vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa*”. This theme was by no means rightly chosen taking into consideration centrality of SCP in bringing about a new global and African outlook. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 endorsed a Global Ten Year Framework Programme on SCP and the COP 21 in Paris in 2015 endorsed SCP as the twelfth goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The objective of this meeting was to support promotion of sustainable consumption and production in Africa through success stories, ability for interaction by national, regional and global practitioners, provide education of new SCP development, sharing experiences that has been proven successful in climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation so as to come up with recommendations for new projects/ initiatives, corrective policies and timely actions taking into account the 10 YFP, SDG and adopting new technological development.

Thus the meeting focused on SDG and SCP programmes at global and regional levels. The African needs, priorities and green economy potentials for its social and economic development were discussed relative to SCP. The ongoing European Union initiative through the SWITCH Africa Green Project which was inaugurated during the ARSCP eighth regional meeting was also presented and discussed. Further, status and progress of the activities of the Network for the UNIDO/UNEP RECPnet African Chapter were tabled for discussions. Generally, the presentations and discussions showed that there is low awareness/education about the potential of SCP, non or inadequate national and corporate budgetary allocations for SCP, laxity in enforcement of rules and regulations and rapid technological changes for most African countries’ labourforce to comprehend. Also, that the effort exerted by SCP practitioners has not been in vain, SCP is gradually becoming a household concept to those practicing it, contributing to the regional social and economic wellbeing of the people. Savings of millions of dollars in energy, water, materials, waste management, increased productivity and reduced impact of human economical activities to health and the environment were demonstrated. Through SCP Africa can move to the next development level without causing harm to her people and ecosystem

This event was made possible through the support and involvement of the Uganda Government and a number of international organizations including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the European Union (EU). The local organizers were the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the Uganda National Cleaner Production Center (UCPC). The ARSCP takes the opportunity to express its gratitude to all enablers and participants.

It is with certainty that one can proudly say that the objectives of ARSCP 9 were to a great extent achieved.

ARSCP Secretariat

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