

Economic and Ecological Potential of "Greening" the Waste Sector In the Middle East and North Africa Region.

From 15 to 17 May 2012 Marrakech, Morocco

Marrakech declaration towards "Greening" the Waste Sector

Participating Countries and organizations: Representatives of the network founding members, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian territory, Tunisia, Yemen, Mauritania; representatives of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Portugal and Spain; representatives of the network supporting partners: the German government through the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and the Tunisian government through the National waste management Agency (ANGed); representative of the League of Arab States and the Arab Maghreb Union; representative of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services (IPLA); representative of the European Commission through the CIUDAD; representative of the "Horizon 2020/CB MEP of the European Commission"; representative of the German Bank for Development (KfW) and the representative of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA);

We, the above-mentioned participants in the Second Regional Forum of the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network in Mashreq and Maghreb countries (SWEEP-Net) organized in Marrakech, Morocco from 15 to 17 May 2012, on "Ecological Potential of Greening the Waste Sector in the MENA Region", agree on the following declaration:

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for:

- the Kingdom of Morocco for successfully hosting the Second Regional Forum of the network;
- the regional forum supporting parties;
- the SWEEP-Net secretariat for their efforts in organizing this forum, which is considered an ideal platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences and information in the field of waste management in the MENA region;

We would also like to confirm our support for all initiatives aimed at promoting regional cooperation in the field of sustainable solid waste management (SWM) and the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the thematic working groups held within the framework of SWEEP-Net.

Given the importance of and the challenges faced by the SWM sector at the economic, social and environmental levels in the network member countries, it has become necessary to carry out intensified effort and activate cooperation mechanisms to harness the potential for developing this sector and meeting the key principles and objectives of sustainable development specifically in the direction of green economy. Therefore, we the participants in this forum recommend the following:

I. On Legal and Institutional Aspects of SWM:

- Strengthen the legal and institutional SWM frameworks while integrating the principles and mechanisms of green economy;
- Develop clear policies and national programs, taking into account the principles of green economy including cost recovery, fiscal issues and the adoption of planning mechanisms at the national and local levels;
- Speed up the adoption of technical standards and specifications related to SWM;
- Develop mechanisms to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation processes of all SWM stages;
- Develop the relationship between the network and decision-makers within member countries.

II. On Financial and Investment Aspects for "Greening" the Waste Sector:

- Link the current SWM problems with green economy and refrain from treating environmental problems separately from economic, financial, and social challenges;
- Regard waste as a resources and as potential for job creation;
- Develop sustainable funding mechanisms capable of ensuring the program continuity and meeting the set objectives;
- Reinforce the principle of "polluter - pays" and the principle of "extended producer responsibility" in the national laws and policies;
- Encourage and foster partnerships between the private and public sectors for SWM investment;
- Work on limiting greenhouse gas emissions in the MENA region and develop available tools and mechanisms to improve investment prospects, in the framework of national SWM strategies.

III. On Technical Issues:

- Adopt an integrated SWM approach and encourage recycling and waste valorization techniques and promote the principles of "3R": reduce, reuse, recycle;
- Develop techniques and ways to reduce waste production at source;
- Stimulate cooperation between the public and private sectors and draw on successful experiences, directories, guidelines, field studies and technical specifications;
- Provide due attention to the waste management industry and further develop technologies for recycling, and valuation and dealing with new waste types such as electronic, chemical and hazardous waste, among others;
- Develop an interest in studying waste components as a basic and necessary tool to identify best ways of waste treatment;
- Exchange of expertise and successful experiences between municipalities at the regional level.

IV. On Media and Public Awareness, Communication, Training and Environmental Education:

- Support for communication between decision-makers in Member States for the purpose of promoting the concept of sustainable development and green economy regarding waste management;
- Work to raise environmental awareness within the Member States and the translation is applied to the behavior of individuals; requiring the adoption of incentives and deterrents in the national laws of these countries;

- Exchange of experiences and communication mechanisms, media and environmental education;
- Strengthen the capacity of local groups in the field of waste management, in addition to tracking and monitoring investment projects in this field;
- Advocacy work to raise funds allocated to scientific research in the field of waste management.

V. On social Aspects:

- The involvement of civil society in the waste management projects and in related decision-making;
- Taking into account the social aspects of trash collectors and workers in the field of waste recycling in all projects related to waste management.

VI. On the International Partnership of Local Councils in the Middle East and North Africa for the improvement of SWM:

- Promote the exchange of experiences within the framework of regional and international cooperation;
- Promote cooperation between the SWEEP-Net Community, other relevant networks and organizations such as IPLA and ISWA in order to develop the appropriate framework to achieve the objectives envisaged in the field of "greening" of waste, and work towards the goal of "zero waste";
- Adopt the goals set forth by IPLA and the contents of the Declaration of Daegu, and the 2011 International World Congress of the International Solid Waste Association designated to advance towards the goal of "zero waste";
- To emphasize the role of SWEEP-Net as a regional representative of the Middle East and North Africa Region to IPLA, to work on the development of the principles of "zero waste" in the area as part of its operations;
- Encourage local communities and the private sector to rigorously work towards the targets set forth by IPLA to achieve the goal of "zero - waste".

VII. On the development of networks and support regional Cooperation:

- Support for all networks, initiatives and projects aimed at strengthening cooperation and the exchange of experiences and experiences in the field of integrated waste management, including SWEEP-Net, IPLA, the CIUDAD) and Horizon 2020 projects, and ISWA;
- Support the consolidation of the regional organization (SWEEP-Net) and encourage the remaining Arab states to enroll in this organization, along with all SWM stakeholders (public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, experts and academia).

We also take the opportunity to thank the League of Arab States, the Arab Maghreb Union and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) for supporting the objectives and recommendations of this forum and for encouraging the activities and objectives of SWEEP-Net and involving the network in decision-making in relation with integrated SWM. In this respect, we ask to advance this declaration in the League of Arab States and the Rio+20 summit to be held in Brazil.

Participants also renew their commitment to actively participate in the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of this forum and disseminate it at the level of decision-makers of participating countries and all SWM stakeholders.

Marrakech, on 17 May 2012