Environmental Sustainability Frameworks and Social Responsibility: *Products and Standards*

CSD 19 Partnership Fair:

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Arab Hoballah, Chief SCP, UNEP
UNEP Related Activities

Sustainable Production and Consumption

- Sustainable procurement
- Sustainable transport
- Ecolabelling and certification
- Sustainable marketing
- Sustainable lifestyles
- Waste Management
- Sustainable resource management
- Design for sustainability
- Cleaner production & Resource Efficiency
Environmental sustainability framework for products

- **Foundational Data**
  - LCA data (including data for Carbon and Water Footprint), exposure and hazard data, etc.

- **Analytical Tool box**
  - LCA, Carbon and Water Footprint, Material Flow Accounting, Risk Assessment, etc.

- **Tools as Programs and Activities**
  - eco-design directive, materials selection and recycling, etc.

- **Management Systems and Policies (Reporting & Standards)**

- **Sustainability**
Standards & products in the value chain

Figure 1: Where to Draw a Reporting Boundary?

Where to draw a boundary for reporting?

Value Chain

Upstream

Downstream

Material Producers
Suppliers
Joint Ventures
Operations
Logistics Providers
Wholesalers
Distributors
Retailers
Consumers
End-of-product Managers

Reporting Organisation

Control Influence

weak

strong

Source: GRI Reporting Boundary Protocol

*The entities listed here are examples.
From technical to soft standards

- ISO 9000 and ISO 14 000 – families of management systems standards… ISO entering terrain of managerial and organisational practice
- ISO 14 000 series: inspired by UNCED, Rio 1992 and GATT Uruguay negotiations (non-tariff barriers)
- ISO 14 000 series introduced 1996: incl EMS (14001), communication (14063), LCA (14040)
- Expectations for 2012, UN Conference on Sustainable Development? Cf role of “self-regulation” in the Green Economy
Social Responsibility in Context

- **2002 WSSD, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**
  - Chpt III, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production: call for “Enhance corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability…” *(para 18, which encourages industry to improve its sustainability performance and, significantly, refers to the ISO and GRI)*

- **Driving forces for SR debate of last decade:**
  - Globalisation, trade liberalisation, supply chain labour codes, environmental degradation, marginalisation of sectors of society
ISO 26000: why a standard?

- Benefits of *international* standardisation on SR: common understanding of SR issues globally, give marginalised voices a platform, global level playing field, pull together expertise and experience, reduce transaction costs & facilitate trade, build greater trust globally
- Standardisation Policy Perspective (*harmonisation for trade*) & Public Policy Perspective (*promote SR*)
- Risks of proliferation, incompatibility, inconsistency, incomparability… undermine trade and *public confidence* in standards
ISO 26000: its agreed content

- Includes UN Global Compact core principles, incl the Rio 1992 environmental principles: *environmental responsibility, precaution and environmentally sound technologies*

- Recognises life cycle approach, cleaner production, product service systems (PSSs) and sustainable procurement

- Environmental “core subjects” chapter covers key thematic priorities: hazardous substances & waste, resource efficiency, climate change, biodiversity & ecosystem services

- Recognises UNEP associated conventions (MEAs) and initiatives (eg SBCI, FI, GRI)
Programmes under 10YFP on SCP
Related to Products and Standards:

✓ Life cycle assessment and footprint info (UNEP)
✓ Procurement practices according to ISO 26000 (CI)

Thank you!