

## **CSD Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (SCP) Chair's Summary**

The CSD Thematic Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (SCP) was held at UN Headquarters on 30 March 2010. The event was moderated by Mr. Ulf Jaeckel, Vice Chair (Germany) of CSD-18, who is also serving as co-Chair of the advisory committee for the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, created in 2003 to support the implementation of policies and capacity building activities on SCP and the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programs on SCP (10YFP). An introductory statement was also made by Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), who presented a slide from a recent article from the scientific journal *Nature* that defines nine earth biophysical services and carrying capacities for each that should not be exceeded, to ensure stability.<sup>1</sup>

A video entitled "Living Outside The Box - Sustainable Lifestyles" produced by the Ministry of the Environment (Sweden) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was presented to highlight differences in lifestyles across the planet and outcomes of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles.

Thomas Graedel focused his presentation on the exponential increase in use of virgin materials over the last century, using metals such as chromium, aluminum and nickel as examples. He introduced the "master equation" to demonstrate that absolute decoupling will be a product of addressing the technical and societal relationships that link personal wealth, development, and consumption. He concluded that although new recycling technologies and design for recycling will help, major cultural changes will be needed to "dematerialize" and achieve long term sustainability.

Catherine Nicholson presented the work done by consumers' groups around the world and supported by Consumer International to help raise awareness on consumers' rights and how the power of their purchases (or lack thereof) support procurement of materials to schools, facilitate investigation of supermarkets and whole supply chains, and provide information and assurance of certified goods and services. Yet because voluntary initiatives are not delivering rapid and consistent progress, international multi-stakeholder solutions and regulation are needed, such as an international convention on corporate accountability that could address transparency down the supply chain and promote a better balance of power between suppliers and supermarkets.

Gemma Adaba represented the International Trade Union Confederation. She indicated that more

approach reaches beyond impacts during the manufacturing phase to factor in major environmental issues from the extraction phase throughout the use and disposal/recycling phase