

B. Developing national policies and strategies to encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns

Basis for action

29. Achieving the goals of environmental quality and sustainable development will require efficiency in production and changes in consumption patterns in order to emphasize optimization of resource use and minimization of waste. In many instances, this will require reorientation of existing production and consumption patterns which have developed in industrial societies, and which are in turn emulated in much of the world.

30. Progress can be made by strengthening positive trends and directions which are emerging, as part of a process aimed at achieving significant changes in consumption patterns of industries, Governments, households and individuals.

Objectives

31. In the years ahead Governments, working with appropriate organizations, should strive to meet the following broad objectives:

(a) Promote efficiency in production processes and reduce wasteful consumption in the process of economic growth, taking into account the development needs of developing countries;

(b) Develop a domestic policy framework which will encourage a shift to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption;

(c) Reinforce both values which encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns, and policies which encourage the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

Activities

(a) Encourage greater efficiency in the use of energy and resources

32. ~~Reducing the amount of~~ ~~More efficient use~~ of energy and materials used ^{per unit} in the production of goods and services can contribute both to the alleviation of environmental stress, and to greater economic and industrial productivity and competitiveness. Governments, in cooperation with industry, should therefore intensify efforts to use energy and resources in an economically efficient and environmentally sound manner, in the following ways:

(a) Encourage the dissemination of existing environmentally sound technologies;

(b) Promote research and development in environmentally sound technologies;