

REMARKS BY PROF. M. J. MWANDOSYA ON RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT – A PERSPECTIVE FROM TANZANIA AT THE OECD/UNEP CONFERENCE ON RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, PARIS, FRANCE 23 APRIL, 2008

I would like to once again thank the organisers of this important conference for the honour extended to me to speak at this session on “Resource Efficiency in the Global Context – A Perspective from Governments “ and I should add a sub-title – the case of a developing country, or a perspective from the South.

I wish to cluster my remarks as follows:

- 1) Resource efficiency and development
- 2) Measures taken by Tanzania to encourage resource efficiency
- 3) The cleaner production Centre of Tanzania
- 4) Concluding remarks

I will endeavour to cover each subject/topic within 2 minutes so that I remain within the minutes allocated to me/allotted to me.

1) Resource efficiency and development

Tanzania, just like many countries in Africa, is well endowed with an enormous natural resource base. Yet Africa is faced with unparalleled development challenges. The major preoccupation of our governments in Africa is poverty eradication. Ideally natural resource exploitation, extraction, transportation, conversion, distribution, and utilization should transform the economies of Africa. This has not happened. Worse still link, exploitation, extraction and transportation, has and continues to lead to environmental deterioration, poverty has continued to worsen, making us even more vulnerable to environmental stress.

The strong linkage among poverty, environmental degradation and consumption and production of natural resources has been underlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002). As an outcome of World Summit on Sustainable Development the plan emphasises that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development, the United Republic of Tanzania is committed to the promotion of the concept of resource efficiency through sustainable consumption and production, nationally, regionally and globally.

2) Measures taken by Tanzania to encourage resource efficiency

- (i) At Policy level – Though promulgation of national policies relevant to resource efficiency including, among others:
 - The National Environment Policy
 - The National Agricultural Policy
 - The National Energy Policy
 - The National Industrial Policy
 - The National Water Policy
- (ii) At Strategic level – through the definition of strategic objectives, the strategic challenges, the players, resource requirements, and interlinkages.
- (iii) Related Policy tools – through the enactment of relevant legislation including secondary legislation such as regulations and by-laws. The all-embracing National Environment Management Act No. 20 of 2004 and its related regulations is a case in point.
- (iv) At Institutional level – through the establishment of the Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania(CPCT).
- (v) Guided by the National Development Policy 2025, and the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction.

3) The cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania

CPCT was established in October, 1995 as a part of the worldwide UNIDO/ UNEP National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs)Project, with a mandate to promote, mainstream, and sustain, sustainable production and consumption in Tanzania through, among other things information dissemination, training, demonstration and assessments, policy advice and coordination of national and regional programmes.

The Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania has trained over 1,000 stakeholders. It has organised regional seminar, the 2nd African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production for 100 participants. CPCT was also host of the 9th Global UNEP High level Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the first ever to be held in Tanzania.

While much has been achieved through the introduction of the cleaner production concept in Tanzania, there are a number of challenges to be surmounted. These include, among others, the following:-

1. With the comprehensive environmental framework in place, the challenge is to realign a number of sectoral legislations to be in line with the National Environment Management Act, and to complete the drafting of regulations and standards for implementation and reinforcement of the Act.

2. The low level of education at supervising level has hindered comprehension and interpretation of the concept of cleaner production. The low level of awareness of cleaner production and environmental issues by the general public and policy makers in general is a challenge to be surmounted.
3. The need for innovative financing mechanisms for Cleaner Production investments is another challenge. Traditional End-of-pipe or pollution control industry is well served in terms of investment.
4. Management related constraints:
 - Lack or poor collection and analysis of process input/ output data, making it difficult for management to derive their process material balance.
 - Low level of commitment to CP principles by management
 - Tendency to underquote financial benefits accrued as a result of implementation of CP measures for fear of taxation.
5. Underpricing of resources especially utilities such as water and electricity is a disincentive to implementation of cleaner production measures.

4) Concluding remarks

Discussions on Resource Efficiency have to be seen in the wider context issues that require urgent attention of the international community; the rapid depletion and degradation of national resources, loss of biodiversity, climate change, and food security.

There is a clear link between resource extraction, production and utilisation and climate change. That link must inform the current discussions and negotiations on climate change. The ongoing initiatives on resource efficiency should take note of this global concern. A more immediate concern in our quest for resource efficiency is the unfolding global food security threat, aptly described by the World Food Programme as the “silent tsunami”. It is by and large a result of resource substitution in energy consumption.

I started by underscoring the link between efficiency and development. I did so in order to make a case for the relevance resource efficiency measures in poverty eradication, Africa’s main concern. I did so also in order to introduce the audience to our modest efforts to encourage resource efficiency, through our Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania. The more I think about the relevance of the conference and the initiatives undertaken by such organisations as OECD, UNEP and UNIDO, and a number of related organisations, the more I am convinced of the profoundness of Mahatma Ghandi who I believe once remarked that “there is enough in the world for everybody’s need, but not for everybody’s greed”.

I thank you.