

Proposed SPAC Strategy for 2003–2005

ANPED Working Group on SPAC

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1.0 Focus on the problem

In Chapter 4, "Changing consumption patterns," Agenda 21 identifies two programmes for action: (1) focusing overall attention on the problem of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and (2) developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns. Further, in the Rio Declaration, Principle 8 declares that "to achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption..."

While the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development reaffirmed the "overarching objective" and "essential requirement" of changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption patterns, it also acknowledged that the "implementation gap" in effecting these changes has resulted in worsening trends of increasing ecological degradation, deepening poverty and greater threats to health and safety.

2.0 Taking the lead

While both Agenda 21 and the WSSD Plan of Implementation stress the responsibility of "developed countries taking the lead,"¹ these countries continue to respond far too slowly in meeting this crucial responsibility. Although sustainable consumption policy guidelines for such national frameworks were developed and adopted by governments in 2000 in the revised UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, few governments were even aware of these, much less moving forward to implement them, as the recent survey by Consumers International and the UN Environment Programme revealed.²

However, northern civil society organizations also have a responsibility to "take the lead" to ensure that their governments are indeed effectively moving forward in their policies and practices to eliminate unsustainable production and consumption patterns and their destructive impacts on society, environment and economy. ANPED's SPAC Working Group was created to help northern civil society organizations take that lead, through public education, advocacy, research and other actions.

In the recent Bratislava Declaration for the 2003 Environment for Europe ministerial conference, NGOs made as their first demand for ECE governments to "put consumption and production patterns at the heart of the process."³ Members of the North American Sustainable Consumption Alliance also affirmed in their 2002 meeting in Montreal the importance of making a higher national priority for sustainable production and consumption policy. ANPED's SPAC Working Group exists to help realize those aims through informed and committed action.

3.0 Working Group goals

The following goals emerged from the ANPED SPAC Conference in Soesterberg, Netherlands in 1999, and from subsequent discussions among SPAC Working Group members:

¹ WSSD *Plan of Implementation*, par 14.

² UNEP/CI, *Tracking Progress: Implementing Sustainable Consumption Policies, A Global Review of the Implementation of the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection* (2002)

³ Bratislava Declaration

1. To develop a useful, ambitious but realistic *strategy* to achieve the changes we want in policy, legislation and public attitudes and behavior.
2. To *keep ANPED members informed* of important news and issues in general and with SPAC Watch in particular.
3. To *raise public awareness and knowledge* about critical SPAC issues and policies within the ECE region.
4. To *build knowledge and capacity* in lobbying for policies and legislation for SPAC priorities.
5. To *build a strong network* for SPAC among ANPED members and between ANPED and other networks, especially those in the South.

The following explores ideas for each of these goals.

4.0 Developing a strategy

In developing "a useful, ambitious but realistic strategy to achieve the changes we want," the Working Group organized a number of meetings, workshops, skillshares and papers, all contributing ideas for an overall ANPED program regarding the "policies, legislation and public attitudes and behavior" we are trying to change. Over time, the following seven thematic elements are especially highlighted in ANPED's advocacy and education work:

1. Promoting national policy frameworks
2. Monitoring progress
3. Overcoming barriers to SPAC
4. Addressing the driving forces
5. Promoting corporate accountability
6. Influencing international and regional policy
7. Participating in the ten-year framework

These themes are actualized through a variety of methods, forming much of the substance of knowledge exchange, public education, lobbying, capacity building, campaigns and networking:.

4.1 Promoting national policy frameworks

Target: Get governments to integrate SPAC policy frameworks in their national sustainable development plans by 2005

One key objective in Agenda 21 is for countries "to develop a domestic policy framework that will encourage a shift to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption."⁴ In ANPED's 1999 Soesterberg Conference, it was clear that countries' failure to adequately or even begin to develop these national policy frameworks on SPAC continues to undermine progress. Thus, Working Group members agreed that *promoting national SPAC frameworks should be a key priority for ANPED advocacy and well as providing a way to strategically link and support the range of policy priorities of NGO campaigns and education activities.*⁵

⁴ *Agenda 21*, par 4.17b

⁵ Regional NGO policy priorities on SPAC are found in the ECE NGO Regional Statement for the WSSD (2001) and the Bratislava Declaration on the Pan-European Agenda for the forthcoming Kyiv Environmental Ministers

The SPAC Working Group will *share and provide information* to ANPED members and other civil society networks and organizations on news, developments and strategies helpful to promoting and implementing national SPAC frameworks and policies.

The Working Group will further help NGO members and partners *build knowledge and capacity* in developing and promoting national SPAC frameworks and policies.

Part of this capacity building also involves *building and strengthening these civil society networks and partnerships* promoting SPAC policies. In addition to the above, this networking is also important in building civil society capacity to effectively engage with other stakeholder groups (e.g., industry and trade unions) which are traditionally better funded and institutionally organized than non-commercial civil society organizations.

4.2 Monitoring progress

Target: Produce and present to CSD SPAC Watch reports for 2004 and 2005 assessing progress on national and global SPAC frameworks.

The 1999 Conference in Soesterberg, "From Consumer Society to Sustainable Society," also resulted in a new civil society initiative, **SPAC Watch**, to monitor national and global progress in achieving sustainable production and consumption, with the goal of reporting results to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The project, which involved knowledge networking and cooperation among a wide range of NGOs both within the ECE region and among NGO networks in the global South, hosted a series of public workshops and roundtables throughout the WSSD and its preparatory meetings.

The initiative produced three reports: *The Sustainable Production and Consumption of Food* (April 2000) for the 8th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, *Eliminating Barriers to Sustainable Production and Consumption* (2002) and *Waiting for Delivery: A Civil Society Assessment of Progress Towards Sustainable Production and Consumption* (2002) for the WSSD.

The current proposal is to *further build NGO capacity and public knowledge by continuing the SPAC Watch initiative monitoring and reporting on progress towards SPAC each year, with specific attention to progress in developing and implementing the WSSD ten-year framework on SPAC.*

Conference, Adopted by the Plenary of the European Eco Forum, Bratislava, Slovak Republic (8 December, 2002). See Appendix II and III.

4.3 Overcoming barriers to SPAC

Target: Conduct more in-depth analysis of barriers to SPAC, with recommendations for steps forward, including findings in campaign tool-kits and reporting to CSD and other bodies in 2004.

Noting the minimal overall progress being achieved by ECE and other countries in reversing the trends of unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and recognizing the role played by institutional inertia, political resistance and sometimes active opposition by special interests, ANPED members began turning attention from the needs and goals of SPAC to a more critical analysis of the barriers and constraints impeding progress towards SPAC.

At the 2001 AGM in Minsk, the SPAC Working Group held a two-day workshop to identify and suggest ways to eliminate these various barriers to progress, laying out several categories of activities and priorities.¹ The report on this workshop was published and distributed at the WSSD as input to the SPAC Watch assessment of progress, representing "input from ANPED and civil society groups in the ECE region."

The paper identifies *14 categorical barriers* to achieving sustainable production and consumption, organized under the four broader categories: consumption, investment, production and distribution/marketing⁶ in relation to the need for sustainability within each. (See Appendix I). The paper acknowledges that this is still an initial list, representing the beginning of a more in-depth ongoing analysis, not of unsustainable production and consumption per se but of the forces blocking or undermining change.

As it turned out, lack of analysis of the obstacles responsible for the implementation gap, or recommended strategies for overcoming those obstacles, was a major weakness of the UN Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Little time and attention was spent discussing these obstacles and reasons for the gap, focusing more on statements of commitment and enthusiasm over the plethora of voluntary partnerships.

Clearly, ANPED's focus on the barriers to SPAC continues to address an essential albeit neglected need in overcoming the gap in policies, programs and practices to achieve sustainable production and consumption, one reflecting the unique value and contribution of [noncommercial] civil society to this process.

⁶ The *CIPM schema* was adopted by the Working Group and is being used by a number of SPAC networks to help clarify some of the confusion in current discussions about production and consumption. One function of this four-way schema is to help break out from the circular debates about whether consumption or production is the "most important" topic to focus attention and efforts upon. The other function of the CIPM schema is to draw greater attention to the less-emphasized but crucial role played by investment and marketing/trade in driving the spac policy cycle.

4.4 Addressing the driving forces

Target: Conduct regional NGO consultations and analyses on trade and investment reform and access to information, presenting results and recommendations to governmental bodies (e.g., ECE, CSD, UNEP) in 2004 and 2005.

To change unsustainable production and consumption patterns requires understanding the forces driving and maintaining those patterns. Among the key driving forces addressed by the WG, consumer needs and information is a logical starting point. However, one particular insight which the Working Group brings to this effort, one too often neglected, is of *the important role played by investment and marketing/trade decisions, policies and practices in shaping production and consumption patterns.*

4.4.1 Needs and information

The common starting point for discussions about sustainable consumption is consumer demand, or rather the nature and configuration of needs, wants and information available to people. However, the reality of consumer demand is often not the picture of informed rational decision-making painted by traditional economic theory. Rather, *consumers' efforts to comprehend their needs and articulate their wants is shaped by the amount and quality of information available to them regarding the nature of the goods and services often aggressively marketed to them, as well as the degree of education and socialization they have about the actual ability of such goods and services to effectively meet their true needs.* In turn, another force driving consumption patterns are the cultural institutions educating and shaping consumers' values and understanding of those "true needs."

While this can be a complicated and perhaps never-ending study, touching on some of the more basic questions of life explored by the world's religions, art and philosophies, there are a number of practical SPAC policy and education issues of key interest and priority to Working Group members:

- Community right to know and consumer access to meaningful information
- Public participation in decision-making
- Access to justice⁷
- Product labeling
- Advertising reform

4.4.2 Investment

Public investment through government procurement, subsidies, export credit agencies and overseas development assistance all help shape the direction and quality of production. Unfortunately, such public investment policies and decisions are not normally guided by sustainability criteria but other priorities, too often resulting in unsustainable production and consumption patterns. In turn, efforts to reform these government policies and decisions are blocked by institutional inertia, political pressures from special interest groups and other barriers to SPAC.

⁷ In Agenda 21, the above three items fall under Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Private investment flows also too often encourage unsustainable production and consumption patterns and are rarely guided by sustainability criteria and priorities. In fact, indicators for measuring and assessing the impacts of foreign direct investment flows on sustainability -- on their social, environmental and economic costs to the quality of life of local and distant communities -- are rare if available at all.

4.4.3 Marketing: sales, trade and advertising

The Working Group highlights the role of *marketing -- sales, trade, advertising, packaging, pricing, transportation* -- as a driving force behind production and consumption patterns. Among the elements of marketing, trade stands out as one of the more powerful driving forces of production and consumption patterns.

Trade policy, in turn, too often acts not to promote sustainability and improved quality of life for everyone, but as a barrier. Thus the need for the WG to focus on both government and corporate accountability (see 4.5).

Another driving force within marketing is *mass advertising*. Over US\$ 100 billion is invested annually in advertising to encourage increasing consumption of products and services, with much of this consumption resulting in environmental depletion and degradation, pollution and waste, as well as disruption to traditional cultures and other social effects. It is common knowledge that to raise the consumption levels of the poor to current western standards would require the resources of three planets. Yet mass advertising continues to promote consumer lifestyles and values that not only cannot be sustained by the planet's carrying capacity, but cruelly taunt the world's poor about the benefits of a consumer society in which they have no vote or citizenship.

4.5 Promoting corporate accountability

Target: Conduct analysis of imbalances in international economic regulatory system with social and environmental legislation and the corporate accountability mechanisms needed to establish responsible balance, reporting in 2004.

ANPED has been involved for years with the issue of corporate accountability. For example, in 1995, ANPED organized a workshop focusing on NGO strategies on TNCs. This workshop produced the initiative which eventually resulted in the NGO Taskforce on Business and Industry (ToBI), bringing together over 100 NGOs and civil society networks lobbying UN General Assembly Special Session (i.e., CSD's Rio+5 review) *to get governments to recognize the role of corporate accountability as an element of sustainable development.*⁸ Up to that time there was no precedent for the concept of corporate accountability in Agenda 21 or the CSD process. *The ToBI campaign was successful in achieving this objective, as seen in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which in several places calls for promoting "corporate responsibility and accountability."*⁹ In particular, the WSSD acknowledged corporate accountability as a key element of sustainable production and consumption.¹⁰

⁸ ToBI, *Minding Our Business: The Role of Corporate Accountability in Sustainable Development* (1997)

⁹ WSSD, *Plan of Implementation*, paras 18, 49 and 140f.

¹⁰ Ibid, para 18, "Enhance corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability."

ANPED and ToBI also played a major role in the CSD *debate about voluntary initiatives*, with the Commission adopting the ToBI proposal exploring a "multistakeholder review of voluntary initiatives and agreements."¹¹ This debate still continues in the WSSD's SPAC follow-up as well as the broader WSSD debate on voluntary partnerships.

ANPED has also been and continues to be engaged in policy discussions about corporate accountability at the OECD, especially regarding the *OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises*, and other areas, such as the *Global Reporting Initiative*. These activities are all important elements of ANPED's SPAC Program.

The driving factor of trade and trade policy represents an important area where corporate accountability is needed, yet frequently neglected and often opposed. Thus, *reform in the trading system* will increasingly be a strategic priority in the SPAC WG, with special attention to (1) trade and investment rules, with special attention to arbitration procedures, (2) the balance between international economic rules and regimes protecting the environment, workers and human rights, and (3) the impact of international trade rules and decisions on people's quality of life.

ANPED and WG members and allies will continue to work on different aspects of corporate accountability, through research, knowledge sharing (especially through the internet and worldwide web), skill-shares and other capacity building events, advocacy campaigns and other activities.

4.6 Influencing regional and international policy

Target: Promote and support member input and active participation in regional and global policymaking events and processes throughout 2003-05 (e.g., EfE, CSD), in collaboration with established NGO networks.

In addition to national policy frameworks on SPAC, we also need regional and international policy frameworks and policies to motivate and guide progress. The ANPED WG group thus encourages NGO education, advocacy and capacity building efforts to influence national policy processes but those at the regional and global levels as well.

Regional and international SPAC and sustainable development policymaking takes place in conjunction with specific processes and events in which we encourage and support ANPED member participation. Beyond observing and assessing governmental negotiations, this participation also involves building partnerships and alliances with government delegates as well as other NGOs and stakeholders.

4.6.1 Regional NGO participation

Regionally, the European Union's requirement for member states to produce national sustainable development strategies provides an incentive for sustainability planning, providing a useful

¹¹ See Chair's report on Multistakeholder Consultation on Voluntary Initiatives and Agreements, Toronto (March 10-11, 1999); and UNCSD Resolution on Voluntary Initiatives and Agreements, May 1999.

context and justification for including and highlighting policies aimed at changing production and consumption patterns. Other regional processes, such as the meetings of the ECE Environment for Europe and North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) provide a context and opportunity for influencing policy affecting states and local communities.

In the ECE process, ANPED's SPAC WG members have been engaged in a range of campaigns to constrain the spread of GMOs, promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), require access to information, require sustainability criteria for Export Credit Agencies, and others specific SPAC policies. Further, ANPED has worked closely with EcoForum's SPAC Issue Group to help "put consumption and production at the heart" of the Environment for Europe process.¹² Over the past few months, ANPED WG members have been discussing with UNEP-Europe on designs for a European multistakeholder network to promote SPAC.

In the North American CEC process, ANPED WG members are working with networks such as the North American Sustainable Consumption Alliance (NASCA) and other groupings. The Citizens Network has also been collaborating with UNEP-North America to discuss regional SPAC priorities and strategies.

4.6.2 Global NGO participation

On the global level, the meetings and processes of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Programme's Governance Council, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and others shape global sustainable and unsustainable development policies. At this level global level, ANPED's SPAC WG has and will continue to promote and support member campaigns and advocacy as well as working closely with NGO entities such as the CSD NGO SPAC Caucus and the Internattional Coalition for SPAC (ICSPAC) to exchange knowledge, priorities and concerns and to develop and advocate policy recommendations with civil society groups from other regions in the global South

These events and processes provide an opportunity to communicate with delegates from different governments to help shape the agenda of issues as well as policy decisions. One such agenda and vehicle for key policy decisions is the WSSD's proposed ten-year framework of programmes on production and consumption.

4.7 Participating in the ten-year framework

Target: Promote informed NGO discussions and input in shaping and implementing this framework, reporting results and recommendations to CSD in 2003, and assessing progress in 2004-05.

At the WSSD in Johannesburg, governments called for "development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production..."¹³ Many NGOs saw this as one of the positive achievements of their lobbying efforts, recognizing the importance of raising sustainable

¹² Bratislava Declaration

¹³ WSSD, Plan of Implementation, para 15.

production and consumption as a national, regional and global policy priority. Considering the common understanding that increasing production and consumption was the primary force driving the worsening environmental and social trends over the past decade, it is now critical to develop effective programmes to now reverse that situation.

Many NGOs are also skeptical of this still ambiguous "framework," which needs to address understandable concerns about the political will and capacity needed to bridge the implementation gap between rhetoric and results.

Nevertheless, *civil society organizations from both the global north and south need to help shape this framework of programmes, to ensure another decade of decline does not occur.* Northern civil society has a special responsibility to take the lead in designing a framework that ensures progress. Progress by countries and regions towards key sustainable production and consumption targets must be substantive not symbolic, following national and regional timetables over the next ten years.

One major and immediate target needs to be establishment of the national policy frameworks on SPAC which governments agreed in 1992 to develop -- one of the more important implementation gaps given little attention in Johannesburg. *National 10-year SPAC frameworks need to be developed and integrated into the heart of each country's national sustainable development plan. Progress in implementing national SPAC policies and programmes should then be reported along with scheduled reports to the United Nations in 2004* on implementation of their national sustainable development strategies.

In the next 10-year review, in 2012, we must see clear evidence of substantive elimination of unsustainable production and consumption patterns and the reversal of the trends in environmental and social decline marking 2002.

NGOs from each country throughout the ECE region should discuss what targets and timetables are needed for their country's progress in ending the unsustainable production and consumption patterns plaguing them. ANPED's SPAC WG can encourage and support NGOs efforts in this direction through capacity building and knowledge exchange activities as well as advocacy and education campaigns.

NGOs should also ensure that the global framework actively promotes the development of regional SPAC policy frameworks, with these given central priority in regional sustainable development strategies.

While the mix of policies and programs for each country and region may be different depending on the differing needs, resources and socio-political situation, each country and region faces a serious threat from unsustainable production and consumption patterns. To overcome this threat requires dedicated political will and action -- backed by strong public and civil society support or pressure -- to achieve what Agenda 21 described as the "reorientation of existing production and consumption patterns that have developed in industrial societies and are in turn emulated in much of the world."¹⁴

¹⁴ Agenda 21, para 4.15

The SPAC WG can offer a major contribution by bringing together northern NGOs, especially in dialogues with our southern NGO partners, to more clearly identify the needs and requirements to help shape, implement and monitor progress of this 10-year framework and the national and regional programs it is meant to inspire.

5.0 Keeping members informed

5.1 SPAC WG listserver

ANPED will continue operating its WG listserver, expanding its size and scope in coming years, and more actively encouraging discussion and analysis of the SPAC issues and concerns.

5.2 ANPED Website

The ANPED website will continue to develop in response to the needs of the Working Group, keeping members informed of relevant news on SPAC projects, campaigns and events, as well as links to resources and information. Working Group members will help by contributing useful material as well as building links to their websites and work.

5.3 Northern Lights

ANPED's newsletter is another source for informing members, public and policymakers. WG members will contribute articles and information for the newsletter on SPAC issues and concerns, and report on NGO progress in campaigns and projects (e.g., GMOs, EPR, trading system reform), with special attention to news about the 10-year framework and national progress towards SPAC.

6.0 Raising awareness

6.1 Workshops and roundtables

Three workshop series are proposed for 2003-04. These workshops will be organized (depending on NGO interest and available resources) for different regions, countries and international events. They will serve as both catalysts for discussion and analysis on the issues as well as acting as expert consultations for input to reports and recommendations to governmental policymaking bodies (as detailed earlier).

6.1.1 The Ten Year Framework and Civil Society

Workshops will be held in various parts of Europe and North America to discuss various aspects of the WSSD 10-year framework and its implications for civil society. The workshops will aim to identify civil society priorities and concerns with the framework, and give voice to these as well as specific recommendations for how the framework can best be developed, implemented and monitored.

6.1.2 Regional Impacts of Trade & Investment Policies on Production & Consumption Patterns

One or more workshops will be organized to examine the linkages between the SPAC agenda of policy issues and instruments, as has been discussed during the past ten years at the CSD and other places, and the trade and investment agenda of the WTO and regional trade and investment fora. In particular, the workshop(s) will examine the effects of trade and investment policy on the sustainability of regional production and consumption patterns and to what degree those policies contribute to or undermine the goal of sustainable development: to improve the quality of life of everyone.

6.1.3 Improving the Quality of Life for Everyone: What Do We [Really] Want?

This proposed workshop series will seek to answer the question of how NGOs and others, in different countries and regions, define the quality of life which sustainable development is meant to improve. The workshop is designed not to instigate broad philosophizing but to help clarify the common but differentiated assumptions and definitions NGOs are using when they advocate for sustainable consumption and production. The workshop will also examine the paradox of the economic concept of "informed consumer demand" and the influence of advertising, cultural socialization and institutional mechanisms upon citizens' understanding of their needs and ideas about "quality of life." Results of the workshop will inform development of NGO recommendations on access to information, advertising reform, and other advocacy and education efforts.

7.0 Building knowledge and capacity

7.1 SPAC campaign tool-kit

In order to effectively lobby national and regional policymakers and to inform the public about critical SPAC issues and policies, SPAC advocates need the right tools and latest information on communicative tactics and strategies. For example, in promoting national policy frameworks on SPAC, it is important for campaigners to be knowledgeable about the sustainable consumption recommendations to governments in the revised UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection. Information and resources for contacting and getting results from public officials responsible for ensuring public health and safety will also be a part of this kit, along with materials for organizing effective press releases and news conferences and other actions.

The SPAC Working Group will work in partnership with Consumers International, UNEP and other groups to develop and promote this tool-kit and how best to use it in promoting SPAC.

8.0 Building a strong network for SPAC

Over the years, in civil society gatherings in Soesterberg, Minsk, Bushteni, Sofia, Bled, New York, Bali, Johannesburg, and other places around the world, ANPED has been actively engaged in the task of promoting and helping build the movement for sustainable production and consumption. Organizing the SPAC Working Group a few years ago was one such effort, now linked to other networking activities in which ANPED has played a leading role, including the NGO SPAC Caucus at CSD, the SPAC Issue Group in EcoForum, the GMO campaign

throughout Western and Eastern Europe, the NGO Taskforce on Business and Industry, the ECE Regional NGO meeting in preparation for the World Summit, the International Coalition for Sustainable Production and Consumption (ICSPAC), and many others. ANPED's SPAC Working Group will continue these networking activities through 2003-05.

8.1 Regional & international organizing & advocacy

As mentioned, ANPED SPAC Working Group members will collaborate with other NGOs and stakeholders through active participation in other NGO networks promoting SPAC. In particular:

8.1.1 EcoForum SPAC Issue Group

ANPED has played an ongoing and leading role in EcoForum's SPAC IG, helping to analyze key regional SPAC policy issues (e.g., GMOs, EPR, access to information, corporate accountability) in the ECE and Environment for Europe process. In Kiev and its follow-up, the IG will continue its work to make greater progress on these issues, with greater emphasis on making production and consumption a central priority in the debate and resulting policies and programmes. Another new issue that will be introduced in Kiev is the development of the WSSD 10-year framework, which will be the main theme of an IG workshop as part of the EcoForum agenda.

8.1.2 UN CSD NGO SPAC Caucus

For years, ANPED has also played a leading role in the NGO SPAC Caucus at the Commission for Sustainable Development. At these CSD sessions, where SPAC has been acknowledged as one of the three overarching and crosscutting objectives of sustainable development, the SPAC Caucus has regularly met and helped link NGOs to campaign for various priorities, which in the past included development and adoption of the revised UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, the Multistakeholder Review of Voluntary Initiatives and Agreements, GMO reform, environmental rights, measurable targets and timetables for SPAC priorities, subsidy reform, implementation of National Policy Frameworks on SPAC, and many other issues.

With the WSSD promotion of the 10-year framework on SPAC, upcoming CSD sessions will make this a higher priority. The SPAC Caucus offers an important opportunity for ANPED members to engage with other NGOs, especially those from southern regions, to exchange knowledge and perspectives and to collaborate in advocating meaningful steps forward on this and other items in the CSD agenda.

8.1.3 International Coalition for Sustainable Production and Consumption (ICSPAC)

ANPED also played a leading role in founding ICSPAC, a more formal network of NGOs and NGO networks committed to promoting SPAC policies and practices. ICSPAC evolved out of the CSD SPAC Caucus, formalizing what had been an ongoing informal network of NGO SPAC advocates who through the years have been working together in mutual support.

ICSPAC acts as an effective complement to the NGO Caucus, the latter serving as more of an event-oriented gathering point for NGOs focused on specific CSD sessions, many of whom are there only for that event. This allows for a creative flow of ideas and actions, but contains more long-range actions -- such as the report on progress *Waiting for Delivery* issued by ICSPAC at

the World Summit on Sustainable Development. A number of ANPED members and partners contributed to this report.

ANPED will continue working with ICSPAC in the next years, especially contributing to the national, regional and global assessments of progress reported by the SPAC Watch initiative (which produced the *Waiting for Delivery* report). Future SPAC Watch reports will focus on progress on national, regional and global frameworks of policies and programmes on SPAC. These reports will provide an important vehicle for ANPED WG members to relay information, insights and the perspectives of eastern and western NGOs in the global north, and to contribute to the recommendations for steps needed to overcome the barriers and address the driving forces in order to achieve SPAC in our countries of the north and south.

8.2 Regional survey

Methodology is now being designed to begin surveying NGOs, programmes and activities dealing with different aspects of sustainable production and consumption in the northern countries. ANPED's SPAC Working Group will work with other partners to develop and implement this survey covering Western Europe, CEE/NIS countries, and North America (given available resources) during 2003-04. This survey will result in a database and directory useful to ANPED and its members in building our network and greater capacity and knowledge.

Appendix I

Barriers to SPAC

Eliminating barriers to sustainable consumption

1. Inadequate education about sustainable consumption
2. Lack of standardized information for consumers
3. Little choice in (sustainable) products
4. Product prices do not reflect the true costs (costs of pollution, resources, etc.)
5. Little interest by consumers in sustainable consumption
6. Little attention to sustainability in the media, especially TV
7. Lack of alternative models of thinking

Eliminating barriers to responsible investment

1. Lack of resources for the necessary changes for SPAC/Lack of control on TNCs
2. Dominance of military priorities in public spending

Eliminating barriers to sustainable production

1. Lack of monitoring of transnational corporations
2. Low enforcement of existing legislation/corruption
3. Double standards

Eliminating barriers to responsible distribution/marketing

1. Infrastructure
2. Double standards between countries and dumping of obsolete products in poorer countries.

Appendix II

List of ECE NGO policy priorities

- Abolish all environmentally perverse subsidies by 2005
- Implement environmental tax reforms and other economic instruments for environment based on the polluter pays principle, in a socially acceptable manner by 2005
- Greening the government procurement process.
- Promote informed responsible consumer choice and options.
- Establish strict liability for environmental damage in the entire region by 2005
- Reorient research, education, knowledge dissemination (including traditional knowledge) towards sustainable development.
- Ensure the decline of biodiversity stops not later than 2010.
- Ensure environmental healthy living standards for all, based on the "safe human exposure levels" agreed in WHO.
- Sustainable and GMO free agriculture, guaranteeing food safety and security and sustainable livelihoods.
- Energy policy aimed at drastic reduction of CO₂ emissions, including energy conservation and a 10% minimum of environmentally sound renewables by 2010.
- Stop transport growth by 2010 and promote a substantial modal shift towards trains, public transport and non-motorized modes.
- Chemical policies based on the principles of prevention and precaution and shifting the burden of proof, leading to the stop of the production and use of all hazardous substances by 2020.

Appendix III Bratislava Declaration on SPAC

PUT CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS AT THE HEART OF THE PROCESS

The “Environment for Europe” process should put in its centre the phase out of unsustainable production and consumption patterns in the region, through a combination of regional legally binding instruments, action programmes and accompanying financial assistance. It should realize that this issue has a strong social dimension, as unsustainable consumption patterns include both over- and under-consumption.

In particular, action is needed to make the market work for the environment. Despite theoretical recognition of the need for environmental tax reform and the abolition of environmentally perverse subsidies, only a few countries have taken modest steps, intimidated by the eternal business opposition based on imaginary competitiveness concerns. Using public procurement for promoting environmentally sound production and consumption patterns is usually discouraged. Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns also leads to restrictions on the liberalization of trade and investment in order to keep control over jobs and resources within the local economy. Hence, the WTO agenda needs to be re-shaped so that trade serves the goals of sustainable development and does not undermine them.

We acknowledge the progress made in the EU on implementing individual producer responsibility for end-of-life vehicles and electrical & electronic waste. Such regimes need to be established across the UNECE region and need to embrace a wider range of post-consumer waste.

Labeling is essential for consumer choice. For eco-labeling to be credible, it must be underpinned by transparent criteria, certification and third party verification systems.

We applaud the adoption of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and call for its speedy ratification and entry into force. This is a start but more hazardous chemicals, including those suspected of being hormone-disrupters, need to be slated for phase-out. The EU made a good start last year with its agreement on a new chemicals policy. This targets existing unregulated chemicals, shifts the burden for providing safety data onto producers of chemicals and introduces the substitution principle. We are anxious to see the publication and adoption of the legal instruments that will put this approach into practice in the EU.

¹ The full copy of this paper can be found at <http://icspac.net/docs/EliminatingBarriers.pdf>