



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

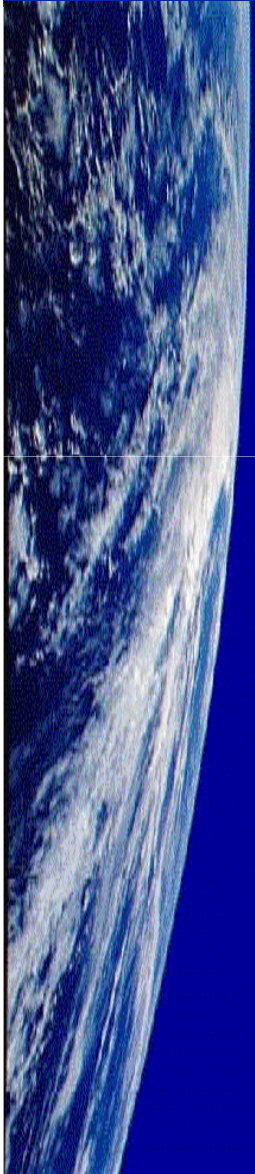
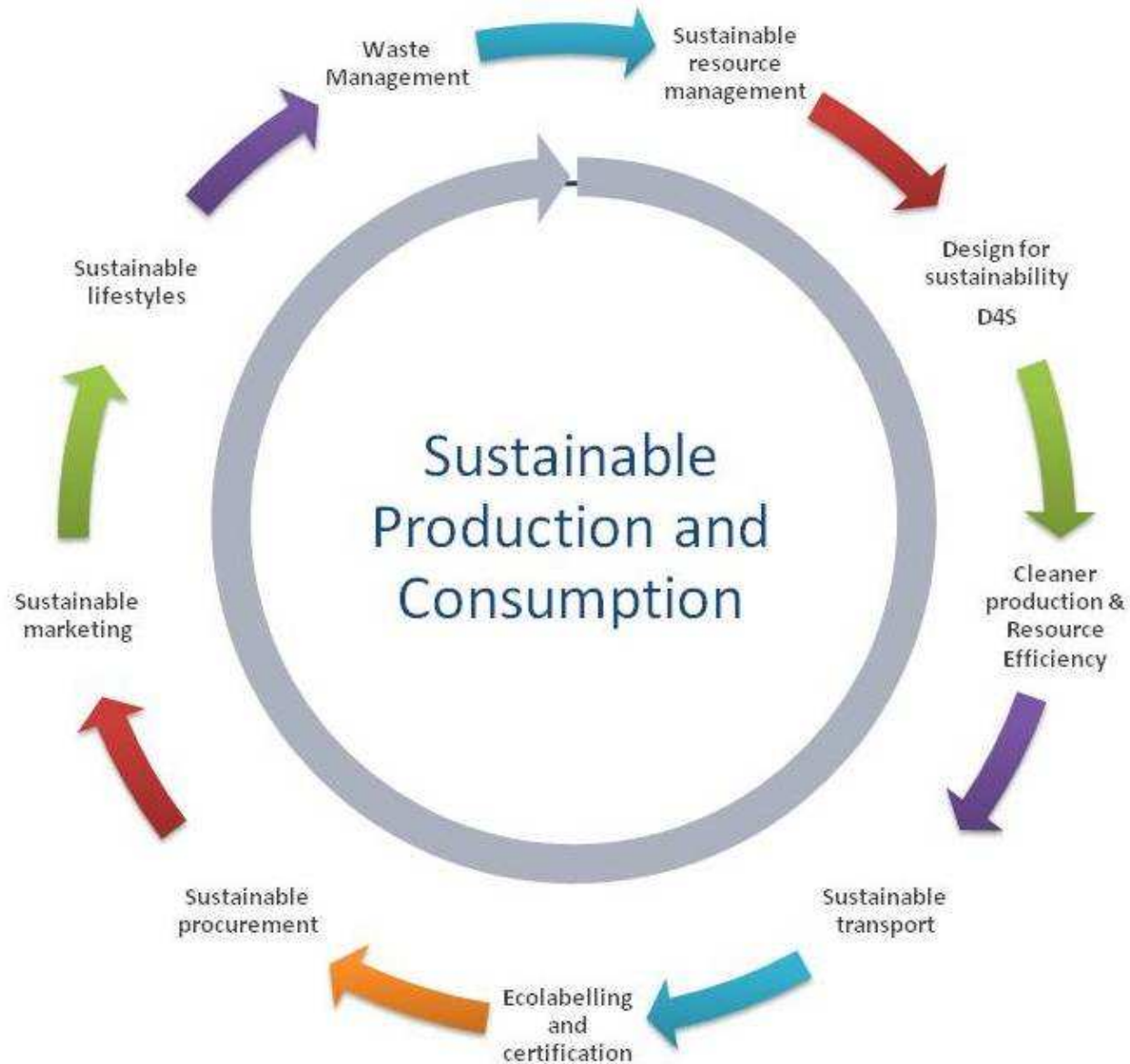
CSD 19 Partnership Fair:

May 4, 2011

Arab Hoballah, Chief SCP, UNEP

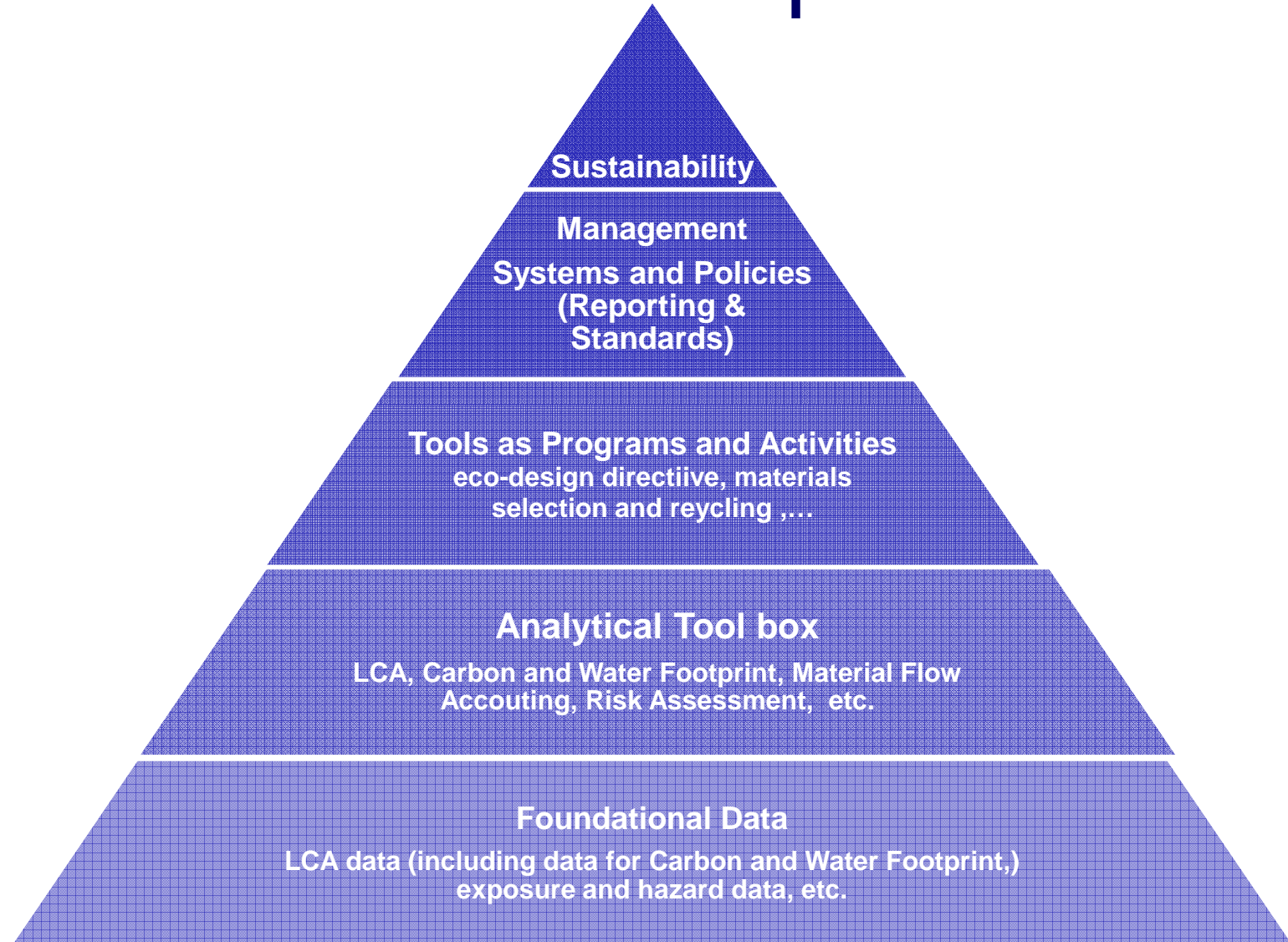


UNEP Related Activities





Environmental sustainability framework for products



Standards & products in the value chain

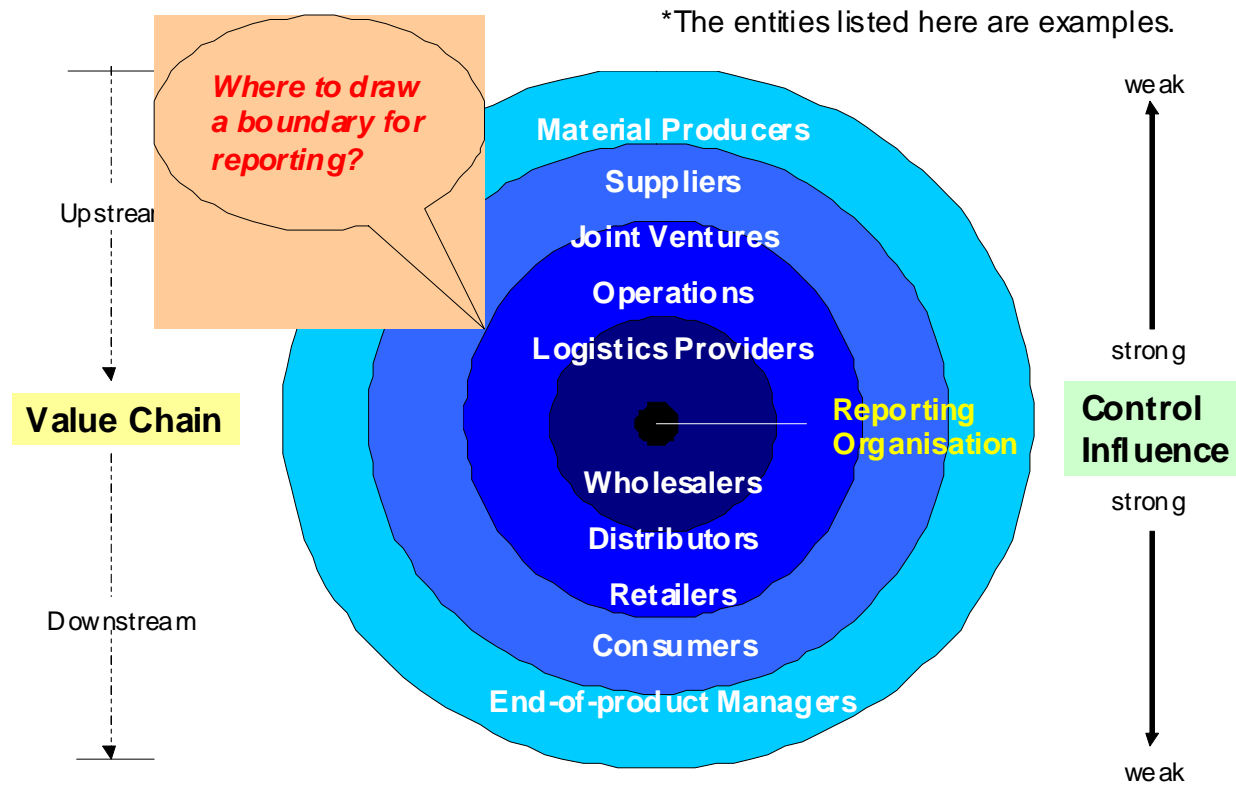


Figure 1: Where to Draw a Reporting Boundary?



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!