

# **The role of governments in the transition towards the long term sustainability**

**15th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production  
“Green Recovery and Beyond in Asia Pacific through SCP”**

**Webisode 4  
11 May 2021**

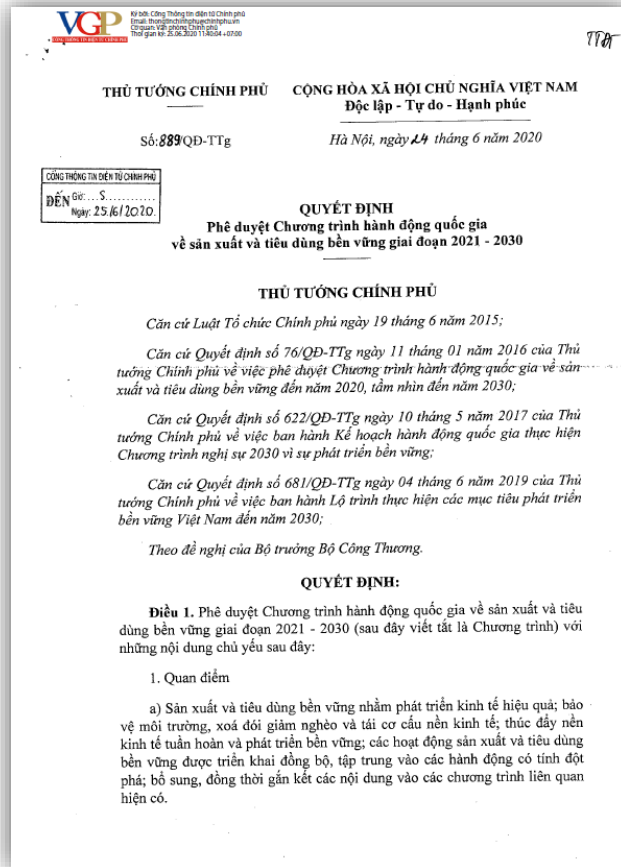
**Caixia Mao**

**Policy Researcher, Sustainable Consumption and  
Production Area**



- 1. Vietnam's National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2021 – 2030**
- 2. The changing roles of governments in the future – Expert survey result**
- 3. Discussion: The role of governments in the transition towards the long term sustainability**

# 1. Vietnam's National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2021 – 2030 Development Process



Approved by the Prime Minister of Vietnam June 2020

Participation of 6 ministries in the inter-ministerial drafting committee:  
**The Government Office, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice; and IGES Team**



Ministry of Industry and Trade,  
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam



# Multi-stakeholder Consultative and Co-creation Process for Consensus Building



**IGES provided technical assistance in the assessment and drafting of the NAP, and supported MoIT in facilitating the consultation process with other ministries.**



# 1. Vietnam's National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2021 – 2030 Development Process

1. Improve legal **policies** on promoting sustainable consumption and production

2. Sustainably manage, exploit and use **resources**, develop renewable, recyclable materials, and fuel

3. Sustainable **design**, ecological design, reuse, recycle-oriented design

4. Promote **Cleaner Production**, eco-friendly products, following product life cycles.

5. Develop system of sustainable **distribution**, and sustainable **import/export**

6. Promote **labeling** of products and certification of ecolabels

7. Promote development of sustainable **marketing**, provide information for consumers

8. Promote sustainable **procurement**

9. Build capacity, enhance education and implement sustainable **lifestyles**

10. Promote application of **circular economy for waste**

11. Promote **communication** on sustainable consumption and production

12. Develop a **database system** on sustainable consumption and production

13. Develop **science and technology** to promote sustainable consumption and production.

14. Promote access to and support of **green finance**.

15. Promote **international cooperation** on sustainable consumption and production

# 1. Vietnam's National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2021 - 2030 - Implication on sustainable lifestyles

Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) as the focal point ministry to incorporate SCP as an opportunity to upgrade Vietnam's industry to innovate and compete in the global economy (incorporating trade aspect), as a comprehensive sustainable development instrument.

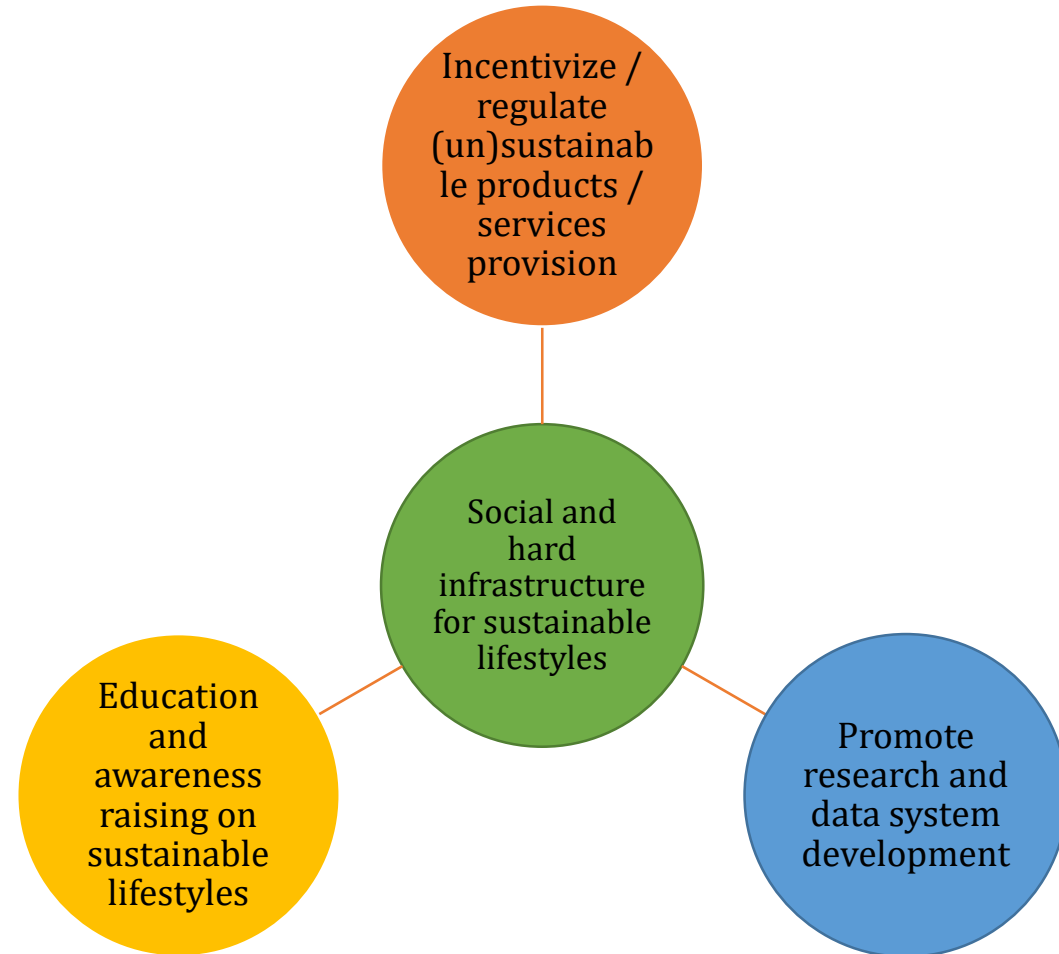


Figure 1: How NAP on SCP could facilitate the transition towards sustainable lifestyles?

## 2. The changing roles of governments in the future – Expert survey result

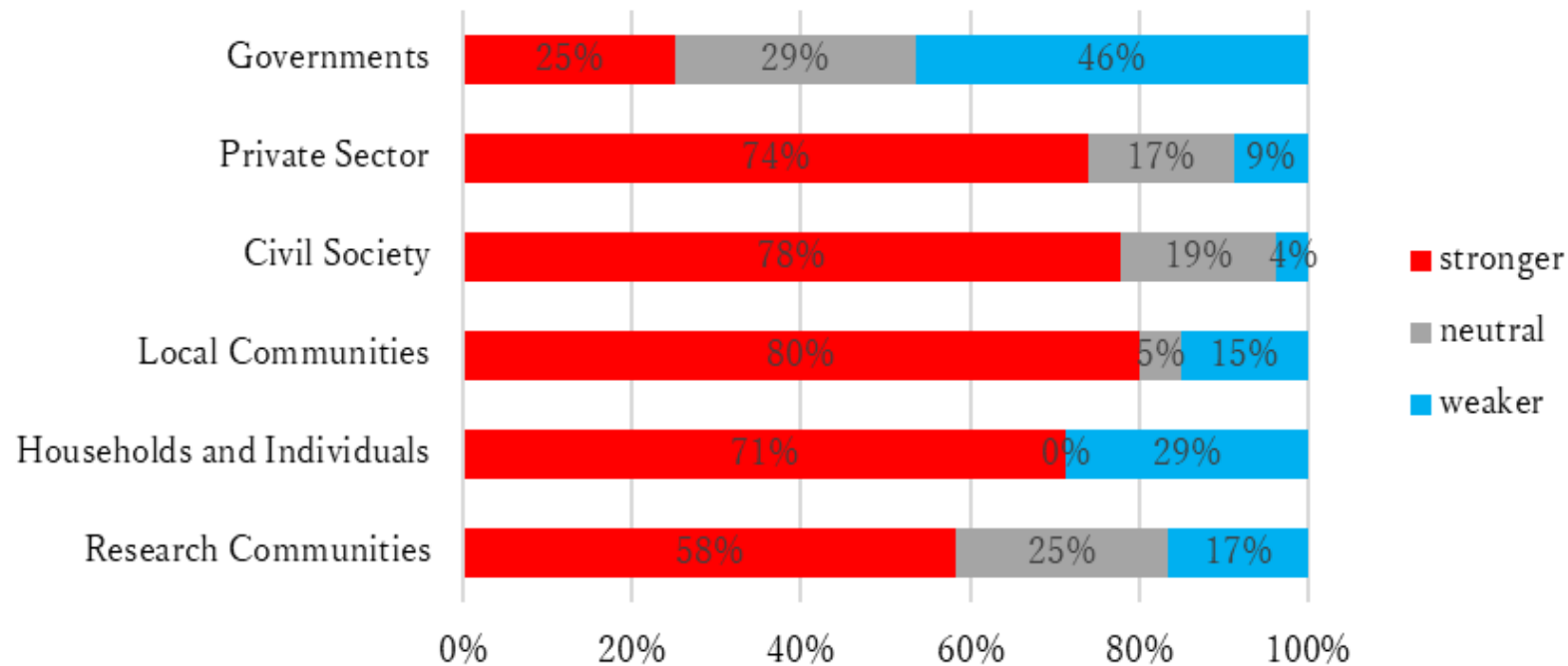


Figure 2. Respondents' projected changes to stakeholders' strength. Notes: the share of the strengths of stakeholders described in the responses of changes in stakeholders' roles in the Global Foresight Survey of Potential Changes in Society by 2050: Perspectives of Research Institutes and NGOs. The unit of analysis is reported changes in stakeholders' roles. N = 124. (Source: Mao et al., 2020a)

## 2. The changing roles of governments in the future – Expert survey result

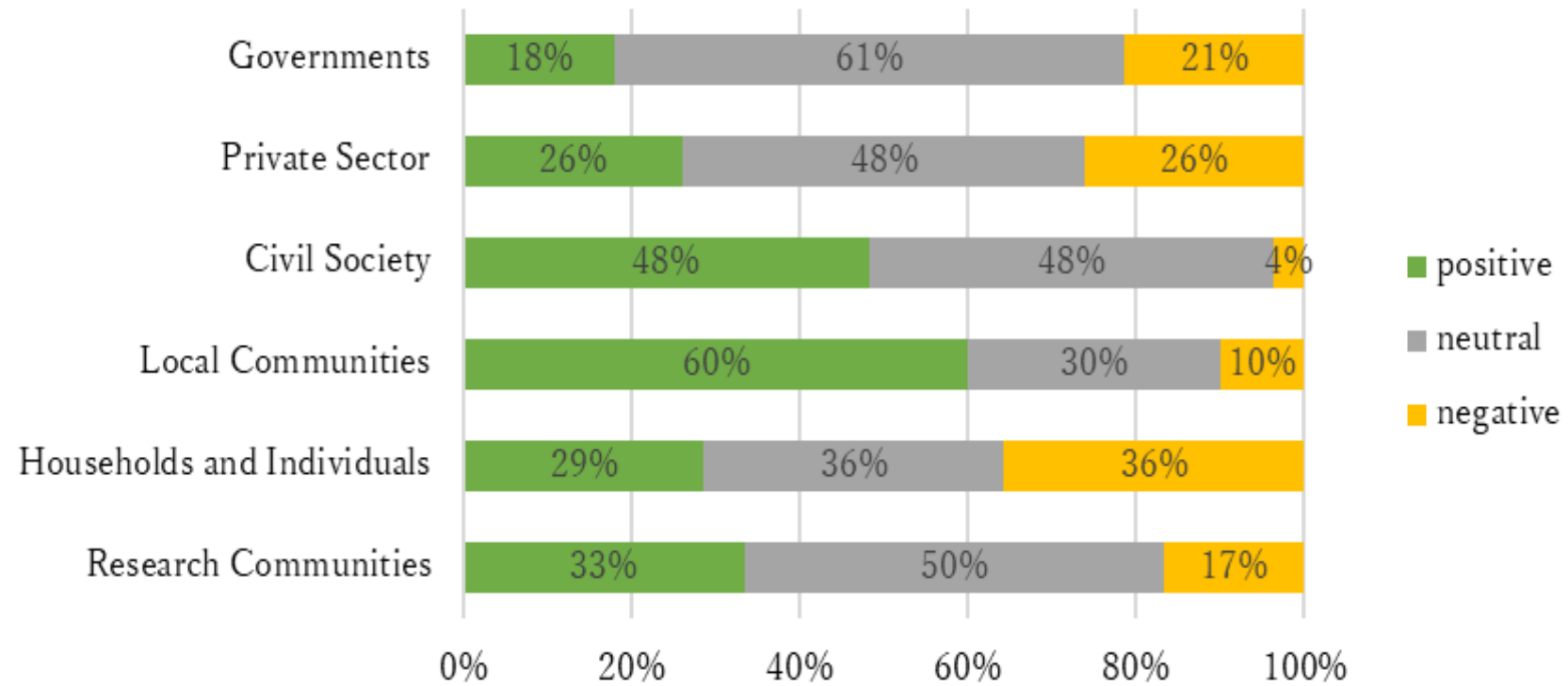


Figure 3: Positiveness of the foresighted future related to stakeholders' changing roles.  
Notes: the share of the positiveness of future. The unit of analysis is reported changes in stakeholders' roles. N = 124. (Source: Mao et al., 2020a)



## 2. The changing roles of governments in the future – Expert survey result

Stronger + Positive

Examples of respondents' views on the changing roles of government (Source: Mao et al., 2020a).

*“The governance structure will become more optimal. The social planner will take close part in social networking design and activities. The economic development and environmental protection need more efforts from all the stakeholders. **The government will establish an effective and efficient management system to manage the social activities.**”*

*“The profound and far-reaching impacts of climate change, sea level rises, food-water-and-shelter issues, and associated refugee migrations, along with destruction of infrastructure **must necessarily limit the role national governments can play in local social and economic activities.** Rather than directing or controlling local communities, **they will be scrambling to keep some semblance of a nation held together - if there are nations at all by that time.**”*

Weaker + Negative

## 2. The changing roles of governments in the future – Expert survey result

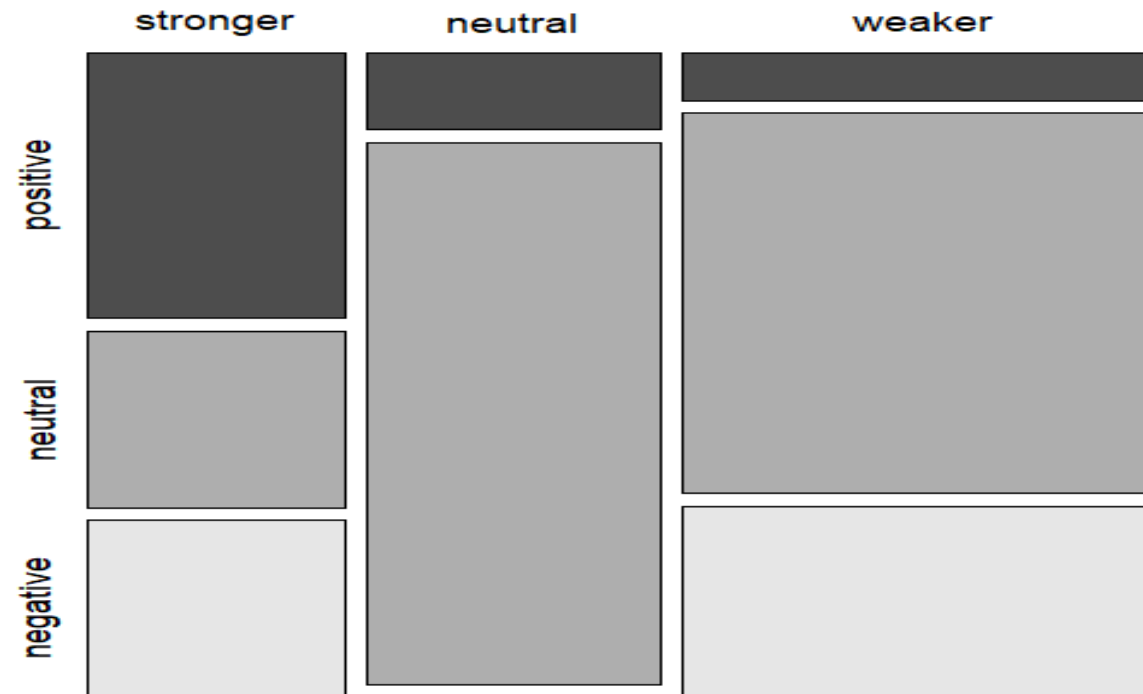


Figure 4: Cross-analysis of the strength and positiveness of stakeholders' changing roles. Notes: mosaic plots of the strengths of the stakeholder and the positiveness of the future described in the responses of changes in stakeholders' roles. Horizontal axis refers to the strengths of stakeholders. Vertical axis refers to the positiveness of future. The size of boxes refers to the number of responses belongs to each combination of strength and positiveness. The unit of analysis is reported changes in stakeholders' roles. N = 124. (Source: Mao et al., 2020a)

### **3. Discussion: The role of governments in the transition towards the long term sustainability**

- Government could take the leading role in the sustainability transition, but with strong support and in close cooperation with other stakeholders: research communities, private sector, local governments, the civil society.
- When working with government ministries, instead of talking about lifestyles and consumption patterns directly, it's important to understand ministries' roles and interests to find the right entry points for policy intervention.
- Social and hard infrastructure matters in sustainability transition, and government could make the sustainable options as the default ones, which is the key when considering the scale of changes needed toward the long term sustainability.

## References

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