

INC-2 Side Event

“Promoting sustainable consumption and production of plastics”

Monday 29 May, 2023, 1:30-2:45pm
UNESCO headquarters, Paris

Introduction

The world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, with significant social, health, and economic costs. To address this, unprecedented joint efforts are needed to shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. Existing linear “take-make-waste” and “grow now, clean-up later” models of production and consumption are thriving at the expense of environment and livelihoods.

Science emphasizes the necessity of a structural transformation in how we extract, produce and consume natural resources. A global and inclusive transition towards sustainable consumption and production is essential, incorporating circular economy principles, resource efficiency, and sustainable bioeconomy approaches. This transition requires strengthened international cooperation, scientific advancements, and equitable practices across all nations, considering their individual circumstances and priorities.¹

The event will provide in-depth perspectives from major stakeholders on the role of sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy in addressing plastic pollution, as highlighted in UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.14 “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”. Presenters will focus on (i) the impacts of unsustainable levels of plastic consumption and production, ii) how to achieve sustainable consumption and production of plastics to end plastic pollution, prioritizing and enabling global and national action, and (iii) how to drive action through policies, innovative circular businesses, and financing to develop and scale up solutions and awareness raising for behavior change. This side event's speaker lineup will offer perspectives on how to achieve sustainable production and consumption within the framework of the new treaty on plastic pollution, aimed at facilitating discussions among negotiators.

Agenda

This in-person side event will be moderated by Magnus Løvold from the Norwegian Academy of International Law, and will be held in English without interpretation.

ITEM	PRESENTER	Duration
Opening remarks Presentation: Peru's experience on promoting sustainable consumption and production of plastics	Ms Giuliana Becerra Celis Deputy Minister of Environment Peru	10 min.
Presentation 1: The climate impacts of plastics	Xuejing Chen Campaign Manager, Plastics Pacific Environment	5 min.
Presentation 2: The role of subsidies in fossil-based polymers production	Ronald Steenblik Senior Technical Advisor, SJES Programme QUNO	5 min.

¹ A/77/607. Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030.

Presentation 3: Achieving sustainable production and consumption of primary plastic polymers	Tim Grabel Senior Lawyer & Policy Advisor Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)	5 min.
Presentation 4: A risk-based approach to identify harmful plastics	Zaynab Sadan Regional Plastics Policy Coordinator – Africa WWF	5 min.
Presentation 5: Policy, innovation, financing and behavior change	Sulan Chen Principal Technical Advisor and Global Lead- -Plastics UNDP	5 min.
Presentation 6: How to make use of plastics in agrifood systems sustainable?	Lev Neretin, Environment Workstream Lead, FAO	5 min.
Q&A with the audience	Moderated by Magnus Løvold	25 min.