

Promoting environmentally sound management of plastic waste, including collection, sorting and recycling, and consideration of investments

Side-event of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Thursday, 1 June 2023, 13:30 – 14:45

Hall 8, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Co-organizers: Government of Tuvalu, Association of Plastic Recyclers, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Verra, Mujer para la Mujer

Introduction:

Promoting environmentally sound management of plastic waste is of utmost importance in our efforts to combat plastic pollution. To effectively address this issue, prevention and minimization take precedence, not only at the waste management stage but also at the source of plastics. This involves reducing plastic consumption, encouraging sustainable alternatives, and promoting responsible production and consumption patterns. By proactively preventing the generation of plastic waste, we can significantly diminish the adverse impacts linked to its lifecycle. Effective collection, efficient sorting, and robust recycling processes remain crucial components of the solution. Financial support and incentives accelerate the transition towards a future free from plastic. Achieving this goal necessitates collaboration among all stakeholders, working together to bring about positive change and safeguard our planet for future generations.

The side event aims to explore enabling conditions required for effective and efficient waste management aligned with circular economy goals. Panelists will discuss best practices and the role of the new treaty in supporting its implementation.

To promote circularity in plastics, establishing robust design standards for products and packaging is crucial. The [Association of Plastic Recyclers](#) evaluates recyclability criteria, and efforts towards harmonization across regions are underway. Discussions will focus on effective design standards, adoption strategies, and harmonization efforts.

The financing gap for plastic collection and recycling amounts to approximately \$40 billion. [Plastic Credits](#) direct funds towards waste management infrastructure, supporting fair wages and livelihoods. The Plastic Standard ensures an inclusive transition to a circular economy. Investments in technologies and initiatives combat plastic pollution and support recycling.

The event will also showcase Tuvalu's commendable efforts in tackling plastic waste, highlighting collaborative endeavors with stakeholders and financial institutions to enhance regulation and policy development. It will also raise awareness about international plastic waste trade issues and shed light on the role of the [Rebound Plastic Exchange](#) (RPX) platform, which keeps plastic waste in the economy and stimulates recycling.

Agenda

| Time | Segment | Speakers |
|-------------|---|--|
| 13:30-13:40 | Welcome and introduction | |
| 13:40-14:30 | Panel discussion | |
| | Q 1. Why is a holistic approach needed for a sound management of plastic waste? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob Rognhaug, VP Public Affairs System Design at TOMRA (WBCSD) • Komal Sinha, Director of Plastic and Sustainable Development Policy and Markets, Verra |
| | Q 2. What is good product design for effective recycling and reducing single use plastic waste? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Bailey, Chief Policy Officer, Association of Plastic Recyclers • Moe Tuisiga Saitala Paulo, Environment Impact Assessment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of Tuvalu |
| | Q 3. What are opportunities and challenges for the creation of a global market for plastic recycling? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryam Al Mansoori, General Manager, Rebound Plastic Exchange |
| | Feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All panels |
| 14:30-14:40 | Questions and dialogue with participants | |
| 14:40-14:45 | Wrap up and closing remarks | |
