

INC-3 Side event 10: Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Waste, Including Collection, Sorting, Recycling, and Consideration of Investments

Written report back

Number of participants: Approx. 100 participants, of which 48.5% female 47.5% male 4% other/no answer

Key messages resulting from the event:

- a) Matias Tarando, Expert in Municipal solid waste mgt and Coordinator of Argentina Recycles, Ministry of Social Development: The plastic treaty should focus on the importance of SDG 11.6.1 global estimation and call on local governments to proceed with monitoring. Furthermore, the treaty should focus on the national government, municipal government, and cooperatives to make a just transition happen. It is also important to develop effective resources that can be used in programmes (e.g., video games, value chain maps, classification guides) which can be implemented through multi-sectoral partnerships/ approaches.
- b) Haoyang Wang, Project Manager, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China: China's approach involves various Government Departments adopting a life-cycle approach. China has embraced a top-down approach which guides the reduction of plastic use, provides alternatives, enforces prohibitions (bans of plastic products, including entire value chain, law enforcement, PPP) and standardizes and upscales the recycling and disposal system. China has developed industrial design standards (double E, Easy-to-Collect & Easy-to-Regenerate) where for example the use of logos to inform collectors that post-use packages are valuable and can be segregated and transferred to valuable recycling materials. Local governments in China have successfully adopted PPPs and utilized blockchain to promote the recycling of marine plastics and a sustainable market-oriented way to share profits and enforce initiatives. In addition, China has adopted eco-design – how to keep plastic products in the economy as long as possible is complementary to EPR.
- c) Koichi Yanagita, General Technical Manager, Japan Clean Ocean Material (CLOMA): In Japan, the division of roles for the recycling and disposal of containers and packaging waste, which account for 60% of all household waste, has been established by law, with consumers sorting and disposing, local governments collecting, and companies bearing the cost of recycling. However, the ratio of resource recycling is low because the main recycling method is thermal recovery by incineration. In response to the global movement toward a circular economy, we established CLOMA, which is based on partnerships not only among companies but also with national and local governments. It is paving the way for a review of the social system in line with the basic principles of the circular economy.
- d) Clarissa Morawski, CEO & Co-Founder of Reloop Platform: Partnerships take an important role within the system and are meaningful facilitators in a just transition. There are some key interventions that can be done, for example, funding for staffing, capacity building, technical assistance for Global South; increased access to waste collection and separate collection of organic waste; reuse of dry materials; deposit-return systems, especially for beverage containers; and separate different polymer types. Although resources are lacking, politicians do not want to raise taxes, therefore, the funding needs to come from the municipality.
- e) Shannon Bouton, President and CEO, Delterra: Establishing circular waste systems in the global south will require: (1) Global knowledge exchange to help countries determine the right waste

processing technologies for their waste character; (2) mobilizing funds from the Global North to support the building of waste management infrastructure, especially collection and sorting facilities due to the lack of return on investment in this part of the process; and (3) ensuring there is financial and technical support for long-term operations and capability building alongside all capital expenditure to ensure the sustainable operation of any infrastructure built. Delterra works to build integrated waste management and recycling ecosystems in Latin America and Asia. This includes working with cities to build self-sustaining waste management and recycling programs and with corporate players to ensure sufficient demand at a fair price to reliably absorb the material back into the supply chain. We also support companies to produce better and less plastic packaging by designing for more recyclability and more inclusion of recycled materials. The observations above are developed through our work on the ground with cities in Argentina, Indonesia, and Brazil.

- f) Cecilia Andersson, Lead Solid Waste Management, UN-Habitat: Call for increased upstream solutions, proper collection, recovery and increased health and safety. Community-based solutions supported by NGOs and the private sector could be a good vehicle and share solutions across borders.

Key policy considerations for the INC process resulting from the event, including the INC-3 discussions, and outstanding gaps to address in moving forward towards an international legally binding instrument:

- g) Matias Tarando, Argentina Recycles: The treaty should feature bottom-up and community-centred solutions guided by the related ministry. Waste pickers included and human-rights-based. Like in the Rio principles, EPR is needed especially in socially inclusive local systems. Increasing the quality of life of waste pickers, EPR law and institutional strengthening is key.
- h) Clarissa Morawski, Reloop Platform: The need for funding to cover collaborations in Global South and some revenue can be generated through automated processes for sorting polymer types and simplified EPR systems. The treaty is to lay out EPR on an international level, capacity-building and technical knowledge. The treaty should be binding, time-bound for reuse, recycling, and access to easy and convenient collection.
- i) Shannon Bouton, Delterra: There is financing support needed for infrastructure, create a multi-lateral fund to distribute grants to countries (see Climate Change loss and damage fund); funding from governments but also the private sector from North to South and stimulate private sector investments through innovative systems. The treaty needs to guide the right EPR and encourage the phase-out of materials that cannot be recycled. Provide long-term operations and implementation capability funding alongside capital expenditure to ensure sustainability. The treaty should include proper funding recommendations for collection and sorting, as well as stimulating private sector investment through innovative financial mechanisms such as debt swaps, loan guarantees, etc.
- j) Koichi Yanagita, Japan Clean Ocean Material Alliance (CLOMA): The treaty should expedite a circular economy by promoting resource recycling and appropriate waste management through partnerships between companies and governments involved in the plastics life cycle.
- k) Haoyang Wang, Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China: Should suggest making plastic more valuable to keep it in the system longer and how to boost a circular economy.

- l) Audience: EPR law is needed as well as financial and technical support of wealthy states / global North and the private sector

Key knowledge products and resource tools currently available to inform negotiators in this process

- [Argentina Recycles, Learning from Waste](#)
- [Reloop Platform, Crafting a Blueprint for Financing an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, 2023](#)
- [Deltterra, Circular Cities – The Six Dimensions of Circular Waste Management, 2023](#)
- [SDG 11 Synthesis Report, 2023](#)
- [Report: Leaving no one behind, 2022](#)

List of Co-organizers

- Cecilia Andersson, Lead, Waste Management Team, UN-Habitat
- Matias Tarando, Ministry of Social Development of Argentina
- Haoyang Wang, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China
- Koichi Yanagida, Japan Clean Ocean Material Alliance
- Clarissa Morawski, CEO & Co-Founder of Reloop Platform
- Shannon Bouton, President & CEO, Deltterra

Agenda of the event with presenters and titles

Time	Topic	Speaker
13.30-13.35	Opening remarks and setting the scene	Cecilia Andersson, Lead, Waste Management Team, UN-Habitat
13.35-13.43	SWM with social inclusion and good practices from Argentina	Matias Tarando, expert in Municipal solid waste mgt and Coordinator of Argentina Recycles, Ministry of Social Development Argentina.
13.43-13.51	China Action Plan on Plastic Waste: full lifecycle approach, circular economy and case study	Haoyang Wang, Project Manager, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China
13.51-13.56	Japan's Actual Situation in the Conversion from Plastic Waste Disposal to Resource Recycling	Koichi Yanagida, General Technical Manager, Japan Clean Ocean Material Alliance – promotes the development of alternatives to plastic products and reduction of plastic waste. Strengthen collaboration between public and private sectors
13.56-14.01	Policy-making and financial frameworks supporting the transition to a global circular economy, plastic waste management including investment considerations	Clarissa Morawski, CEO & Co-Founder of ReLoop Platform, brings together a range of partners and organizations to create a thriving global circular economy – by reducing production & consumption, re-using packaging and collecting materials for recycling.
14.01-14.06	Working with the local communities and partners to establish and scale integrated waste and recycling systems from Buenos Aires to Bali – waste warriors!	Shannon Bouton, President & CEO, Delterra – focusing on transforming ecosystems, waste mgt and recycling in the global south.
14.06-14.20	Panel discussion	<p>What are some specific policy measures that have proven effective in fostering sustainable plastic waste management?</p> <p>How can technology and innovation be harnessed to improve the efficiency of plastic waste collection, sorting, and recycling processes?</p>

		<p>What role can education and public awareness play in changing consumer behavior and reducing plastic waste?</p> <p>How can governments, businesses, and civil society collaborate to create a more supportive and enabling environment for sustainable plastic waste management?</p> <p>Are there specific areas of collaboration that you see as particularly promising for addressing the global plastic waste challenge?</p>
14.20-14.40	Engagement with the audience/participants	
14.40-14.45	Closing with panelists key messages	<p>We are all here to contribute to the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment and each of your perspectives is invaluable. If you were to distill your insight into one key message that you would like to include in this treat, what would that be?</p>