



## SwitchMed II project in Egypt



**Title: Report of the Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, “Implications of Governing Production and Consumption of Plastics through a Legally Binding International Instrument”**

Report by: CEDARE Egypt

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SwitchMed II Project in Egypt  
Date: 13/02/2024

# Summary Report

## Roundtable on Implications of Governing Production and Consumption of Plastics through a Legally Binding International Instrument

تداعيات حوكمة إنتاج واستهلاك المواد البلاستيكية من خلال اتفاقية دولية ملزمة قانوناً

Co-convended by the Ministry of Environment, CEDARE and UNEP  
in the frame of SwitchMed II Project



13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024  
Dusit Thani LakeView Cairo Hotel



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## Executive Summary

Plastics have become an undeniable part of our modern lives, offering various benefits in terms of convenience, durability, and affordability. However, the uncontrolled production, consumption, and disposal of plastic has resulted in a severe environmental crisis, threatening our ecosystems, wildlife, and even human health.

Global efforts towards a comprehensive international treaty are taking place to limit and prevent plastic pollution. In 2022, UN member states embarked on a historic journey to establish a legally binding instrument specifically targeting plastic pollution throughout its lifecycle. This instrument aims to minimize plastic waste generation, encourage responsible consumption and production, and foster efficient waste management systems.

Egypt has been involved in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which is currently working towards developing the legally binding treaty. This requires the participation of all stakeholders' sectors at the national level in expressing their views on the proposed clauses of the treaty, particularly those sectors that may be affected by altering practices related to the trading, manufacture, and disposal of plastic products and their raw materials.

In this context, within the framework of the **SwitchMed II Project in Egypt (Policy Component)**, Egypt's Ministry of Environment, the Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a roundtable discussion on ***"Implications of Governing Production and Consumption of Plastics through a Legally Binding International Instrument"*** on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at Dusit Thani LakeView Cairo Hotel.

The roundtable encompassed three dialogue sessions and two presentations and discussed different views of the Egyptian delegation in the INC meetings, received interventions and opinions of the relevant bodies and institutions, and conversed the points that may require radical changes in the national strategy of the petrochemical and plastic industries as well as plastic waste collection and management systems.

The roundtable discussion served as a crucial platform for diverse stakeholders to come together. It was attended by 41 participants working in the field of plastics and plastic industries. Their entities are listed as follows:

- Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI).
- Ministry of Environment (MOE).
- Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA).
- Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).
- Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI).
- Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Company.
- Industrial Development Authority (IDA).
- General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC).




- Technology Centers, Egyptian National Cleaner Production Center (ENCPC), MTI.
- International Bodies and Embassies' Representatives.
- Non-Governmental Organizations and Consultancy Firms.

## Event on YouTube:

 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDCTy6kWeZkzuz-i0vGCcqv9JOM9K0C5>

## Photos of the Event:

 [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19LDFck7cHr56jQRoD1un\\_mtzapTqULhp?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19LDFck7cHr56jQRoD1un_mtzapTqULhp?usp=drive_link)

## Opening Remarks

Moderated by Ms. Ghada Moghny, Senior Programme Coordinator, CEDARE, the roundtable began with opening remarks delivered by Dr. Hossam Allam, Regional Director for Sustainable Growth, CEDARE; Ms. Sylvie Fontaine, Project Officer for Environment and Climate, European Commission; Mr. Luc Reuter, Programme Officer, Economy Division, UNEP; and Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO of WMRA, Ministry of Environment.



At the outset, **Dr. Hossam Allam** greeted the attendees and welcomed them on behalf of Dr. Nadia Makram Ebeid, CEDARE's Executive Director. Then, he shed light on the meeting's objective and explained that the meeting is a continuation of a series of efforts in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment to foster change to sustainable consumption and production. Dr. Allam emphasized that plastic has been one of the most important inventions that had contributed to humanity's progress, and the problem of plastic pollution is simply a result of inappropriate human consumption practices. Dr. Allam concluded his remarks by stressing the crucial role of global unity to develop an effective instrument that is able to eliminate plastic pollution, and he emphasized the significance of deliberations among the various participants during the roundtable discussions.



The floor then was given to **Mr. Luc Reuter** who referred to the role of UNEP and SwitchMed Programme in pursuing the twelfth sustainable development goal "responsible consumption and production". He clarified that the topic of reducing plastic pollution is not only under the umbrella of the Ministry of Environment but it also the responsibility of many other Ministries, as well as governmental and non-governmental bodies. Mr. Reuter also commended SwitchMed Programme's cooperation with WMRA to explore the dimensions of the treaty and give the national institutions the opportunity to discuss the topic.

**Ms. Sylvie Fontaine** then began her remarks – through virtual participation – by stressing the importance of dealing with plastic in a greener way and reducing its pollution, which not only affects the environment but also the human health, and commended the roundtable organized in the framework of the SwitchMed Programme. Ms. Fontaine also valued the participation of many local actors in the event as an attempt to take into account the national circumstances when discussing the proposed instrument.



The final opening remarks were delivered by **Dr. Tarek El-Araby** who emphasized the importance of stakeholders' consultation sessions in discussing the different aspects of the anticipated plastic treaty. He then summarized the main proposed articles of the treaty under negotiation, such as the full lifecycle of plastic products, as well as the different views of countries on many topics and the importance of these discussions in unifying the national narrative towards the topics being negotiated.





## Session 1

### *Petrochemical and Plastic Industries under a Comprehensive International Treaty*

#### **Presentation I: Petrochemical and Plastic Industries in Egypt – Overview**

Following the tour de table where participants introduced themselves, session 1 began with a presentation titled “**Petrochemical and Plastic Industries in Egypt – Overview**”, delivered by **Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader**, Senior Technical Advisor, who gave a glimpse of the global and national development of petrochemical industries from the discovery of crude oil to the present day.

Dr. Abdelkader showcased the production capacities of the petrochemical industry, as well as the value chain of plastics and intermediate chemicals, and presented the types and production volumes of thermoplastic raw materials in Egypt and their contribution to the Egyptian economy.

He then showed the scale of global plastic waste pollution from the invention of plastic to the present day and talked about the international grumblings resulting from the environmental pollution caused by plastics waste, and the reasons for UNEA's resorting to the adoption of resolution 5/14, which stipulated the need of a further international action to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.



At the end of the presentation, Dr. Abdelkader showed some of the most critical subjects on the modified zero-draft of the treaty, which can be handled during the roundtable discussions, such as Definitions and Idioms, Preamble, Principles, Scope, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Primary Polymers, Reduction in Production Volumes, Financing Mechanism, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and Impact on Developing and Developed Countries.

#### **Presentation II: INC Meetings: Progress and Challenges**

The second presentation was delivered by **Eng. Yosra Abdelaziz**, GM, Minister's Technical Office, Ministry of Environment and the National Coordinator of the INC.

Eng. Abdelaziz praised the significance of the meeting, the diversity of attendance and the importance of a unified national position in supporting the Egyptian delegation. She then highlighted the magnitude of the problem of land and sea pollution with plastic waste and its impact on biodiversity and human health.

Eng. Abdelaziz then began to elaborate on the circumstances of raising the problem of plastic pollution during the **UNEA meeting in Nairobi, March 2022**, and the





adoption of **resolution 5/14** to form an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and national circumstances.

Eng. Abdelaziz then touched upon the three previous INC meetings and their output starting from requesting the countries to submit their views on a number of questions that would form the document's framework, until the amended version of the zero draft had been issued.

Eng. Abdelaziz also highlighted the deliberations on financial mechanism, and plastic-producing and non-producing countries. She also addressed the African Union Environment Ministers' Meeting and its recommendations to reduce plastic waste and abide by the **UNEA resolution 5/14**.

At the end of the presentation, Eng. Abdelaziz addressed the overall structure of the revised zero draft of the instrument and the challenges facing plastic producers and consumers.

### ***Discussions and Interventions I***

***Dr. Adel Shafei, Senior Advisor, WMRA***

Egypt's strategy towards waste and waste management translates the national contribution in keeping with the international efforts to phase out plastic pollution.



***Eng. Shimaa Tarek, Department of Environmental Protection, IDA***

The instrument should differentiate between single-use plastic products and other plastic materials and products.



***Dr. Mona Kamal, Waste Management Expert and Former Head of EEAA, MOE***

Tax on each crude oil barrel from the source may be a way to resolve the funding deficit of the global plastic waste management.



***Ambassador Mohamed El-Gammal, Deputy Director, Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development Department, MoFA***

- The national position is in contradiction to imposing any international tax. Taxation is a national sovereignty that should be imposed through a national decision.
- It is the responsibility of developed countries to support the instrument under the principle of common development with differing burdens.



***Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor***

- Crude oil is used as a primary feedstock for a countless number of chemicals, including those used in manufacturing polymers.
- It is important to have an agreement on the definitions of all technical terms. Therefore, UNEP organizes several specialized informal technical meetings for this purpose.



## Session 2

### *Proposed Provisions Outlining the Technical Aspects of the Treaty*

Session 2 focused on the proposed provisions which outline the technical aspects in the zero draft of the instrument. The session was moderated by Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor, and jointly delivered by Dr. Mona Kamal, Former Acting Head of Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) & Senior Environment Expert; Eng. Adel Taha, Sustainable Development Expert, Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI); and Eng. Rehab Sadek, GM Labs, General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC).

### *Challenges Facing the Plastic Industry*

The dialogue began with a question from the moderator to **Mr. Adel Taha** on the challenges facing the development and modernization of the plastics industry in Egypt, and how to reach a sector that follows the principles of sustainable consumption and production.



Mr. Taha indicated that industrial activities related to plastics are in the form of three main stages: production of raw plastics, production of plastic products, and disposal or recycling stage. Between these stages lies consumer behaviour, industry infrastructure, legal framework, and variances in skills and experiences. Therefore, the empowerment of a sustainable consumption and production approach among 11,000 plastic production units registered in the Chamber of Chemical needs a lot of efforts as many of these factories desire training, capacity building and know-how transfer. On the other hand, there is a need for a labour force capable of dealing with sophisticated issues such as energy management, modern production technologies and supply chain management. Moreover, vocational education should be reinforced with curricula on environmental culture, green products and sustainability practices, side by side with public awareness to change the wrong practices of the consumer towards plastic consumption and waste handling.

### *Informal Sector*

Then, the moderator gave the floor to **Dr. Mona Kamal** to highlight the role of the informal sector in operation that includes collecting, sorting and recycling of plastic waste, and measures that should be taken to transform this sector into a formal one.

Dr. Kamal emphasized the important role of the informal sector in collecting, sorting and recycling plastic waste in Egypt, as there is a huge amount of waste generated daily by all governorates. She gave an example of Greater Cairo where 6 zones are absorbing 50% of plastic waste that is being collected and processed by the informal sector. She highlighted that the informal sector is an essential part of solving the waste management issue as 80% of the wastes collected are recycled, half of it is processed and a total of 200 thousand workers are involved in the process.

Dr. Kamal also underlined the importance of technical and social rehabilitation for that sector and indicated the importance of cooperation between civil society organizations, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Manpower in an integrated process.

### ***Technical Readiness for Change***

With regard to technology transfer and technical support, the moderator gave the floor to **Eng. Rehab Sadek** to give an overview of testing procedures and regulations that are related to plastic materials and products and clarify the readiness of national testing facilities to keep pace with expected changes.

Eng. Sadek explained that in view of the rapid and successive changes in recent years to international and national regulations regarding specifications of materials and products, GOEIC has developed a comprehensive plan to update the labs to keep pace with the global development of materials' and products' control. She underlined that regarding the plastics manufacturing sector, a central lab has been developed to serve local manufacturers to facilitate the exportation of plastic products whenever specific technical enquiry is needed. Moreover, there are 8 major developed labs in different governorates that deal with plastic materials and the extent of conformity with domestic and international specifications. She also added that there is an active cooperation protocol between the GOEIC and the Ministry of Environment for testing imported waste plastics and rubbers, in conformity with Basel Convention. Moreover, she announced that a biodegradation testing laboratory is currently being established.

### ***Circularity and Sustainability of Plastics***

On interconnecting circular economy to sustainable development and how that can be applied to plastic industry as a tool to eliminate plastic waste, **Eng. Adel Taha** explained that the main goal of recycling is to reduce landfill and burning of plastic waste in favour of economic development, and clarified that there are multiple models of circular economy in the field of



plastics, depending on the plastic product group as well as the type of products and their lifetime. Therefore, the range of products to be handled must be first determined. On the other hand, a number of topics in the ecosystem of plastic products should be considered, such as the legal framework, producers of raw plastic, manufacturers of plastic products, distributors, end consumers, disposal, collection, sorting, and then either landfilling or recycling process. To achieve the sustainable development requirements, each of these topics should perform its mandated role after having the capacity to achieve it.



Eng. Taha also noted that detailed characterization of plastics is now an essential requirement of the global market, particularly for packaging materials. These requirements include the implementation of environmental regulations within production units, as well as circular economy policies.

### ***Recycling of Plastics in Egypt***

With regard to successful models of plastic recycling activities in Egypt, **Dr. Mona Kamal** was requested to provide an example of one of these projects, and to illustrate to what extent such projects could be considered compatible with the principles of a circular economy.

Dr. Kamal gave an example of one of the projects that had shown great success in adapting the informal sector to work with multinational companies, and clarified the following:

- The project is based on collection of plastic bottles to be recycled and then delivered to the company to be integrated once more into the production process.
- The difference in this project is the gathering of all data on all actors in the supply chain through a tight digital tracking system, which assists in implementing quality control parameters of the overall recycling process.
- Sorting is considered to be the most difficult stage in the process as Egypt's waste collection system does not include sorting at the source.
- The project includes waste collectors, sorters, traders, compactors, processors, etc.
- About 2900 workmen are involved in the value chain of this process.
- 20% of the workforce in this project's value chain consists of women, which have been offered training and supplied with occupational safety tools.
- About 220 thousand tons of just one type of plastic were collected and converted in a 3-year period. That amount contributed to the reduction of carbon emissions as well as reduction in the consumption or use of new raw materials and utilized energy.

Dr. Kamal then concluded her intervention by emphasizing the importance of wider dissemination of this experience, as it largely serves not only environmental but also social and economic aspects.

### ***Technical Constraints***

The last question of the session was addressed to **Eng. Rehab Sadek**. The moderator inquired about the role of the Export and Import Control Authority in supporting the quality of exported and imported plastic raw materials and products.

In her answer, Eng. Sadek focused on recycled plastics as well as plastic composites that comprise plastic with other materials such as paper, and noted that there are still technical difficulties in the characterization of these kinds of complex products.

Eng. Sadek mentioned that these issues should be addressed from a capacity-building perspective, particularly with regard to product design. She also revealed that the General Organization for Export and Import Control is in the stage of establishing a "Centre of Excellence" that will interact with various scientific entities and manufacturers in order to improve the characteristics of exported plastic products in terms of environmental properties, and that ultimately will be in need of an internationally accepted certification.

## Discussions and Interventions II

**Eng. Adel Taha, Sustainable Development Expert, FEI**

- National holistic approach to consider all environmental international treaties, conventions and regulations.
- It seems that the INC is being stretched out to other scopes and is deviating from the main target of the treaty.



**Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor**

Each Country has the right to direct and use negotiations in a manner commensurate with its national policies. This sometimes leads to divergences from the convention's main objective. But ultimately - and this is the role of negotiations - a common formula will be agreed upon to achieve the basic objectives without causing significant harm to any country or region.



**Dr. Adel Shafie, Senior Advisor, WMRA**

- Are the negotiations based on a transformative principle or an extractive principle?
- There is a gap in the technical skills of both SMEs and informal sector.
- The importance of product design.
- Plastic waste is an issue related to product consumption and not production.
- The importance of incorporating other existing treaties and conventions such as Basel Convention.



**Eng. Hala Abdelgawad, GM, Department of Environmental Protection, IDA**

- Alternatives to any industrial feedstock should be available before being restricted by the treaty.
- There is a need for technology transfer, technical support and capacity building.
- A grace period is required before the treaty is implemented.
- There is a need for a sustainable quality of recycled plastics.



**Dr. Mona Kamal, Former Acting Head of EEAA & Senior Environment Expert**

- There is a need to support developing countries in the area of advanced technologies for plastic recycling.
- There is a need to fulfil developed countries' obligations towards developing countries.



**Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor**

- There is a need to share and benefit from national experiences side by side with the international ones.
- The importance of adhering to technical specifications to meet the requirements of the national and international markets.



**Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO, WMRA, MOE**

- Negotiations and zero draft of the treaty do not include clauses on the recycled plastic content in the end-plastic-products.
- The gratitude of a number of manufacturers for increasing the thickness of the single-use plastic bag as it will provide technical advantages and economic return through the recycling process.



**Dr. Mona Kamal, Former Acting Head of EEAA & Senior Environment Expert**

Substances that hinder the process of plastic recycling should be considered in the treaty.



**Eng. Rehab Sadek, GM Labs, GOEIC**

Product and material coding should conform to any change that may arise as a result of the treaty.



**Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor**

- The basis of the treaty is to eliminate plastics and plastic waste that may contain chemicals that are harmful to the environment and human health.
- Most primary polymers are manufactured with global specifications that are characterized by high environmental and health safety, but in the shaping phase, these polymers are exposed to numerous additions of chemicals and fillers that significantly change their primary characteristics and turn them into a product that may either cause environmental pollution, a health risk, or both.



**Eng. Yosra Abdelaziz, GM, Minister's Technical Office, MOE, National Coordinator of the INC**

The zero draft of the treaty includes a definition of materials that pose a risk to human health.



**Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO, WMRA, MOE**

The dilemma lies in determining the beginning of a plastic product's lifecycle.



**Eng. Adel Taha, Sustainable Development Expert, FEI**

UNEP report titled "Chemicals in Plastics" estimated that 13,000 chemicals are used in the plastic industry. The report identified the hazardous properties of 7,000 chemicals and 3,500 were classified as chemicals of concern. This listing does not necessarily mean that these materials are used in plastic industry, but the report reflects the technical feasibility of using these materials in plastic products regardless of their commercial position in the market.



**Dr. Adel Shafie, Senior Advisor, WMRA**

At the national level, there are lists of banned chemicals/Chemical of concern for every industrial sector that can serve as a starting point for what is required to be fulfilled in regard materials used in plastic industry.



**Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor**

- There is a difference between the risk assessment of substances or chemicals when treated individually and their risk assessment after being used in the production of polymers or in plastic formulations.
- It was proposed to conduct a questionnaire by the Chamber of Chemicals and Fertilizers, FEI, to develop an inventory of the names, types and quantities of substances and chemicals that are being used in the plastic industry.



**Mr. Montasser Fathy, Trade agreements' Sector, MTI**

Emphasized the importance of the convention's texts being clear, binding, and achievable in terms of responsibilities and obligations.





## Session 3

### *Proposed Obligations Arising from the Treaty*

The third session shed light on obligations which may arise as a result of the treaty and its implications on the national policies. The session was moderated by Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor, and jointly delivered by Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO of WMRA, MOE; Ambassador Mohamed El-Gammal, Deputy Director, Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development Department, MoFA; and Dr. Tamer Heikal, GM of Planning and Projects, ECHEM.



### *Shedding Light on INC's Meetings*

The session started with an overview by **Dr. Tarek El-Araby** on the negotiations, where he referred to the **UNEA's resolution 5/14** on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic. He clarified that ending plastic pollution is a global target. However, the start point of the lifecycle of plastics as well as primary polymers, chemicals of concern and products of concern remains as a subject creating debate within the negotiating groups, and needs the engagement of the national petrochemical industry and polymer manufacturers to outline and clarify the framework of the negotiations.

Dr. Al-Araby then mentioned that the downstream approach is well defined to the Egyptian delegation, as the national stand is clear about the issue of plastic waste management, in terms of effective collection system, EPR system, and developed recycling systems, in addition to a number of other topics mentioned in **law 202/2020**, as green labels and handling hazardous substances.

Dr. Al-Araby supported the formation of a national technical committee for hazardous substances, which may take into account the current lists available within different national bodies.

At the end of the overview, Dr. Al-Araby referred to the possibility of considering fishing gears as a problematic product, and that may need more discussions with the competent national authorities.

### *Egypt's Negotiating Position*

The floor was then given to **Ambassador Mohamed El-Gammal** who clarified Egypt's political negotiating position in INC meetings among a number of international negotiating groups with different orientations and objectives. Then, he explained that any international convention should have a cooperative objective, and the INC meetings are about a global treaty targeting the elimination of plastic pollution, and that goal requires the cooperation of all countries.

With regard to Egypt's principle towards issues related to the environment, climate or plastic, Ambassador El-Gammal confirmed that they should be dealt with within the framework of the national sustainable development strategy.

Ambassador El-Gammal then pointed out that UNEA resolution 5/14 is the basis of the negotiations of the instrument, and it does not address exclusion of plastic or petrochemical industries, but indeed, the resolution includes provision for sustainable consumption and production.



He also noted that UNEA resolution states the just transition in dealing with any variables that have social or economic dimensions in tandem with the environmental dimension, the principle of equity, the Rio Convention and common responsibility with differing burdens.

Ambassador El-Gammal concluded his intervention by stressing that Egypt's negotiating position does not accept any kind of single-source taxation that could be imposed on countries.

### ***Are Polymers Convicted?***

The final intervention of the session was delivered by **Dr. Tamer Heikal** who presented a quick summary of the petrochemical industry setup in Egypt, and the national strategy towards the development of this industrial sector, which entered the implementation phase by the establishment of the petrochemical holding company in 2002.

Dr. Heikal then demonstrated the estimated global consumption of some plastic materials as Polyethylene that will reach about 200 million tonnes in 2030 with a global gap of about 10%, which boosts investment in this area.

On the other hand, Dr. Heikal noted that despite the national trend of localizing the production of biodegradable plastics and other materials that are not produced locally, there is still difficulty in gaining technologies from licensed companies. Moreover, the manufacturing cost and pricing of these products are not comparable to traditional plastics. Issues associated with funding for such projects were also emphasized by Dr. Heikal.

### **Discussions and Interventions III**

**Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Senior Technical Advisor**

- There is a relationship between the leakage of plastic waste for the environment and the design of the product.
- The oil and gas sector can support the development of new plastic products that are not produced locally and imported in big volumes.



**Dr. Adel Shafie, Senior Advisor, WMRA**

Current and future investment profiles of petrochemicals industry at both global and national levels allow to review the concept of lifecycle assessment of plastic products within the convention's texts.



**Dr. Tamer Heikal, GM of Planning and Projects, ECHEM**

The responsibility of the manufacturer of raw plastics ends with the delivery of the material to the dealer, as many other treatments are performed during the shaping process of plastic products.



**Mr. Adel Taha, Sustainable Development Expert, FEI**

There are two approaches for the application of reliability along the value chain. The first is through voluntary initiatives as “responsible care” in the chemical sector, and the second is through obligatory systems which is normally in the form of technical specification of products and their components.



**Mr. Ali Shaheen, CCI, FEI**

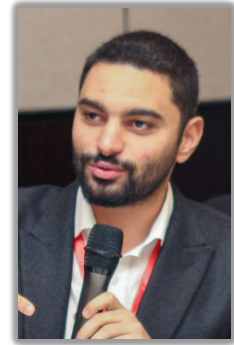
Through the National Qualifications Framework, a “Sectorial Skills Council” was established by the Chamber of Chemical Industries, FEI, to work on occupational profiling of 5 levels in both plastic division and waste recycling division. Meanwhile, a number of actors are involved in the development of capacity assessment tools and training curricula.





**Mohamed Kamal, Greenish**

- No connection is observed between International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) and the INC Process.
- Lack of technical discussions during the negotiations.
- The type of financing mechanism is an essential subject.
- Many of the positions of countries and groups of countries are based on opinions of NGOs and the industrial sector.
- The participation of national industrial sectors and civil society groups in the INC meetings is essential.



**Dr. Adel Shafie, Senior Advisor, WMRA**

The technical portion of the instrument is large.



**Eng. Mohamed Sabry, ENCPC, MTI**

- Local primary polymers manufacturers use the Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) to export to EU.
- Technology is under the responsibility of the licensor.
- In case of restricting the use of any substance, an alternative should be provided.
- Trans-boundary plastic waste leakage should be considered.



**Ambassador Mohamed El-Gammal, Deputy Director, Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development Department, MoFA**

- The importance of having clear definitions of key terminologies dealt with during the negotiations.
- The importance of the participation of civil society organizations.





## Conclusion

The roundtable discussions ended with closing remarks delivered by Dr. Hussam Allam on the importance of eliminating plastic pollution at both national and global levels.

Dr. Allam pointed at the role that the international community must play in supporting projects for collection and safe disposal of plastic waste, particularly those that leak into watercourses, side by side with the support of waste management systems.

Finally, Dr. Allam thanked all participants for attending and contributing to the roundtable discussions and suggested documenting all recommendations and proposals.



## Recommendations

In conclusion, the roundtable discussions provided valuable insights into the national position towards the ongoing negotiations on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Some of the main recommendations and proposals are as follows:

- Full commitment to national sustainable development plans, policies and strategies.
- Support the national delegations force in INC's meetings by other relevant stakeholders.
- Integrate the informal plastic sector in the national waste management system and be well reflected in the international binding instrument on plastic waste.
- Enhance capacity building in all actors along the chain value of plastic industry.
- Current and future investment in the national petrochemical sector should not be exposed to any disturbance.
- Exchange, at the national level, experiences and know-how between all plastic manufacturing sectors and scientific institutions.
- Investment opportunities in deepening and localizing new technologies related to sustainable plastic manufacturing and plastic waste treatment.
- National holistic approach to manage all current and upcoming environmental treaties, conventions and regulations.
- Inventory including names, types and quantities of substances, chemicals, and materials that are being used in plastic industry may be conducted by the Chamber of Chemicals and Fertilizers, FEI through a questionnaire to all producers and recyclers of plastics. WMRA may support the design and content of the questionnaire.
- Formation of a national technical committee on hazardous substances, chemicals, and materials related to petrochemicals' and plastics' industries.

## Annexes

### 1. Official Invitation

**The Ministry of Environment of Egypt, CEDARE & UNEP**  
**have the pleasure to invite you to**

The Second Roundtable on Plastic Pollution Control:  
**Implications of Governing**  
**Production & Consumption of Plastics**  
**through a Legally Binding International Instrument**

under Egypt SwitchMed II Project (Policy Component)

 **Dusit Thani LakeView Cairo Hotel**  
**Purple Daisy Meeting Room**

 **13 February, 2024**





## 2. Agenda

### SwitchMed II Project in Egypt (Policy Component)

Roundtable on

## Implications of governing production and consumption of plastics through a legally binding international instrument

تداعيات حوكمة إنتاج واستهلاك المواد البلاستيكية من خلال اتفاقية دولية ملزمة قانوناً

### Agenda

Time	Session
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Registration &amp; Networking</b>
10:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Welcoming Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Hossam Allam, Regional, Director for Sustainable Growth, CEDARE</li> <li>• Mr. Luc Reuter, Programme Officer, Economy Division, UNEP</li> <li>• Ms. Sylvie Fontaine, Project Officer for Environment and Climate Change, Delegation of the EU to Egypt</li> <li>• Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO of WMRA, Ministry of Environment</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Ghada Moghny, Senior Programme Coordinator, CEDARE</p>
10:30 – 11:30	<p><b>Session 1:</b> <b>Petrochemical and plastic industries under a comprehensive international treaty</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <p>“INC Meetings: Progress and Challenges”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eng. Yosra Abdelaziz, GM, Minister’s Technical Support Office, Ministry of Environment</li> </ul> <p>“Petrochemical and Plastic Industries in Egypt - Overview”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Technology Expert</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO of WMRA, Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Dr. Hossam Allam, Regional Director for Sustainable Growth, CEDARE</li> <li>• Eng. Yosra Abdelaziz, GM, Minister’s Technical Support Office, Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Technology Expert</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Ghada Moghny, Senior Programme Coordinator, CEDARE</p>
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
12:00 – 1:00	<p><b>Session 2:</b> <b>Proposed provisions outlining the technical aspects of the treaty</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Mona Kamal, Former Acting Head of EEAA &amp; Senior Environment Expert</li> <li>• Dr. Rehab Sadek, General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC), MTI</li> <li>• Mr. Adel Taha, Sustainable Development Expert, Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Dr. Ahmed Abdelkader, Technology Expert</p>
1:00 – 1:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
1:30 – 2:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
2:00 – 3:00	<p><b>Session 3:</b> <b>Proposed obligations arising from the treaty</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Mohamed El-Gammal, Deputy Director of Climate, Environment and Sustainability Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>• Dr. Tamer Heikal, GM of Planning and Projects, ECHEM</li> <li>• Dr. Tarek El-Araby, CEO, WMRA, Ministry of Environment</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Eng. Yosra Abdelaziz, GM, Minister’s Technical Support Office, Ministry of Environment</p>
3:00 – 3:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
3:30 – 4:00	<b>Recommendations &amp; Closing Remarks</b>
4:00 – 5:00	<b>Lunch</b>

📍 Dusit Thani LakeView Cairo Hotel, Purple Daisy Meeting Room

📅 13 February, 2024



### 3. Concept Note



#### SwitchMed II Project in Egypt (Policy Component)

Roundtable on

#### Implications of governing production and consumption of plastics through a legally binding international instrument

تداعيات حوكمة إنتاج واستهلاك المواد البلاستيكية من خلال اتفاقية دولية ملزمة قانوناً

### Concept Note

#### BACKGROUND

In March 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted (5/14) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment<sup>(1)</sup>.

The resolution (5/14) requested the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop "the instrument", which is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design, and disposal.

The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, aiming to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024. The first session of the INC (INC-1) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28th of November to 2nd of December 2022, followed by a second session (INC-2) in Paris, France, from 29th of May to 2nd of June 2023. The third session (INC-3) took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 13th to 19th of November 2023. At INC-3, the Committee decided that the next session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would be held in April 2024<sup>(2)</sup>.

INC meetings tackle a vast array of subjects, aiming for an effective legally binding international instrument. From defining key terms and setting ambitious goals to outlining specific actions like **plastic reduction, waste management improvements, and microplastic control, discussions cover the entire plastic lifecycle. Reaching agreements on financing, technology transfer, and governance structures to support implementation are also crucial points.** Key areas such as objectives, scope, and financing still require consensus. With ambitious deadlines set, these negotiations are shaping a global response to the plastic pollution issue.

Different national priorities and capacities may be one of the most important challenges developing countries can face as a result of the instrument's implementation. Ensuring compliance with the instrument across national contexts may require multiple changes in the existing operationalization, monitoring, and verification mechanisms.

#### ABOUT THE ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable discusses the potential implications of operationalizing a legally binding international instrument and the actions that could be taken to achieve **sustainable production and consumption of plastic products as an optimal means of eliminating plastic pollution.**

Discussions will also include the different views of the negotiators who participated in the INC meetings, in particular the points that may require radical changes in the national strategy of the petrochemical and plastic industries as well as plastic waste collection and management systems<sup>(3)</sup>.

(1) [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39812/OEWG\\_PP\\_1\\_INF\\_1\\_UNEA%20resolution.pdf](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39812/OEWG_PP_1_INF_1_UNEA%20resolution.pdf)

(2) <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution>

(3) <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/44526/RevisedZeroDraftText.pdf>

Dusit Thani LakeView Cairo Hotel, Purple Daisy Meeting Room

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## 4. Media Coverage

### Digital Press

[Ahran 1](#)

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[Arab Sahafahh 1](#)

[Arab Sahafahh 2](#)

[Misr Albalad](#)

### Press

## وزيرة البيئة تستقبل الرحالة المصري على عبده مباحثات مصرية - أوروبية لبحث تداعيات حوكمة إنتاج واستهلاك المواد البلاستيكية

كتبت - منى عبدالنعم ورشا سعيد:

نظم جهاز تنظيم إدارة المخلفات التابع لوزارة البيئة، ومركز البيئة والتنمية للإقليم العربي وأوروبا (سيداري)، اجتماع «الائتلاف الاستديري حول تداعيات حوكمة إنتاج واستهلاك المواد البلاستيكية» من خلال اتفاقية دولية ملزمة قانونًا، والمقام في إطار مشروع سويتش ميد (مكون السياسات) والذي تقوم وزارة البيئة بتنفيذ أنشطته في مصر، بالتعاون مع مركز البيئة والتنمية للإقليم العربي وأوروبا (سيداري) وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة بتمويل من الاتحاد الأوروبي.

يهدف الاجتماع إلى مناقشة ما تم من إجراءات تمهيدية للاستعداد للمشاركة بالاجتماع الرابع للجنة التفاوض الحكومية الدولية المعنية بإبرام صك قانوني ملزم للحد من تلوث البلاستيك؛ والتي من المقرر عقد جلستها الرابعة في الفترة من ٢١ - ٣٠ إبريل من العام الجاري بكندا، لسياسة أول معاهدة على الإطلاق لاحتواء التلوث الناجم عن

المنتجات البلاستيكية، وإبرام صك قانوني ملزم للحد من تلوث البلاستيك، ومناقشة ما تم إصداه من قبل كل دولة لتحديد الخيارات المحتملة لعناصر وثيقة الصك القانوني الدولي التي تركز على نهج شامل يتناول دورة الحياة الكاملة للمواد البلاستيكية، وكافة العناصر التي أجمع عليها أعضاء الجمعية العامة لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة.

من جهة أخرى استقبلت الدكتورة ياسمين فؤاد وزيرة البيئة المقامر والرحالة المصري على عبده لبحث دعم وزارة البيئة لمبادرة

الرحلة إلى ٢٠٢٠، ولعرض أحدث رقم قباسي سجله المقامر في موسوعة جينيس لأكثر عدد مدن تم زيارتها على دراجة كهربائية. حيث تتمثل مهمته في مبادرة الرحلة إلى ٢٠٢٠، التي دشنها عام ٢٠٢٠ في تشجيع المجتمعات على تعزيز جهود الاستدامة وذلك خلال رحلاته بالدراجة الكهربائية لزيارة المدارس والجامعات والأندية الرياضية في كل دولة ومدينة يزورها بهدف تعليم وتنقيف الشباب بعدد من القضايا الملحة ومن أهمها تغير المناخ والبيئة.

انطلقت رحلة المقامر المصري الاستثنائية في جمهورية مصر العربية من أهرامات الجيزة في الأول من أكتوبر ٢٠٢٣ قطع خلالها مسافة تجاوزت ٤٠٠٠ كم خلال ٨٥ يومًا، زار فيها ٤٠ مدينة عربية وانتهت في مؤتمر تغير المناخ COP٢٨ المقام في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة نوفمبر الماضي مرورًا بالملكة العربية الهاشمية والملكة العربية السعودية ودولة قطر، محققًا رقمه القياسي الرابع على دراجة كهربائية في موسوعة جينيس للأرقام القياسية.



## 5. List of Participants

No.	Title	Name	Organization
1	Ms.	Sylvie Fontaine	European Commission
2	Mr.	Luc Reuter	UNEP
3	Emb.	Mohammed Elgammal	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Dr.	Tarek El-Araby	WMRA
5	Dr.	Adel El-Shafie	WMRA
6	Ms.	Eman Abdallah	WMRA
7	Ms.	Yosra Abdelaziz	Ministry of Environment
8	Dr.	Heba Sharawy	Ministry of Environment
9	Dr.	Ahmed Abdrabo	Ministry of Petroleum
10	Dr.	Mohamed Magdy	Ministry of Petroleum
11	Ms.	Mariam Yassin	ECHEM-Ministry of Petroleum
12	Ms.	Alexandra Lamotte	French Embassy at Cairo
13	Eng.	Rehab Sadek	GOEIC, MTI
14	Eng.	Ali Shaheen	CCI, FEI
15	Dr.	Adel Taha	ECO, FEI
16	Mr.	Tawfik Elkheshen	Consultant
17	Ms.	Hala Abdelgawad	IDA
18	Mr.	Mohamed Negm	IDA
19	Ms.	Shaimaa Tarek	IDA
20	Mr.	Montasser Fathy	Trade Agreements' Sector, MTI
21	Sen.	Ahmed Elmasry	ECTC
22	Ms.	Yasmin Tarek Farouq	Envi-Globe Consultancy
23	Dr.	Ahmed Kamal	UNIDO
24	Mr.	Mohamed Kamal	Greenish
25	Dr.	Tamer Heikal	ECHEM
26	Dr.	Mona Kamal	CID Consulting
27	Eng.	Hanan El-Hadary	World Bank
28	Ms.	Yoshiko Sano	JICA
29	Mr.	Hossam Ezzeldin	EPAP/MOE
30	Ms.	Sherien Ali	GIZ



31	Mr.	Mohamed Sabry	Technology Centers, MTI
32	Mr.	Ahmed Mamdouh	Media
33	Dr.	Ahmed AbdelKader	Technology Advisor
34	Dr.	Hossam Allam	CEDARE
35	Ms.	Ghada Moghny	CEDARE
36	Ms.	Terry Fahmy	CEDARE
37	Ms.	Salma Nooh	CEDARE
38	Ms.	Lamia Nabil	CEDARE
39	Ms.	Sahar Ezz	CEDARE
40	Ms.	Amira Khattab	CEDARE
41	Mr.	Samir Sayed	CEDARE