

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 1, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Co-organizers: Government of Tuvalu, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, 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.

The Basel Convention's Conference of the Parties, consisting of 190 Parties, has made significant strides in addressing plastic waste. The [Plastic Waste Amendments](#), adopted in 2019, expanded the coverage of plastic wastes under the prior informed consent procedure and strengthened provisions for waste minimization and environmentally sound management. Following these amendments, the COP established the [Plastic Waste Partnership](#) and, in 2023, adopted [technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste](#).

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
13:30-13:35	Welcome and introduction	Moderator: Sam Adu-Kumi, Ghana
13:35-13:40	Opening remarks	H.E. Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador
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"> • Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions • 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	Moderator: Sam Adu-Kumi, Ghana
