Written report back from the thematic side events during INC-3
Nairobi 14-17 Nov 2023

**Theme 1:** Promoting sustainable consumption and production of plastics

**Date:** Tuesday 14 November, 2023, 1:30-2:45pm

**Number of participants and breakdown of types of participants:**

150 total participants. Gender: 53% female, 47% male. Affiliation: 39% Private Sector, 35% NGOs, 19% Member States, 7% IGOs.

**Key messages resulting from the event:**

(Peru Minister of Environment) The Minister of Environment of Peru, Ms Albina Ruiz, highlighted that Peru considers that it is necessary to establish policies that combine specific mandatory and voluntary regulatory control measures, complemented with the development of national planning instruments in accordance with the particularities of each reality. Likewise, Ms Ruiz noted that the treaty should include measures that are binding, ambitious and specific to address the problem of plastic pollution, in support of plastics prevention, improved circular economy and waste management, new funds for innovation and development, and education and awareness actions for consumers. In addition, the Minister Albina Ruiz presented the actions taken by Peru in addressing plastic pollution, which include among others the van of single-use plastics such as bags, straws and expanded polystyrene containers.

(Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate) The current trajectory of plastics consumption and production could nearly double annual volumes of mismanaged plastics by 2040, relative to 2019, according to a new report commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate and developed by Systemiq. It models a Global Rules Scenario which would result in a 90% reduction of the annual volumes of mismanaged plastics and a 30% reduction in virgin plastic production by 2040 relative to 2019. In the Global Rules Scenario, legally binding global rules would trigger 15 policy interventions based on four pillars: reduce virgin plastic production and consumption, eliminate avoidable and problematic plastics and chemicals, expand safe circularity; and controlled disposal of waste that cannot be prevented or recycled.

(OECD) OECD modelled the consequences of different policy scenarios and their implications for the global plastic action agenda. Bottom-up, un-coordinated action could slow down growth in plastics use and improve waste collection and recycling, but plastic use and waste will still increase by 50% by 2040 and plastic leakage will also increase compared to 2020. Moderate alignment of policy policies, where developing countries focus most efforts down-stream on waste management, can stabilize primary plastics use at 2020 levels, however, by 2040 12 Mt of plastics would still leak annually into the environment, and the overall costs of this scenario would be significantly higher than in the more ambitious Global Ambition scenario, where policies are aligned and of high ambition across the whole plastics life-cycle and across all countries, and which nearly eliminates plastic leakage into the environment. plastics lifecycle.

(WRAP) The Plastics Pact Network serves as a connecting platform for global national and regional initiatives dedicated to advancing circular economy solutions for plastic. The pact aims to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastics, ensure packaging is reusable, recyclable, or compostable, increase
effective recycling rates, and boost recycled content in packaging. With over 800 members, the pact fosters collaboration, transparency, and pre-competitive cooperation. This approach enables the tracking of the network's global impact, facilitates knowledge exchange, and enhances alignment.

(ICBA/PepsiCo) The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty - convened by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) and WWF - gives voice to more than 160 organizations across the plastics value chain. To achieve a circular economy for plastics, the Coalition believes that progress must be made on reduction of plastic production and use; circulation of all plastic items that cannot be eliminated; and prevention and remediation of remaining plastic leakage into the environment. Businesses who are part of the Coalition have already set targets for recyclability, reduction, and recycled content (among others) of their packaging and together have taken voluntary action, for example, through the EMF Global Commitment. Establishing globally harmonized standards will provide certainty for businesses and allow for innovation and scaling of new packaging solutions. Together with the Business Coalition, the beverage industry calls for a legally binding treaty to improve the circular economy and stands ready to offer our expertise based on tangible experiences for example around design for recyclability, EPR, and reuse.

(FAO). During the last decades, the annual use of plastics in plant and animal production has reached an estimated 12.5 million tonnes. Plastics bring many benefits in food production, such as increased crop yield and efficient water use. However, they are often abandoned in the environment, leading to environmental and soil pollution. In line with these findings, the FAO Council recommended FAO to develop a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture (VCoC), to provide a policy framework in support of the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture and their alternatives.

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:

The Minister Albina Ruiz noted all progress and achievements obtained by Peru and the members of the Global Commitment. It is necessary to emphasize that the fight against plastic pollution still represents an enormous challenge, which is why we urgently need a legally binding international instrument that allows the predictability of investments at an international level with clear rules that can be applied in all countries, in addition to avoiding the flight of regulated plastic goods.

(Nordic Council) The current approach to tackling global plastic pollution is not working, and global rules are necessary to achieve the essential global adoption and fostering international collaboration. For the policies outlined in the Global Rules Scenario to be effective, it is essential to integrate supporting mechanisms addressing governance and institutional gaps. These enablers encompass areas such as financial assistance, capacity building, technology transfer, national action plans and reporting, compliance measures, and periodic assessment and monitoring.

(OECD) The policy scenarios point to several challenges that policymakers and stakeholders will need to overcome, including implementing effective policy instruments to curb production and demand, enhance waste management (especially in several developing countries), encourage improvements in recycling, promote research, and ensure ambitious international cooperation and adequate financing.

(WRAP) Global action on plastic pollution demands a dual strategy: while voluntary efforts are impactful, legally-binding global rules are key for widespread change. This approach emphasizes scaling up private
sector involvement, extending actions globally, and creating incentives for innovation and infrastructure investment. The "start and strengthen" approach aims for collective global commitments by 2024, focusing on upstream measures, recognizing that recycling alone is insufficient.

(ICBA) Establishing globally harmonized standards is key to ensuring plastics can be safely used, reused and recycled. This includes standards for reuse, recyclability, and for Extended Producer Responsibility. Design for recyclability involve regulations on the recycled content, and on the elimination of problematic materials. Standards for reuse include common definitions, metrics and measurement methodology, as well as incentives and support for shared infrastructure and logistics. Finally, EPR schemes can be supported by dedicated support for collection and recycling, incentivizing design, and incorporating entire value chain across categories.

(FAO). FAO supports Members to ensure that the new instrument considers benefits and trade-offs and sustainability of plastics use in food and agriculture sectors. Without prejudging negotiation outcomes, specificity of the use of plastics in terrestrial agriculture and fishery and aquaculture may require treating them in the framework of a sectoral approach. The development of a Voluntary Code of Conduct on sustainable use of plastics in agriculture together with existing FAO voluntary guidelines will complement provisions under the new instrument.

What are the key knowledge products and resource tools that are currently available to inform negotiators in this process (this is not intended as a bibliography, please provide a maximum 3-5 resources)? Please also comment on any data and knowledge gaps (if any).

Annex I: Agenda of the event with presenters and titles

INC-3 Side Event

“Promoting sustainable consumption and production of plastics”

Tuesday 14 November, 2023, 1:30-2:45pm
Room CR 9, INC-3 venue, Nairobi, Kenya

Introduction

Promoting sustainable consumption and production of plastics is of utmost importance in our efforts to combat plastic pollution and to effectively tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The existing linear models of "take-make-waste" in production and consumption are causing considerable harm to the environment and livelihoods, and a fundamental change in how we extract, produce, and consume natural resources is urgently needed.

A global and inclusive transition toward sustainable consumption and production of plastics can be achieved through incorporating the principles of circular economy, resource efficiency, and sustainable bioeconomy. However, achieving this transition necessitates collaboration among all stakeholders, strengthened global alliances, technological innovations, and the implementation of fair and equitable practices worldwide. These initiatives should take into account the distinct circumstances and priorities of each nation.

The side event aims to explore the enabling conditions, best practices, and challenges for effective plastic production and consumption aligned with circular economy goals, with a focus on the role of the new treaty. The event will feature insights from key stakeholders on the environmental, social and economic impacts of unsustainable production and consumption, and on how to drive the needed actions through policies, circular businesses, and financing. The speaker lineup intends to provide perspectives on achieving sustainable production and consumption within the framework of the new plastic pollution treaty, promoting discussions among negotiators.
**Agenda**

This in-person side event will be moderated by Winnie Lau, Project Director at The Pew Charitable Trusts, and will be held in English without interpretation.

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRESENTER</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
<td>Ms Albina Ruiz, Minister of Environment of Peru</td>
<td>10 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation 2: Towards Ending Plastic Pollution by 2040 – 15 Global Policy Interventions for Systems Change</td>
<td>Mr Yoni Shiran, Partner and Plastics Lead at Systemiq, presenting on behalf of the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate</td>
<td>7 min.</td>
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<td>Presentation 3: Highlights from the OECD report “Towards eliminating plastic pollution by 2040: A scenario analysis”</td>
<td>Mr Peter Börkey, Circular Economy Lead, OECD Environment Directorate</td>
<td>7 min.</td>
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<td>Presentation 5: Insights from the Global Plastics Pact Network – how the Global Treaty can scale up action</td>
<td>Ms Andrea Cino, International Partnerships Manager, Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP)</td>
<td>7 min.</td>
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<td>Presentation 4: Circular Economy Approaches for Packaging</td>
<td>Ms Carolyn Panzarella, Senior Manager, Global Environmental Policy, PepsiCo, on behalf International Council of Beverages Associations</td>
<td>7 min.</td>
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<td>Presentation 6: How to make use of plastics in agrifood systems sustainable?</td>
<td>Mr Lev Neretin, Environment Team Lead, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</td>
<td>7 min.</td>
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<td>Q&amp;A with the audience</td>
<td>Moderated by Ms Winnie Lau, Project Director, The Pew Charitable Trusts</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
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**Total** 75 min.
Annex II: Co-organizers (name, title, and organization - if different from speakers)

**Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate**
Eli Marie Hindahl, advisor, Department for Marine Management and Pollution Control

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
Lev Neretin, Environment Team Lead
Giulia Carcasci, Agricultural Plastics and Sustainability Specialist

**International Council of Beverages Associations**
Carolyn Panzarella, Senior Manager, Global Environmental Policy, PepsiCo
Santiago Lopez Jaramillo, Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Director

**Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)**
Andrea Cino, International Partnerships Manager
Peter Skelton, Strategic Partnerships Manager – International