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

INC-2 side event, Thursday June 1st, 13:30 – 14:45

Co-organizers / Presenters and titles

• Jacob Rognhaug, VP Public Affairs System Design at TOMRA (WBCSD)
• Komal Sinha, Director of Plastic and Sustainable Development Policy and Markets, Verra
• Kate Bailey, Chief Policy Officer, Association of Plastic Recyclers
• Moe Tuisiga Saitala Paulo, Environment Impact Assessment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of Tuvalu
• Maryam Al Mansoori, General Manager, Rebound Plastic Exchange
• Delphine Garin, Manager, plastics and packaging, WBCSD (moderator)

Number of participants and breakdown of types of participants: 46
Members: 7
Stakeholders: 39

Key messages resulting from the event:

• A holistic approach is needed for a sound management of plastic waste – high performing system that exist include deposit return systems; separate collections; mixed waste sorting; and are underpinned by Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and commitment to high recycling rates. Combining these systems opens opportunities for inclusive and effective circular resource systems, for developed and developing countries.

• Plastic credits are a mechanism that finances plastic waste collection and recycling activities globally. They strengthen waste management through infrastructure development and expansion, and they should complement upstream targets and actions (for instance: Verra’s Plastic Program). Existing and established frameworks, such as Verra’s Plastic Standard and its supporting methodologies, can be leveraged as guidance and criteria for monitoring, verifying, and financing plastic waste collection and recycling activities.

• Good product design is essential for effective recycling and reducing single use plastic waste. The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) has over 20 years of experience testing and evaluating plastics packaging through its Design guide® for Plastics Recyclability. APR works with consumer goods companies, packaging suppliers, trade associations, and other partners towards global harmonization for effective design standards and adoption strategies.

• Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) like Tuvalu face unique challenges to tackle plastic waste including land limitation for waste management, plastic waste littering or dumpsite rapidly filling up with plastic waste. Tuvalu has already implemented policies such as the Single use plastic regulation since 2019 and the PET plastic bottle initiative (deposit return scheme) but they struggle to find buyers for the shredded plastics.
• Trading platforms like Rebound Plastic Exchange (RPX) keep plastic waste in the economy and increase the global rate of plastic recycling. RPX creates a quality-assured platform to purchase and provide feedstock of recycled plastic to meet the growing demand from consumer goods companies.

Key policy considerations for the INC process resulting from the event, including the INC-2 discussions, and outstanding gaps to address in moving forward towards an international legally binding instrument:

• Under the treaty, all governments should be required to set national targets and standards for the collection, sorting, and recycling of recyclable plastics, starting with high-impact sectors and applications.

• The treaty should mandate the development of binding sector-specific product design requirements based on harmonized criteria (e.g. The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) Design Guide).

• Complementary financing schemes such as plastic credits can be considered to improve finance to certified plastic waste management projects in a transparent and verified manner.

• Tuvalu is asking for a safe global circular economy with a reduction of plastic waste pollution by 2040; reduction in harmful chemicals used in plastic production. The international legally binding instrument should help SIDS address plastic pollution while recognizing SIDS’ special circumstances.

• The international legally binding instrument should address the role of trade in creating a circular economy for plastics to keep plastic waste in the economy and stimulate recycling.

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).

• Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty – Policy recommendations for INC-2
• TOMRA’s recommendations for the UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution reg. Holistic Waste Management to increase recycling rates.
• Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) Design® Guide
• U.S. Plastics Pact’s Problematic and Unnecessary Materials List
• Challenges and efforts in tackling plastic waste in SIDS – example of Tuvalu: Tackling plastic waste in Tuvalu
• Verra’s Plastic Program: Facilitating Downstream Investment for a Global Plastic Treaty (Factsheet); Five Things You Should Know About Plastic Credits (Blog); Role of Plastic Credit Finance in the Global Plastic Treaty; Verra’s Plastic Waste Reduction Program (Plastic Program)
• Example of a trading platform for recycled plastics: Rebound Plastic Exchange (RPX)

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Annex I: Agenda of the event

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-13:35</td>
<td>Welcome and introduction</td>
<td>Delphine Garin, Manager, plastics and packaging, WBCSD</td>
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<td>13:35-14:30</td>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Q 1. Why is a holistic approach needed for a sound management of plastic waste?</td>
<td>Jacob Rognhaug, VP Public Affairs System Design at TOMRA (WBCSD)</td>
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<td>Komal Sinha, Director of Plastic and Sustainable Development Policy and Markets, Verra</td>
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<td>Q 2. What is good product design for effective recycling and reducing single use plastic waste?</td>
<td>Kate Bailey, Chief Policy Officer, Association of Plastic Recyclers</td>
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<td>Moe Tuisiga Saitala Paulo, Environment Impact Assessment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of Tuvalu</td>
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<td>Q 3. What are opportunities and challenges for the creation of a global market for plastic recycling?</td>
<td>Maryam Al Mansoori, General Manager, Rebound Plastic Exchange</td>
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<td>14:30-14:40</td>
<td>Questions and dialogue with participants</td>
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<td>14:40-14:45</td>
<td>Wrap up and closing remarks</td>
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