

Newsletter Issue# 14, July - September 2024

**United Nations Office for Sustainable Development
Quarterly Newsletter**



UNOSD

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) was established in 2011 as a technical arm of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

This issue will cover UNOSD's news, activities, and events from July to September 2024. The newsletter includes not only UNOSD news, but also other useful events, tools, and frameworks related to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

UNOSD Highlights



2024 International Mayors Forum

2 to 4 July 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia

UN DESA (Division for Sustainable Development - UNOSD and UNCRD), in collaboration with the Jakarta Special Region, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) Asia Pacific (ASPAC), and the Local 2030 Coalition co-organized the 2024 International Mayors Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia. The forum provided a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing on key aspects related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The UN was represented by Mr. Navid Hanif, the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development.

The 2024 Forum provided an opportunity for local, regional, and national governments to explore how they can contribute to the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025 on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs through localization of the SDGs.

In addition, the Forum highlighted the need for accelerating action at the local level on transformative entry points – or the Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs - that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs, as identified in the context of the 2023 SDG Summit to ensure transformative and accelerated progress. The Forum engaged local and regional governments to share experiences, lessons learned, and good practices, focusing on accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local and regional levels by encouraging local governments to present their Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) at the forum.

The forum concluded with the Jakarta Declaration in which the stakeholders committed to ***"fostering resilient, adaptive, and inclusive municipal environments amid a changing climate to foment prosperous local economies, ensuring that no one is left behind. Specifically, we pledge to identify and address key enablers or investment pathways for Six SDG Transitions - food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity (including artificial intelligence), education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution"***.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).



High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) Side Event on Partnerships for Addressing the Waste Crisis and Accelerating Circularity

12 July 2024, New York, United States

During the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York, United States, UNOSD organized a side event on "Partnerships for Addressing the Waste Crisis and Accelerating Circularity". During the side event, UNOSD launched a new policy support platform and publication designed to assist the UN Member States to bridge data, technical, capacity and finance gaps in advancing resource circularity in solid waste management (SWM), through a life-cycle approach. The side event was co-organized by UNOSD, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Republic of Madagascar, UN Statistics Division, UN DESA, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).



Central American Dialogue on Circular Economy

23 to 25 July 2024, San Salvador, El Salvador

With the support of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, UNOSD organized the first regional policy dialogue on circular economy in El Salvador to design better research and policy support to strengthen circular approaches and waste-free societies in participating countries through a multi-year policy support process. This first meeting serves as a consultation platform to tailor future research and policy support

according to current needs, challenges and accelerated solutions that can measurably improve solid waste management and resource circularity at national and local levels.

The dialogue aimed to generate evidence and data on current needs, challenges and barriers to promote resource circularity and a circular economy in solid waste management in Central America and examine policy support tools, proven solutions and methods to drive circular approaches and close data and information gaps on waste management and facilitate evidence-based policy formulation in the solid waste sector such as plastics and more while sharing opinions, comments, suggestions and recommendations on the design and operation of circular waste management systems from the national to the local level to facilitate coherent and impact-oriented policy support.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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2024 Sustainable Development Goals Youth Summer Camp

20 to 23 August 2024, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Since 2017, UNOSD has been organizing SDGs Youth Summer Camps annually to empower youth leaders to think critically and get engaged in implementing the SDGs. So far, UNOSD has trained nearly 300 youth. This year, the SDGs Youth Summer Camp focuses on the plastics pollution crisis which aims to build and enhance knowledge of selected youth on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, foster youth leadership skills with design-thinking, critical-thinking, and engagement through dialogues and exercises on successful plastic-related SDGs implementation, and provide opportunities for networking among youth.

Through the summer camp, the participants developed innovative ideas and solutions to contribute to the resolution of the global plastic pollution crisis with lectures and discussions facilitated by international experts in the field. The summer camp was co-organized by UNOSD and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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UNOSD Policy Advisory Service - Ghana Scoping Mission

26-29 August 2024, Accra, Ghana

Upon a formal request from the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) of Ghana, UNOSD conducted a scoping mission to provide policy advisory service on the end-of-life textiles field, recognising the urgent necessity to transform the second-hand textiles industry into a sustainable and environmentally responsible sector in Ghana.

The scoping mission aimed to identify priority areas of collaboration for the UNOSD policy advisory services within the field of waste management, specifically end-of-life textile, strengthen and build future partnership with the government of Ghana as well as key actors working in the field of waste management and resource circularity for end-of-life textiles (SDG-11 & 12), explore and assess the potential of Ghana to be a Regional Hub Country for the Policy Support System (PSS) on Waste Management and Resource Circularity and to host a future regional PSS training workshop, and gather and analyse background information on end-of-life textiles.

During the scoping mission, UNOSD met with Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR), Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ministry of Works and Housing, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), GIZ, OR Foundation, and the Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI) and other key stakeholders in the textile industry and waste management.



National Wetland Inventory Training Programme Module 1: Introduction to National Wetland Inventories

8-13 September 2024, Seocheon, Republic of Korea

UNOSD, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetland initiated a series of training programme to support the UN Member State and Contracting Parties to the Convention to develop National Wetland Inventories (NWI).

This multi-year programme will provide the UN Member States with trainings and technical support to develop, apply, and report their NWI, thus contributing to better capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda, specifically achievement of SDG Goal 6 and tracking SDG indicators 6.6.1, as well as support effective management of wetlands in their territories to fulfill their commitments under the Convention.

The training course on ‘Introduction to National Wetland Inventories’ was the first module of a three-module training course designed to support the UN Member States and the Convention’s Parties to gain knowledge and know-how on how to undertake a National Wetland Inventory within an appropriate policy, scientific and technical framework. Through the training course, the participants acquired knowledge, skills, and tools on identifying, assessing, defining, and applying national wetland inventory strategies and relevant data management plans.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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Mongolia Workshop for Advanced MODFLOW Training

24 to 26 September 2024, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

UNOSD, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and K-Water, successfully conducted intermediate to advanced-level groundwater modeling methodology training from 24–27 September 2024, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This training represents the culmination of a broader policy advisory and capacity-building initiative, which began in 2022, aimed at strengthening the technical expertise of Mongolia's River Basin Authorities (RBAs) in water resource management.

The participants, including groundwater officers from all 21 RBAs and representatives from the Water Agency and MECC, were introduced to advanced groundwater modeling techniques. These techniques are designed to empower local and national entities with the tools to analyze and manage groundwater data effectively, supporting the broader goal of achieving SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Upcoming UNOSD Programmes and Events (October - December 2024)



Groundwater Monitoring Training Programme for Timor-Leste and Ecuador

14 to 17 October 2024, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

UNOSD, UNESCO's International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (UNESCO i-WSSM), and the Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water) will work in collaboration with the National Planning Secretariat, Ecuador and the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation Regulation, Timor-Leste, to organize a training programme that develops the capacity of groundwater officers of government institutions.



2024 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF)

29-31 October 2024, Incheon, Republic of Korea

UNOSD will organize the 2024 SDTF which aims to support the participants in achieving a deeper understanding of the findings and recommendations outlined in the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), focusing on their application for the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17. The Forum will also foster discussions on challenges and solutions, sharing success stories and lessons learned and identify strategies to expedite necessary actions for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Side Events at the Conference of the Parties (COP29) at the UN Climate Change Conference

13 to 20 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

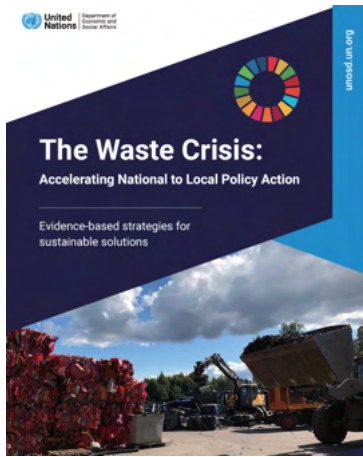
UNOSD will organize side events during the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan at the SDG and Korea Pavilion. The main objective of the COP29 is to agree on how to build on previous successes and pave a way for future ambition to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change with a fixed priority on delivering deep, rapid and sustained emission reductions to keep temperatures under control and stay below 1.5°C, while leaving no one behind.



The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution

25 November to 1 December 2024, Busan, Republic of Korea

UNOSD will organize side events during the 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution. The side events will discuss UNOSD's current and future work related to waste management including its launch of the policy support system (PSS) for facilitating integrated waste management system.



The Waste Crisis: Accelerating National to Local Policy Action - Evidence-based strategies for sustainable solutions

UNOSD published "The Waste Crisis: Accelerating National to Local Policy Action - Evidence-based strategies for sustainable solutions" which assesses the current and future state for solid waste management from national to local level. The report addresses the inter-linkages between global production and consumption systems, which has led to a waste crisis requiring renewed attention on sustainable waste management policy and practice.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

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Policy Brief 7: The renewable energy transition and the green hydrogen economy: Ensuring local SDG impacts

UN DESA, in collaboration with an inter-agency taskforce of UN entities and other relevant stakeholders, launched publication on "Accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda from local to global levels: The critical importance of SDG localization."

As a part of this publication, UNOSD, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Green Hydrogen Organisation, and UN-Habitat published a policy brief on "the Renewable Energy Transition and the Green Hydrogen Economy: Ensuring local SDG impacts." The policy brief discusses about the opportunities of green hydrogen in the energy transition, net-zero economy, and greenhouse gas emission reduction in midst of rising urban energy needs and energy access gaps in rural municipalities.

The full publication can be found [HERE](#).

[Read More](#)



Policy Brief 8: Localizing the SDGs - Waste management systems and the circular economy

As a part of the above-mentioned DESA publication, UNOSD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, and UNU published a policy brief on "Localizing the SDGs - Waste management systems and the circular economy." The policy brief focuses on waste management and transition to a circular economy.

It emphasizes how two development issues contribute to the achievement of SDG-11, 12 and 14. In addition, the policy brief highlights the role of local governments in implementing sustainable practices and nurturing innovative solutions for the circular economy, as they hold direct responsibility for local waste management.

The full publication can be found [HERE](#).

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UN E-Government Survey 2024

This thirteenth edition of the United Nations E-Government Survey, released in 2024, provides a comprehensive assessment of the digital government landscape across all 193 Member States. The 2024 Survey highlights a significant upward trend in the development of digital government worldwide, with increased investment in resilient infrastructure and cutting-edge technologies.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

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"Closing the loop on waste"

UNOSD published an article on the SDG Action about waste which highlights a significant challenge on transitioning from linear to circular models of production and consumption while responding a key question on "how can we transform deeply ingrained practices, attitudes, and incentives across both supply and demand chains to facilitate this shift?"

The full article can be found [HERE](#).

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