

## **Bridging Gaps, Empowering Change: Strengthening National Capacity, Evidence-based Policy and Finance to Implement a Global Plastics Treaty**

**Publication Launch – June 4 (11:00 am-12:30 pm)  
Tamna Hall B - Jeju ICC**

### **Concept Note and Agenda**

Plastic pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with far-reaching impacts on ecosystems, economies, and human health. Since the 1950s, plastic production has surged, creating a waste stream polluting land, seas, and air, with millions of tons entering the world's Oceans annually.<sup>1</sup>

The environmental and social costs of plastic waste are not equally distributed. Developing countries, particularly those with limited waste management infrastructure, often bear the brunt of plastic pollution. Low-income countries face particular challenges, with approximately 90% of waste discarded in unregulated dumps or burned openly, and limited access to finance to tackle this challenge.<sup>1</sup> Inadequate data underestimates this waste crisis and limits the reach and impact of policy for many low-income countries and the ability to address negative environmental externalities.<sup>2</sup>

Despite growing awareness, projections show plastic production could triple by 2050 without coordinated global action. The ongoing negotiations under the Global Plastics Treaty process—including the conclusion of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5)—present a historic opportunity to build an ambitious, comprehensive framework to tackle plastic pollution. However, success will depend heavily on strengthening national capacity, improving data and monitoring systems, mobilizing finance, and creating enabling policy frameworks to ensure effective means of implementation.

This event will launch a new publication with insights briefs from global experts and practitioners highlighting key data, gaps, and recommendations covering capacity-building needs, financial readiness, and policy frameworks—essential for treaty implementation. By addressing the hidden costs of plastic pollution, these briefs emphasize the importance of targeted development cooperation to empower countries to meet their treaty commitments and transition to sustainable practices.

Through collaborative dialogue, expert presentations, and a panel discussion, this side event aims to strengthen awareness and collaborative action for data, financing, and policies critical for eliminating plastic pollution and advancing a circular economy in partner countries.

#### **Co-Organizers**

- United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2019. See for further information: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/solid-waste-management>

<sup>2</sup> UN DESA 2024. The Waste Crisis: Accelerating National to Local Policy Action - Evidence-based strategies for sustainable solutions. Retrieved from: <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/waste-crisis-accelerating-national-local-policy-action-evidence-based-strategies>

## Agenda

Time	Speakers
Moderator: Annalis Wiramidjaja, Sustainable Development Specialist, GGGI	
11:00-11:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Chun Kyoo Park, Head, UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Sang Hyup Kim, Director General, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
11:10-11:55	<b>Launch of Publication:</b> <i><b>Bridging Gaps, Empowering Change – Tackling Plastic Pollution</b></i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Evidence-based policy solutions for action on plastic waste</i> Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Harnessing Satellite and Digital Technologies for Transparency and Accountability in Plastic Pollution Management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K. Dana Chadwick/ Raissa Estrella, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Financing solutions for achieving a circular plastics economy and addressing plastic pollution</i> Christian Kaufholz, Head of Community Engagement and Impact, Global Plastic Action Partnership, World Economic Forum</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>National capacity gaps for a circular plastics economy</i> Dukwoo Jun, Circular Economy COP Lead, GGGI</li> </ul>
11:55-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Shaping the Future of Plastics through Sustainable Design</i> Ji Hye Jo, Chief Research Fellow, Korea Environment Institute (KEI)</li> </ul>
	Q&A
	<b>Panel Discussion: Country cases and readiness for implementation of a Global Plastics Treaty</b>
11:55-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shardul Agrawala, Head of the Environment and Economy Integration Division at the OECD Environment Directorate</li> <li>Seung Chull Ok, Director, Department of Resource Circulation, Korea Environment Corporation</li> <li>Arnaud Debaugé, Policy Strategist, Green Recovery and Transition, UNDP</li> </ul>
	Q&A
	<b>Moderator's Wrap up and Closing Remarks</b> Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD

### Contacts

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