

TRADE HOUSE PAVILION SESSION DETAILS

Host: UNCTAD
Partners: UNCTAD in collaboration with Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and World Trade Organization Secretariat ¹
Type: Stakeholders' dialogue
Date and time: Friday 8 December 10:30-11:30 hrs.
<p>Contact: Ms. Tatiana Terekhova Programme Manager Officer, UNEP tatiana.terekhova@un.org</p> <p>David Vivas Chief of Section, Economic Affairs a.i. Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD david.vivaseugui@un.org</p>
Session Title (Maximum 10 words)
How sustainable trade and waste management can support climate mitigation through addressing plastic pollution?
Themes Type: (Please choose from the dropdown menu below)
1. Making trade policy work for people and the planet
Session Description (Max. 150 words with session's purpose, main topics connected to the relevant theme, and expected outcomes)
<p>Mitigating climate change is a COP28 priority. COP28 will undertake a Global Stocktake of progress made towards meeting the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>The growing production of plastic materials and plastic wastes generation contributes to climate change, as most plastics are from fossil origin. In 2019, plastics generated 1.8 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which is equivalent to 3.4% of global emissions.</p> <p>Developing economies face complex tasks of managing plastic pollution, not least its wastes. Illegal landfills and storage sites, open burning lead not only to adverse effects to the public health and the environment but also increased GHG emissions. Unsustainable imports, in some cases illegal, into developing economies put additional burden on the waste disposal system. Valuable materials can be recovered, however the rest of wastes, including its toxic substances, end up in the environment.</p> <p>There is an urgent need to collect and manage waste to prevent black carbon and methane emissions. On one hand, efforts in waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and energy recovery can accelerate GHG reduction. On the other hand, sustainable trade is a powerful mechanism to reshape the situation on the ground regarding the use of plastics. Novel designs of plastic products, non-plastic material substitutes and packageless distribution methods can have a lower environmental footprint, carbon impact and offer income generation, job creation and sustainable livelihoods.</p>

¹ It must be noted that these partner organizations have different membership that do not always coincide.

The event will provide an opportunity to highlight the key matters from the WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade. Finally, the event will showcase the importance of responsible trade in plastics, and the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, which would also tackle climate change, promote healthy oceans and protect biodiversity.

Speakers and Moderator (Maximum 5 as recommended)

Moderator and introduction: Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Panelists:

H.E. Mr. José Antonio Dávalos, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ecuador (tbc)

Mr. Aaron Chigona, Director General of Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe

Ms. Stéphanie Bouziges-Eschmann, Secretary General, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial

Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Dr. Vong Sok, Head of the Environment Division and Assistant Director of the Sustainable Development Director, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat

Ms. Anis Nassar, Lead, Circular Economy Innovation, World Economic Forum (WEF)

Comments by:

Mr. Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO Secretariat

Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, UNCTAD