

Towards an international treaty on plastics pollution

Reflections on selected issues

Headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and
Development (OECD), Paris, Room CC12 (hybrid)

Friday 26 May 2023, 14:30 – 18:10 (CEST)

In partnership with:



Background and objectives

This event will take place in the lead up to the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC-2) taking place the following week. It aims to inform the ongoing negotiations via a series of deep dives on costs and financing for eliminating plastic pollution, chemicals in plastics, and the role of trade.

The objectives of the meeting include to:

- Identify the macroeconomic consequences of ending plastic pollution and consider effective means to mobilise sufficient financial resources, in the form of both public and private funding, to support action to end plastic pollution.
- Familiarise participants with the challenges of managing chemicals in plastics and discuss possible approaches to address them, including through the plastics treaty.
- Advance participants' understanding of the scope and impact of plastic pollution in cross-border value chains, and of the challenges and opportunities to align trade policies with the objectives of the upcoming treaty.

It is hoped that the discussions will help to inform INC-2 negotiations in these selected areas.

Programme

14:30 – 14:40 Welcome and high-level opening

Opening remarks by **Kerri-Ann Jones**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD

14:40 – 16:00 1. Mobilising resources to end plastic pollution: the costs and financing

The extent and effects of plastic pollution differ significantly between countries, including their ability to tackle this issue in terms of financial resources and expertise. The scale of the challenges posed by plastic pollution also vary substantially across the world: adverse impacts can be exacerbated in developing countries, due to country features and vulnerabilities. Hence, well-thought-out approaches are required to adequately support developing countries in accelerating action to combat plastic pollution. In this session, experts will discuss estimates of the costs of eliminating plastic leakage, financing needs and how these vary in OECD and non-OECD countries. They will consider existing options to leverage public and private sector finance and discuss options for establishing financial collaboration and technical assistance mechanisms to effectively end plastic pollution.

Moderator: **Liz Nichols**, Circular Economy and Environmental Finance, Foreign Affairs Office, US Department of State

Scene-setting presentation (10')

- **Shardul Agrawala**, Head of the Environment and Economy Integration Division, OECD Environment Directorate, and **Jens Sedemund**, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate
Eliminating plastic leakage in developing countries: insights into the costs and the role of development cooperation

Panel interventions guided by moderator's questions (5' each):

- **Oliver Boachie**, Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana

- **Hugo Schally**, Adviser for international negotiations, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission
- **Eddy Mazuaansyah bin Mohd Ali Murad**, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia
- **Anjali Acharya**, Marine Plastics Lead, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank
- **Umesh Madhavan**, Research Director, The Circulate Initiative
- **Krassimira Peicheva**, Head of Group Environmental Management and Impact Reporting, Procredit Holding (UNEP Finance Initiative led Finance Leadership Group on Plastics)

Panel discussion guided by moderator and questions raised in the room (40’).

16:00 - 17:00 2. Chemicals in plastics: leveraging principles of sustainable chemistry, sustainable design and the need for robust chemicals management systems

Chemicals management is needed to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. This includes chemicals & polymers in plastics and ensuring robust chemicals management along value chains and across countries. This session will discuss concepts and activities on chemicals management and plastics that can inform the plastic treaty negotiations.

Moderator: **Jo Tyndall**, Director, OECD Environment Directorate

Presentations (10’ each):

- **Jacqueline Alvarez**, Chief Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment Programme
Chemicals in plastics, an overview
- **Kei Ohno**, Senior Coordination Officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
Global governance of plastics and associated chemicals
- **Eeva Leinala**, Principal Administrator, Chemical Risk Management, and **Peter Börkey**, Circular Economy Lead, OECD Environment Directorate
Sustainable chemistry & design and other chemical management tools

Oral remarks by discussants (5’ each):

- **Vito Buonsante**, Technical and Policy Advisor, International Pollutants Elimination Network
- **Piet Vermeersch**, Sustainability Director, Plastics Europe

Panel discussion guided by moderator and questions raised in the room (20’).

17:00 – 18:00 3. Managing plastic pollution in cross-border value chains

This session will discuss the interlinkages between trade policies and the goal of ending plastic pollution. It will aim to advance participants’ understanding of the scope and impact of plastic pollution in cross-border value chains. Participants will identify challenges and opportunities to align with the objectives of the upcoming treaty all along the value chain, including at the level of plastic waste management, as well as classification issues. Participants will also examine the role of aligning trade and environmental policies to promote sustainable and circular practices.

Moderator: **Julia Nielson**, Deputy Director, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate

Presentation (10’):

- **Daniel Ramos**, Legal Officer, Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organisation
The role of trade in the negotiations

Panel interventions guided by moderator’s questions (3-5’ each):

- **Rob Dellink**, Senior Economist, OECD Environment Directorate



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

- **Carolyn Deere Birkbeck**, Director, Forum on Trade, Environment, & the SDGs (TESS)
- **Soumyajit Kar**, Specialist, Sustainable Trade and Resource Circularity, World Economic Forum
- **Maria Daniela Garcia Freire**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the WTO

Panel discussion guided by moderator and questions raised in the room (30’).

18:00 – 18:10 Closing session

Closing remarks by **Jo Tyndall**, Director, OECD Environment Directorate