

Global Position on Resources and Waste

Recognising different starting point realities and local contexts, and with the overarching goal of enabling sustainable development that minimizes health impacts and environmental harms, improves social value, and fosters economic development, we call on national and sub-national governments to commit, with dated and quantified targets, to

Extending municipal solid waste collection to everyone and end uncontrolled dumping and burning; and progressively implementing waste recovery and treatment systems in accordance with Environmentally Sound Management (ESM)^a.

Implementing the actions of circular economy^b, and taking steps to transition towards sustainable models of production, consumption and usage.

Improving governance systems, including

THE 4 FOLLOWING ENABLERS

1

REGULATION, PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING

- **Assign** clear roles and responsibilities to implement ESM of waste including waste prevention strategies, and the products' end-of-life responsibility.
- **Establish** locally tailored Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM)^c, acknowledging the specificities of local networks such as roads, energy, or water, as well as the industrial opportunities for recovered materials and energy.
- **Establish** capacity building, training, cooperation.
- **[Recognise** that an improved living environment for all enables sustainable resources management.]

2

INCLUSION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- **Identify** most vulnerable populations and **ensure** their fair and equal access to basic waste management services.
- **Ensure** occupational safety and decent jobs for workers involved in resources and waste management, in particular workers of the informal sector, for a just transition^d.
- **Include** all stakeholders in the planning and implementation of ESM of waste and circularity.
- **Apply** the non-discrimination principle, and in particular promote gender equality and children's rights.

^aEnvironmentally Sound Management (ESM) of waste is defined in article 2(8) of the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal: "Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or other wastes" means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes". The Convention has been ratified by 191 countries.

^bIn particular, as presented non-exhaustively in ISO 59004:2024, these actions include: refuse, rethink, source, reduce, repair, re-use, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose, cascade, recycle, recover energy, and re-mine. The implementation strategies of these actions are to be adapted by product type.

3

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

- **Establish** dedicated, and transparent financing to support investments, as well as operational costs including those of the effective regulatory enforcement of waste and resources management policies.
- **Support** establishing adequate fiscal, accounting and legal frameworks to transition towards economic models enabling sustainable production, consumption and usage.
- **Leverage** the polluter pays principle, as well as the end-of-life responsibility into financing mechanisms.
- **Promote** the positive impacts of waste management initiatives on health, climate, biodiversity, water, and soil in order to leverage impact investment mechanisms (e.g.: carbon credits).

4

MONITORING, REPORTING, VERIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

- **Define** monitoring criteria that are regularly measurable, evidence-based and actionable.
- **Establish** transparent, verifiable, coherent and swift reporting on all resources and waste management practices, including traceability on destinations and modalities, whether controlled or not and acknowledging the progression towards ESM-compliance.
- **Establish** adapted traceability on products, as well as transparency on their composition and compliance with standards supporting circular activities.



INDICATORS TO GUIDE ACTION

(quantified targets to define depending on each local context)

- Household and similar waste **collection rate**
- **Quantity and nature** of waste generated
- **Rate** of household and similar waste **managed by system level**:
 - 1 Unsafe: open dumps, unsanitary landfills and/or open burning;
 - 2 Safe final sinks: engineered landfills with gas capture and/or incineration with flue gas treatment;
 - 3 Circular: material and energy recovery from waste
- **Circular product management systems** – to be adapted by sector
 - Reduce and refuse (e.g. food loss and food waste indicators (SDG 12.3.1))
 - Reuse and repair (e.g. product reparability index)
 - Refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose/upcycle (e.g. market release rate)
 - Material consumption (SDG 8.4.2 and 12.2.2) per strategic materials
 - National recycling rate, tonnes of recycled materials (SDG 12.5.1) per strategic materials



© Loren Biser (Pexels)

^c“An integrated and sustainable waste management (ISWM) system must address all technical (infrastructure) and governance aspects to allow a well-functioning system that works sustainably over the long term” Wilson, D. C. et al (2015). *Global Waste Management Outlook 2015* [online]. UNEP, p. 30 [Last accessed 30 April 2026]. Available at: www.unep.org/ietc/resources/publication/global-waste-management-outlook-2015

^dAs defined by the International Labor Organisation, “a just transition promotes environmentally sustainable economies in a way that is inclusive, by creating decent work opportunities, reducing inequality and by leaving no one behind”. ILO (2023) *Résolution concernant une transition juste vers des économies et des sociétés écologiquement durables pour tous. IL.C.111/Resolution V* [online]. Organisation Internationale du Travail, p.3 [Last accessed 30 April 2026].