

WUF 12 – Cairo

“It all starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities”

Networking Event - 07.11.24 -15h00-16h30, Multipurpose room #18

Reframing Waste Management Local and Global Financing for all. Seizing a Historic Opportunity

1. Outline

Over a decade ago, the World Bank forecasted that the volume of waste generated by cities across the globe would be doubling by 2025, reaching over 2,2 billion tons, with an even faster growth in lower-income countries. Unfortunately, this proved to be right.

In 2018, the World Habitat Day focused on ‘municipal solid waste management’ and in 2019, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) quoted the ‘growing amount of waste’ as one of the four main global trends threatening the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, a group of experts of the U20, the group of cities of the G20, alerted on the urgency to review deeply waste governance and financing models. In 2023, the U20 India proposed to reposition waste issues at the crossroads of ‘accelerating climate finance’ and ‘encouraging environmentally responsible behavior.’

Emerging and middle- and lower-income countries cannot enjoy the lengthy time it took for cities in the developed world to develop comprehensive waste management systems for all. Yet continuous mismanagement of solid waste will further pollute land, water, and air, locally and globally, with negative socio- economic side-effects, on health, productivity, carbon emissions, biodiversity etc.

As the increasing production of waste is overwhelming processing capacities, and more than 35% of the world’s urban population have no access to municipal waste management, the COP28 has acknowledged the linkage between climate issues and pollution and initiated a new cycle of negotiations regarding climate finance, including the creation of the ‘Loss and Damage Fund for Developing Countries.’ The world looks for a new generation of growth models and changes in economic production systems. This includes multiple attempts to redefine and reform GDP in the past two decades and recently, calls to reform the global financial architecture and push for a more proactive climate and environmental role of IFIs, starting with MDBs. In 2023, the G20 India adopted unanimously a ‘green development pact for a sustainable future’ aiming at putting the 2030 Agenda back on track by ‘designing a circular economy world’, ‘implementing clean, sustainable, just, affordable and inclusive energy transitions’ and ‘delivering on climate and sustainable finance.’

There is a historic opportunity to address the issue of waste management and waste financing AT SCALE. It starts by positioning the issue of waste, in particular municipal solid waste high within the upcoming global talks about climate finance in the climate COPs, the review of the Addis Ababa action plan for development, the safeguarding of the 2030 Agenda. Reframing the local and global financing of municipal waste management for all is even more critical that despite the worldwide development of circular economy, waste management remains under-financed in many middle- and lower-income countries, where solutions stemming from the informal economy and solutions from the industry just don’t add up.

2- Objectives

The objectives of the networking event are to:

- 1) build a strong and durable momentum AT SCALE with the current overflow of waste
- 2) systematize the approach of municipal waste management financing so that it becomes an integrated part of climate and development finance global talks
- 3) build and maximize existing initiatives and reconciling circular economy with affordable waste management for all.
- 4) contributing to re-igniting the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through concrete actions, by and with the people.

The event will explore multiple dimensions of waste management financing from the collection and processing of non-recyclable household waste -that is about 50-80% of all waste globally, to the structured collection and processing of recyclable materials and how to maximize the benefits of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). It will discuss the issues of land management, especially in pricy metropolitan areas, and the issues of waste and financing of the energy transition. Contrary to prevailing green approaches to waste management and financing, waste is far from being a net resource. It largely remains a financial burden for (local) governments which cannot pay for itself and needs to be integrated within green taxonomies which are under development across the globe, and corresponding local and national fiscal policies.

3- Panelists*

Speakers

- **Caroline CHAL**, Public Affairs, Sycotom, Greater Paris Public authority for waste management, co-founder of French Solid Waste Partnership (FSWP)
- **Alexandra MONTEIRO**, AFD, technical lead on waste management
- **Muhammad al ARRABI**, Head of strategic foresight program, Future for Advanced Research and Studies (FARAS), Abu Dhabi
- **Anar VALIYEV**, Associate Professor, School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University, Azerbaijan
- **Paramitta DATTA DEY**, Head, resources and Water and program lead, National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA), India*
- **Ashok GANAPATHY IYER**, Associate Professor, School of Engineering and Architecture, Amity University, Dubai*

Respondents

- **Alexei KOZMIN**, co-founder, Siberian Urban Lab, Italy / **Kirill ILLNITSKI**, Chief Futurologist, Rêve Institute, Trento, Italy

Session chair

- **Nicolas J.A. BUCHOUD**, senior advisor to the dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo – session chair

(*subject to final adjustments and confirmations)

4- Reference to the SDG's

SDG 1, Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation / **Target 9.4** => By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource- use efficiency

SDG 2, Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable / **Target 11.6** => By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air

SDG 3, Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns / **Target 12.5** => By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

5- Expected impact

The World Urban Forum 12 'Local actions for sustainable cities and communities' being held in Cairo, one of Africa's and even the world's largest city and metropolitan area and one which has been acutely facing the issue of waste management during the past decades, can trigger a durable regional and global awareness about new waste municipal management financing solutions.

Therefore, we aim at initiating what we devise as the 'Cairo Process' and develop it during the next 24 months, to enlarge and strengthen a global consensus amid cities, international financial institutions and development banks around the priority of effective municipal waste management financing. The event will be the cornerstone of the initiation of the 'Cairo Process', possibly towards a 'One Waste Summit' by 2026.

All participating organizations to the Dialogue are committed to push for the effective achievement of the SDGs. They are aware of the challenges of implementing concrete institutional, administrative, and financial reforms locally. They are leading a series of local, metropolitan and more global agenda reforms and are used to interact with each other's and with a broad range of public, private, community and industry stakeholders. The event is designed as a catalyst for change, to formulate and amplify policy recommendations, both locally and globally, and especially in lower-income contexts.

We aim at working at the crossroads of both Global North and Global South perspectives, which we believe is well reflected by the featured speakers.

We aim at using the WUF as a critical amplifier ahead of the and UNFCCC COP29 (Baku, Azerbaijan), CBD COP16 (Cali, Columbia) and other major fora, starting with the G20 (U20).

We commit to support the voice of local governments, who are on the frontline of waste management implementation, so they can take a stronger part within international and national policies that will impact waste management financing, anticipating on the upcoming IPCC report and cities and climate change.

We are committed to making this session as inclusive as possible: We will make sure to allow at least 25% of the allocated time for Q&A and effective interaction with the audience.

Should a large online audience follows the event, an additional moderator will make sure to include their questions and remarks.

We ensure gender and age diversity and focus on highlighting the expertise and needs from the Global South.

6- Main language

English