

# Waste Wise Cities & African Clean Cities Platform **NEWSLETTER**

# #19

February 2024



## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

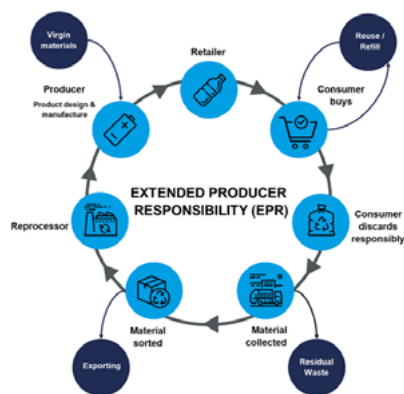
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# Challenges and Opportunities of implementing Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that places the responsibility for the end-of-life management of a product on the producer rather than the consumer or local government in accordance with the "Polluter Pays Principle". The concept emerged by Thomas Lindhqvist in a report to the Swedish Ministry of Environment in 1990<sup>1</sup> as a response to the escalating environmental challenges posed by growing waste streams and the need for a more sustainable and circular economy.

As shown in Figure 1<sup>2</sup>, at its core, EPR is a strategy that encourages manufacturers, brand owners, and importers to take responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products, including disposal and recycling. Traditionally, the end-of-life burden fell on consumers and municipalities, leading to inefficient waste management practices and environmental degradation. EPR shifts this burden upstream to those who have control over a product's design, production, and distribution.



**Figure 1**  
Product Lifecycle with Integrated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)<sup>2</sup>

## ► Challenges

### 1. Policy Framework :

One of the primary challenges in implementing EPR is the establishment of robust policy frameworks. Governments need to create clear regulations that define the roles and responsibilities of producers, set recycling targets, and establish financial mechanisms to support the system.

### 2. Industrial Cooperation :

EPR requires close collaboration between industries, producers, and waste management entities. Convincing all stakeholders to actively participate and invest in sustainable practices can be challenging, particularly in industries where profit margins are slim.

### 3. Standardization :

Achieving consistency in EPR regulations across different regions and industries is crucial for its effectiveness. Lack of standardization can lead to confusion, compliance issues, and a fragmented approach to managing product end-of-life.

## 2. Innovation :

The implementation of EPR can drive innovation in product design and manufacturing processes. Producers are incentivized to explore sustainable materials, energy-efficient production methods, and circular economy models.

## 3. Job Creation :

The establishment and operation of recycling and recovery systems under EPR create jobs in waste management, recycling facilities, and related industries. This not only supports economic growth but also contributes to a more sustainable workforce.

EPR represents a significant step toward creating a more sustainable and circular economy. By shifting the burden of waste management to those who have the most control over a product's life cycle, EPR incentivizes producers to adopt eco-friendly practices, driving innovation and minimizing environmental impact. However, successful implementation requires robust policy frameworks, industry cooperation, and standardization across regions and industries. The challenges are significant, but the opportunities for resource efficiency, innovation, and job creation make EPR a crucial strategy for shaping a more sustainable future. As governments, industries, and consumers work together, the potential benefits of EPR can be realized, leading to a more responsible and environmentally conscious approach to product life cycles.

## ► Opportunities

### 1. Resource Efficiency :

EPR encourages producers to design products with a focus on recyclability, reusability, and reduced environmental impact. This not only reduces the overall environmental footprint but also promotes resource efficiency.

<sup>1</sup> Lindhqvist, Thomas, & Lidgren, Karl. (1990). Modeller för förlängt producentansvar [Models for Extended Producer Responsibility]. In Ministry of the Environment, Från vaggan till graven - sex studier av varors miljöpåverkan [From the Cradle to the Grave - six studies of the environmental impact of products] (7-44). Stockholm: Ministry of the Environment. (Ds 1991:9).

<sup>2</sup> Food and Drink Federation (no date) Extended Producer Responsibility, <https://www.fdf.org.uk/dfd/what-we-do/environmental-sustainability/plastics-packaging/extended-producer-responsibility/>





## Case Studies

### Implementing EPR for the packaging sector through Technology:

#### A case Study of WasteBazaar App from Nigeria

This article was contributed by Agharese Onaghise, Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA), Nigeria.

### The Producer Responsibility

#### Organisation (PRO):

The Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA) was established in 2018 as the Producer Responsibility Organisation for the packaging sector in Nigeria focused on enabling the collection and recovery of postconsumer packaging material in the food, beverage, and tobacco sector. In the last five years, the membership base has increased from the four (4) founding members to thirty-three (33) members with different packaging waste streams in the Food, Beverage, and Tobacco sector in Nigeria. The FBRA has a vision to be the leading Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programme and industry compliance model in Nigeria. The mission is to be a catalyst for enabling the recycling of post-consumer wastes into valuable materials and build a self-sustaining recycling economy in Nigeria that will promote employment, wealth creation and innovation. The Alliance achieves this through the enabling and facilitation of the collection and recovery of postconsumer packaging waste material through collaboration with waste value chain players.

#### Project Concept:

The waste management sector is informal by nature and one of the critical challenges faced in Nigeria is the collection of waste material from source of generation, the coordination involved in taking it to a facility for further processing, and the unavailability of harmonised data. The covid-19 period further heightened the need to provide recycling services closer to communities for ease of recycling with motivation through incentives that will be a driver for scale up of recycling activities. In January 2021, the WasteBazaar project

was initiated as a pilot project based on this need for a platform that can provide traceability of material, monitoring of the waste from generation to recycling and collate data based on activities in the ecosystem. The funding mechanism involved subsidizing collection support by utilizing a percentage of the collection cost, sourced from Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees contributed by member organizations affiliated with FBRA.

#### The WasteBazaar Application:

WasteBazaar is a cleantech application to enhance the tracking and monitoring of Plastic Waste Collection and Recovery based on real-time data that is accessible on the mobile telephone.

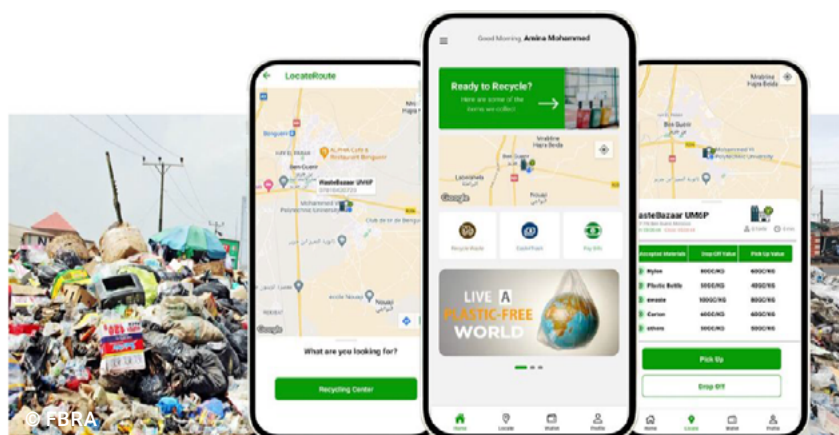
#### Achievements:

Since the initiation of the project, FBRA has supported the collection of more than 14,200 Metric Tonnes of plastic materials, with a notable increase in 2023, recovering over 9,000 Metric Tonnes. This upsurge resulted from the project's expansion to support the collection volumes across seven (7) states in Nigeria, including Abuja, Lagos, Yobe, Adamawa, Kano, Port Harcourt, and Kano, with a specific emphasis on plastics, particularly PET material.

Some of the successes achieved on this project include: the clean-up of material that would have caused plastic pollution but are recovered for valuable use as a raw material, empowerment of waste pickers especially women and youths to contribute to the waste value chain, maintenance of proper recordkeeping culture, provision of recycling infrastructure closer to communities and provision of accessible recycling service through real-time data for the activities in the ecosystem. The financial support provided by the Alliance over the last two (2) years have helped businesses to scale up their operations, serve as a source of cash flow for purchase of material, train their staff, expand their facilities, buy additional machineries, increase the wages of their workers especially women sorters and serve as a platform for additional support from other financial supports such as donor funds.

#### Project Potential:

This project has a potential for scaling up and providing coverage across the thirty-six states of the country. However, that would require adequate funding, increased resources to provide due diligence and robustness of the application to accommodate more



locations and more waste streams across the waste value chain. The Application has proved to provide reliable data over the period through compliance monitoring and periodic due diligence with ability to adjust to the requirements of the Client. Due to the nature of the application, this project can be scaled up to other African countries and, therefore, can be applied on a regional scale to track plastics collection and recovery for recycling activities. This has



demonstrated that Extended Producer Responsibility can be implemented within the waste value chain in Nigeria.

## Development of legislation for EPR: a case study from Kenya

This article was contributed by Kentaro Hotta (JICA), Ryota Okiguchi (JICA), and Priyen Tanna (DRIFT), Kenya.

### 1) Development of legislation

Globally, countries have started to adopt a proven model of EPRs to manage the waste in our ecosystems. Over 30 years of experience with these models clearly shows a correlation between the implementation of these structures and high recycling rates. EPRs have already been adopted in some countries in Africa, and other countries, including Kenya, are in the process of developing legislation to adopt EPRs.

The Kenyan government enacted the Sustainable Waste Management Act in July 2022. It aims to shift linear to circular model waste management. To realize this objective, draft EPR Regulations have been prepared and procedures are underway for their enactment into law. Kenya's EPR covers several waste streams such as plastics, packaging and e-waste etc. The table below compares Kenya's situation with examples of EPRs already in place in other African countries.

### 2) Sensitization program

JICA is planning to launch the technical cooperation project entitled "The project for promoting circular model of environmentally sound solid waste management in urban areas" in March 2024. The main objective of the project is to develop the capacity to implement material recovery and waste management as defined in Sustainable Management Act and EPR regulation. The main partners are the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry (MoECCF), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and County Governments (Nairobi, Kiambu and Mombasa). The project will support the development of MRF standards, implementation of pilot activities to collect valuable materials in collaboration with private recyclers and informal sector, transforming open dump sites to sanitary landfills.

As a pre-launch event of the project, JICA held a sensitization workshop on the EPR concept on 27th November 2023 in Nairobi.

This workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the ideas on how to operationalize the EPR concept in Kenya and share the experiences from ongoing projects implemented by various stakeholders. JICA were pleased to welcome over 70 participants from the government, NGOs, private sector and development partners for active discussions. JICA also conducted an EPR simulation game in which the participants were able to learn the EPR system through role-playing. To actualize the EPR concept in Kenya, it is essential to harmonize with various players, and JICA will continue to emphasize dialogue with relevant stakeholders towards to a circular society.



Country	Status	Target waste stream	Comment
<b>Kenya</b>	In the process	Package, e-waste, end of life vehicle etc.	Kenya has shown progress with EPR, particularly in the plastic sector. The country has taken significant steps to reduce plastic waste, including a ban on single-use plastics in protected natural areas and the development of legislation for EPR.
<b>Madagascar</b>	Adopted	E-waste	EPR Policy in place for E-waste
<b>Mauritius</b>	Adopted	Plastics and packaging	Being an island nation, Mauritius has a strong focus on waste management, especially marine litter.
<b>South Africa</b>	Adopted	Paper and packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, and lighting	South Africa has been relatively proactive in implementing EPR. The country has EPR regulations in place for various waste streams, including paper and packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, and lighting. The government is working with producers to ensure that they take more responsibility for the end-of-life impact of their products.

## Get to know our Affiliates

In this section, we give our Waste Wise Cities Affiliates the possibility to introduce themselves.

### Dajopen Waste Management Solutions



The Dajopen Waste Management Solutions (DWMS) tackles the Socioeconomic and Environmental conditions of vulnerable communities through a community-based waste management strategy. The strategy is implemented through the collection of urban biodegradable and inert waste materials to produce recycled items and the training of other actors regarding alternative livelihood opportunities, waste management, and organic farming.

The DWMS effectively tackled the excessive accumulation of nitrates and phosphates in the aquatic ecosystem, the detection of pesticide residues in diverse food items linked to mammalian



toxicity and the surge in pest resistance to chemical pesticides. In doing so, it has contributed to mitigating the climate change impact arising from improper waste disposal.

Also, the DWMS is improving the lives of many smallholder farmers by employing a number of environmental, social, and economic strategies to address poverty and food security. The compost product serves to enhance the soil by replenishing it with organic matter which improves the overall soil conditions: developing and

maintaining structure, improving physical properties, decreasing susceptibility to erosion and encouraging microbial activity.

These actions have prevented uncollected solid waste from piling up along roads, in fields, forests, and other natural areas, causing unpleasant odours and an unattractive appearance, and discouraging tourism and the establishment and maintenance of businesses in the affected areas.



## Cadre des Gestionnaires des Déchets d'Afrique (CAGEDEA)



The Cadre des Gestionnaires des Déchets d'Afrique (CAGEDEA) was founded in 2022 by waste professionals from 34 African countries. The headquarters of this pan-African organisation is located in Conakry (Republic of Guinea), and its president, Mr. Sory CAMARA, is a young expert and environmental activist from the Republic of Guinea.

CAGEDEA aims to promote sustainable and integrated waste management in Africa by supporting initiatives in the sanitation sector and promoting the financing and viability of green projects.

Confronted with marine pollution and unhygienic conditions in the countries situated within the Niger River basin, over 50 towns grapple with challenges



related to the management of solid waste, wastewater, and faecal sludge. Additionally, they face disasters resulting in famine and conflicts that contribute to climate migrations in Africa.

CAGEDEA is actively involved in the sub-regional initiative addressing waste management and disaster risk reduction in the River Niger Basin. Encompassing 30 towns situated along the River Niger and its tributaries, including Siguiri, Kouroussa, Faranah, and Kankan, this programme aims to address environmental challenges in the region. This programme aims to improve the living

environment of the communities through waste management to strengthen the resilience and empowerment of riverside communities and to reduce the disaster risks in the towns located along the banks of the River Niger.

The activities consist of supporting the communities in waste management by informing, raising awareness, educating local people on the need for and practices of environmental protection, creating income-generating activities through waste recycling and recovery, creating green jobs and promoting the empowerment of local people.

## Waste Wise Cities Affiliates

Do you want to

- **Support Waste Wise Cities and improve waste management in cities around the world?**
- **Be an official partner of Waste Wise Cities and UN-Habitat?**
- **Show up on the Waste Wise Cities website?**
- **Implement the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)?**
- **Read about your activities in this newsletter?**
- **Do much more?**

Then [contact us](#) and become a Waste Wise Cities Affiliate!  
Together we can become Waste Wise!

## Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)

Have you forgotten what the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) is? No need to worry, you can access all the relevant information on our [website](#).

[Here](#) you can explore which cities have already submitted data collected with the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT). As indicated in the article below, additional data is continuously becoming available.

### WaCT application with ACCP in 2023

In 2023, as part of the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP), we selected three cities – Jigjiga (Ethiopia), Zomba (Malawi), and Kitwe (Zambia) - to apply the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT). These cities have either already organized or are planning to conduct an inception workshop, including technical training, with support from the waste management team at UN-Habitat.



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The selection was done based on the applications submitted in 2022 through the call for Expressions of Interest to apply DIY-WaCT. The ACCP Secretariat received more than 40 applications across Africa and found many qualified candidate cities. Even though the Secretariat implemented WaCT with the initial three cities selected in 2022, there

are still other cities with potential that are worth considering. Therefore, after careful consideration with the ACCP Steering Committee, additional three cities were selected for this year.

The activities started in November 2023 under the coordination with UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa and relevant country offices/programmes. Each story including results and lessons learnt will be shared in the next newsletter.

### WaCT application in Syria

From November to December 2023, WaCT application was done in Arbin City in rural Damascus, Syria. Arbin is one of the most affected areas by the conflict, and currently, proper municipal solid waste management is one of the major challenges of the city.



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"It was useful to be part in the training conducted by the UN-Habitat to learn how to be familiar with solid waste management. We learnt that we can convert the waste into fertilizer and recycled materials for a clean better sustainable environment" said Samar Shahoud, a volunteer from the local community participated in the WaCT training.

Many female volunteers participated in the waste sampling activity, and the mayor visited the site where the waste composition was carried out.

The results of WaCT and Waste Flow Diagram are under validation and will be published on the data portal in a few months.

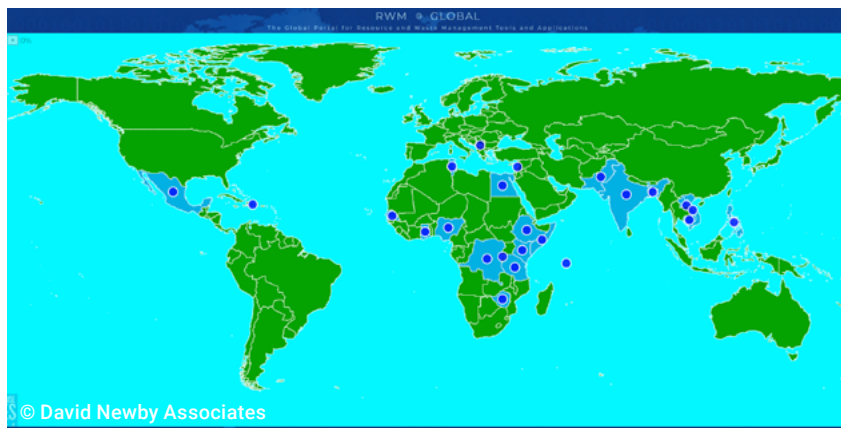


## New call for EoI to apply DIY-WaCT in 2024

The ACCP Secretariat will open [a new call for EoIs for WaCT applications this year](#). For up-to-date information, please check the e-mailing list from us!

To learn more about WaCT again and learn in the online course, please see the information below.

- ▶ [Waste Wise Cities Tool \(WaCT\)](#)
- ▶ [Introductory video](#)
- ▶ **Online course:**  
[From Data to Tangible Impact: Achieving Waste SDGs by 2030](#)
- ▶ [WaCT Data Portal](#)



If your city is planning to apply WaCT, kindly let us know! We are ready to support you remotely and technically.



## Waste Wise Cities & African Clean Cities Platform Updates

### World Cleanup Day 2023

This year's [World Cleanup Day](#) was successfully organised by Let's Do It World NGO (LDIW) on 16th September 2023. World Cleanup Day 2023 united 19.1 million participants, consisting of volunteers, governments, and organisations from a new record of 198 countries and territories including 90% of UN member states to tackle the global mismanaged waste crisis and to help create a new, more sustainable world.

On 8th September 2023 prior to World Cleanup Day, a cleanup event was co-organised by Lilongwe City Council and the JICA Malawi office with an initiative taken by Satsuki Goto, who had been a JICA Volunteer and belongs to Lilongwe City Council from September 2021.



In November 2020, due to the low public awareness on waste issues, National Cleanup Day was launched by State President, His Excellency Dr. Chakwera requiring citizens to engage in cleanup

activities, such as street sweeping, on the second Friday of every month.

However, due to the financial constraints faced by other African cities, the Council



faced a lack of tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) for cleanup activities, which exposed people to risks of getting injured or infected during cleanup activities. To deal with the issue, JICA supported the Council by providing the tools and PPE in November 2022, resulting in improving the work environment for day-to-day cleanup activities to be more effective and safer.



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The cleanup activity is conducted with over 20 CBOs gathering at different locations in Nairobi every month. The event, along with World Cleanup Day, was attended by over 300 participants from all over Nairobi, and they were engaged in clearing a large amount of waste from the roadside drains.



© Satsuki Goto

The cleanup event was held on with National Cleanup Day in Malawi and World Cleanup Day and attended by approximately 40 people including the Mayor of Lilongwe City, which made a huge impact on raising public awareness around waste issues in Lilongwe City.

On 16th September, another community cleanup event was organised by Community Based Organisations (CBOs) with a support of Nairobi City County in Korogocho, a part of Nairobi in Kenya.

On 20th September, a side event “World Cleanup Day: A Global Movement for Waste-Smart Cities”, was held on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum and the 78th session of the UN General Assembly which took place on 5th – 19th September in New York. The event was co-organised by Let’s Do It World NGO, the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the UN and UN-Habitat. The event was opened by H.E. Alar KARIS, President of the Republic of Estonia, with his remarks reiterating his support for the Let’s Do It World movement and the campaign to make World Cleanup Day a UN day.

During the event, World Cleanup Day was introduced as a tool to accelerate the achievement of ‘Sustainable Development Goal 11’, by promoting the importance of waste management and behaviour change to prevent littering. The event also discussed how World Cleanup Day supports UN-Habitat’s Waste Wise Cities program through mass awareness, rising to 1,000 cities by 2030.



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Moreover, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, emphasized the importance of technical assistance, capacity building, awareness-raising, and advocacy for policy change and stakeholders’ engagement which UN Habitat can contribute to for World Cleanup Day to create waste wise cities and promote sustainable waste management practices, as showcased through its Waste Wise Cities and African Clean Cities Platform initiatives.

## ACCP Match-Making Workshop with the ACCP Associate Members between October and December 2023

The ACCP organised three Match-Making Workshops in 2023, inviting the WaCT-applied cities in Africa, the ACCP Associate Members and the ACCP Partners on 12th October, 20th November, and 13th December to co-develop tangible and bankable projects for sustainable solid waste management in the city through connecting the cities with potential donors.

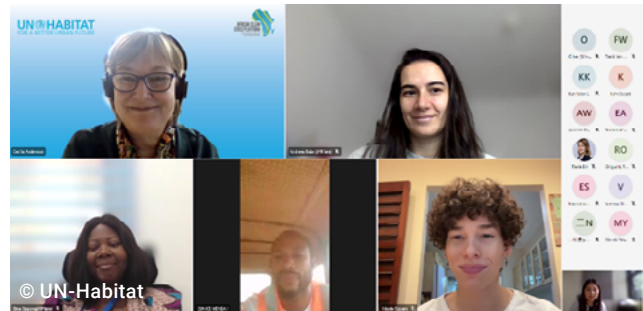
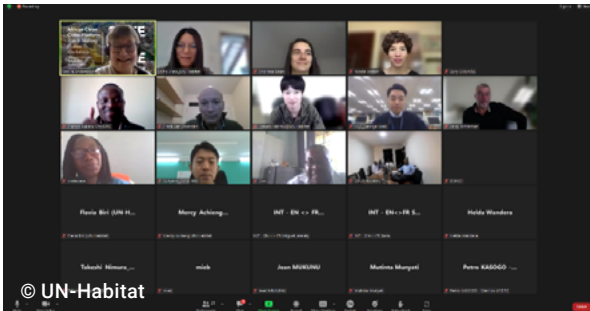
The initial workshop saw participation from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Homa Bay (Kenya), Kiambu (Kenya), Lagos (Nigeria), the four ACCP Associate Members (Islamic Development bank, Grid-Arendal, Norfund, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation), and JICA, a partner of ACCP. The workshop



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featured presentations on the waste management performance of the cities, along with analysis of their operational,

governance, and financial gaps. The cities also expressed their interest in further collaboration during the workshop.



The Second workshop invited the cities from Bukavu and Kinshasa from DRC, Harare from Zimbabwe, and Iramba from Tanzania. This time, in addition to the ACCP Associate Members, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and JICA from the ACCP Partners and other donor members such as the World Bank and AUDA-NEPAD, GGGI, Practical Action, CAGEDEA and Vodacom also joined us.

The third workshop was attended by Cape Coast and Sekondi-Takoradi, both from Ghana, the ACCP Associate Members and the ACCP Partners. Also, the City of Bonn, World Bank, AUDA-NEPAD, C40 and Engineering X joined us in the workshop.

After the presentations and active discussions at all workshops, a brief wrap-up session highlighted the

significance of cities learning from one another and maintaining an ongoing dialogue with donors and financing institutions. It was also underscored that comprehending cities' limitations in project implementation and proposal development is crucial.

## World Cities Day : Roundtable on Waste to Wealth

On [World Cities Day 2023](#) held in Türkiye, a [roundtable](#) titled "From Waste to Wealth" addressed the global shift to a circular economy. The discussion, focusing on sustainable operational finance, aimed to guide national and local governments in fostering a circular economy, generating investments, and creating jobs in municipal solid waste (MSW) value chains.

The roundtable sought to foster collaboration between cities and industries to promote circularity and zero waste in the built environment. Emphasis was placed on ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups, like waste workers, in the transition. The event explored leveraging urbanization's value to bridge financing gaps and adopting innovative financing models with the private sector and communities. UN-Habitat, through programs like Waste Wise Cities and African Clean Cities Platform, collaborated with governments to develop business models and attract investments for circular and zero waste economies.

Participants included national governments, the private sector, civil



society, city leaders, and International Financial Institutions. The outcomes were encapsulated in a "Communique," offering recommendations for a sustainable financial transition to a circular economy, widely disseminated through UN-Habitat initiatives and shared with the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste.

The panel explored challenges and opportunities in innovative financing for waste-to-wealth initiatives, highlighting global examples of successful collaboration among governments, businesses, and citizens for a circular economy. City Mayors play a crucial role,

exemplified by Türkiye's "Zero Waste" initiative.

Female leadership, both in public roles and as homemakers, is emphasized. Governments' proactive efforts, such as policies safeguarding waste workers, prove vital for urban populations. Transitioning to a circular economy attracts industry, offering employment opportunities for the marginalized. Overall, the discussion underscored the potential for shared prosperity through coordinated efforts in waste management, job creation, and social protection.



## UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste

The Advisory Board was announced by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly in New York. Its purpose is to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives through the dissemination of best practices and success stories, as direct contribution to the [implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/161](#). The members were selected based on their knowledge, experience, and expertise and with due regard to gender balance and equitable geographic representation.



On 26th July, an introductory meeting of the [UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste](#) was held online for the Advisory Board Members to familiarize themselves with the Board's mandate.

The first in-person meeting of the Advisory Board was hosted by the First Lady of Türkiye on 1st November 2023 in Istanbul, Türkiye. During the board's meeting in Istanbul, advisors shared effective strategies to reduce waste, redesign material use and production, promote a circular economy and inform consumer choices.

The complete list of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste is:

- ▶ **Mrs. Emine Erdoğan**,  
First Lady of Türkiye (Serving as Chairperson)
- ▶ **Mr. José Manuel Moller**,  
Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Algramo (Serving as Deputy Chairperson)
- ▶ **Mr. Gino Van Begin**,  
Secretary General ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- ▶ **Mrs. Fatima Maada Bio**,  
First Lady of Sierra Leone
- ▶ **Mrs. Mellisa Santokhi-Seenacherry**,  
First Lady of Suriname
- ▶ **Mr. Muhammad Yunus**,  
Co-founder and Chairman, Yunus Environment Hub
- ▶ **Mr. Carlos Silva Filho**,  
President, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)
- ▶ **Ms. Laura Reyes**,  
Directora Ejecutiva, CEMPRE (Compromiso Empresarial para el Reciclaje)
- ▶ **Ms. Lara van Druten**,  
Chief Executive Officer, The Waste Transformers
- ▶ **Mr. Saleem Ali**,  
Professor, Energy and the Environment at the University of Delaware, USA, and Honorary Professor, at Sustainable Resources Development, University of Queensland, Australia
- ▶ **Ms. Hakima El Haite**,  
Founder, EauGlobe
- ▶ **Mr. Vijay Jagannathan**,  
Secretary General CityNet Asia Pacific

## INC-3 in Nairobi

From 13th to 19th November, 2023, the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) took place at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, to develop an international legally binding document on plastic pollution, including marine environment. The [Summary Report](#) is available online. It has implications for urban areas, considering that plastic pollution is a global environmental issue that affects both marine and terrestrial ecosystems.



INC-3 has successfully concluded with an agreement on a starting point

for negotiations at the fourth session (INC-4). With over 1,900 participants from 161 Members and 318 observer organisations, the committee deliberated on the Chair's Zero Draft, compiling diverse views and producing a

co-facilitator merged text. Ambassador Luis Valdivieso of Ecuador assumed the role of the new INC Chair, succeeding Gustavo Adolfo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez. The outgoing Chair acknowledged achievements but underscored the ongoing challenges.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), expressed encouragement

for the negotiations, highlighting the determination to tackle plastic pollution. She urged ambition, innovation, inclusivity, and boldness in shaping an effective instrument. The committee agreed on dates for future sessions, scheduling INC-4 in Ottawa, Canada (April 2024), and INC-5 in the Republic of Korea (November/December 2024).

Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat, emphasized the collaborative and committed spirit observed during the Nairobi session, calling for its continuation. The INC process continues to develop a comprehensive international treaty addressing plastic pollution, reflecting a global effort to safeguard the environment and human health.

## VOICES : Empowering waste workers on the path to a just transition - Real-life stories and expert perspectives on turning words into action

Against the backdrop of the INC-3 negotiations, a compelling event that took place on 14th November at The Alchemist in Nairobi, key stakeholders explored the crucial role of waste workers in the global transition to a sustainable future. This gathering aimed to amplify the voices of waste workers, featuring a poignant movie showcasing their journeys, challenges, and aspirations.

The event kicked off with opening remarks by Cecilia Andersson, UN-Habitat, followed by a visually impactful documentary on waste workers in Africa and Asia. A distinguished panel, including representatives from Kenya, Coca-Cola, African Reclaimers Organisation, and



more, engaged in a robust discussion and Q&A session. Moderated by Anna Douma of The Circulate Initiative, the event concluded with closing remarks by Lucía Fernández of the International Alliance of Wastepickers.

This unique occasion provided a platform for real-life stories and expert perspectives, fostering dialogue and action towards a just transition for waste workers globally.

## INC-3 official side event : Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Waste, Including Collection, Sorting, Recycling, and Consideration of Investments

The thematic side event, “Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Waste,” featured a dynamic lineup of speakers who delivered insightful perspectives on tackling the global plastic waste crisis. Matias Tarando urged alignment with SDG 11.6.1, emphasizing community-centered solutions.



Haoyang Wang outlined China’s top-down approach with bans on plastic products and innovative public-private partnerships. Koichi Yanagita advocated for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and collaborative efforts between the public and private

sectors. Clarissa Morawski highlighted the need for funding collaborations in the Global South and simplified EPR systems. Shannon Bouton emphasized the transformation of ecosystems and waste management in the Global South. Cecilia Andersson’s opening

remarks stressed the critical role of local governments, adopting upstream solutions, proper collection, and health and safety. This diverse panel of experts provided valuable insights, contributing to ongoing discussions and progress at INC-3.



## Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Resource Circularity and SWM to Accelerate National to Local Progress on the SDGs

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), serving as a policy support arm of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), aims to develop a policy support system that can bridge data, technical and capacity gaps to advance resource circularity in solid waste management across developing countries.



In November 2023, with the support of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment and the Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco), UNOSD organized an expert group meeting (EGM) to contribute to improved research and policy support on strengthening circular approaches and zero-waste societies in target countries

through a multi-year process. Among the several capacity barriers countries face, data and knowledge gaps are key barriers to effectively implementing targeted policies and actions for more resource circularity. UN-Habitat was invited to attend the EGM to present its Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT), as a standard tool for municipal solid waste management (MSWM) data collection that cities and

countries can use to design and formulate policies to accelerate the transition towards a zero-waste society. The EGM was also an opportunity to share UN-Habitat experience on the use of data for planning interventions and formulate MSW strategies based on evidence and data.

## CCAC Project

UN-Habitat, under the leadership of Royal Academy of Engineering, in partnership with the International Solid Waste Association, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, and Practical Action, was granted a project funded by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

The project, Creating the enabling conditions for eliminating open burning of waste through regional roadmaps and city pilots, aims at creating the conditions for a step-change to eliminate open burning of waste through the development of regional roadmaps in Africa, Asia and

Latin America and the Caribbean and implementation in pilot cities. UN-Habitat will lead on the establishment of GHG and short-lived climate pollutants emissions baseline from the waste sector for each target pilot city through WaCT application and other existing tools.

## JICA Stakeholder Workshop for Promoting Sustainable Solid Waste Management

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), along with the "Sustainable Waste Management Act" that the Government of Kenya has enacted since 2022 and EPR regulations that are being finalized, will launch a technical cooperation project "the project for promoting circular model of environmentally sound solid waste management in urban areas" in Kenya in 2024 to support the EPR initiative.



Prior to the project launching, on 27th November in Nairobi, Kenya, JICA held a stakeholders' workshop to sensitize on the EPR concept, to share the

knowledge, experience, and challenges of the stakeholders of the solid waste sector, such as the Government of Kenya, donor agencies, NGOs, private recyclers, Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs), the Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA) etc.

UN-Habitat was invited to the panel discussion to share its experience and challenges in the project "Waste Wise Nairobi - Korogocho chapter", funded by the Government of Italy, through the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS) that will improve the

waste collection and recovery system in the informal settlements in Korogocho, Nairobi, through the establishment of

a sorting transfer station, training and capacity building. Among the challenges highlighted, it was mentioned land

availability, common constraints in cities and particularly in low-income areas.

## Snapshot of COP28 in Dubai

COP28 took place from 30th November until 12th December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. With global temperatures hitting record highs, and extreme weather events affecting people around the globe, this year's UN Climate Change Conference, COP28, was a pivotal opportunity to correct course and accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis. COP28 is where the world will take stock of progress on the Paris Agreement – the landmark climate treaty concluded in 2015 – and chart a course of action to dramatically reduce emissions and protect lives and livelihoods.

The Executive Director (ED) of UN-Habitat and staff engaged and represented UN-Habitat at the COP28 in Dubai.

On 2nd December 2023, the ACCP, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Fukuoka City, organised a hybrid seminar at Japan pavilion at COP 28 and online on "Reduce methane emissions from landfills around the world! ~ Exploring the opportunities of the Fukuoka Method ~". The seminar provided an opportunity to understand how the semi-aerobic landfill structure "Fukuoka Method" can contribute to improving the living environment in cities facing challenges in reducing methane gas emissions and solid waste management.

The seminar featured keynote speeches by prominent speakers from the Climate Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), Fukuoka University and Fukuoka City, as well as financial support schemes for reducing

methane emissions from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

One of the ACCP Member Cities, Kiambu County in Kenya, was also represented online to share their experience of implementing Fukuoka Method at the Kangoki dumpsite and emphasize the importance of community involvement, including waste pickers.

On 3rd December, the ED was a panellist in the "[Accelerating integration of low carbon waste management in Nationally Determined Contributions to reach climate commitments](#)" event in the Finland Pavilion. The discussion centred around World Cleanup Day which was approved in the General Assembly on 8th December to name 20th September World Cleanup Day in the UN calendar.



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UN-Habitat co-organised the "Locally Led Adaptation Day" with Water Europe and the State of Rio de Janeiro at the Water Pavilion on 5th December. The ED was invited to give a statement on the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) during the High-level Panel Segment.

On the same day, the ED spoke at the "[Building the cities of tomorrow today: mitigating risks and unlocking opportunities for sustainable development](#)" event attended by over 50 persons. In response to rapid urban

growth, thought leaders from various sectors were convened to address challenges and explore strategies for constructing green, resilient, and inclusive cities. The event featured esteemed panellists sharing insights on collaborative approaches to mitigate risks and unlock opportunities for sustainable urban development, marking a pivotal step towards socio-economic growth and a sustainable future.

On 6th December, our ED closed the launch session *No Time to Waste: Closing the Climate Loop*. The [Waste to Zero initiative](#) is valued USD100 million and the session was supported by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, CCAC, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Roland Berger, Tadweer, Global Methane Hub, Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency, UN-Habitat.



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In the [2nd Ministerial Meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change](#), co-hosted by UN-Habitat, the COP28 Presidency and the UN Climate Change High Level Champions, our ED urged the stakeholders to support the 'Joint Outcome Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change'. The Statement, endorsed by over 40 Ministers of Environment, Urban Development and Housing, proposed 10 outcomes to integrate climate action across every level of government, while accelerating local climate finance to ensure adequate adaptation finance reaches cities.



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On 7th December, another event “#HousingMatters - Taking action on low carbon and inclusive housing” was hosted by the American University in Dubai (AUD) and co-organised by the Middle East Cities Center at AUD, FIABCI International Real Estate Federation and UN-Habitat. The event was the opportunity to launch the “Housing Matters” global campaign touching upon interconnected topics, through a holistic approach to act together. In the opening session, the ED highlighted the pivotal role of housing as the world is facing a significant gap, with currently more than two billion people lacking adequate housing, requiring the production of 96,000 units a day to address the crisis, while thriving to decarbonise the



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construction sector contributing to more than two thirds of greenhouse gases emissions worldwide.

Further, UN-Habitat and ISWA held an event on zero waste “From Awareness to Action”, where the Chief of Urban Basic Services, André Dzikus, moderated. The discussion centred around the critical need for immediate and decisive actions in waste reduction and resource management, emphasizing the transition from raising awareness to implementing concrete behavioural changes for a sustainable and zero waste future.

In an official [interview](#), the ED concluded that UN-Habitat adopts an integrated approach to combat the intertwined challenges of urbanization and climate change, focusing on mitigation, adaptation, and multi-stakeholder engagement. The organisation champions nature-based solutions and green technologies in cities, emphasizing their role in temperature regulation and environmental sustainability. Also, read up on the outcome [here](#).

## Call to Action

- **Share with us your good practices of EPR, zero waste practices, and other innovative solutions related to EPR and circular economy!**
- **Proactively implement and enforce robust Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes in your cities for sustainable waste management!**
- **Become an ACCP and/or Waste Wise Cities [member](#) or [affiliate](#) and share your stories with us!**
- **Visit our [ACCP](#) and [Waste Wise Cities websites](#) for more details on our projects in EPR!**