Turning off the Tap
How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy

Thank you for joining us!

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Acknowledgements

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#BeatPlasticPollution
Root cause: 
**linear** (take-make-waste) economy

**Revenues** from plastics production are 
$\sim$US$\ 600-700\ billion\ per\ year$

**Externalities** of plastic pollution are 
$\sim$US$\ 300-600\ billion\ per\ year$

SOURCE: OECD 2022

#BeatPlasticPollution
Ending plastic pollution requires a systems change.
Ending Plastic Pollution

Market transformation to circularity through 3 MARKET SHIFTS

- REDUCE the size of the problem
- REUSE
- RECYCLE
- REORIENT & DIVERSIFY

Policies and Regulatory Framework

Deal with the LEGACY
Short-lived plastics flow in 2040: BAU vs. Systems Change

Business-as-usual Scenario (BAU)

- 380MMt Fossil-based plastics
- 3.5MMt Bio-based plastics
- 149MMt Fossil-based plastics
- 2.4MMt Bio-based plastics
- 408MMt Total waste generated
- 73MMt Waste sent for recycling
- 52MMt Secondary plastics
- 129MMt Disposal
- Growing plastic pollution
- Minimal circularity

More final disposal than recycling

Systems Change Scenario

- 216MMt Total waste generated
- 111MMt Waste sent for recycling
- 95MMt Reuse
- 95MMt Disposal
- 80MMt Secondary plastics
- 41MMt Managed
- 149MMt Fossil-based plastics
- 2.4MMt Bio-based plastics

Reduced virgin production

80% plastic pollution avoided

Reduced final disposal

Modelled plastic flows in 2040 under Business-as-usual and a Systems Change (Right) scenario to deliver the necessary market transformation. Source: UNEP (2023) building on Pew Charitable Trusts and Systemiq (2020).
Shifting to a **circular economy** for plastics can save **US$4.5 trillion** by 2040 on total costs while improving livelihoods for millions of workers worldwide.

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Why change?

Net change (annual)

Net change in annual costs between the Business-As-Usual and Systems Change scenarios (SC-BAU), 2021-2040 (in constant 2020 USD Billion). UNEP (2023)
30% of plastics from short-lived products are avoidable and can be reduced.

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3 Market Shifts to a circular plastics economy

- Accelerate the market for reusable products
- Accelerate the market for plastics recycling
- Reorient and diversify the market for sustainable and safe plastic alternatives

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A just transition to leave no one behind.

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We need integrated regulatory and industry actions across the plastics life cycle.

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We need integrated regulatory instruments to combat plastic pollution.

- Virgin plastic tax
- Think Global, Act Local, NOW
- Chemical Recycling
- Labelling
- Design Guidelines and standards for Circularity and safety
- Criteria for Chemicals in Plastics Materials and Products Substitutions
- Communication strategies
- Reuse Schemes
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Bans
- Just Transition
- Targets for recycling and recycled content
- Public procurement

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Ending plastic pollution is within reach.

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Q&A - Panelists

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KnowEdge
Thank you for participating in the webinar!

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