

Sustainable Consumption and Production for a Resilient and Inclusive Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean. GO4SDGs Regional launching

Co-hosted by: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

17 and 18 March, 2021 | Virtual

BACKGROUND

“With only 10 years left before the 2030 deadline, there is an urgent need to step up action. And every nation, every community and every person can and must make a contribution.”

UN Secretary General, António Guterres

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us in a powerful way that we are closely interconnected and only as strong as our weakest link. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our road map and its implementation a necessity for our survival. Urgent efforts are required, as clearly stated at the UN General Assembly in Sept 2020 (UNGA A/Res/75/L.1). Member States declared –amongst other things–that, “we need to adapt to the circumstances and take transformative measures. We have a historic opportunity to build back better” and that “we need to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions and achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns in line with applicable State commitments in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Unsustainable consumption and production are overburdening the Earth’s resources, threatening not only the achievement of most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but human well-being. Over the last 50 years, human population has doubled, the extraction of materials has tripled, primary energy production has more than tripled, the economy has grown nearly fivefold, and global trade has grown tenfold.

An estimated 931 million tonnes of food, or 17% of total food available to consumers in 2019, went into the waste bins of households, retailers, restaurants and other food services, according to new UN research conducted to support global efforts to halve food waste by 2030.

The unsustainable patterns of consumption and production have resulted in the three environmental crises: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The shift from an unsustainable consumption and production pattern, based on the linear model of extraction, consumption, and disposal, towards a circular model is pressing. Inspired by nature-based solutions, circular models keep materials at the highest possible value along the value chain. The benefits of circular economy are numerous. The International Resource Panel (IRP) estimates that adopting circularity could reduce GHG emissions by as much as 99% and the requirement of new materials by 98% in some sectors, amounting to 3.6 billion tonnes CO₂ per year by 2050. The International Labor Organization - ILO estimates the circular economy could generate 4.8 million green jobs in the LAC region alone by 2030. Globally, the World Economic Forum estimated that material savings potential is in the order of magnitude of over USD 1 trillion a year.

Increasing levels of air pollution are linked to the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The World Health Organization estimates that 23% of all deaths worldwide – amounting to 12.6 million people in 2012 – are due to environmental risk factors, such as poor air quality. Low-income and middle-income countries bear the brunt of pollution-related illnesses, with a disproportionate impact on children, women and the most vulnerable. Additionally, the costs of pollution amount to 2 per cent of gross domestic product and up to 7 per cent of annual spending in terms of health care costs. Very significant costs also derive from lost productivity and clean-up activities.

Existing knowledge of pollution impacts on the environment and people shows the urgency of tackling pollution; a planetary crisis which adversely impacts the achievement of the SDGs. COVID-19 has further illustrated this need, with studies suggesting that the impacts of air pollution, combined with the impacts of COVID-19, can lead to worse health outcomes. Further, countries are faced with increased waste challenges due to the massive use of Personal Protective Equipment and the increased use in single use plastics. Conversely, the pandemic has also demonstrated how changes in behavior, can lead to decreases in pollution.

RESPONSE

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its partners launched the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals ([GO4SDGs](#)) initiative in 2019. The initiative aims to accelerate the shift to more inclusive green economies and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, in order to strengthen public and private sector capacities to deliver on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

The GO4SDGs initiative will share innovative practices from countries at the regional level and strengthen capacities for replication across regions. It will also offer countries the opportunity to access existing tools and services at a larger scale through a [menu of services](#) to strengthen the capacity of three critical actors: policymakers, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and youth, and support them as change agents to implement policies, investments, business models, and consumer choices towards decarbonization, resource efficiency, and sustainability.

The GO4SDGS initiative will establish partnerships for specific peer-to-peer exchanges and learning events to foster enhanced delivery and coordination across the globe, engaging with governments, private sector and civil society to accelerate action on the SDGs.

The GO4SDGS Initiative will be regionally launched at the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 2021, convened under the auspices of ECLAC and Costa Rica, reinforcing the ultimate goal of the Initiative, which is to collaborate and find synergies for an impactful delivery in the regions, contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote a dialogue about the importance and co-benefits of sustainable consumption and production and circularity for the sustainable inclusive and resilient economic recovery to the COVID-19.
- To follow-up on [Decision 2 on CPS](#) and circularity adopted by the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- To launch the initiative “Global Opportunities for SDGs” (GO4SDGs) at the regional level and present the regional activities and roadmap, building synergies for cooperation and a bigger impact.

AGENDA

MARCH 17TH

GO4SDGs High level Launching

08:00-09:00 (Costa Rica - GMT-6)
Sustainable Consumption and Production: contributions to address climate change and biodiversity loss for a resilient and inclusive economic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean

09:00-10:00 (Panama Time GMT-5)
Side event of the Forum of the Countries of LAC on Sustainable Development

Registration link: <https://unep.webex.com/unep-es/onstage/g.php?MTID=eff3394fabd453bd31b9c4487c700a2d3>

11:00-12:00 (Southern Cone)

Moderator – Mr. Leo Heileman, Regional Director and Representative, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- **Mr. Juan Cabandié**, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina
- **Mr. Stephan Contius**, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, Head of Division United Nations, Developing Countries and Emerging Economies, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany

Keynote speaker

Ms. Isabella Teixeira, Chair of the International Resources Panel, “Why do natural resources matter for climate change and biodiversity?”

Q&A - Panelists: (3 min interventions)

- **Mr. Jose Luis Samaniego**, Director, Division of Sustainable Development and Human Settlement, ECLAC.
- **Mr. Mariano Castro**, Vice-minister of Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment, Peru.

Regional launch “Global opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals” (GO4SDGs)

- **Ms. Adriana Zacarías Farah**, Head and Global Coordinator, GO4SDGs



MARCH 18TH

10:00-12:00
(Costa Rica -
GMT-6)

A food systems approach to address food waste – launch of Regional Working Group

Registration link:

<https://unep.webex.com/unep-es/onstage/g.php?MTID=efbba3c5fda4c152e93c07112287d075f>

11:00-13:00
(Panama Time
GMT-5)

Moderator: UNEP-ROLAC

13:00-15:00
(Southern Cone)

Presentation of key messages from UNEP's "Food Waste Index"

Ms. Clementine O'Connor, United Nations Environment Programme

Panelists:

- **Ms. Sara Granados**, Special Assistant, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (tbc)
- **Mr. German Sturzenegger**, Water and Sanitation Senior Expert, International Development Bank (IDB)
- **Mr. Roberto Azofoifa**, Chief of Sustainable Production Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Costa Rica

Call for expression of interest to be part of the Food Waste Regional Working Group

Representative from WRAP (tbc)

Q&A

Closing remarks

Ms. Adriana Zacarias, Head and Global Coordinator, GO4SDGs

Capacity building activities:

Previous to this meeting a regional workshop is taking place.

March 10th and 16th
09:00-12:00
(Panama Time GMT-5)

Workshop

Identifying Hotspots: Applying the Sustainable Production and Consumption Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT)

As part of the event, UNEP is offering a workshop to train stakeholders in the Region on the Sustainable Production and Consumption Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT). This tool analyses hotspots in a country or at the sector level where unsustainable consumption and production is happening. The workshop is a mixture of plenary sessions, small working groups, and hands-on application of SCP-HAT. It is designed for SCP practitioners and national focal points, UN Country Teams, research institutes, and other key decision makers.