



Ministry of Climate Change
and Environmental
Coordination
Government of Pakistan



switthasia



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Concept Note

Side Event

Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production in NDC 3.0 of Pakistan

Co-Organizers: Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination – Government of Pakistan; Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component

Date: 18th November 2024

Venue: Pakistan Pavilion, E17, Delegation Pavilions Zone, COP29 Venue

Time – 9:00 – 10:30am

Introduction

One of the key agenda in the upcoming COP 29 at Baku is Global Stocktake (GST) agreed in the Paris Agreement which is aimed towards higher ambition for which countries are to frame their third nationally determined contributions (NDC 3.0) by March 2025. This stocktaking process is aimed at informing the next round of NDCs in order to increase their level of ambition; it also offers the opportunity to evaluate the need for enhanced action and support.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns lie at the core of the triple planetary crises encompassing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The scientific community has firmly established the link between climate change and material consumption. According to the Global Resource Outlook 2024 by the International Resource Panel (IRP):

- resource use has tripled in the last five decades and is expected to continue to increase;
- resource extraction has increased by nearly 400% since 1970 and is still growing by 2.3% per year;
- resource extraction and processing are responsible for over 60% of planet-warming emissions and 90% of land-related biodiversity loss;
- high-income countries use six times more materials per capita than low-income countries; and
- bold policy action is equally possible and needed to phase out unsustainable activities and it's possible to decouple economic growth from environmental impacts and resource use.

The report concludes that resources efficiency through sustainable consumption and production and circular economy is an opportunity not to be missed for climate action, implementation of the Agenda 2030 and achieving the multilateral environmental agreements.

On climate impact the 6th Assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has once again sounded the alarm for global policymakers, emphasizing the urgent need to prevent the Earth's temperature from reaching dangerous levels. The collective global inaction in addressing the challenges posed by climate change has compelled humanity to pursue more rapid and ambitious climate actions. The recently published Global Stocktake (GST) report, as part of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has concluded that, based on current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), there is a significant emissions gap of 20.3–23.9 Gt CO₂ equivalent by 2030 to stay on track with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.

The UNEP emissions gap report 2024 emphasis on need to cut greenhouse gases, and deliver, in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), due for submission in early 2025 ahead of COP30. Cuts of 42 per cent are needed by 2030 and 57 per cent by 2035 to get on track for 1.5°C. A failure to increase ambition in the new NDCs and start delivering immediately would put the world on course for a temperature increase of 2.6-3.1°C over the course of this century. This would bring debilitating impacts to people, planet and economies. In order to deliver on this potential, sufficiently strong NDCs would need to be backed urgently by a whole-of-government approach, measures that maximize socio-economic and environmental co-benefits, enhanced international collaboration that includes reform of the global financial architecture, strong private sector action and a minimum six-fold increase in mitigation investment.

The UNFCCC GST report also underscores that achieving net-zero emissions will vary from country to country, necessitating a comprehensive, nationwide effort in all countries to chart pathways towards net-zero CO₂ and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While these steps are critical for GHG mitigation, it's essential to ensure a broader "societal transformation" to guarantee that investments in these initial measures yield the desired results. Given the pressing need for increased ambition in climate action, it becomes crucial to leverage all available avenues without compromising sustainable development. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Circular Economy (CE) emerge as compelling options for harnessing climate change co-benefits.

Pakistan, a committed party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, is advancing its climate agenda despite facing significant economic, social, and environmental challenges. The country has embarked on updating its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) alongside its Long-term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS). Additionally, Pakistan is actively engaged in the South Asia Regional Technical Advisory (TA) of SWITCH-Asia on SCP-linked NDCs, which examines opportunities to integrate SCP and CE principles within its climate commitments, enhancing the country's climate resilience and sustainable development.

The Side Event

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of the Government of Pakistan, in partnership with the initiatives for SCP and CE integration into Pakistan's NDC 3.0 and LT-LEDS. This event will convene global policymakers, industry leaders, and environmental advocates to discuss practical strategies and policy frameworks supporting sustainable development in Pakistan. The goal is to establish a solid foundation for the country's low-

carbon transition, aligning with the Paris Agreement's targets and enhancing resilience in the face of climate challenges.

The UNFCCC COP29 which held in Baku marks a significant milestone in global climate agenda as the Global Stock Take of the Paris Agreement, the Mitigation Work program and Just Energy Transition are on the agenda. It is an excellent opportunity for country policy makers to explore and share the lessons, challenges and opportunities to ensure all the possible avenues to enhance climate actions and sustainable development.

This side event will delve into specific areas for integrating sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and circular economy (CE) practices into Pakistan's climate ambition, building on insights from the scoping Technical Assistance (TA) provided by the EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component in Pakistan and four other South Asian countries – Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. Global experiences, perspectives from the Pakistan government, and industry insights will be explored to highlight actionable strategies for SCP and CE. The outcomes from this event will contribute directly to the ongoing NDC 3.0 process in Pakistan, strengthening its approach to sustainable, low-carbon development.

Agenda

Time	Session
9.00 – 9.10	<p>Recitation from the Holy Quran</p> <p>Welcome Remarks and Background Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)</p>
9.10 – 9.20	<p>The Scope to integrate SCP and CE into Pakistan's Climate Ambition: NDC 3.0 and LT-LEDS</p> <p>Technical Presentation Ranga Pallawala, Key Expert Climate Change, EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component</p>
9.20 – 10.00	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Moderated by Ms. Zainab Naeem, Head of Circular Economy and Ecological Sustainability of SDPI</p> <p>Panellists Dr. Rene Van Berkel – Senior Expert, Circular Economy, EU SWITCH-Asia Programme Dr. Abid Suleri – Executive Director of SDPI & Member of COP29 Presidency's International Advisory Panel Niklas Hagalberg – Coordinator, Climate Change Sub Programme, UNEP Representative – Clearlife Technologies</p>
10.00 – 10.20	Open Forum
10.20 – 10.30	<p>Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Mr. Eazaz A. Dar, Hon. Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination</p>

About the Organizers

[The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination \(MOCC &EC\)](#)

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCC &EC) of Pakistan serves as the central body guiding the nation's response to environmental challenges and climate change. Tasked with shaping and implementing policies for sustainable development, the Ministry plays a pivotal role in advancing Pakistan's climate resilience, natural resource conservation, and low-carbon transition. By working closely with national and international stakeholders, the Ministry drives initiatives that align with global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, while addressing Pakistan's unique environmental and socioeconomic needs. Through its leadership, Pakistan is pursuing ambitious goals in climate adaptation, emissions reduction, and ecosystem preservation to foster a sustainable future for all.

[The Sustainable Development Policy Institute \(SDPI\)](#)

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is a leading think tank in Pakistan, dedicated to advancing research-driven policies for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and climate resilience. Established to foster a knowledge-based approach to policy-making, SDPI engages in rigorous research, advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives that address Pakistan's critical social, economic, and environmental challenges. With a focus on evidence-based solutions, SDPI collaborates with government bodies, civil society, and international organizations to promote sustainable development practices across various sectors. Known for its expertise in climate policy, economic reform, and social development, SDPI serves as a bridge between research and policy, working to create a more resilient and equitable future for Pakistan.

[SWITCH-Asia](#)

The SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) has a primary objective of advancing Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) efforts by amplifying and integrating SCP policies across 42 countries. These countries are spread across a wide geographical region encompassing the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. The SWITCH-Asia PSC is built upon the solid foundation of the successful SWITCH-Asia program, which has a history of providing effective technical assistance. Furthermore, it establishes crucial connections with the SWITCH-Asia grants component and aligns with the programs and priorities of European Union Delegations (EUDs). The PSC's adaptable and demand-driven interventions, coupled with its mandate to encourage cooperation, enhance networking, and create a platform for knowledge exchange, position it favourably to address the triple planetary crises and meet international commitments. These commitments encompass the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, underscoring the Program's commitment to a sustainable future.