

UNFCCC COP 27
Sharm El -Sheikh, Egypt

Implementation Lab
Concept Note

**Changing the paradigm: Harnessing multiple benefits
from reducing and valorizing waste**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

10 November 2022
14:30-16:00
Ibis Room

Organised by Climate and Clean Air Coalition Secretariat, UNEP

**Implementation Lab: Changing the paradigm: Harnessing multiple
benefits from reducing and valorizing waste**

Concept note

Description	Waste is a growing burden that is increasingly difficult to tackle. Annual waste generation is expected to increase by 73% from 2020 levels to 3.88 billion tonnes in 2050. More than 90% of waste in low-income countries is often disposed of in unregulated dumps or openly burned (World Bank). This Implementation Lab will address proven solutions to improve waste management practices that will reduce emissions from the sector and lead to cleaner, more sustainable cities: organic waste diversion and open waste burning prevention.
Headline	African environment ministers pledged to tackle plastic waste and open waste burning, taking a global lead in tackling waste management to save lives, livelihoods and the environment. Waste should be appropriately included in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national and local climate change programmes and ensure that the measures included are implemented Changing the waste paradigm at the regional, national and local community scale delivers benefits for climate, air quality and public health.
Breakthrough	The breakthrough theme will focus on scaling up the circular economy to change the waste paradigm to scale up organic waste diversion and phase out open burning of waste. Waste should be appropriately included in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national and local climate change programmes. Organic waste makes up the largest share of municipal solid waste in the world across all income levels. Organic waste, food and green waste, makes up 44 percent of global waste. In lower-middle- and lower-income countries, the percent is higher than 50 percent. There is real opportunity to achieve the ambitions of the initiative by working on reducing and valorizing organic waste, and in particularly, by tackling global food loss and waste, which account for a significant proportion of organic waste. Improving the management of organic waste will also lead to significant methane reductions. Phasing out both planned and spontaneous open burning of waste requires transformational change in the waste management sector. The transition from piecemeal interventions to systemic transformation will require a paradigm shift in the waste management hierarchy towards an integrated waste management system that gives preference to prevention and circularity over treatment and disposal.
Guiding Question	How can we transform the waste sector to achieve mitigation by 2030 as well as meet adaptation and resilience goals? What are the actions that need to happen to accelerate organic waste diversion and phasing out of open burning? How can we achieve social and economic benefits by reducing and valorizing waste?

Targeted Outcomes	There is an African continent-wide waste sector focused momentum, including the 'Commitment for action on phasing out open waste burning from Africa by 2050' developed under the High-Level Champions' initiative aimed at addressing the systemic deficiencies associated with waste management in Africa. In alignment with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action's Human Settlements Action Pathways Subgroup on Waste and Consumption, the expectation is that "by 2050, cities must become "zero waste", with no discharges to land, water or air that threaten the environment or human health by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of organic waste, products, packaging and materials without burning."
Objectives	The objectives of this Roundtable discussion will be to showcase success at the national and subnational level; discuss key roadblocks to improving waste management infrastructure taking into account the informal sector; and discuss next steps on how encourage sustainable and integrated waste management and circular economies and nurture the collaboration around these issues.
*Participants	Participants will be representatives from national government, the private sector, informal sector, cities, subnational regions, financial institutions, think-tanks and research centers, and civil society in the region who are involved in implementation. We endeavor to ensure diverse voices are represented specifically targeting youth and women as well as representation from small-to-medium businesses and the informal sector.
Key Action points out of the discussion	1. Waste should be appropriately included in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national and local climate change and environment pollution programmes. 2. There is real opportunity to achieve the 2030 ambitions by working on reducing and valorizing organic waste, and in particularly, by tackling global food loss and waste, which account for a significant proportion of organic waste. Improving the management of organic waste will also lead to significant methane and black carbon reductions, impacting climate change and human health 3. The 18th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) this year made a decision "Towards phasing out open burning of waste in Africa" in which AMCEN member States, and all the relevant stakeholders are encouraged to join the Global Waste Initiative 50 by 2050 UNFCCC COP-27 Presidency as well as the multi-stakeholder partnership to eliminate open burning of waste in Africa by 2050.

Draft Agenda

Timing	Session Description	Speaker suggestions (Name, Title, Organisation)	Additional notes/ Format tips
<i>Pre event</i>	<i>Video on open burning of waste or slide show with images</i>		
<i>10 mins</i>	Opening remarks	Bogolo Kenewendo, UN High-Level Champion's Special Advisor, Africa Director	
<i>10 mins</i>	<i>Opening remarks: Framing of the breakthrough in focus, why it's important. Vision for 2030 - where we are now and where we want to get to.</i>	Martina Otto, Head of Climate and Clean Air Coalition Secretariat	
<i>50 mins</i>	MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION – NO SLIDES	<i>Moderator: Andriannah Mbandi</i>, Engineering X, Royal Academy of Engineering Dr. Nagwa El Karawy, Focal Point of COP27 Global 50 by 2050 Waste Initiative, Ministry of Environment, Egypt Joshua Amponsem, World Climate Ambassador and Facilitator, Founder of Green Africa Youth Organization Luyanda Hlatshwayo, Reclaimer with Africa Reclaimers Organisation (ARO) and representative of the International Alliance of Waste Pickers Erika Rosenthal, Earthjustice	



		Marcelo Mena, CEO, Global Methane Hub (GMH) Stephen Hammer, Advisor, Global Climate Policy and Strategy World Bank -- Climate Change Group Gareth Phillips, African Development Bank	
20 mins	MODERATED Q&A	Andriannah Mbandi, Engineering X, Royal Academy of Engineering	
10 mins	Next steps and Closing Remarks	Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and Regional Director, ICLEI Africa Secretariat	