

Official Report

“High-Level Roundtable Discussion on Plastic Waste Management Challenges and Solutions in Pakistan”

High-Level Roundtable Discussion | Pakistan | 22 July 2024



Event: High-Level Roundtable Discussion

Theme: Plastic Pollution Interventions in Pakistan

Topic: High-Level Roundtable Discussion on Plastic Waste Management Challenges and Solutions in Pakistan

Date: 22nd July 2024

Time: 3:00 PM to 6:40 PM - Roundtable Discussion | 6:40 PM onwards - Dinner and networking

Venue: Marriott Hotel, Islamabad | Kohinoor Hall

Moderator: Nalaka Gunawardene, Communication Consultant | World Bank

Discussants: Senior representatives from the Government of Pakistan, United Nation agencies, multilateral financial institutions, bilateral donors, Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society networks, corporate sector, think tanks, and academia

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DFI	Development Finance Institutions
DG	Director General
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
KGGTF	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Green Growth and Technology Fund
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HDPE	High-Density Polyethylene.
IWWs	Informal Waste Workers
LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene
MoCC&EC	Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
MRF	Material Recovery Facilities
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PLEASE	Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSQCA	Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority
RBG	Regional Block Grants
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
WB	The World Bank
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature

Introduction:

The High-Level Roundtable on Plastic Waste Management in Pakistan, held on July 22, 2024, at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, was the latest in a series of high-level round table discussions, aimed at addressing the growing plastic waste crisis in South Asia. The event, organised by the Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) project, a regional initiative implemented by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) and supported by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) with support from the World Bank, gathered key stakeholders from government bodies, international organisations, corporate entities, and civil society to discuss the multifaceted challenges of plastic waste management and to explore collaborative solutions. The discussions were structured into three thematic segments, each focusing on different aspects of the issue, and culminated in a shared commitment to actionable steps moving forward. The event was joined by 72 individuals in total, with 54 external, invited participants and 18 internal participants from SACEP, UNOPS, and the World Bank.

The objectives of the Roundtable Discussion were:

- To create a platform for discussing policy and regulatory measures to address plastic pollution in Pakistan, engaging different stakeholders;
- To identify existing interventions and innovations in plastic waste management within Pakistan, as well as to discuss strategies for scaling up successful initiatives and overcoming challenges;
- To explore opportunities regional collaboration in plastic waste management, particularly in the context of South Asia, leveraging shared experiences and resources;
- To promote greater coordination among government bodies, development funders, corporate sponsors, and international organisations active in this sector, aiming to reduce duplication of efforts, optimise resource utilisation, and enhance the impact of plastic waste management initiatives.

The final agenda is given in Annex 1.

The full list of participants is given in Annex 2.

Roundtable Discussion Brief:

Opening Remarks

Speakers:

1. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination
2. Rokeya Khaton, Director General, SACEP
3. Charles Schneider, Senior Private Sector Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group

4. Jennifer Ankrom, Country Manager, UNOPS Pakistan

Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, delivered the first opening remarks, extending her gratitude to the World Bank, SACEP, UNOPS, and her colleagues within the Ministry. She praised the global efforts being made to tackle the plastic pollution crisis, acknowledging the rapidly changing technological landscape that is integral to these efforts.

Ms. Alam highlighted the significant role of the PLEASE Project in supporting the Pakistani government's initiatives to combat plastic pollution. She detailed how the project's focus on regulatory frameworks and governance structures, particularly through the removal and recovery of plastic waste, aligns with the national goals of environmental protection. The importance of the outcomes from this event, she hoped, would be considered seriously by the government for implementation. She assured all stakeholders of her support, emphasising an open-door policy for communication and coordination, and encouraged them to approach her with any challenges they might face.

Ms. Rokeya Khaton, Director General of SACEP, provided an overview of SACEP's legacy as a pioneer intergovernmental organisation in the South Asian region, emphasising its collaborative approach to addressing environmental challenges since its establishment in 1982. Ms. Khaton outlined SACEP's ongoing efforts to reduce plastic pollution in the seas surrounding South Asia, a key priority for the organisation. She discussed the PLEASE Project, and emphasised the project's involvement in all sectors, including grants to private enterprises, with special focus on women-led organisations. Additionally, the project supports government efforts, notably through technical assistance aimed at bolstering plastic-related policies. She highlighted SACEP's portfolio in Pakistan, which includes two Regional Best Grants (RBGs), two Innovation Grants (IGs), and one Technical Assistance initiative. Ms. Khaton concluded by thanking the UNOPS country team and the World Bank for their continued support and invited all participants to engage actively in the discussions, stressing that their contributions would be invaluable to SACEP as it navigates the challenges and identifies solutions for effective implementation of the PLEASE Project in Pakistan.

Mr. Charles Schneider, Senior Private Sector Specialist at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, provided an overview of IFC's role as the private sector arm of the World Bank. He explained that the IFC is deeply involved in both investing in private enterprises and providing advisory services aimed at supporting the private sector's role in development. Mr. Schneider emphasised the relevance of the ongoing global negotiations for a plastic treaty, noting how these discussions are crucial for getting government and private sectors to collaborate effectively. He highlighted the CoRe Alliance (Collection and Recycling Alliance), that is working to find financially sustainable solutions for plastic waste management, particularly through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) concepts. He cited examples from India, where EPR has become an effective tool, and from Europe, where it is now a standard approach for financing and managing plastic recycling.

Mr. Schneider also touched on the financial mechanisms and funding gaps that exist in the current efforts to prevent and manage plastic pollution. He did mention some successful financing mechanisms such as Indorama Ventures Regional Blue Loan Project where the ADB and the World Bank provided a financing package to expand Indorama Ventures recycling plants in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand to promote a circular plastic economy. He concluded by discussing the importance of public-private partnerships, where the public sector provides the necessary regulatory support, and the private sector plays the pivotal role in driving the process forward. He connected these efforts to the PLEASE Project, highlighting the potential for long-term solutions in Pakistan, particularly in areas like chemical recycling and managing plastic waste in major water bodies like the Indus River.

Ms. Jennifer Ankrom, Country Manager of UNOPS Pakistan, highlighted the extensive work that the Government of Pakistan has undertaken in the field of climate change, noting the country's achievements in advancing one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to climate action. She framed the issue of plastic pollution within the broader context of the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, stressing that collaborative efforts are essential to tackle these intertwined challenges. Ms. Ankrom also pointed out that while Pakistan has made significant strides in curbing plastic pollution, there is still much more that can be done, particularly in addressing plastic waste in the country's waterways. She emphasised that the PLEASE Project, with its focus on regional collaboration, has the potential to make a significant impact not only in Pakistan but across South Asia. The key, she noted, is the involvement of the private sector, which she identified as a critical player in the efforts to manage and reduce plastic pollution.

Concluding opening remarks, Syed Iftikhar ul Hassan Shah, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, acknowledged the ubiquitous nature of plastic in daily life, which makes it particularly difficult to manage. Mr Shah spoke about the pervasive presence of microplastics and their detrimental effects on both human health and biodiversity. He provided an overview of the international efforts to address plastic pollution, including the mandate given by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to develop a global treaty on plastics. He noted that four Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) sessions had already taken place, with a fifth and final session scheduled for 2024 to draft the treaty.

While Pakistan may not be a major producer of primary polymers, Shah pointed out that managing plastic waste remains a significant concern for the country. He identified three critical areas that require attention: securing adequate financing, establishing effective coordination mechanisms within the government and with the private sector, and adopting advanced technologies to combat the plastic menace. Mr Shah concluded by expressing his hope that the discussions at the RTD would contribute valuable insights and strategies for Pakistan's ongoing efforts to manage plastic waste more effectively.

The roundtable discussion was structured into three sessions, each focusing on a specific theme:

1. Policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management
2. Showcasing work by corporate and civil society entities
3. Way Forward, and Prospects for Collaborations

Session 1: Policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management

The first open discussion centred on the policy and regulatory challenges associated with plastic waste management in Pakistan.

The first segment of the Roundtable Discussion delved into policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management, featuring insights from distinguished government officials and experts. Mr. Syed Iftikhar ul Hassan Shah, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, provided an overview of Pakistan's regulatory framework. He highlighted key regulations, such as the Regulation 2023 on Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) and the National Hazardous Waste Management Policy 2022, emphasising that while these frameworks are essential, they represent only part of the solution. Various provincial and regional regulations also address plastic use and disposal, with notable measures in Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite these regulations, Mr. Shah pointed out significant challenges, including inadequate enforcement and insufficient financing, which impede the effective implementation of policies. He noted difficulties in aligning federal directives with provincial actions, highlighting the need for improved coordination mechanisms. The federal government's struggle to ensure consistent policy application across provinces affects the overall efficacy of plastic waste management.

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi of the National Disaster Management Authority commented on the severe challenge posed by plastic waste, both within Pakistan and globally. She emphasised the necessity for collaborative efforts to address this issue and indicated that future international treaties could play a crucial role in shaping plastic waste management strategies.

Dr. Muhammad Younis Zahid, a climate expert and former Director of the Environment Protection Department Punjab, elaborated on regulatory inconsistencies across provinces. He pointed out specific examples, such as differing standards for plastic thickness and biodegradability, which create regulatory clashes and complicate enforcement. These inconsistencies disrupt the plastic supply chain and hinder effective management.

Mr. Muhammad Shahid, a former Joint Chief Economist at the Planning Commission of Pakistan, addressed the practical challenges of implementing plastic regulations. He highlighted that while bans on plastic exist, enforcement remains weak, particularly in sectors such as food packaging where plastic use continues to pose health risks. Mr. Shahid stressed the need for technological

innovations to manage plastic waste effectively and called for enhanced financial and human resources to support effective enforcement and public education.

Key Takeaways:

1. Pakistan's multi-layered regulatory approach to plastic waste includes both national and provincial measures, but faces challenges in enforcement and financing.
2. Effective management of plastic waste requires improved coordination between federal and provincial authorities to ensure consistent policy application.
3. Differences in provincial regulations create complications in the plastic supply chain and enforcement, indicating a need for harmonised standards.
4. There is an urgent need for technological advancements to manage plastic waste and develop less harmful alternatives.
5. Collaboration between the public and private sectors is essential, with the private sector increasing compliance and contributing to sustainable solutions.
6. Addressing health risks associated with plastic use, particularly in food packaging, is critical for safeguarding public health and the environment.
7. Strengthening public education and increasing financial and human resources are vital for effective enforcement of plastic waste regulations.

Session 2: Showcasing work by corporate and civil society sectors:

The second segment of the Roundtable Discussion focused on showcasing initiatives from the corporate and civil society sectors in tackling plastic waste. This session highlighted a range of innovative approaches and strategies aimed at reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainability.

Mr. Ali Abdullah, Director at Project Procurement International, addressed the lack of a cohesive roadmap for plastic waste reduction. Mr. Abdullah highlighted that while polyethylene bags (less than 15 microns) often go uncollected due to their low value, a uniform national policy is essential to address this issue effectively. He stressed the importance of collaboration between stakeholders, including manufacturers and recyclers, to leverage data for better regulatory outcomes. He emphasised the need for an IT-based database or dashboard to track plastic import/export, hotspots, and consumption, which would facilitate evidence-based policymaking, and shared that under the PLEASE Project, PPI is implementing the Technical Assistance activity to the MOCC&EC to develop national plastic waste management & IT based monitoring and reporting mechanism for Pakistan.

Mr. Saad Shah, Regional Sales Manager at Engro Corp, who presented along with Engro Foundation GM Sustainability, Salima Hemani, presented Engro's Circular Plastic Programme, which aims to achieve zero plastic waste. Engro has launched a pilot project across Pakistan focusing on low-cost waste management solutions and investing in recycling enterprises. He highlighted the importance of initial small-scale pilot projects to demonstrate potential and attract international funding for scaling

up. Mr. Shah also noted the creation of the Circular Plastic Institute at Karachi Business School to support data collection and stakeholder engagement. He emphasised the necessity of partnerships and access to finance to advance circular economy initiatives.

Mr. Sheikh Waqar, Director of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability at Nestlé, shared his views on Nestlé's vision of ensuring none of its plastic ends up in landfills, waste, or oceans. He outlined Nestlé's three-pronged agenda: 1) designing packaging materials for recycling, with a target of reaching 95% recyclable packaging by 2025; 2) transitioning from plastic to paper straws for juices, despite higher costs; and 3) achieving plastic neutrality by 2030, ensuring all packaging material is collected and recycled. Mr. Waqar emphasised the company's commitment to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) while recommending global examples of moving towards such initiatives with careful inclusion and long term strategy to ensure sustainability. He emphasised that approach over immediate action; as well as the need for strong partnerships to drive progress.

Mr. Syed Ziauddin, CFO of ALTAS Pak Waste Management (a regional block grantee of PLEASE Project), provided an overview of ALTAS Pak's initiatives under the PLEASE project as a regional block grantee. He described their Project *'From Waste to Credits: Circularity in Plastic Management'* objective of establishing a self-sustaining plastic waste management system in Hyderabad, Karachi, to prevent pollution in rivers and seas. Mr. Ziauddin emphasised the importance of environmental conservation, waste reduction, and promoting a circular economy. He highlighted the challenges of sorting and recycling waste in the informal sector and the need for formalised recycling facilities. The project aims to convert plastic waste into useful products like manhole covers, thereby protecting the environment and generating economic benefits, in addition to this ALTAS PAK aimed to develop plastic credits from the intervention contributing to Plastic Circularity. He also mentioned the project's engagement of women from the informal waste sector, or IWWs.

Dr. Zillay Maryam, CEO of ISP Environmental Solutions, another regional block grantee of PLEASE Project, discussed ISP's waste collection and waste management capabilities, and their innovative approach using reverse vending machines. While describing the overall footprint and impact of their organisation in Lahore; she explained the placement of the machines under their current project, Trash has Value – Recycling plastic waste to Eco green Tiles/Bricks, under the PLEASE Project. These machines incentivize end-users and enhance existing supply chains for plastic recycling. Dr. Maryam presented ISP's efforts in creating circular economies by recycling plastic into eco-bricks, which are designed to address microplastic concerns through encapsulation. She described their goal of the recycling of 10,000-20,000 tons of plastic and production of 100,000 Eco bricks in the process.

Open Floor Discussion:

The open floor session allowed for further exploration of the discussed topics. Questions raised included concerns about microplastic pollution from recycled materials and the end-of-life cycle of eco-bricks. Dr. Maryam addressed these by explaining that encapsulation techniques are used to prevent microplastic release. Additionally, discussions included the incentives for small and medium

enterprises (SMEs) to adopt sustainable practices, access to finance, and the role of academia in supporting plastic recycling projects through non-financial resources.

Key Takeaways:

1. The establishment of IT-based databases for tracking plastic data is crucial for informed policymaking and effective regulation.
2. Corporate efforts, such as Engro's and Nestlé's programs, are pivotal in advancing circular economy practices and reducing plastic waste.
3. Successful plastic waste management requires strong partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms to scale up pilot projects and support recycling enterprises.
4. Uniform national policies and improved enforcement mechanisms are necessary to address regulatory inconsistencies and ensure effective plastic waste management.
5. Continued investment in technological advancements and innovative solutions, such as reverse vending machines and eco-bricks, is essential for addressing plastic waste. Effective plastic waste management depends on collaboration between corporate, civil society, and government sectors to drive comprehensive solutions.
6. Engaging the public and providing education on plastic waste issues and recycling practices are critical for fostering sustainable behaviours and practices.

Session 3: Way Forward, and Prospects for Collaborations

Dr. Rahat Jabeen Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, provided an extensive overview of the World Bank's ongoing initiatives and research focused on plastic waste management in Pakistan. Her presentation highlighted several key areas of engagement, including the Sustainable Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Mountain Areas program, which addresses waste management challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other regions. The World Bank has also conducted a baseline assessment to track plastic debris flowing into rivers and seas across South Asia, emphasising the urgent need for improved waste management systems. A notable study, "Plastic Waste: A Journey Down the Indus River Basin in Pakistan," explores the scale and impact of plastic pollution in this critical waterway, shedding light on the sources and distribution of plastic waste. Additionally, the World Bank's marine pollution diagnostics assessment and the Punjab Green Development Program focus on tackling marine pollution and promoting sustainable practices in the Punjab province. Dr. Jabeen also touched on the findings of the IFC study on plastic circularity, which identifies opportunities and barriers for the private sector in Pakistan, and the ongoing efforts to map out effective strategies for integrating circular economy principles. The presentation emphasised that despite various regulatory frameworks and initiatives, significant challenges remain in terms of enforcement, technology, and coordination across different sectors. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, combining improved data collection, stakeholder collaboration, and robust financial mechanisms to drive sustainable solutions.

Dr. Farhaan Saeed, Associate Professor, Department of Polymer Engineering at UET Lahore, stressed the necessity for an inclusive plastic waste management strategy that involves all sectors and value chain actors. He emphasised that the inherent properties of plastic, which make it highly versatile and useful, also contribute to its persistent environmental impact. The transition from a linear to a circular economy—focusing on reduction, reuse, redesign, and recycling—is presented as a crucial solution to mitigating plastic pollution. Dr. Saeed pointed out that a significant portion of microplastics originates from textiles, particularly PET materials, underscoring the need for comprehensive strategies that address various sources of plastic waste.

Mr. Umer Gilani, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan and Senior Environmental Lawyer, discussed the legal dimensions of plastic waste management, highlighting the paradox of plastic's economic advantages versus its environmental costs. He pointed out that profit motives alone are insufficient to address the plastic issue, necessitating robust legal frameworks. Mr. Gilani reviewed the existing provincial laws and ordinances aimed at controlling single-use plastics (SUPs), noting that while these laws were developed from extensive discussions, they have struggled to effectively translate into community and political action. He advocated for increased public advocacy and legal narrative to bridge the gap between legislation and social acceptance.

Mr. Ali Tauqir Sheikh, member of the Pakistan Climate Change Council, emphasised the importance of innovation and startups in tackling plastic waste. He highlighted the role of education and campus waste management as key areas for improvement, while also noting the challenges posed by waste management conflicts and the influence of waste mafias. Mr. Sheikh pointed out the critical link between plastic waste and climate change, advocating for integrated approaches that align with international conventions like the Paris Agreement.

The speakers discussed potential areas for collaboration, including academic research, legal frameworks, and cross-sector partnerships. Rahat further highlighted the need for innovative financing models to support large-scale waste management projects, including public-private partnerships and green bonds. Dr. Farhan emphasised the role of academic institutions in driving research and innovation, particularly in developing new materials and technologies for plastic waste management. Mr. Gilani discussed the legal challenges associated with enforcing environmental regulations, calling for stronger legal frameworks that hold polluters accountable and provide incentives for sustainable practices. Mr. Ali Tauqir Sheikh emphasised the importance of continuous dialogue among stakeholders, proposing the establishment of a permanent platform for collaboration on environmental issues in Pakistan.

Key Takeaways:

1. The World Bank's Initiatives in Pakistan, including the Sustainable Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Mountain Areas program, as well as other assessments conducted may provide a baseline for marine pollution diagnostics and highlight the need for improved systems and collaboration across sectors to tackle plastic waste.

2. Additionally, baseline studies such as Plastic Waste: A Journey down the Indus River Basin in Pakistan, echo the scale and depth of impact of plastic pollution in the country and call for better waste tracking and management.
3. Steps towards a transition to a circular economy such as reuse, redesign & recycling are crucial solutions in mitigation of plastic pollution. It was also stressed that industrial sources of microplastics such as textile need to be addressed.
4. Laws targeting single use plastics need to be more robust and consistent at Federal & Provincial levels. Consumers need to feel greater inclusion and advocacy should be strengthened to bridge the gap between provincial laws targeting single-use plastics and actual social and community action.

Overall Key Takeaways and Recommendations

The roundtable concluded with closing remarks from representatives of the Ministry of Climate Change and the PLEASE Project.

The session summarised the key takeaways from the discussions, emphasising the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to address the plastic waste crisis in Pakistan:

- A unified approach to plastic waste management regulations across provinces is essential. While various regulations exist, including those addressing single-use plastics (SUPs) and hazardous waste, there are gaps in enforcement and adequate financing. Harmonising regulations and improving enforcement mechanisms are critical steps.
- Effective coordination between federal, provincial, and local governments is crucial for successful implementation of plastic waste management strategies. The establishment of a centralised IT-based database or dashboard can enhance data collection and evidence-based policymaking. Collaboration with stakeholders such as manufacturers and recyclers will facilitate better data use.
- Investing in research and development of new technologies and alternative materials is necessary to address plastic pollution. Pilot projects can showcase the viability of these technologies and attract further investment. Supporting innovation in recycling and waste management technologies will help in managing plastic waste more effectively.
- The private sector has a significant role in advancing plastic waste management. Initiatives like circular plastic programs and investment funds for recycling enterprises can drive progress. Businesses are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices, such as designing packaging for recyclability and investing in local recycling infrastructure.
- Raising public awareness about the impacts of plastic waste and the importance of waste management is vital. Educational programs should focus on waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy principles. Engaging communities in waste management efforts can enhance participation and effectiveness.

- Strategies, regulations and standards to combat microplastic pollution need to be developed and implemented. This includes certification of the recycled products, improving recycling technologies and measures to prevent microplastics from entering the environment.
- Participation in international agreements and forums, such as the global plastic treaty, aligns national efforts with global standards. Engaging with the international community will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices, contributing to a more coordinated global response to plastic pollution.
- Securing adequate financing for plastic waste management initiatives is essential. Exploring innovative financial mechanisms, such as plastic credits and green bonds, can support waste management projects and technologies. Both public and private investments are needed to address the challenges effectively.
- All sectors, including government, private industry, and academia, must collaborate to develop and implement comprehensive plastic waste management strategies. Involvement of all value chain actors is crucial for a circular economy approach, emphasising reduce, reuse, redesign, and recycling.
- Public advocacy and legal measures are necessary to address the plastic waste paradox. Engaging in legal frameworks and policy discussions will help align community narratives with regulatory efforts and promote effective solutions.
- Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes can enhance the management of plastic waste by making producers responsible for the lifecycle of their products. This approach encourages manufacturers to design for recyclability and contributes to more effective waste management practices.
- Starting with small-scale pilot projects allows for testing and demonstrating new approaches to plastic waste management. Successful pilots can be scaled up with additional funding and support, demonstrating practical solutions and their potential impacts.

Conclusion

To address the pressing challenges of plastic waste management at both national and regional levels in Pakistan, the discussions underscored the key role of collaboration among all stakeholders. This includes federal and provincial governments, regulatory bodies, private sector entities, academic institutions, development partners, and civil society organisations. Unified efforts are crucial for the successful implementation of comprehensive plastic waste management strategies.

The participants highlighted the importance of enhancing coordination between various levels of government and leveraging data-driven approaches for effective policymaking. The integration of technological innovations and investment in sustainable practices will be pivotal in managing plastic waste. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, alongside financial mechanisms such as carbon credits and green bonds, are essential in promoting accountability and securing necessary resources.

Furthermore, ongoing dialogue and technical cooperation among stakeholders, including the adoption of collaborative models like public-private partnerships (PPP), will facilitate progress. The engagement of the private sector in waste management discussions and the exploration of novel funding mechanisms are critical for advancing these efforts. The World Bank’s initiatives and regional cooperation models should serve as benchmarks for further action.

The session concluded with a collective commitment to addressing plastic pollution through continuous, collaborative efforts.

Annex 1

Agenda

Timestamp	Segment	Description
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Opening Remarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination 2. Rokeya Khaton, Director General, SACEP 3. Charles Schneider, Senior Private Sector Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group 4. Jennifer Ankrom, Country Manager, UNOPS Pakistan
4.00 - 4.45 PM	1st Open Discussion [45 mins]	<p>Theme: Policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management (state sector representatives)</p> <p><u>Speakers 5 mins each</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Syed Iftikhar ul Hassan Shah, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination 2. Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi, Consultant International Collaborations National Disaster Management Authority 3. Dr. Muhammad Younis Zahid Director (r) Environment Protection Department Punjab, Climate Expert 4. Muhammad Shahid, Project Management Expert, Former Joint Chief Economist, Member PM Inspection team on Monitoring

		<p>of Projects</p> <p><u>Open Floor Discussion 20 mins</u></p>
4:45 - 5:30 PM	2nd Open Discussion [45 minutes]	<p>Theme: Showcasing work by corporate and civil society sectors</p> <p><u>Speakers 5 mins each</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ali Abdullah, Director, Project Procurement International 2. Salima Hemani, GM Sustainability, Engro Corp & Saad Hussain Shah, Regional Sales Manager South PVC 3. Sheikh Waqar, Director Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Nestle 4. Syed Ziauddin, CFO, ALTAS Pak Waste Management 5. Dr. Zillay Maryam, CEO, ISP Environmental Solutions <p><u>Open Floor Discussion 20 mins</u></p>
5:30 - 6.30 PM	3rd Open Discussion [45 mins]	<p>Theme: Way Forward, and Prospects for Collaborations</p> <p><u>Speakers 5 mins each</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rahat Jabeen (PhD), Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank 2. Dr. Asif Ali Qaiser, Chairman, Department of Polymer Engineering, University of Engineering & Technology Lahore 3. Umer Gilani, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Senior Environmental Lawyer 4. Ali Tauqir Sheikh, Pakistan Climate Change Council <p><u>Open Floor Discussion 20 mins</u></p>
6:30 - 6:40 PM	Closing Remarks and Key Takeaways	<p>The session will conclude with a summary of key takeaways and insights from the discussions.</p>

		Closing remarks by MoCCEC and PLEASE Project
6.40 PM onwards	Dinner & Networking Session	

Annex 2

List of Participants (72 Representatives)

Government of Pakistan (17 Representatives)

1. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
2. Syed Iftikhar Ul Hassan Shah, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
3. Dr. Mansoor Wassan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
4. Dr. Mohsina Zubair, Deputy Director (Chemicals), Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
5. Hassan Sardar Kundi, PS to Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
6. Ambassador (r) Iffat Imran Gardezi, Consultant - International Collaborations (IC), National Disaster Management Authority
7. Mr. Mohammad Shahid, Former Joint Chief Economist, Planning Commission of Pakistan
8. Dr. Asif Iqbal, Waste Expert, Urban Unit, Lahore
9. Mr. Minhaj Sheikh, Senior Project Officer, Urban Unit, Lahore
10. Mohsin Khan, Assistant Director Technical, PSQCA
11. Dr. Muhammad Younis Zahid, Environmentalist, Director (r) Environment Protection Department Punjab
12. Anum Shahid, Senior Manager, Urban Unit, Lahore
13. M. Farhan Khan, Assistant Fisheries Development Commissioner, Ministry of Maritime Affairs
14. Dr. Nasim Iqbal Butt, Conservator of Forests (Add. Charge), Forests, Wildlife & Fisheries Department, Punjab
15. Pir Majid, Manager - IC, National Disaster Management Authority
16. Zubaida Abbasi, Deputy Manager - IC, National Disaster Management Authority
17. Hassan Khan, Assistant Manager - IC, National Disaster Management Authority

Bilateral & Multilateral Development Partners (8 Representatives)

1. Abu Rehan, Program Manager (Water and Climate Change), Australian High Commission
2. Nazifa Butt, Head of Climate Unit, WWF
3. Rohma Labeeb, Country Director, Accelerate Prosperity, Agha Khan Development Network

4. Humaira Jahanzeb, Coordinator of Living Indus Initiative at UNRCO
5. Faraz Ahmad Toor, IM & Outreach Specialist, Living Indus Initiative/UNRCO
6. Faisal Syed, Project Development Expert, Living Indus Initiative/UNRCO
7. Hamid Mumtaz, Project Manager, UN Habitat
8. Usman Manzoor Programme Officer, Environment and Climate Change Unit, UNDP

Government & Private Companies (16 Representatives)

1. Dr. Zillay Mariam, Managing Director, International Services Pak Environmental Solutions (ISPES), Lahore
2. Gulfam Abid, Chief Executive Officer, International Services Pak Environmental Solutions (ISPES), Lahore
3. Dr. Waqas Ahmed Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Entertech, Lahore
4. Syed Zia Uddin, Legal & Finance Expert, ALTAS Pak
5. Samina Parveen, Environmental Expert, ALTAS Pak
6. Salman Ijaz, Manager Collection, Entertech, Lahore
7. Qasim Manzoor, Lahore Waste Management Company
8. Salman Tariq, CEO, Davaam Life
9. Ahsan Kamal, Director, OTIUM Consultancy Services
10. Ali Abdullah, Director, Project Procurement International
11. Mr. Saadat Ali, Director, Project Procurement International
12. Dr. Irshad Ahmed, Project Procurement International
13. Maryam Ali, Junior Analyst, Project Procurement International
14. Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Sustainability, Nestle
15. Salima Hemani, GM Sustainability, Engro Corp
16. Saad Hassan Shah, Regional Manager Sales PVC, Engro Polymers & Chemicals

Academia, Media, Civil Society & Associations (13 Representatives)

1. Dr. Anjum Rasheed, Head of Research, Institute of Regional Studies
2. Sheraz Ahmed, Associate Researcher, Islamabad Policy Research Institute
3. Tariq Jadoon, Vice President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI)
4. Rauf Raza, Member, Rawalpindi Chambers of Commerce & Industry
5. Umar Gillani, Advocate Supreme Court, Law & Policy Chambers
6. Prof. Dr. Shahzad Maqsood Khan, Institute of Polymer and Textile Engineering, University of the Punjab, Lahore.
7. Dr. Farhan Saeed, Associate Professor, University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore
8. Dr. Yasir Qayyum Gill, Associate Professor, University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore
9. Mr Absar Ali, Research Manager & Senior Economist, All Pakistan Textile Mill Association
10. Asim Riaz, Energy Advisor, All Pakistan Textile Mill Association
11. Mr Ali Iqtidar, Intern, All Pakistan Textile Mill Association

12. Sohail Butt, Reporter, Asian Telegraph
13. Raza Abid, Chief Reporter, Roze TV

The World Bank (5 Representatives)

1. Charles Schneider, Senior Private Sector Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
2. Nalaka Gunawardene, Communication Consultant, World Bank Dr. Rahat Jabeen, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, Pakistan
3. Mahwish Bukhari, Consultant, Environment and Natural Resources, World Bank Pakistan
4. Kiran Shahzadi, Program Associate, World Bank Pakistan

SACEP (2 Representatives)

1. Rokeya Khaton, Director General, SACEP
2. Prakriti Kashyap, Plastic Expert, PLEASE project, SACEP PIU

UNOPS (11 Representatives)

1. Jennifer Ankrom, Country Manager, UNOPS Pakistan
2. Constanza Malagamba, Senior Program Manager, UNOPS Sri Lanka
3. Nauman Amin, Project Manager, UNOPS Pakistan
4. Mirza Amir Rafiq, Project Manager, UNOPS Pakistan
5. Arshmah Jamil, Partnerships Specialist, UNOPS Pakistan
6. Maria Alam, ICT Associate, UNOPS Pakistan
7. Irfan Latif, Administration Assistant, UNOPS Pakistan
8. Dinithi De Alwis, Communications Officer, Support to PLEASE Project, UNOPS Sri Lanka
9. Hasnat Sheikh, Project Manager, Country PLEASE Team, Pakistan
10. Nauman Zakariya, Technical Expert - Environmental, Country PLEASE Team, Pakistan
11. Nusrat Shaheen, Technical Specialist - Environmental, Country PLEASE Team, Bhutan