

Session 6

Where are we?

- **UNEP:** Nowadays, the nature of single-use products is considered as the most problematic in nature rather than the material they are made of.
- **Mission Coopération at Région Réunion:** Phasing out of all single-use plastic packaging by 2040
- **IOC**
 - Today, 8 to 15 million tonnes of plastics are released into the oceans annually.
 - A concentration of 200,000 to 600,000 pieces of microplastics per km² is estimated (Eriksen et al. 2014).
 - Despite an awareness of plastic pollution at the international level and the development of several research programs around the world, the level and consequences of plastic pollution are still not well understood. Particularly with regards to the direct impacts on marine biodiversity and the trophic levels or other indirect effects on the health of marine animals and humans.
 - The IOC estimates the production of plastic waste in this region to be at 140,000 tonnes per year.

Where we want to go?

- **UNEP:** Designed products should be durable, and the lighter a product's weight, (normally) the lower its environmental impact.
- **Mission Coopération at Région Réunion:** Phasing out of all single-use plastic packaging by 2040 (plastic bottles, toothpaste tubes, detergent cans and plastics for salads).
- **Basel Convention Secretariat:** Improve and promote ESM of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and prevent and minimize its generation
- **IOC**
 - Create the conditions to change behaviours and practices around the use of plastic
 - Support the emergence of circular economy dynamics by encouraging economic actors to initiate a 3R approach
 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG 14)
 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12)
- **Business Mauritius**
 - Transitioning to a Circular Economy – the way forward

How to reach there?

- **UNEP**

- Improved circularity by reducing production of virgin materials and consumption of plastics, increase in reuse rate, recycling rate and recycled content in new products.
- Encouraged to promote actions that lead to keeping resources at their highest value, by replacing single-use plastic products with reusable products
- Reduced plastic leakage
- Reduced impacts on ecosystem, human, climate change and resource scarcity

- **Mission Coopération at Région Réunion**

- Collection, recycling and other recovery, incl. financing
- Prevention and minimization
- Transboundary movements
- Outreach, education, awareness raising

- **IOC**

- Develop a shared knowledge base on the state of marine pollution and the specificities of the South-West Indian Ocean in terms of plastic waste
- Involve and empower target audiences
- Support and stimulate initiatives and projects
- Identify and support plastic substitution or recycling projects

- **Business Mauritius**

The taxonomy of an incentive framework may include:

1. Green and Circular Public Procurement (GPP)
2. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) incorporating all external costs in the price of specific product groups
3. A tax shift from labour to resources
4. No or low VAT for circular products and services
5. Investigate demand side incentives, beyond GPP

How to reach there?

Strategies that need to be deployed

- (i) Establish a clear vision on CE and policies towards waste management to 2030
- (ii) Introduce the necessary incentive framework for those involved in CE activities
- (iii) Reform the waste collection system towards segregation with investment towards the necessary logistic and infrastructure
- (iv) Establish necessary logistic such that recyclers secure waste as raw materials in a timely manner
- (v) Facilitating the industry-university research into R&D and product design from waste
- (vi) Establishing the necessary standards and certification of material recovery from waste (reference is made to the Mauritius Standard Bureau).