

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE GREEN INSTITUTE

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ENVIRONMENT SESSION

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INTRODUCTION

Ms Dinah Awino: Morning, good afternoon and good evening, wherever you are joining us from, and this world environment day, happy world environment day, wherever you are, and welcome back to session to where we have amazing expert. I'd like to introduce them just very quickly, so we have Doctor Emma Camp. We have Dr. Susan Gardner, Miss Sian Sutherland and Dr. Rolph Payet I just a quick bio about Dr. Emma camp. She's a marine biologist a team leader of the future risk Team of the UTS and National Geographic Explorer and associate Lord low-rate sorry. Australian women's hands very well and was recently named the winner of macrina University recognized for their outstanding early career researchers. And we have the second speaker, who is also Sian Sutherland. She is the co-founder of a plastic planet, very recognized and respected organization, and we will meet her also and know much about in her presentation, also have real Rolph Payet and he is an international policy expert researcher, speaker on environment, climate and Island issues. And we have a very big viral including being a minister of environment and energy cabinet of seashells from 2012 to 2014, currently the United Nations, executive secretary for the brazil Rotterdam Stockholm convention, he has won numerous International Awards and is recognized for his work on islands and climate change. And lastly, we have Dr. Susan Gardener, who is the director of the ecosystems division of the UN environmental program. She leads programs promoting nature based Solutions including food system transformation, climate resilience and Global biodiversity protection. She's had three decades experience in international environmental policy and has worked with the Mexican and the United States government. She is very rich including walking with women and girls in science. And she has also gotten an award like the gold medal for exceptional services from the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the highest one of national honor that the agency gave her also, she has a research background with over 30 Publications, including a book. So, I really welcome you today to this session, please enjoy. You can say hi in the chat and I look forward to engaging all of you. So I'm going to introduce the first Speaker, who is Dr. Emma Camp and she is going to be presenting today. I hope you're looking forward to her presentation her title is **Stakeholder Site Stewardship to Conserve Coral Reefs** I'd like to share her scream in a minute.

Dr. RIOPH PAYET: PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT- The Role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Dr. Payet: Thank you very much Dinah, always a pleasure and for the opportunity to be able to talk at this, you know, green Institute. Okay. They'll go now, shifting a bit from what my colleague from UNEP was talking about, but believe me it is within the same context is one of over and talk about the issue of chemicals and wastes. And this is Where plastic pollution really sits in. And from there, you have all the different impacts on biodiversity and the links to climate change even next slide and just to, just to give you a couple of examples, is that as you know, Plastics comes from fossil fuels and also Plastics have issues with. For example, flooding because of poor Waste Management Plastics have been involved also in Epidemic. So you know, especially to do with malaria mosquito, waterborne diseases because plastic containers hold all water and they are found in all sorts of places. So the links to both human health, biodiversity and climate changes is really dramatic. When you start digging deep into the plastic waste. If you if you understand my pain now, for those of you who are not so much aware of the trick is important. Mentions here based in Geneva. The first one is the Basel convention in this was adopted in 1989 and currently has around. 91 part is in fact last week we just had one but which only does the small principality of San Marino who is actually surrounded by Italy. And for them it's quite a big challenge because they are such a small country and we need to be able to unleash their way. So they have an

agreement with the government of Italy for their ways to be managed in Italy itself. And this brings me, of course, the perspective of a small island nation from which I come from a couple decisions, which is just east of east of Africa here. And our biggest challenges obviously are to do with, how do we manage some of those ways? Because some of those ways we cannot, we don't have the systems in place at the national level to be able to deal with those with those complex wastes. And whether it is cycling or material recovery or anything. So bad, the Basel convention provides the framework for the trans boundary movement of hazardous waste, which means that, for example, Global which is not working, the seizures can send it to a country, which has the facilities and Technology to be able to take about this mobile and, and remove the precious metals. Also, the other precious materials, in this mobile phone and have it used Life cycle approach, so that we can make and reuse those materials in other products. But of course, that's the intention of the convention. And as, you know, it doesn't always work this week because some countries have actually used the Basel convention to send waste to other countries and those countries don't have the capacity, no technology in place to be reduces waste. And as a result, those waste are dump either in Dump sites where they are burnt and causing a lot of other environmental, pollution problems or dumped in the oceans or adopted the rivers. Which of course, has increasingly led to the big ocean plastic part that will we do about? So the Basel convention is a very, very important called Venture, which controls the Trans boundary movement of waste and hazardous waste. There's also the other aspect of it, which is the illegal Trans boundary movement of waste way. It is much cheaper for the West, to be disposed or dump somewhere else, because especially in in very advanced countries, the cost of disposal always is very high. So they look for Country, especially in the South Africa. Southeast Asia, Latin America, where there is this lack of rules and institutions and policing of waste management and their huge boats with containers are dumped illegally.

The movement of waste around the world, so we have both an illegal waste for example, punished according Force. We also have a plastic waste banishing, which brings together, the private sector governments and everybody to look at that waist. And then we have a household with partnership, have a mobile phone partnership, all this, a partnership where we work with countries and Industry. And of course in your Society in trying to address this Global whether it's legal or illegal trade in With the second convention is Rotterdam convention that was adopted in 1998 and has average 65 parties. And basically this convention is pre-owned informed consent convention, which means that it's an information exchange Convention Way where countries that are sending chemicals such as pesticides and in some cases industrial chemicals to another country where they need to notify the country that they are sending those chemicals and I can Who has to ensure they have the necessary facilities and capacities in place for them to be able to use those chemical is a very important convention which has received a lot of attention recently because it is concerning you know chemicals such as a space toes and pesticides such as which is used extensively in agriculture. And some of these chemicals have been found to have impacts on the environment and our health. And as a result the

Has been under the management of this convention. The third convention was adopted much later. In 2001 already has 26 parties and the stop of convention deals with persistent organic pollutants. Which means that these are chemicals that have been found to be extremely toxic and dangerous to human health and the environment and in by toxic what I mean by that is they take A long time to degrade in the environments or years, some of them take decades, to degrade into the, into the environment, as a result, they accurate in most animals plants. And of course we as human beings, as being on top of the food web and we will be a correlation of these chemicals. In our bodies, it has impacts on childbearing, has impacts on when we get older, and he has impacts on the functioning of our nervous system of or endocrine system. And wreaks havoc obviously with our hands. So the social convention has been instrumental, for example, in the listing, for example DDT, which as you know, has been used extensively in Africa, in the treatment of malaria. And today we have only very, very few countries that are allowed or had exemptions on the use of DDT and we are hoping that it would be phased out very soon. We have also known as PCB which are used in electricity Transformers and increasingly now being Because limited and there are deadlines set and Target set by Parties by which to eliminate these chemicals from our planet then recently at our scope three weeks ago Four weeks ago, the park is also decided to list chemicals. That is also found Plastics. These are additives that are added to Plastics that strengthen the use or their role. And one of these activities was used for has a UV broke. Which means that it stopped the plastic from the grading from being exposed to the Sun? And as you can imagine a lot of the number of plastic that we

use are used in the outside environment. So if they break down, we have other kinds of problems. But of course, if they don't break down, they last forever basically so we have another kind of problem. So these activities were added to those Plastics and the cop, the conference of the parties to this convention decided to add those additives to the list for feasible. Because they have been found to have these toxics properties and countries and in the industry. Now, have to sit down and look forward in eight years and bring it, give it all then, it is shallow. Toxic from more sustainable for use in the different users that they were having before. Now, this is just a quick overview because I realize some of you have never heard about huffy conventions. You can move on to the next Slide. The next slide because our topic is on Plastics so I just wanted to share with you.

So this is just a quick overview of the Plastics life cycle and of course, when we look at this at this slide here we saw that there are two main sources of plastics and polymers coming into the into the plastic life cycle and these are Those are the biomass base. That means they are coming from plants and vegetation but then there are those that are coming from the production of the extraction of oil. That means they are fossil fuel-based and the large majority of our plastic Century comes from positive, and yeah, they are converted from oil into the components to make plastic and there is enters into a chemical phase or you have the different chemicals. But also, you have to polymers or Plastics, actually polymers, which are repetition of chemical units that come together to give the versatility that we know about Plastics. But also in plants, for example, of cellulose is also a polymer based material, which is probably used also, in many applications, as replacing Plastics. And these are polymers, are used now to make Products and as I was mentioning, these materials are then turn into products that we use. For example clothing, the glasses furniture and in all sorts of specialized products as well as industry, and the problem is, when we finish with this products, we just throw them away and then we become waste and there are systems lack of systems in place for Waste Management. And as we can see here, there are hazardous chemicals about also added to those materials and products which entered when environment. Now, some of this waste of also, they take a long time to degree. Please, can you go back? Yes. And then when they degrading the environment, they call what we call micro plastics and these are very, very small components. Micro plastics are also added for example, in cosmetics in creams and all these interact with the environment and Polluting the environment but not only pointing the environment but they can be absorbed into our body. Every recent scientific information, has found that as has those chemicals in Plastics, enter into our bloodstream. And there's research on going now to see whether they can penetrate the blood-brain barrier. And as you can imagine, this is a very serious concern and that's why we have this Global effort to look at an international treaty on plastic. Next slide, please, so, I mentioned before the so-called conventional organic pollutants, has three annexes. The other chemicals are not put in Annex A to be eliminated completely from the planet and Annex B they are to be restricted and means they are specific users for which they've been allowed to use and Annex C is looking at reduction and elimination and they have a timetable, you have a, you know, so many years to be able and this gives time to Industry and government to put in place the laws. But also for industry to Look at alternative. So next, slide, please, and as I mentioned before the Rotterdam convention is about information exchange. Next slide, please Basel convention has three important pillars and I talked about it more in my introductory slide. And it is really back, prevention in minimization. And that's important, because, you know, you have a system where you are creating too much waste, like single-use plastic, for example, and we've seen many countries around the world has input in laws to ban single-use Plastics because they are inefficient, we use it only once and so much energy. And so many resources are going to this that we've ended up with so much plastic bag. So, this is where one area where we can have prevention. We can also have minimization again by eliminating single-use Plastics. Then the Basel convention also comes in a very important area, Coronado The sound management. That means it provides support and advice to government into industry on which Technologies are sustainable on which Technologies are mentally sound. It is important because we also technologies that are not so environmentally sound, so the convention plays, a very important role. And finally, as I mentioned before, the convention is very important role in controlling the movement of Trans boundary movement of waste next slide, please. And these are some of the highlights you can see here and I think there's like is not showing everything, but since 1989, the convention has been working on different ways than this is, not only plastic waste, but battery, land acid, batteries E-Waste and all the other kinds of waste. As, you know, is a very complex subject, very complex area. And just at the last 2019, the Basel convention became the first treaty actually to focus on plastic waste and through that there was the plastic waste amendment, which essentially Center to control the movement of plastic waste around the world. And that lead us obviously to the course that we had this year

which decided on guidelines on plastic waste and other measures looking, for example, like tyres. As, as you know, that tyres when they get used, they create small little pieces of plastic, which we mentioned before micro plastic and they found out even in very, very clean countries. They have not been paying attention to the micro plastics coming from tyres as there are used by vehicles and this is known to cause a number of other problems and now we are working with industry to see how we can reduce the emissions or microplastics from that. I will stop here. of course, there's a lot more than I can say about these three conventions. But I hope, this will give you a broad direction of what we are doing and the impact that we are having in addressing the challenges of plastic motion. Thank you very much.

Ms Dinah Awino: Thank you so much. We appreciate you unfortunately because of time we can't take a question, but I'm sure the audience is really informed about the Basel Stockholm Rotterdam convention with your presentation. So we have to go to the next session which will be moderated by my colleague Charles.