

## **SDGs: CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO MANAGE PLASTIC POLLUTION**

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**Abstract** – Description in 250-300 words in one paragraph

Natural resource use is the interface between our economies and the environment. Extraction and eventual use of resources causes environmental impacts through agriculture, mining, forestry, fisheries - each of which might lead to detrimental environmental issues like desertification, air and water pollution and waste issues. Decoupling economic growth from resource use and pollution was one of the key strategic priorities identified by UN Environment's Asia Pacific Member States at the 2015 Ministerial meeting. It is also a cross cutting and standalone thematic priority of the Sustainable Development Goals, where target 8.4 and 12.2 specifically call for the sustainable and efficient management of natural resources and set quantifiable indicators to assist countries in measuring progress. Moreover, all the SDGs are to be benefitted if pollution is addressed. Plastics pollution is now becoming major concern for life over land and life under sea.

The Asia-Pacific region has seen impressive economic growth leading to improvements in many of the indicators of the Human Development Index (HDI). However, the amount of resources required, coupled with pollution, including plastic pollution, have created a vicious circle that requires more resources and generates more pollution for every additional unit of economic growth and improvement in the HDI.

To reduce the momentum of this vicious circle there is a need to decouple economic growth and prosperity from increased resource use resource use and pollution. Decoupling will pave the way for sustainable transformation in terms of increased economic growth, green jobs, improvements in public health, poverty alleviation and reduce gender inequality. However, to facilitate such a transformation there is a need for coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks and the establishment of transparent enforcement mechanisms at both the regional and national level.

Circular economy approach based on of life cycle approaches helps to connect the extraction of materials and production of goods to consumption and waste management. This paper focuses on plastics management in this context to increase the resource efficiency and reduce the pollution in the lifecycle of plastics through circular economy.

**Keywords:** 4-8 words

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