

## Concept Note

### High-level Side Event

## Harnessing Sustainable Consumption & Production in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0)

**Co-Organizers:** Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSALog), EU SWITCH-Asia Programme, Clean Energy Nepal and Thanal

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Venue:** Side Event Room 2, UNFCCC COP29 Venue, Baku

**Time - 13:15 to 14:45**

### Introduction

One of the key agenda in the upcoming COP 29 at Baku is Global Stocktake (GST) in Paris Agreement aiming towards higher ambition and countries to frame their nationally determined contributions by March 2025. This stocktaking process is aimed at informing the next round of NDCs in order to increase their level of ambition; it also offers the opportunity to evaluate the need for enhanced action and support.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns lie at the core of the triple planetary crises encompassing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The scientific community has firmly established the link between climate change and material consumption. According to the Global Resource Outlook 2024 report of the International Resource Panel (IRP), resource use has tripled in the last five decades and is expected to continue to increase; resource extraction has increased by nearly 400% since 1970 and is still growing by 2.3% per year; resource extraction and processing are responsible for over 60% of planet-warming emissions and 90% of land-related biodiversity loss; high-income countries use six times more materials per capita than low-income countries; bold policy action is needed to phase out unsustainable activities and it's possible to decouple economic growth from environmental impacts and resource use. Report concludes that resources efficiency through sustainable consumption and production and circular economy are essential to the implementation of the agenda 2030 and multilateral environmental agreements.

On the climate impact aspect, the 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has once again sounded the alarm for global policymakers, emphasizing the urgent need to prevent the Earth's temperature from reaching dangerous levels. The collective global inaction in addressing the challenges posed by climate change has compelled humanity to pursue more rapid and ambitious climate actions. The recently published Global Stocktake (GST) report, as part of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has concluded that, based on current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), there is a significant emissions gap of 20.3-23.9 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2030 to stay on track with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C. The UNEP emissions gap report 2024 emphasis on need to cut off greenhouse gases, and

deliver, in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), due for submission in early 2025 ahead of COP30. Cuts of 42 per cent are needed by 2030 and 57 per cent by 2035 to get on track for 1.5°C. A failure to increase ambition in these new NDCs and start delivering immediately would put the world on course for a temperature increase of 2.6-3.1°C over the course of this century. This would bring debilitating impacts to people, planet and economies. In order to deliver on this potential, sufficiently strong NDCs would need to be backed urgently by a whole-of-government approach, measures that maximize socioeconomic and environmental co-benefits, enhanced international collaboration that includes reform of the global financial architecture, strong private sector action and a minimum six-fold increase in mitigation investment.

The UNFCCC GST report also underscores that achieving net-zero emissions will vary from country to country, necessitating a comprehensive, nationwide effort in all countries to chart pathways towards net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While these steps are critical for GHG mitigation, it's essential to ensure a broader "social transformation" to guarantee that investments in these initial measures yield the desired results. Given the pressing need for increased ambition in climate action, it becomes crucial to leverage all available avenues without compromising sustainable development. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Circular Economy emerge as compelling options for harnessing climate change co-benefits.

## The Side Event

The EU SWITCH-Asia Programme in collaboration with the CAN South Asia, CEN and Thanal is organising a side event to explore opportunities through integration of SCP/CE and Climate Agenda in the country. The UNFCCC COP29 which will be held in Baku marks a significant milestone in global climate agenda as the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, the Mitigation Work program and Just Energy Transition are on the agenda. It is an excellent opportunity for country policymakers to explore and share the lessons, challenges and opportunities to ensure all the possible avenues to enhance climate actions and sustainable development.

Join this high-level event examining the critical intersection of climate change, Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), and circular economy in Asia-Pacific. Drawing from the International Resource Panel's flagship reports of Global Resources Outlook 2024, alongside IPCC recommendations and Global Stocktake outcomes, the session will dive into both scientific and policy insights on climate change and resource efficiency nexus.

Ministers from Central Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia will share their diverse potentials and experiences implementing SCP and circular economy principles within their national climate strategies. Their firsthand accounts will highlight both challenges and successes in translating these concepts into actionable policies. The side event will also discuss how SCP and circularity serve as powerful tools for climate action - from mitigation to adaptation and resilience building. As countries prepare their NDC 3.0 submissions, this discussion offers timely insights for integrating these approaches into enhanced climate commitments, answering the Global Stock take's call for robust climate actions.

## Agenda

Time	Session
13.15-13.25	<p><b>Welcome Remarks and Background</b> The climate change, Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Circular Economy (CE) Nexus: Harnessing Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Building Opportunities in NDC 3.0</p> <p><b>Ranga Pallawala</b>, Key Expert Climate Change, EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component</p>
13.25 - 13.35	<p><b>COP29 as a milestone: Defining Climate Ambition, Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis with Circular Solutions</b> <b>Dr. Abid Suleri</b>, Member, International Advisory Committee Member to COP29 Presidency</p>
13.35 - 13.45	<p>Leveraging Material Resources for Climate Action: Aligning Ambition with resource efficiency <b>Dr. Rene Van Berkel</b>, Senior Expert on Circular Economy, EU SWITCH-Asia Programme</p>
13.35 -14.45	<p><b>High-level Panel - Interventions and Panel Discussion</b></p> <p>Sustainable Consumption and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Hon. Romena Kurshid Alam</b>, Prime Minister’s Coordinator on Climate Change and Environment Coordination, Government of Pakistan</li> <li>- <b>Hon. Mansur Oshurbayev</b>, Deputy Minister Vice Minister, Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Kazakhstan</li> <li>- <b>Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment</b>, Government of Samoa (tbc)</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Achala Abeysinghe</b>, Director of Investment Services, The Green Climate Fund (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Ranga Pallawala</b>, Climate Change Policy Expert, EU SWITCH Asia Programme</p>
14.35 - 14.45	<p>Wrap up and Vote of Thanks</p> <p><b>Sanjay Vashist</b>, Senior Expert on Climate Change, EU SWITCH-Asia Programme</p>

## About the Organizers

### [SWITCH Asia](#)

The SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) has a primary objective of advancing Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) efforts by amplifying and integrating SCP policies across 42 countries. These countries are spread across a wide geographical region encompassing the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. The SWITCH-Asia PSC is built upon the solid foundation of the successful SWITCH-Asia program, which has a history of providing effective technical assistance. Furthermore, it establishes crucial connections with the SWITCH-Asia grants component and aligns with the programs and priorities of European Union Delegations (EUDs). The PSC's adaptable and demand-driven interventions, coupled with its mandate to encourage cooperation, enhance networking, and create a platform for knowledge exchange, position it favourably to address the triple planetary crises and meet international commitments. These commitments encompass the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, underscoring the Program's commitment to a sustainable future.

### [Climate Action Network South Asia](#)

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) is a coalition of about 250 civil society organisations working in 8 South Asian countries to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change. It promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities and protection of the global environment. CANSA has been at the forefront of representing the southern perspectives at international climate negotiations and undertakes inter-governmental, regional, and national actions. With its large membership base, CANSA works towards linking policy work, research and action-based work in the region to address and set workable solutions to the adverse effects of climate change affecting the region.

### [Clean Energy Nepal \(CEN\)](#)

Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) is a prominent Nepal-based service oriented, policy, research and implementation organisation focusing on research based education and advocacy campaigns with policy inputs and implementation on issues related to sustainable energy use and environmental conservation. The organization focuses on various initiatives aimed at ensuring access to clean energy, advocating for environmental rights, and supporting climate resilience.