

Inclusive Pathways to a Zero-Waste Future

Zero-waste is not only a technical or environmental challenge, it is also a social one. The way we design waste systems has direct consequences for health, equity, and the livelihoods of individuals. Around the world, women, young people, and grassroots leaders are already shaping solutions, from local recycling initiatives to global advocacy networks. Their voices are essential to ensure that the transition to zero-waste is not only effective, but also fair.

This session will explore how inclusive approaches can unlock greater impact. By bringing together perspectives from the UN system, grassroots organisers, and international zero-waste advocates, the panel will highlight how gender, health, and community leadership can come together to create just and sustainable pathways.

This session will ask:

- How can zero-waste policies incorporate gender and health considerations from the outset?
- What lessons from grassroots organising show how communities can drive systemic change?
- How can international networks and UN agencies support local leaders to scale inclusive solutions?
- What does a “just transition” mean in practice for those most affected by waste?

10:45 - 11:45

Saturday, October 18, 2025

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Keynote Speaker: Burcu Özsoy (TÜBİTAK)
Keynote Speaker: Mahmut Mustafa Özdil (Maarif Foundation)

Moderator: Hanna Dijkstra (IAGPT)

Florence Bauer (UNFPA)
Sarah Nandudu (SDI SCARC)
Pål Mårtensson (Ocenia / ZWIA)
Al Reem Abdullah Al Falasi (Motherhood and Childhood)