

## The purpose of this briefing note is to present the concept of the Global Waste Initiative to be launched by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt during CoP27 in November 2022

### 1. RATIONALE

Waste management is a core component of sustainability topics. At the global level, every human being produces on average 0.74 kg of solid waste per day, with c. 40% of these volumes ending in landfills or open dumps, creating long-lasting impact on the environment from methane generation to water pollution<sup>1</sup>. Globally, waste management is contributing to 20% of the methane generated, making the sector a critical reserve for adaptation and mitigation. Additional environmental effects are observed such as black carbon, dioxins and other pollutants damaging the planet.

For the last three decades, African nations have been taking and implementing decisions aimed at tackling the issue of managing waste and its hazardous components with decisive milestones such as the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, the 2008 Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa or the 2013 African Union commitment to recycle 50% of the urban waste generated by 2023.

So far, these efforts have not enabled to set up an efficient ecosystem for waste management, and less than 10% of the solid waste produced is treated and recycled in properly designed and managed sanitary landfills, while the vast majority is being openly dumped or burned consequently generating irreversible impacts on the environment. The current situation results from a lack of national frameworks and weak investment to develop the required infrastructure for waste management, up to 40 times lower than developed economies<sup>1</sup>.

By 2050, these challenges will be intensified by the increasing waste generation supported by the booming demographics (2.4bn inhabitants<sup>2</sup>, +1.2bn vs. 2022) and the economic growth forecasted (continental GDP expected to grow from 4,000, in 2016<sup>3</sup>, to 22,000bn+ USD in 2050 based on current growth rates) in Africa.

Significant backlogs from collection to disposal characterize the actual waste management practices in Africa, leading to open dumping and illegal disposal in unsanitary landfills:

- Lack of effective governance frameworks
- Limited continental cooperation
- Weak awareness among stakeholders (authorities, investors, private sector, citizens)
- Limited private sector integration
- Insufficient investment and funding

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group (2018), What a waste 2.0 report  
<sup>2</sup> African Development Bank Group (2022), Human Development  
<sup>3</sup> World Bank Group (2022), Open Data  
<sup>4</sup> UNEP (2014), Africa Waste Outlook  
<sup>5</sup> Roland Berger projections

In this year's CoP27 Presidency, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will launch, a global initiative on waste management during the event and leverage 180+ countries to take voluntary engagements at the international level for Africa. The holistic coalition sets the ambition to treat and recycle at least 50% of the solid waste produced in Africa by 2050.

By achieving this target, Africa would contribute to increase the global waste treatment rate above 50% and reduce overall effects of waste pollution on human health, biodiversity, food systems, and resource scarcity. Both adaptation and mitigation solutions will emerge from this Initiative in line with the ambition set by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi that "COP27 is an opportunity to showcase unity against an existential threat that we can only overcome through concerted action and effective implementation."

#### KEY FACTS • WASTE IN AFRICA



20%

Contribution of waste on global methane emission



~1 bn T

Expected Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation by 2050



< 10%

Current Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) recycling rate



1/3

Annual food production wasted



60 bn+ USD

Of materials loss by 2050

## Need for financing to support African waste management ecosystems

To achieve the 50 by 2050 target, a 28-year road map will be provided to endorsing stakeholders as well as a consolidated pipeline of projects for the five working groups. Upon achieving these two milestones, a detailed assessment of the investment amount required will be provided to address the relevant areas such as infrastructure, capacity building, setting up a regulatory framework, digitalization and automation of processes, etc.

Hence, as a rationale of this initiative, some commonly used figures have been validated by international institutions such as the World Bank, in the Africa Waste Outlook<sup>4</sup>:

- To address current and expected future solid waste management in urban areas, rough calculations suggest that rolling out large-scale recycling and recovery technology in Africa, typically used in developed countries, could cost the continent US\$125 billion by 2040 depending on the alternative waste treatment technologies adopted ; considering the extended scope by 2050, the required investment envelope to upgrade the necessary infrastructure from collection to recycling will represent a 300bn+ USD opportunity for investors and project developers<sup>5</sup>.
- To support the overall waste infrastructure upgrade, additional non-waste investment needs to be realized as per an estimated US\$2 trillion over the next 10 years to get roads back into shape whereas US\$934 million would be needed for electricity supply networks
- An estimated value loss of US\$8bn from recyclable material not recovered; this amount could reach up to US\$60bn by 2050, driven by higher volumes and market prices.

The Global Waste initiative will be the first coalition to address holistically all solid waste types, and to propose a collaborative platform for all stakeholders involved in waste management to contribute to an ambitious target at the scale of the African continent. Additionally, this initiative will create and highlight multiple investment opportunities, contributing to the socioeconomical development of Africa, while generating a positive contribution to the global climate action.

## 2. SCOPE AND EXECUTION MAP

To achieve this goal, the Initiative 50 by 2050 intends to catalyze greater investment and effort to develop waste management ecosystems and resources, and rapidly address the rooted challenges by increasing solid waste treatment and recycling capacities, setting the necessary level of policy-making and raising global contribution and involvement. Investments will further contribute directly to address the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN) and generate a positive impact on planetary crises by addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation, reduce and prevent pollution, and contribute to safeguard biodiversity by caring for ecosystems.

With this objective, Egypt will invite all voluntary stakeholders, from both public and private sectors at the international level, to contribute to the multi- partnership commitment '50 by 2050'.

- Nations, Governments, and governmental agencies
- International organizations and institutional donors
- Non-governmental organizations
- Waste management companies and startups
- Other private sector stakeholders, e.g., finance and investment entities

## THE GLOBAL WASTE INITIATIVE WILL IMPACT ALL THE UN SDGs



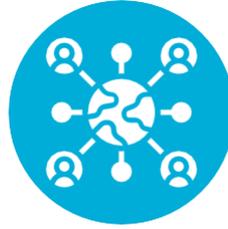
## WHY JOIN?



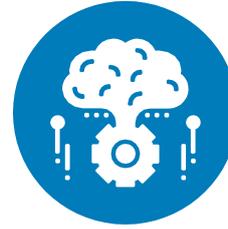
Attract and access to international investment to support and implement sectorial development



Contribute to mitigation and adaptation activities of the Waste Management sector in Africa



Connect with industry experts, peers and leaders at the global and continental level to foster integrated waste management sector



Leverage know-how to make progress and deliver impact through data management and technologies



Build credibility and visibility for the commitments of your institution

**The holistic coalition will be implemented over all solid waste types and for the next 28 years, from 2022 to 2050, with an initial 5-year initiation phase until 2027, which will launch the five key missions:**

1. Develop a platform for partnerships and a consolidated pipeline of projects
2. Create transparency and monitor the impacts on mitigation and adaptation objectives
3. Facilitate trade of recyclables between African nations
4. Support knowledge and innovation transfer to Africa on recycling and infrastructure for all waste types
5. Ensure implementation and track performance of the Initiative in the WM sector in Africa, impacting the globe

**Register your Institution to join a community of already 100+ supporting Governments, global institutions and companies**

## 3. ORGANIZATION

To ensure success of the Initiative and alignment of all Parties, a transparent governance has been structured around three different bodies, under the supervision of a Chairperson elected for three years.



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

led by the Chairperson, in charge of providing guidance and lobbying at Government level with the contribution from selected African nations and a global panel of investors and companies



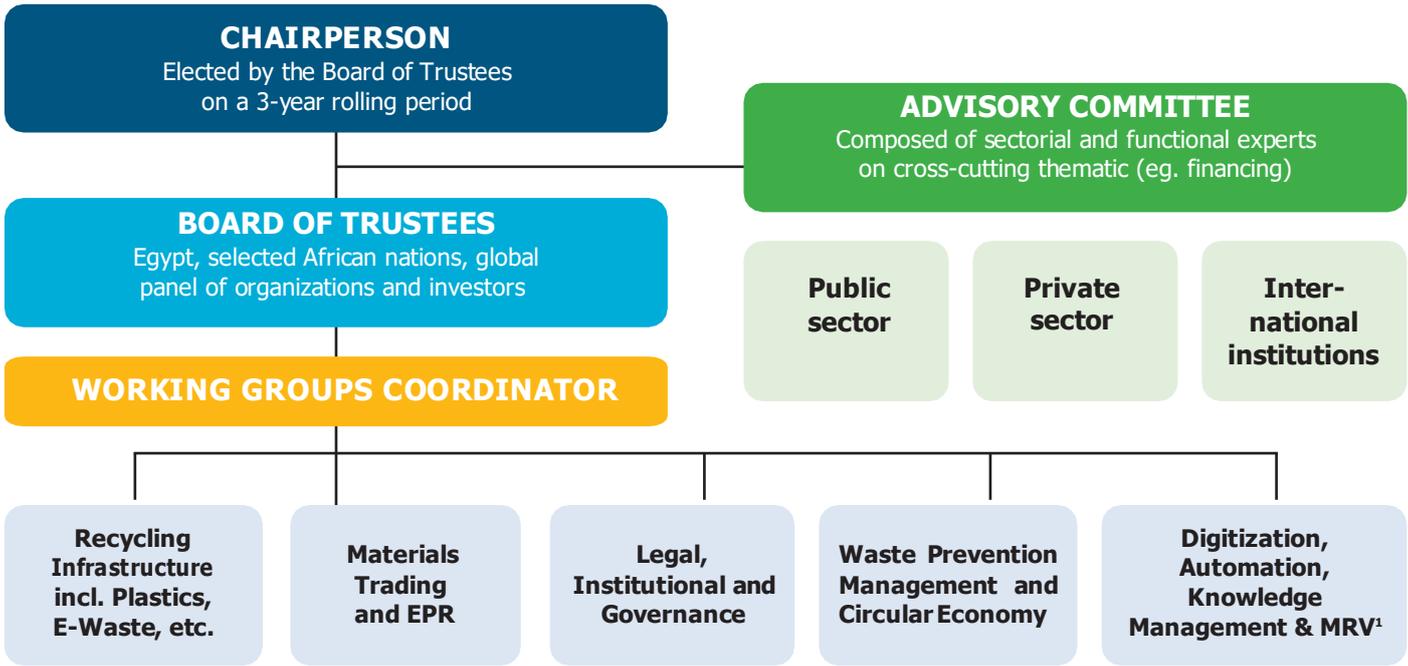
### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

composed of Parties, governmental agencies, international donors and institutions, and private sector players, seeking collaboration and investment opportunities, and offering subject matter expertise



### WORKING GROUPS

composed of all voluntary stakeholders – governmental and non-governmental institutions – organized by key thematic areas, participating in objectives achievement, and securing financial engagements



**HIGH LEVEL FOCUS:**  
Assess the current recycling / treatment infrastructure network in Africa, identify the gap by 2050 in terms of capacity and investment required, and build infrastructure cases to support the ambition

**HIGH LEVEL FOCUS:**  
Evaluate the African frameworks for waste trading and EPR, as well as developing enablers to facilitate emergence of sustainable schemes and instruments

**HIGH LEVEL FOCUS:**  
Review the African governance of the waste management sector and formulate recommendations to adapt policy-making to new challenges and align at the continental level

**HIGH LEVEL FOCUS:**  
Address mitigation opportunities to achieve ambition, by regulating for instance open burning activities and scaling-up circular economy opportunities

**HIGH LEVEL FOCUS:**  
Leverage digital and data management solutions to achieve the ambition and monitor the impacts on the environment (eg. methane emission), but also on the socioeconomic indicators and SDGs

**References**

<sup>1</sup> Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

## Next Steps

To engage and contribute to the Initiative, interested institutions are kindly requested to fill the Registration form (see link below). Registration is reserved to institutions – not individual staff. All registered institutions will receive additional information and documentation before CoP27 in November 2022 to align all our efforts on the initiative. Registration is reserved to institutions - not individual staff.

In order to further assess the status of waste management in Africa and to evaluate the gap that needs to be closed to achieve the ambition by 2050, institutions will be invited to provide an updated assessment of the national waste management sector. The information provided will be used to better determine the baseline and establish a realistic roadmap accordingly, as well as to propose a structured pipeline of projects and investment opportunities continent- wide by 2050.

By developing the Initiative 50 by 2050, Egypt sets the ambition to foster economic emergence and the preservation of the African ecosystem while making a massive contribution to the protection of the world environment during the next CoP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The Initiative will be launched on November 17th during the 'Solution Day' of the COP27 agenda, through an official Declaration from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

For the first time in CoP history, solid waste management will be addressed as a significant opportunity to contribute to the efforts of mitigation and adaptation to climate change at the global level.

For Africa towards a global impact.

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To participate in the initiative, all stakeholders are kindly invited to express their interest, by filling in this [registration form](#).

For further inquiries and interested potential partners can also reach out to the COP27 Presidency at the following email address: [initiatives@cop27.eg](mailto:initiatives@cop27.eg) and [50by2050@wmra.gov.eg](mailto:50by2050@wmra.gov.eg)

