



Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production



SUMMARY REPORT

Workshop on Measures to Limit Single Use Plastic Bag

Cairo, 17 September 2019

About SPC/RAC

The Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) is a centre for international cooperation on development and innovation based on the sustainable consumption and production approach. The Centre operates in support of two international treaties: the Barcelona Convention, which brings together the 21 Mediterranean neighboring countries to work together for the protection of the common environment and for sustainable development; and the Stockholm Convention, an international agreement involving 180 countries to fight against the generation of persistent organic pollutants, highly polluting and toxic substances. The SCP/RAC was established in 1996 by means of a collaboration agreement between the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the Ecological Transition and the Government of Catalonia, based on the decision agreed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona. The Centre is based in Barcelona and it is legally hosted by the Catalan Waste Agency, a public service agency considered a reference organization in waste prevention and management and the promotion of circular economy.

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The views expressed in this report are those of the participants in the stakeholders' workshop and do not necessarily represent the stated views or policies of the SCP/RAC, MoE, and youthinkgreen Egypt.

The present report, including its annexes, has not been formally edited.

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Insights for Policy Makers

A multi-stakeholder workshop on measures to limit single use plastic bags (SUPB) has been co-organized by the Ministry of Environment of Egypt and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) on 17 September 2019 in Cairo, in the framework of the EU funded project Marine Litter Med. The following table provides an executive summary of the workshop objectives, findings, and recommendations:

Workshop objectives	<p>This workshop aimed to support existing national regulatory frameworks in phasing out SUPBs through several objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the national approach on phasing out single use plastic bags and gather feedback from participants; • Present the regional guidelines developed within the Barcelona Convention; • Engage the private sector, NGOs, and all other relevant stakeholders in setting together the required measures on preventions of SUPBs; • Sharing efforts and strategies to develop alternatives to the SUPBs; • Promote business opportunities for green entrepreneurs and investors.
Conclusions and recommendations	<p>There was a general consensus in welcoming the progressive roadmap suggested by the Ministry of Environment to phase out SUPB, which will be soon presented to the Cabinet of Minister for endorsement. Additionally, in line with this roadmap, participants recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revive voluntary agreements with hyper markets, retailers, and grocery markets. • Build momentum on common understanding of both retailers and customers to keep on raising awareness on the issue; this requires engagement of CSOs and NGOs; • Outreach activities in schools, universities; • Incentivize young entrepreneurs on production of alternatives of SUPB • Setting technical specifications and standard regulations for local bags producers and manufacturers; • Monitor and evaluate the implementation of measures on regular basis, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders • Organize a regional follow up workshop about good practices in different countries to phase out SUPBs
Participants	<p>The target groups of this workshop included stakeholders across the plastic bag value chain, as well as stakeholders that can support the reduction of SUPB and provide for alternatives. The meeting therefore gathered representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governmental organizations - Intergovernmental organizations - Civil society organizations - Academia - Industry - Entrepreneurship ecosystem - Media
Workshop organizers	<p>This report has been prepared by youththinkgreen Egypt. The workshop has been co-organized by the Ministry of Environment of Egypt and the SCP/RAC.</p>
Total number of participants	82

I. Agenda

9:00- 9:30 Registration

FIRST SESSION

9:30- 9:40 Welcome Remarks

9:40- 10:00 Opening Speeches:

- Ms. Magali Outters - SCP/ RAC
- Mr. Stefano Panighetti – EU Delegation
- H.E. Yasmine Fouad- Minister of Environment

10:00- 10:15 Policies of MoE Concerning Elimination of Using Single- Use Plastic Bags

Eng. Maysoun Nabil- Director of EPAPIII/ MoE

10:15- 10:45 UN Guidelines and Best Practices to Eliminate Using SUPB

Mr. Pedro Fernandez- SCP/RAC

10:45- 11:00 Open Discussion

11:00- 11:30 Break

SECOND SESSION

11:30- 13:30 Panel Discussion

- Joint Coordination Between FEI and Producers
Eng. Khaled Abu El Makarem - Head of Plastic Division/ FEI
- Role of Financial Institutions and Opportunities of Investment
Ms. Amal El Araby - Head of Sustainable Development Dept./ CIB
- The role of technology to address plastic bags
Ms. Nagwa Elmenawy, Head of Plastic Technology Centre
- Possible Contributions of Entrepreneurs
Mr. Ahmed Yassin - Panalistic

13:30- 14:00 Break

THIRD SESSION

14:00- 14:15 Success Stories and Learned Lessons from International Experience
Ms. Kimberley De Miguel - Project Manager - SCP/ RAC

14:15- 14:30 Presentation on Business Challenges and Social Innovation
Mr. Alban de Ménonville - Executive Director - Bassita

14:30- 14:45 Presentation by winner of “Responsible Choices”

14:45- 15:00 Presentation by winner of “Responsible Alternatives”

15:00- 15:30 Recommendations and Concluding Remarks

15:30- 16:30 Lunch

II. Introduction

Single-use plastic bags (SUPB) represent a large portion of the marine litter items found in oceans and seas. The impact of such leakage into the environment is extremely harmful, not only to biodiversity but also to the well-being of society. Moreover, recently many countries around the world adopted economic and regulatory measures to fight against Marine Litter and mainly targeting plastic bags. Under the framework of the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the coastal and marine environment, the Contracting Parties adopted in 2013 a Regional plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean. The plan included legally binding measures, and in particular, it obliges Contracting Parties to take actions to reduce SUPB through e.g., the establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of the SUPB consumption. Action has already been taken in Mediterranean countries like France, Spain, Italy, Morocco, and Tunisia, including the total ban on certain types of SUPB or specific applications of them. It is essential to recognize the different baseline of each country to be able to figure out the most appropriate legal and regulatory framework.

Egyptians use about 12 billion plastic bags each year. These plastic bags litter the landscape, harm the wildlife, and cause severe problems to the environment, and particularly the Nile River and the seas. Plastic bags harm marine life and adversely affect the tourism sector. Plastic bags are mostly burned, polluting the air with toxic fumes. The disposal of non-biodegradable bags adversely affects nature, our health and the climate. Based on these facts, reducing the amounts of plastic bags can improve health conditions for people and wildlife alike and can even help mitigating climate change in Egypt.

Under the framework of the Barcelona Convention - Regional plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean, signed in 2013¹, contracting parties committed to taking actions to reduce SUPB. Therefore, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter Med project, the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), together with the Ministry of Environment of Egypt, organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on measures to limit single-use plastic bags in Egypt. This workshop has been conceived to implement the regional plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean with the ultimate goal of phasing out single-use plastic bags in Egypt (Article 9 of the Regional Plan²).

This workshop aimed to support existing national regulatory frameworks in phasing out SUPBs through several objectives:

- Introduce the national approach to phasing out single-use plastic bags and gather feedback from participants;
- Present the regional guidelines developed within the Barcelona Convention;
- Engage the private sector, NGOs, and all other relevant stakeholders in setting together the required measures on preventions of SUPBs;
- Sharing efforts and strategies to develop alternatives to the SUPBs;

The main focus of the discussion was to build upon the national initiative of Egypt for the reduction of non- degradable single-use plastic bags consumption, launched by the Ministry of Environment,

¹ See < <https://web.unep.org/unepmap/1-barcelona-convention-and-amendments>>

² See < <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/mcbem-2014-03/other/mcbem-2014-03-120-en.pdf#page=9>>

and supported by the SWITCHMED Initiative³, and exploring avenues of cooperation between all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, an additional focus was to support the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Minister's strategies of ongoing initiatives that aimed at the preventions of the SUPB, with an intent focus on exploring practical measures and actions for a more structured interaction at the national level, hand in hand with the relevant stakeholders.

This report provides a summary of the workshop and views expressed by different stakeholders at the meeting, as well as the recommendations emerging from the meeting. Additionally, a video and [pictures](#) are available to view online.



Figure 1: All participants who attended the workshop including H.E. Dr. Yasmin Fouad, the Egyptian Minister of Environment

³ The initiative aims to encourage Egyptians to reduce their consumption of plastic bags and shift towards more environment-friendly alternatives, which could happen in cooperation with large fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) chains, hypermarkets, pharmacies, and other vital players via influential awareness campaigns and diverse activities. More information is available at < <https://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/news-1/egyptian-minister-of-environment-propagates-biodegradable-plastic-bags-in-7-hypermarket-chains>>

III. First Session

Approximately 80 participants representing ministries, international agencies, academia, private sector, and non-governmental organizations active in the field of plastic industry and environment protection attended the workshop. The first session of the workshop comprised welcome speeches as follows:



Figure 2: Mr. Tarek, the moderator, welcomed everyone and set the scene for the welcome remarks

1. Opening of the workshop

- 1.1. Ms. Magali Outters, Team Leader Policy Area, at the SCP/RAC, opened the workshop at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 17 September 2019. She welcomed all participants and presented the ongoing work of SCP/RAC. She highlighted how the prevention of the impact generated by plastic bags is one of the priorities of the SCP/RAC working program. “Since 2014, many Mediterranean countries, e.g., Albania, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, and Tunisia have adopted measures on plastic bags to reduce marine litter as per the framework of the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Coastal and Marine Environment”. She added that this regional plan includes several measures to prevent marine litter generation. She recalled article 9 that urges national authorities to take action on the prevention of SUPB through the establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets or through fiscal and economic instruments. She urged the engagement of all relevant stakeholders to provide practical measures to limit the SUPB, hand in hand, to explore commercial solutions and alternatives. She highlighted the role of the private sector to form alliances working together with an ambitious commitment to the prevention of the SUPBs. Ms. Outters concluded that in addition to policies and regulatory frameworks, innovations of green business models could be a part of the solution – SCP/RAC set up a green business support programme in the Mediterranean that helped 1500 entrepreneurs⁴,” she said.

⁴ See <<https://www.switchmed.eu/en/corners/start-up/actions/action4>>



Figure 3: Ms. Outters provided her welcome remarks-

- 1.2. In his opening remarks, Mr. Stefan Panighetti, Program Manager for Environment and Climate Change at the European Union Delegation to Egypt, highlighted the European Parliament provisions to reduce the use of plastic bags. He emphasized the harm caused by vast amounts of plastics that end up in the oceans and water resources. He highlighted the crucial role of local civil society organizations in raising awareness on phasing out the SUPB and the role of green entrepreneurs and innovators in finding environmental alternatives for SUPB. Mr. Panigehtti concluded his remarks highlighting the ongoing support of the EU delegation to Egypt through different working programs on taking action on the climate crisis in Egypt.



Figure 4: Mr. Panighetti in his welcome remarks at the first session of the workshop

- 1.3. A 2-min video encouraging people to shift their behavior towards single-use plastics was shown. The short video is part of the UN Environment global campaign “CleanSeas”⁵. The Arabic version was provided by the Ministry of Environment of Egypt through the programme SwitchMed.

⁵ See < <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/video/cleanseas-break-psa-its-not-me-its-you>>

1.4. H.E. Dr. Yasmin Fouad, the Minister of Environment of Egypt, in her opening remarks, thanked the support from SCP/RAC in the organization of this workshop. She touched upon the efforts of the civil society organizations and international agencies in raising awareness in Egypt on the adverse impacts of SUPBs. She explained how the reduction of plastic consumption leads to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 12⁶. She stressed the role of the private sector and young entrepreneurs in finding innovative and practical alternatives to the SUPB. She commented background work of the Ministry on SUPB, mainly through the national initiative supported by the SwitchMed programme. It worked around four pillars: (i) The first pillar started with data collection and conducting a study, and analyzing the status quo of SUPB in Egypt, (ii) Second pillar is about enabling the environment through fabrication and provision of sustainable alternatives, hand in hand with industry, (iii) The third pillar is to raise awareness and promote the use of sustainable alternatives and the importance of reusable bags, (iv) The fourth pillar is engagement of civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders. Dr. Fouad shed light on the groundbreaking decision of the Red Sea Governorate in phasing out the SUPB. She added how it is crucial to establish a roadmap with a restricted timeline for phasing out the SUPB together with all key stakeholders. She concluded her remarks with an announcement of releasing the publicly accessible platform on the webpage of the Ministry to showcase all ongoing initiatives in Egypt to unify all efforts of the relevant stakeholders in the prevention of the SUPBs.



Figure 5: H.E. Dr. Yasmin Fouad, in her welcome remarks at the workshop

2. Policies of Ministry of Environment Concerning Elimination of Using Single Use Plastic Bags

In this presentation, Eng. Maysoun Nabil, Director of Egyptian Pollution Abatement Programme (EPAP III) at the Ministry of Environment, provided an overview of the conducted study on consumption and production of the SUPB, including the health and economic impacts in Egypt. In this study, it has been emphasized that the highest percentage of SUPB consumption exists in hypermarkets and grocery markets that amount

⁶ See < <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg12> >

together 34% out of total consumption, with the highest rate of total consumption in Cairo that amounted up to 40,000 tons. She focused on the role of the Ministry in promoting plastic reduction and its initiatives. She explained the recent initiatives of the Ministry and the NGOs such as VeryNile⁷ that aims at cleaning up the Nile out of all kinds of waste, including SUPB. Ms. Nabil provided several leading examples of reducing plastic in their packaging, such as McDonald's Egypt that reduced annually up to 2300 tons of plastic, as well as another example of Carrefour that provide their customers with compostable bags. She discussed the Ministry's preparation of a roadmap on the reduction of SUPB to be presented to the Cabinet of Egypt. She concluded her presentation with the following future and potential measures to be taken by the Ministry of Environment:

- Continuity of raising awareness campaigns and promotion on the reduction of SUPB especially on the retailer's side
- Observing the ground-breaking decision of banning SUPBs in the Red Sea Governorate and considering replicating it in some other governorates
- Find out the required standards and technologies to help produce alternatives to SUPBs locally
- Incentivize young entrepreneurs and manufactures on the production of alternatives of SUPBs



Figure 6: Eng. Nabil provided her presentation on the policies of MoE -

Eng. Hossam Allam from CEDARE complemented the presentation by detailing the actions undertaken by SwitchMed.

⁷ VeryNile is the first local initiative to develop large scale means to clean the Nile while raising awareness on the importance of protecting our environment. More information available at <<http://verynile.org/about.html>>

3. UN Guidelines Phase out SUPBs in the Mediterranean

This presentation was dedicated to sharing options for phasing out the use and production of SUPBs and a roadmap for the reduction of SUPBs. Mr. Pedro Fernandez, Project Manager Marine Litter at SCP/RAC, provided a presentation explaining an 8 step by step approach in the reduction of SUPBs in the Mediterranean. He explained the regional guidelines, very much based on the technical assistance that SCP/RAC has provided to national governments in the Mediterranean. The first option is to establish a voluntary agreement with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of SUPB consumption. The second option is regulatory economic instruments, which turn into revenue for the retailers or the tax administration. The third option is the command and control instruments, which is about banning SUPB. This option has already been applied in many countries and cities. He discussed the 8-step approach in detail, particularly on potential concerns and controversies when promoting specific alternatives. He noted the importance of composting the biodegradable bags – which is the only process to biodegrade it. He concluded his presentation that there are different policy options that can be implemented to phase out SUPBs. However, it is crucial to provide technical advice on this vital issue to the Mediterranean countries, and the best approach should be progressive, starting with the voluntary agreement with the private sector and SUPB, that evolves towards regulatory economic instruments or bans.



Figure 7: Mr. Pedro Fernández discussed the regional guidelines during the first session at the workshop

IV. Second Session: Panel Discussion

This session was a panel discussion on measures to phase out SUPBs. The panel focused on the development of recommendations to implement the guidelines provided by the EU funded Marine Litter Med Project. The panel was moderated by Mr. Pedro Fernandez, and included the following panelists:

- **Eng. Khaled Abul Makarem**, Head of Plastic Division at the Chamber of Chemical Industries and the Federation of Egyptian Industries
- **Ms. Nagwa El Menawy**, Former Head of Plastic Technology Centre in Egypt
- **Mr. Ahmed Yassin**, Cofounder of Banalistic
- **Mr. Ashraf Massoud**, Purchases Manager at Hyper-one

Eng. Abu El Makarem provided a presentation on the plastic industry in Egypt. He indicated essential figures and facts on the production and consumption of plastic in Egypt, highlighting that Egypt is one of the largest producers and consumer countries in the plastic industry. He showed that the volume of investment in plastics was estimated at USD 7.2 billion, and the volume of export last year amounted to USD 1.6 billion. He added that usually 50% of production is considered waste in the plastic sector, of which only 5% undergo a recycling process. That is why it is essential to consider higher amounts of recycling targets to make up such massive amounts of waste. Eng. Abul Makarem stated that the reduction targets would enable manufacturers to be always committed to recycling and to cater to retailers' orders of bio-degradable or reusable plastic bags. He concluded his presentation with the following recommendations:

- Set standard regulations for local manufacturers
- Promote and raise awareness on the reduction of the SUPBs
- Incentivize local producers to manufacture low-cost reusable bags
- Designing a take-back-system to ensure recycling used plastic bags
- A gradual phase-out legislative law by the Ministry of Environment



Figure 8: During the presentation of Eng. Abu El Makarem on the plastic industry in Egypt-

The discussion continued with a quick overview of the ongoing efforts of the retail chains to help reduce the SUPBs by Mr. Ashraf Massoud. He mentioned that the retailer's chains are willing to carry out part of the extra cost of the alternatives of the SUPB. Mr. Massoud highlighted the importance of enabling the environment for local producers to be able to respond to the massive demands. He also highlighted the new technical specifications of the manufacturing of alternatives need to be endorsed by the Egyptian Organization for Standards and Quality. Ms. Nagwa El Menawy explained the dangers of single-use non-degradable plastic bags and the Egyptian market status quo. She discussed the potential alternatives of non-degradable bags technically and economically, on top of which was bio-degradable plastic bags. She went on explaining that even bioplastics derived from renewable sources (such as corn starch, cassava roots, or sugarcane) or bacterial fermentation of sugar or lipids (PHA34) do not automatically degrade in the environment and especially not in the ocean.



Figure 9: In the podium discussion, Mr. Massoud provided many insights on the retail market industry

Mr. Ahmed Yassin explained that the gradual phase-out of the SUPBs is a key solution, and the people should be proactively prepared for any legislation regarding restriction on SUPBs, which will lead to new business opportunities. The panel discussion resulted in several measures on a gradual phase-out of SUPBs:

- Promotion and raising awareness on the reduction of SUPBs
- Encourage and incentivize green businesses and local producers to work on finding alternatives and production of reusable bags
- Setting technical specifications and standard regulations for local producers and manufacturers
- Designing recycling mechanisms for reusable plastic bags
- Engagement of the CSOs in reaching out to the people and communities toward changing the behavior of plastic consumption

The panelists agreed that the developed regional guidelines represent a starting point and provide a framework and technical advice to help phase out the SUPBs.

V. Third Session: Successful Stories and Lessons Learned from International Experience

The third session of the workshop provided two presentations, sharing the lessons learned from the international/local experiences. The session focused on the SCP/RAC's initiative "Bag to the future," a challenge aiming at promoting alternatives to SUPBs in Egypt. At the end of the session, the winners of the Bag to the Future Award pitched their ideas.

1. SCP/RAC's support to businesses in promoting sustainable alternatives to single use plastics

In her presentation, Ms. Kimberley De Miguel, Project Manager at SCP/RAC, provided an overview of the international coalition to reduce plastic bags pollution. She elaborated on how UN Environment, within the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)⁸, agreed with SCP/RAC to carry out this work in Egypt. As background information, she explained recent experience on pilot projects in the Morocco-SwitchMed Programme⁹ that entails the promotion of responsible alternatives to guarantee the success of the ban on plastic bags and prevention of marine litter. This project featured design and production of alternatives to SUPBs, which included two pieces of training for around 25 women on high-quality finish and confection speed, which resulted in the production of around 1000 units and distributed in the local markets.

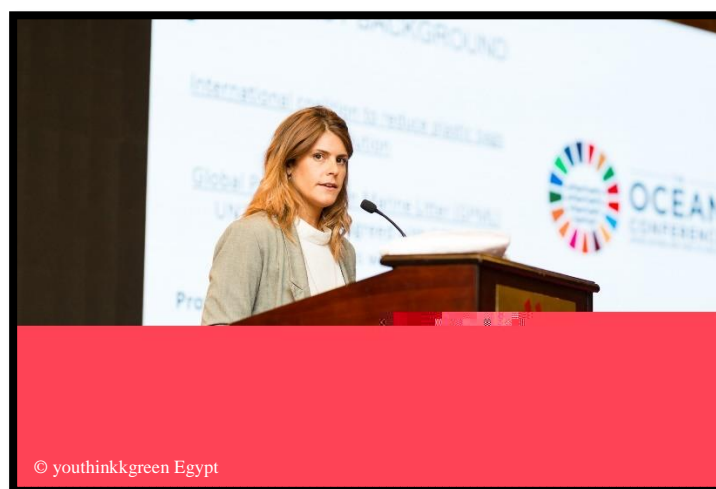


Figure 10: Ms. De Miguel presented lessons learned from several successful case studies

She focused on the role of the SCP/RAC's flagship Switchers Support Programme, in which they support financially through the Switchers Fund green entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean, including those promoting plastic reduction and finding alternatives to SUPBs. This programme launched the #BagToTheFuture challenge and award to encourage

⁸ It is a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together all actors working to prevent marine litter and microplastics. More information is available at <http://marinelitternetwork.com/the-partnership/>

⁹ See < <https://bit.ly/2oINibV> >

Egyptians to come up with an innovative idea that can limit the SUPB. She concluded her presentation by referring to similar initiatives such as the Ellen McArthur Foundation challenge¹⁰ and Yomken - zero plastic waste challenge¹¹. She also showcased the success story of Byebyeplasticbags¹² in Bali, which was driven by children working to stop using plastic bags in Bali since 2013. The movement has inspired the Bali Airport to become plastic bag free.

2. Business Challenges and Social Innovation

Mr. Alban de Ménonville, Executive Director of Bassita, explained the partnership with SCP/RAC to implement the Bat to the future challenge in Egypt. He explained its objectives, and its two different tracks: (i) Responsible Alternative; and (ii) Responsible Choices. He announced the winners of the competition and explained how it was an uneasy process to only choose 2 winners out of 27 auspicious applications. Additionally, he showcased the successful joint venture between Bassita and Greenish – VeryNile – and presented its various activities e.g., cleaning recycling and prevention of SUPB. He concluded his talk with an announcement of launching a campaign on banning SUPB in Zamalek, Cairo starting from October 2019.



Figure 11: Mr. de Ménonville announced the two winners of the BagtotheFuture Award in the workshop

3. Presentation by winner of “Responsible Alternatives”

The winner was “Natural Bag” – a young woman from Luxor who fabricates friendly bags in the southern governorate of Luxor made from local resources and materials. The idea is to use natural waste found in and on the banks of the Nile to create sustainable alternatives to plastic bags while preserving the traditional skill and heritage of weaving. The project aims to train and empower 100 youth and locals in the creation of the bags. She is willing

¹⁰ More information is available at < <https://bit.ly/2pdSPdJ>>

¹¹ See < <https://www.yomken.com/challenge/223- Zero Plastic Waste>>

¹² See < <http://www.byebyeplasticbags.org/>>

to spread the concept of producing an alternative bag to prevent the use of the SUPBs in entire Egypt. She believes her idea could enable a new business opportunity for the young generation while taking action on the environment protection, which would impact the community at large in Luxor.



Figure 12: VeryNile team awarded the winning team of #BagfortheFuture

4. Presentation by winner of “Responsible Choices”

The winner was PERADICA – a young entrepreneurial team of Egyptians, studying media in the German University in Cairo, for a mobile application to support recycling in Egypt. It is to overcome the lack of waste collection infrastructure by bringing the active recycling companies in direct contact with the customer using a friendly interface that could be applied in the collection of plastic waste from homes, offices, and buildings.



Figure 13: VeryNile awarded the second winning team of the BagfortheFuture competition

The next step of the #BagfortheFuture award is an incubation program training for 4 months starting from September to January 2020 and then followed by an award ceremony, early 2020.

VI. Concluding remarks

To conclude the workshop, Ms. Magali Outters asked all participants to take part in a live survey on some measures using an online tool (www.mentimeter.com) that could immediately be seen on the screen. Around 35 participants have instantly responded. The following points are the outcomes of the live survey measures associated with the results:



Figure 14: Ms. Outters provided her concluding remarks and emerging recommendations of the workshop

1. Choose the best two alternatives to SUPBs?

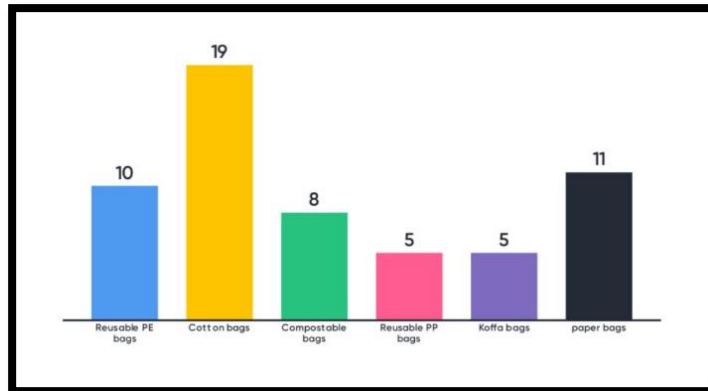


Figure 15: The results graph of the first question in live-survey

This question meant to have an overview on the preference of participants in which alternative could be the most appealing in the local market of Egypt. Most of the participants have chosen “cotton bags” and “paper bags” as the best two alternatives to the SUPBs, followed by “reusable PE bags.”

2. What is the main message that you take back from this workshop?



Figure 16: The compiled responses of participants to the second question of the live survey on the main message

This question collected responses from participants to ensure delivery of the main idea of the workshop and how it inspired them to emerge in the development of measures to prevent the SUPBs. The participants provided various responses. The mainstream of the responses was to reduce consumption and change the behavior.

3. Are you ready to reduce your SUPBs consumption?

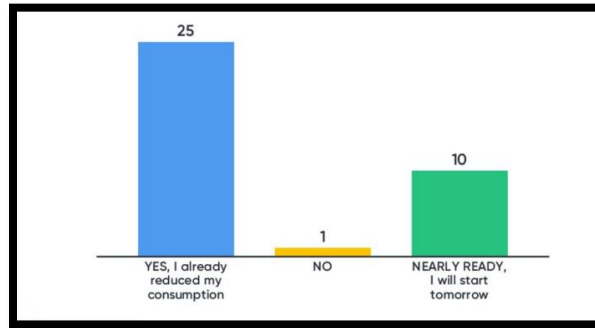


Figure 17: The results of the third question of the live-survey

The purpose of this question was to ensure the readiness of participants to have immediate action on the reduction of plastic bags consumption. It is found that the majority have already taken action on the reduction of their plastic consumption. This live survey was a vital tool to collect instant results on the impact of the workshop and provided an overview of how participants shared the same objectives of the workshop.

Finally, Ms. Magali Outters and Eng. Mayoun Nabil expressed their gratitude and thanked all participants for their engagement and contributions during the workshop discussions.

They noted that there was a consensus in welcoming the progressive roadmap suggested by the Ministry of Environment to phase out SUPB, which will be soon presented to the Cabinet of Minister for endorsement. Additionally, in line with this roadmap, participants recommended the following:

- Revive voluntary agreements with the large FMCGs, hypermarkets, retailers, and grocery markets Build momentum on a common understanding of both retailers and customers to keep on raising awareness on the issue; this requires the engagement of CSOs and NGOs;
- Outreach activities in schools, universities;
- Incentivize young entrepreneurs on the production of alternatives of SUPB
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of measures on a regular basis, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders
- Organize a regional follow up and workshop about good practices in different countries to phase out SUPBs

VII. Annexes

Annex 1: List of experts and participants attending the workshop

- **Governmental Organizations**

Ashour Abdelkareem (Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt)
Ayman Mahmoud (Plastic Technology Center)
Heba el kadi (Ministry of Environment of Egypt)
Marwa Kotb (Plastic Technology Center)
Maysoon Ali (Ministry of Environment of Egypt)
Mohamed Ramy (National Water Research Center)
Mr. Stefano Panighetti (European Union Delegation to Egypt)
Nagwa Elmanawy (Plastic Technology Center)
Nahla Elnakeb (Ministry of Environment of Egypt)
Reham Mohammed (Plastic Technology Center)
Tarek Saleh (Ministry of Environment of Egypt)

- **Intergovernmental organizations, international cooperation entities and associations.**

Ahmed el dorghamy (CEDARE)
Aliaa Ali (Federation of Egyptian Industries)
Annachiara Scandone (UNIDO)
Ashraf M.el-Abd (Japan International Cooperation Agency)
Eman Abdel mohsen (Industrial Modernization Centre -IMC)
Farouk Riad (Industrial Modernization Centre -IMC)
Francesco Di Bona (UNIDO)
Ghada moghany (CEDARE)
Jyda Yasser (CEDARE)
Khaled Abou El Makarem (Federation of Egyptian Industries)
Kimberley de Miguel (SCP/RAC)
Magali Outters (SCP/RAC)
Mohamed Husseiny (USAID/SEED)
Pedro Fernández (SCP/RAC)
Walid Azzab (Chemical and Fertilizers Export Council)
Yamazaki hajime (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

- **Private Sector**

Adel ELkhateeb (Awlad Ragab Supermarkets)
Ashraf Ahmed Massoud ((Hyper One Market)
Mohamed AL-Hatamleh (KITEC)
Neveen Mohsen (KITEC)
Shokry Fathy (Raya Market)
Walid Kohel (Hyper One Market)

- **Academia**

Brigitte Wolf (German University in Cairo)
Hana Hicham Ali Morsy (German University in Cairo)
Farah Hossam Rashed (German University in Cairo)
Norhan Tarek Elnaghy (German University in Cairo)

Sabine Mueller (German University in Cairo)
 Sama Tarek Zidan (German University in Cairo)
 Sarah Ahmed Seifeldin (German University in Cairo)

- **Non-governmental organizations**

Abdulrahman Fahmy (youthinkgreen Egypy)
 Ahmed Yassin (Banlastic)
 Alban de Ménonville (Bassita)
 Amr Orton (youthinkgreen Egypy)
 Amr Seleem (Cairo Climate Talks)
 Ibrahim Abougendy (youthinkgreen Egypy)
 Mohamed Abdelaal Ahmed Salek (BASSITA)
 Mona Elkateb (Bassita)
 Mostafa Habib (Bassita)
 Nada Rashwan (youthinkgreen Egypy)
 Nadine Morsy (youthinkgreen Egypy)
 Ruqaya Omar Ali (Bassita)
 Sabrene Abdelmaksoud Mohamed (Bassita)
 Salem Massalha (Bassita)
 Shady Abdallah (Greenish/VeryNile)
 Tarek Khaled (youthinkgreen Egypy)
 Tawfika Tawfik (Zamalek Association)

- **Media**

Amira Reda (Akhbar Elyoum Journal)
 Anna Elliot (Bamyam Media)
 Bassem Jowely (El Omal Journal)
 Eman Mansour (Maspero Egyptian Radio and TV Magazin)
 Eslam AbdelMaabood (ElSherouk Journal)
 Essam Omirea (El Mal Journal)
 Hanan Badawy (Scientific America Magazine)
 Mai Elshafie (Maspero Egyptian Radio and TV)
 Mohamed Ibrahim (Special Minister's photographer)
 Mohamed Abo Aita (DMC)
 Momen Medhat (DMC)
 Mona AbdelAziz (El Ahram Journal)
 Mona Abdelnaeem (El Gemhoria Journal)
 Nada Elbadawy (Akhbar Elyoum Journal)
 Neamat Allah Abdelrahman (El Ahram Journal)
 Souzan Zaki (El Gemhoria Journal)

Annex 2: Presentations, employed material, and press releases of the workshop

1. Presentations and employed material:

This [drive](#) is created to include all of the conducted presentations in the workshops. The original presentations are available at this shared drive and contain the following presentation in order:

1. Policies of EEAA Concerning Elimination of Using Single Use Plastic Bags; by Eng. Maysoun Nabil, Director of EPAP III
2. UN Guidelines and Best Practices to Eliminate Using SUPB; by Mr. Pedro Fernandez, SCP/RAC
3. Success Stories and Learned Lessons from International Experience; by Ms. Kimberley De Miguel, Project Manager at SCP/ RAC
4. Presentation on Business Challenges and Social Innovation by Mr. Alban de Ménonville - Executive Director at Bassita
5. Presentations of the two winning teams of “BagfortheFuture Award”

2. Press releases:

The following news links are the media coverage of the workshop that have been resulted in many local news in Egypt:

- [El Ahram](#)
- [El Bawabh news](#)
- [Elbiddaa news](#)
- [El Dostor news](#)
- [Veto Gate](#)
- [Elbawaba news](#)
- [KhabarMasr news](#)
- [Almal news 1](#)
- [Al mal news 2](#)
- [Youm7 news](#)
- [Masrway news](#)
- [AkhbarElyoum news](#)
- [Promotional video](#)