

# Quarterly E- bulletin

April - June 2023



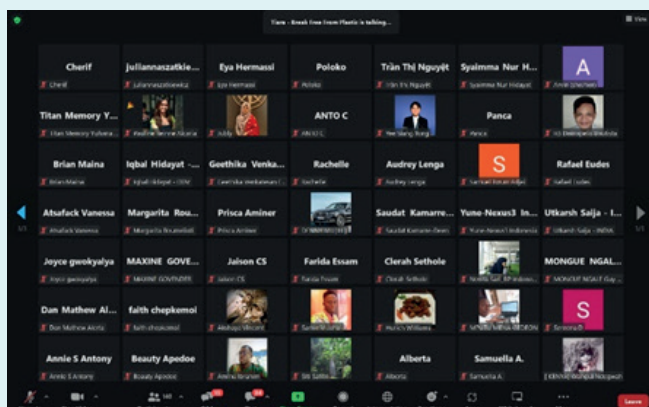
Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO

# The Break Free from Plastic Youth Summit 2023



A two-day webinar was organized by BFFP where participants worldwide joined the youth summit 2023. Plastic pollution has been contributing to the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. In this interactive webinar, skills share about the history of plastic, its extractive life cycle, and what civic society groups worldwide are doing to combat it. In March 2022, the United Nations approved an agreement to create the world's first-ever global plastics pollution treaty. The mandate sets the stage for governments to negotiate a comprehensive and legally binding treaty that will cover measures along the entire life cycle of plastic. They also share the technicalities of this treaty, its coverage so far, and what it means for organizations that are working to end plastic pollution for good.

The youth have shown that they have what it takes to expedite the climate movement's demands and inspire more people to join in the movement. From this webinar the participants about the ways that the youth can elevate their voices in the treaty process, and utilize the platforms they need to maximize their contributions. ESDO's initiatives on Education Camp activities for Ban Single-Use Plastic also shared and discussed and ESDO's members also participated in this workshop.



Activating youth voices to influence different stakeholders in the process is key in campaigning for an ambitious Global Plastics Treaty. The participants also learn how different campaigns in different work streams contribute cumulatively to the global treaty process and how we can leverage these campaigns in influencing policy. After learning about all the ways that we can link our energy and passion toward our greater goal of ending plastic pollution. Participants also attend different workshop segments to knowledge share about Plastic Pollution Primer, The Global Plastics Treaty, Campaigning for an Ambitious Global Treaty, and Global and Regional Opportunities.

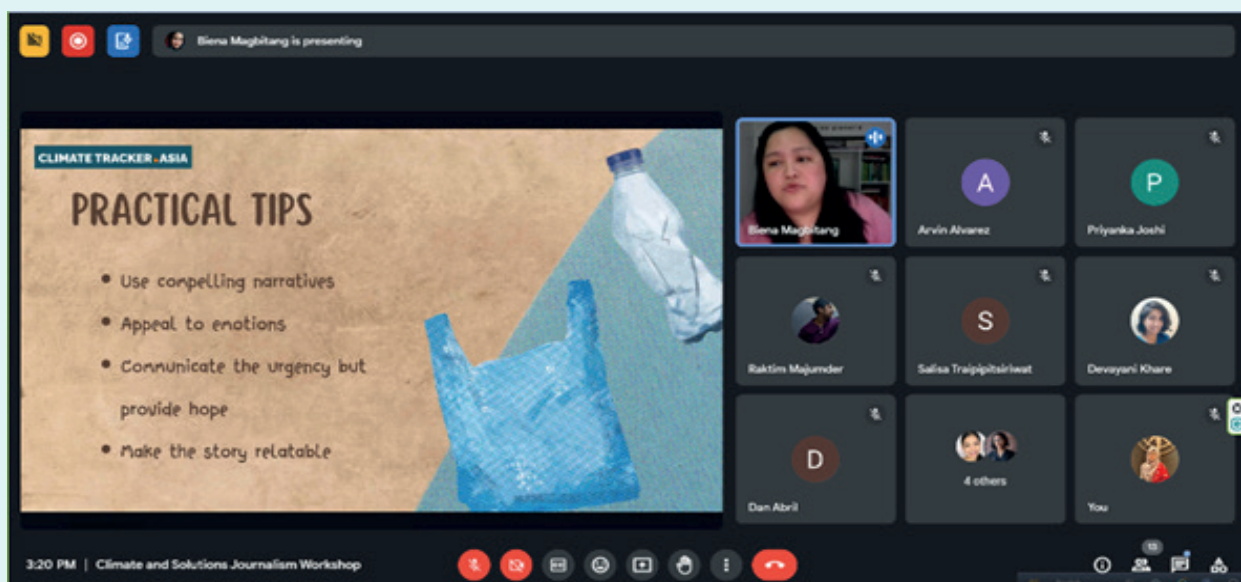
## Meeting with Super Shops

ESDO conducted a visit with the Chief Executive Officer of Meena Bazar Supermarket. The purpose of the visit was for ESDO to inform people about plastic-free stores and zero-waste lifestyles. One of Bangladesh's most well-known and prominent supermarkets, Meena Bazar, has finally transitioned to a less plastic policy. They've already started taking steps, including introducing reusable bags in their superstore. Additionally, they have implemented a strategy known as Extended Producer Responsibility, or EPR, and they are gradually moving away from plastic packaging. The ESDO actively advocates for and empowers the nation's renowned superstores to take action to restock the system. A prominent superstore in Bangladesh called Unimart has already started promoting refills throughout the nation by taking the lead on the refill method.



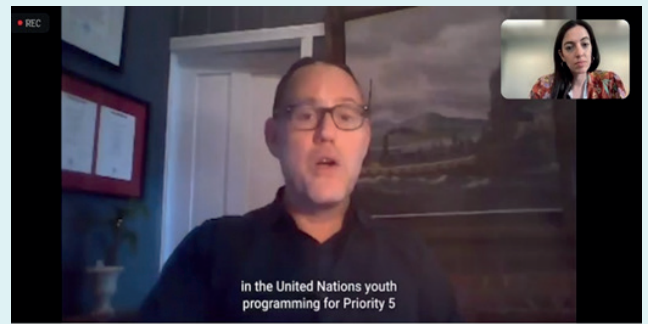
## Workshop on Climate and Solutions Journalism

A Zoom meeting was arranged by climate tracker and Break-Free from Plastic to discuss a project activity on climate and solution journalism. The training materials of the recorded sessions were reviewed and additional materials provided by the trainers were also discussed. The event was successful through the active participation from the networking countries and participants were able to have a clear conception of the advancing climate and solutions journalism.



## Webinar on Accelerating the COVID-19 recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda with and for youth

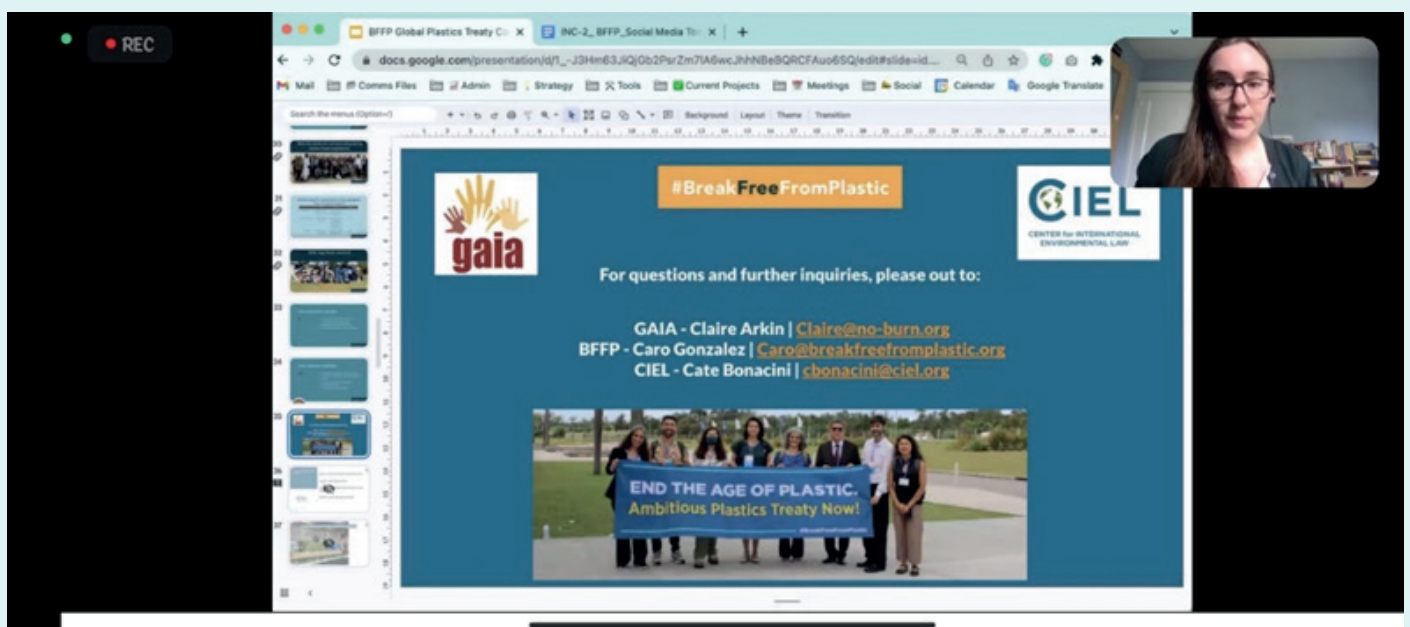
A Webinar was organized by United Nations, Youth 2030, and ECOSOC Youth Forum on Accelerating the COVID-19 recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda with and for youth. This forum youth present their assessment, vision, and recommendations for member states' consideration ahead of the SDG Summit in September 2023. Against this backdrop, the Forum is an opportunity for young people to voice their views, and concerns and galvanize actions on how to transform the world into a fairer, greener, and more sustainable place guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## BFFP - Global Plastics Treaty Media Training Towards an international legally binding instrument

A Webinar was organized by BFFP on Global Plastics Treaty Media Training Towards an international legally binding instrument. They shared general media interview tips, provide an overview of INC-2 communications resources, and share guidance on communicating. A Plastics Treaty that addresses everything from health to the environment, supply chains, and everything in between MUST be advanced by negotiators at INC-2.

The trainers' supplementary materials were also addressed, and the training materials from the sessions that were recorded were reviewed. The networking nations' active participation made the event effective and allowed participants to have a good understanding of the international legally binding instrument, communication for the INC-2. Environmental and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has also participated in this conference.



## International Webinar on Plastics and Chemicals Under the Stockholm Convention BRS COPs

A Webinar on Plastics and Chemicals Under the Stockholm Convention: Impact on the ground and potential synergies and gaps in relation to a future plastics treaty | BRS COPs 2023 Side Event. The International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) arranged this side event in association with the 2023 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions with the help of the Geneva Environment Network. They provided an overview and general media interview advice moving towards a grouping of chemicals approach.



## Environmental Education Camp under Plastic Free Campus (PFC) Project at Lalmatia Girls High School



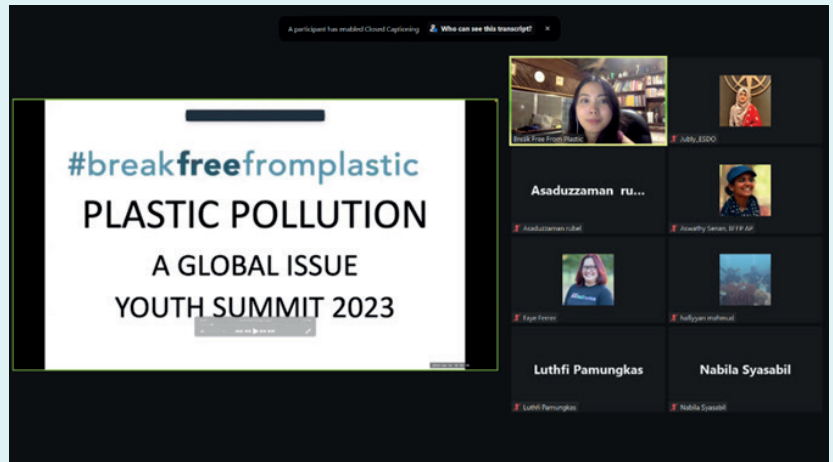
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized the first session environmental education camp on the 10th & 11th of May 2023 under its Plastic Free Campus (PFC) project at Lalmatia Girls High School. It was a two-day-long environmental education camp along with an opening ceremony. The opening ceremony was attended by representatives from the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (DSHE), Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTBL), Board members of ESDO along with the Principal, Teachers, and Students of Lalmatia Girls High School.

**Read more:** <https://bansup.esdo.org/environmental-education-camp-under-the-plastic-free-campus-pfc-project-at-lalmatia-girls-high-school/>

## Break Free From Plastic Youth Toolkit for Reaching Out to National Delegates in the INC-2

A Webinar was organized by BFFP on the second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meetings or INC-2 happening in Paris. Young leaders have an opportunity to apprise their representatives of their demands for the INC-2 as well as for the INCs that will follow it through the end of 2024 during this crucial time to start building relationships with national delegates. This toolkit aims to Provide young people with tools and guidance to reach out to their national delegates to the INC, help

young people jumpstart fostering connections with relevant government officials, and provide support for young people doing these engagements through connections with experts in the country, guidance, and consultation. ESDOs member Jannatul Ferdous Jubly, Project Associate also participated in this conference.



## Book Launching Ceremony of Plastic Free Campus Project

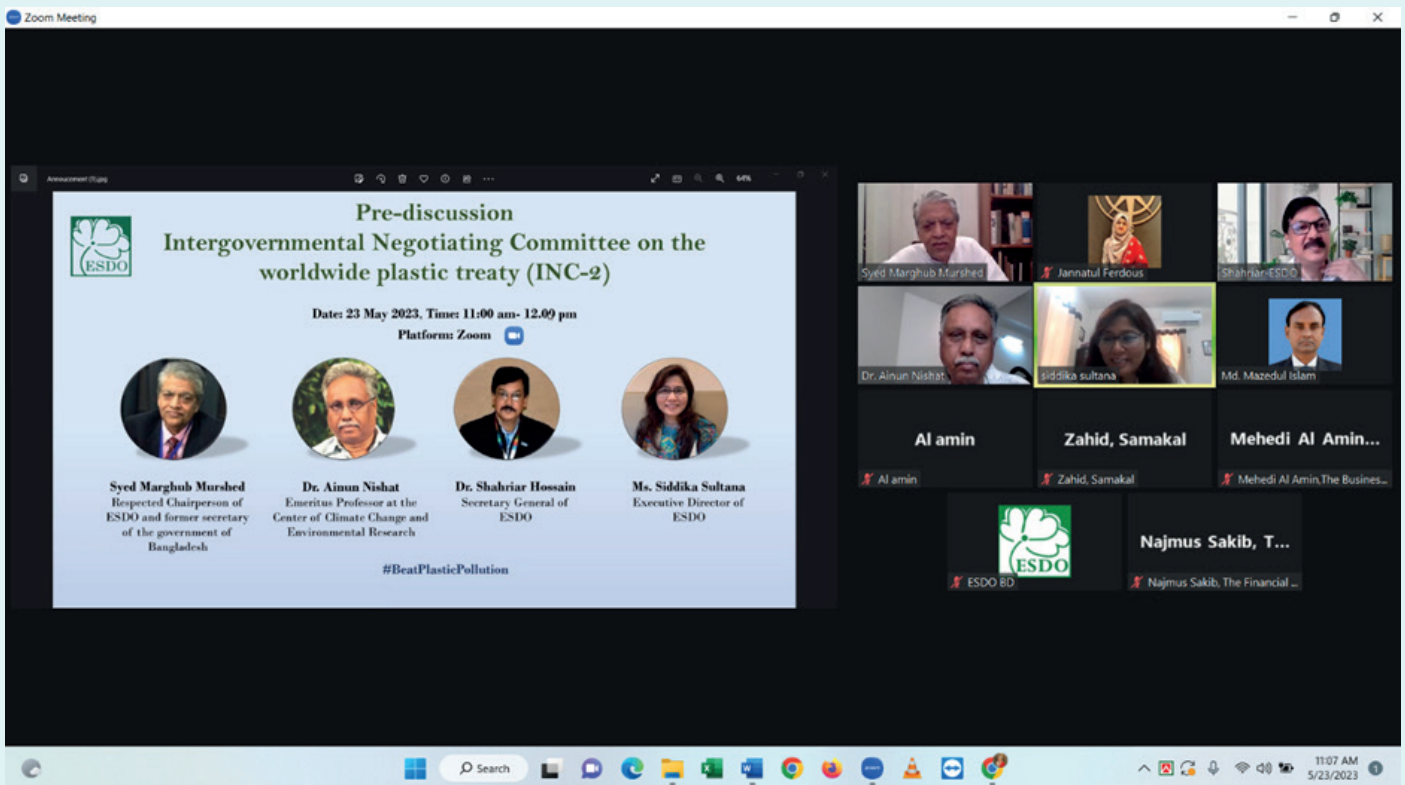


Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, partnered with MTBL and MAUSHI, held a book launching ceremony for the Plastic-free Campus Project. The program was inaugurated by the Honorable Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP. The education materials- student books, teacher manuals, posters, handouts, booklets, and puzzles were developed by ESDO, and these IEC materials were launched through this event on 22nd

May 2023 at the Jute Diversification Promotion Center (JDPC), Farmgate, Dhaka. The younger generation is the driving force pushing for a shift away from the plastic culture and toward alternatives and these IEC materials will support awareness-raising among the youth generation to combat plastic pollution. Policymakers, experts, representatives from DOE, JDPC, Students and teachers from Lalmatia Girls High School and College, and media participated in this event.

**Read more:** <https://esdo.org/book-launching-ceremony-of-plastic-free-campus-project/>

## Media Briefing on pre-dialogue about the second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the global plastic treaty (INC-2)



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a virtual media briefing on re-dialogue about the second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the global plastic treaty (INC-2). The matters & solutions were discussed in this event for the upcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) that will create the full text of the new plastics treaty. In order to address the source of plastic pollution, a systems change is required.

Syed Marghub Murshed, respected Chairperson of ESDO and former secretary of the government of Bangladesh, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Executive Professor at the Center of Climate Change and Environmental Research, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO and Mazedul Islam, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Present at the event.

They discuss global initiatives to reduce plastic pollution by limiting plastic production and use, altering how businesses deliver goods to consumers with an emphasis on refill and reuse, holding polluters accountable, demanding complete transparency on plastic production, use, import, and export, and requiring wealthy nations to take the lead in the transition to zero-waste and assist others. A robust global plastics treaty will prevent major polluters from producing plastic at an unrelenting rate and keep the oil and gas needed to make plastic in the ground. We will all benefit from a cleaner, safer environment thanks to a robust plastics pact.

**Read more:** <https://bansup.esdo.org/media-briefing-on-pre-dialogue-about-the-second-intergovernmental-negotiating-committee-on-the-global-plastic-treaty-inc-2/>

## Environmental Education Camp of Plastic Free Campus (PFC) Project at Rangpur Zilla School & Rangpur Girls High School

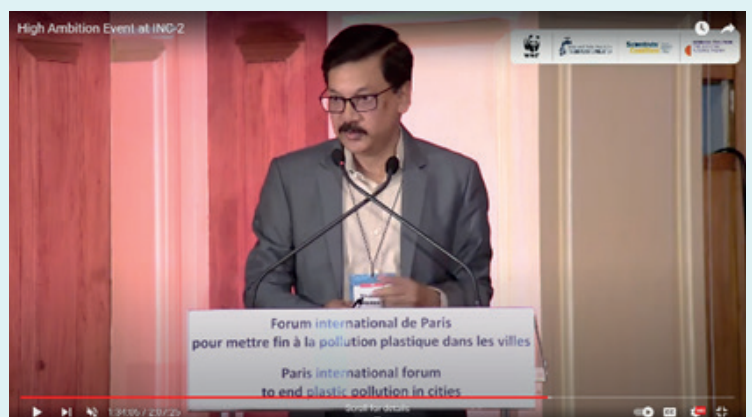
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized the environmental education camp on the 24th & 25th of May 2023 under its Plastic Free Campus (PFC) project at Rangpur Zilla School and Rangpur Girls High School. It was a two-day-long environmental education camp along with an opening ceremony on the first day. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by the respected Mayor of Rangpur City. Members of ESDO along with the Principal, Teachers, Students, and volunteers of Rangpur Zilla School and Rangpur Girls High School were also present at the opening ceremony.



**Read more:** <https://bansup.esdo.org/environmental-education-camp-of-plastic-free-campus-pfc-project-at-rangpur-zilla-school-rangpur-girls-high-school/>

## ESDO's Statement at the 2nd Session of International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastics Pollution, including the Marine Environment

The 2nd Session of International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastics Pollution, including the Marine Environment is currently taking place in Paris from 29 May to 2nd June. On behalf of ESDO, Siddika Sultana Executive Director of ESDO, Dr. Shariar Hosain, Secretary General of ESDO, and Shanon Iffat Alam, Research & Campaign Associate are participating in the sessions







On behalf of ESDO and an IPEN-participating organization, Siddika Sultana provided a statement at the opening of INC-2. She proposed some objectives in this statement; to prohibit the production, marketing, and promotion of toxic plastics from the life cycle of plastics, to phase out all problematic plastic items, to ban the production and use of single-use plastic products, to promote environment-friendly alternatives to plastic products, and to regulate toxic plastic recycling throughout the lifecycle of plastics.

## Action Aid: World Environment Day 2023 Celebration, Beat Plastic Pollution, Promote Transition, Fund Our Future

To combat plastic waste, advance the transition to a greener economy, and provide for the future, ActionAid Bangladesh observed World Environment Day in Dhaka and its other operational regions on June 5, 2023.

Young people and climate experts discussed the various facets of climate change, the role of youth in tackling climate catastrophe, and the budget analysis of the new fiscal year for addressing climate change at the event in Dhaka. They demanded immediate action to address the plastic disaster, and they committed to doing more on an individual level to reduce their carbon footprints.

The event came to an end with a performance by young people that emphasized the consequences of plastic waste in our daily lives. On behalf of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO join the program as a panel discussant along with his colleague Maliha Hoque, Program Associate of ESDO.



## Joint Seminar with Bangladesh Environmental Lawyer Association "Stop Using Single-use Plastic and Start Using Eco-friendly Alternatives"



To celebrate world environment day BELA Collaborated with ESDO and six other organizations to arrange a seminar on 7 June 2023. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the current situation of plastic pollution in Bangladesh and to encourage the youth to stand against plastic pollution. The chief guest of this seminar was the Deputy Minister of MoEFCC and the session chair was the Director General of DoE.

This event was attended by students from different schools, colleges, and Universities along with representatives of the media. On behalf of ESDO, Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO provided a presentation on plastic pollution focusing on the solutions to end plastic pollution. ESDO's executive Director Siddika Sultana joined the seminar as one of the panel discussants along with her other colleagues, Maliha Hoque, program associate of ESDO, and Shanon Iffat Alam, research and campaign associate of ESDO.

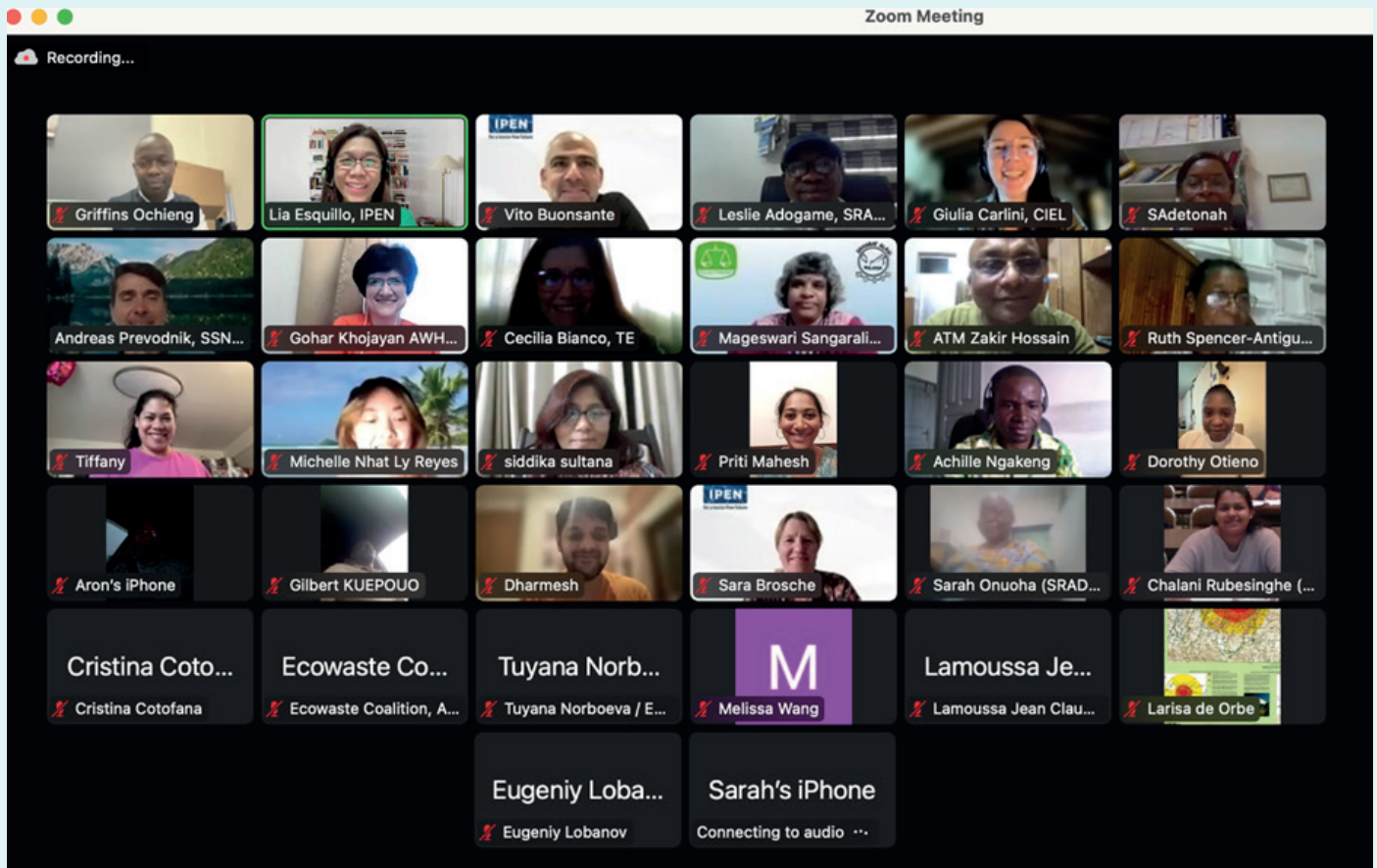
## Walton's Private Sector Dialog on World Environment Day 2023

In celebration of World Environment Day 2023 and to emphasize the urgency of addressing plastic pollution, Walton, a prominent electronics company in Bangladesh, partnered with UNDP to organize a Private Sector Dialog titled "Sustainable Solution to Plastic Pollution." Mr. Shamsul Alam, Chairman of Walton Group, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while a representative from UNDP moderated the seminar. As a panel discussant, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO, participated in the event.



## IPEN INC-2 Debrief and Next Steps

IPEN organized the Second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment on 14 June 2023. This meeting's purpose was to discuss the outcomes of contact group-2 of INC-2. Plastic producers should follow the polluter principle to cover the cost of plastic pollution including legacy pollution. Finally, it was agreed that there will be regional meetings. These meeting will most likely happen back-to-back with the Regional Meeting in preparation for the Minamata COP. On behalf of ESDO, Siddika Sultana Executive Director actively participated and shared her precious suggestions for the next steps of INC-3 in the session.



## Debriefing Meeting Reflection on the Second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) on the Global Plastic Treaty, Paris 2023

Plastic INC-2 finished up by laying out a roadmap for the time in between meetings leading to INC-3, requiring the creation of a “zero draft” of the new treaty for review at INC-3. Allocating a day to discuss the synthesis report of elements not thought of during INC-2 prior to the meeting. Representing Global Plastic INC-2, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO provided an overview of the meeting's results today (Thursday) in the media briefing, press briefing organized by Environment and Social Development Organization on 15 June 2023.



Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary Govt., presided over the Media Briefing. This event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Ministry of Industry, participants from international organizations i.e., WHO, UNIDO, and the Embassy of Sweden along with media representatives.

## False Solutions Exposed Webinar Series

The five-part webinar series was organized by BreakFreeFromPlastic. The first series about Greenwashing and Solutions Financing held on 21st June 2023 discussed "solutions" to plastic pollution. The discussions critically examine some false solutions that are proliferating across the Asia Pacific and elevate safe, effective, and lasting solutions. False solutions distract people and policymakers from real solutions; and direct public financing, infrastructure, and institutional support away from the actions needed for systemic changes. All the leaders from different organizations shared their experiences on false solutions to plastic pollution. Participants also raised their questions regarding the false solutions on busting myths and unveiling real solutions to plastic pollution. ESDO's Program Associate Maliha Hoque and Project Associate Jannatul Ferdous Jubly participated in this webinar.

#BreakFreeFromPlastic

Webinar Series

**#FalseSolutionsExposed:**  
Busting Myths and Unveiling  
Real Solutions to Plastic Pollution

June 21 : Greenwashing & Solutions Financing

**Coleen Salamat**  
Ecowaste Coalition

**Miriam Azurin**  
GAIA Asig Pacific

**Pinky Chandran**  
SWMRT | Hasru Dala

GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS  
Reporting on  
**GREENWASHING**  
& FALSE SOLUTIONS  
to Plastic Pollution

Also launching:  
Guide for Journalists: Reporting on Greenwashing  
& False Solutions to Plastic Pollution

REGISTER TODAY:  
<http://bit.ly/FSEwebinar>

4:00 p.m. (GMT+8) | Wednesdays | June 21 - July 19  
[www.breakfreefromplastic.org/false-solutions-exposed](http://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/false-solutions-exposed)