Eco-Poverty and Plastic Waste
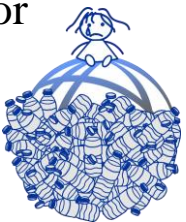
Session 1: Takeaways

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Session 1: The pandemic of plastic: challenges and opportunities in policy making

Presentations summary

- Presentation summary Ms. Catherine Weetman:
  - The problem of plastics and its consequences
  - The possible solution: What is the Circular Economy (design/materials/usage vs. ownership models)
  - Examples of Circular Economy (in business models, in materials use, in products, in policies)

- Presentation summary Ms. Indriany Lionggo
  - Plastic issues in the urban development and cooperation sphere.
  - Good policy approach around the problem and some examples: top-down and bottom-up
  - How to mainstream these approaches across sectoral departments and actors involvement

- Presentation summary Mr. Cyron Chen
  - Starting from the problem of plastic in cities, how it is declined in a particular context as Hong Kong
  - Solutions in terms of circular economy, that could be put in place by the Civil Society, and by the Private Sector

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Lessons learnt and takeaways

- Circular Economy is a **responsibility** of all of us

- Decouple the fight of the pandemic from the overproduction of new plastics through concrete **circular economy instruments**

- **Reduce, reuse, remanufacture, recycle**, instead of producing new polymers

- Within the 4Rs, prioritise **low-energy consumption activities** such as reducing, reusing and remaking

- **Environmental protection** is not only a matter of good will, but an essential tool to **fight against poverty**

- Eco-poverty dimensions and SDGs: Environmental Mainstreaming Approach is needed to make Circular Economy concretely work

- Public policies are the main **driver** for circular economy to scale up: **circular businesses** must have a competitive advantage over linear economy businesses (i.e. green taxation may help to fund innovations)

- Avoid "one solution fits all" approach. Need for **top-down** and **bottom-up** initiatives **suited to the context** to work in synergy.