



The Jakarta Declaration 2026

From Organic Waste to Climate Action: A Just Zero Waste Transition for Asia Pacific

*Second Regional Congress on Organics and Climate jointly organised by
Diet Plastik, YPBB, AZWI and GAIA Asia Pacific during 23-25 September 2026 in Jakarta*

We, the participants of the Regional Congress on Organics and Climate, gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia during 23-25 September 2026, building on the 2024 Bengaluru Declaration on Organics and Climate, reaffirm our commitment to transform how our societies produce, consume and manage food, organic resources and waste.

Today, we gather at a moment when the world is overshooting safe planetary boundaries, and every fraction of a degree now matters more than ever. Keeping warming as close as possible to 1.5°C demands both rapid, economy-wide decarbonization and immediate cuts to methane and other short-lived climate pollutants – and the waste sector offers one of the fastest, most affordable places to act.

Across Asia Pacific, communities face interconnected crises of climate change, climate induced extreme weather events, pollution, biodiversity loss, food loss and waste, and increasing waste generation. Landfills and dumpsites are reaching capacity. Open dumping and waste burning continue. Landfill fires, landfill slides, leachate and methane emissions threaten communities and ecosystems, while valuable food and organic resources continue to be wasted and buried.

This is not simply a waste-management problem. It is a climate, public-health, food-system, livelihood, governance, and environmental-justice challenge.

We recognise that preventing food loss and waste, keeping organic waste out of landfills, returning nutrients to soils and building locally appropriate Zero Waste systems can reduce methane, improve air quality, strengthen food systems, create livelihoods and protect communities.

Across Asia Pacific, communities, cities, local governments, waste pickers and waste workers, farmers, civil society and enterprises have already demonstrated that these solutions work.

The challenge now is to create the policies, incentives including tax benefits financing and cooperation needed to make them the norm.

WE DECLARE

1. Prevent food loss and food waste first

Food that can be safely consumed should never become waste. Prevention carries the highest mitigation potential and fastest climate return of any intervention in the food and waste system, yet progress remains off-track where implementation and finance doesn't flow proportionately towards the potential of this highest-impact level.

We call for accelerated action across the food food system – preventing food loss and waste, redistributing edible surplus, and closing the SDG 12.3 gap. Food-loss and food-waste reduction should be integrated into climate plans, food policies, urban strategies and NDC implementation as a direct, near-term lever on peak warming.

2. Keep organic waste out of landfills and dumpsites

Mandate source segregation of organic waste, collection, transportation and decentralized biological processing for recovering nutrients to soil, plants and animals. Governments should make it mandatory for source segregation, segregated collection, transportation and decentralized biological processing of organic waste for recovering nutrients as value added products and compost. Bulk waste generators should be made responsible for on-site or contracted processing of their organic waste.

Governments should establish measurable, time-bound targets to ban the disposal of untreated organic waste in landfills and dumpsites, defining “treatment” explicitly as composting, anaerobic digestion, or other biological processes that return nutrients to soil, or nutrient recovery for animal feed – and explicitly excluding waste-to-energy incineration, waste or RDF co-firing, and other thermal processes from qualifying as food waste treatment.

Unavoidable organic waste should be source-separated, separately collected and returned safely to productive biological systems through locally appropriate solutions, including home, community and decentralised composting.

Rehabilitate high risk landfills and dumpsites for preventing fires, controlling pollution, and close them safely to protect surrounding communities. Methane measurement, capture and mitigation may be necessary at these sites, but must never justify continued disposal of organic waste – **the priority remains preventing methane generation at its source, by keeping organics out of disposal sites in the first place, rather than relying on technologies that perpetuate disposal.**

3. Make methane reduction and clean air part of Zero Waste policy

Establish measurable waste-sector methane-reduction targets, stronger emissions inventories and monitoring and integration of waste methane reduction strategies in NDC implementation

4. Ban and eliminate all types of open waste burning to minimize short lived climate pollutants like black carbon to deliver important near-term climate, clean-air and public-health benefits while societies accelerate reductions in long-lived greenhouse gases.

5. Put workers, communities and justice at the centre of climate action

Waste pickers and waste workers are essential environmental service providers, knowledge holders and partners in the transition to Zero Waste and climate action.

Facilitate meaningful and active participation of waste pickers and waste workers in policy, planning, finance, implementation and monitoring.

Ensure just transition to protect and strengthen livelihoods, decent and safe work, social protection, legal recognition, dignity and human rights.

No waste or climate policy should displace workers or undermine their livelihoods without a **just and negotiated transition.**

Ensure active participation of communities affected by dumpsites, landfills and waste burning in the process of planning and implementation of rehabilitation.

6. Redirect and scale up climate finance for Zero Waste solutions

National and local governments in the Global South are constrained in terms of finance capacity and are struggling to adapt to the rapidly increasing extreme weather events.

From a climate-justice standpoint, the waste sector needs new, additional public finance, not merely a reallocation of an already inadequate and unevenly delivered pool. Redirecting existing climate finance is not enough. The Global North must honour their historic climate finance obligations to the Global South through delivering new and additional public finance in the form of grants and not as debts to ensure sustainable solutions that will deliver lasting change to limit warming and build resilience in the face of interlinked crises.

Climate finance must reach local governments, communities, grassroots organisations including waste-picker and waste-worker organisations who are in the frontline of climate action directly, rather than being routed through intermediaries that dilute both funds and accountability.

We reject climate and development finance for false solutions that lock cities into disposal-based systems, including mass-burn waste incineration, RDF burning and other waste-burning technologies that undermine prevention, reuse, recycling and organic-resource recovery.

7. Partner with bulk generators to prevent food waste

The burden of managing organic waste must not fall disproportionately on local governments, workers and communities. Large-volume generators – retailers, hospitality, institutions, health care institutions and food-service operators – should be supported and required to prevent food and material waste, source-separate what remains, and connect to composting, donation or biological treatment pathways, calibrated to generator-size thresholds and local infrastructure capacity.

Retailers, wholesalers and importers also have a distinct role to play: because they shape portion sizes, product labeling and promotions that influence how much food is wasted, they should help fund the collection and treatment infrastructure their sales create demand for, alongside their operational prevention efforts. Governments must build the enabling conditions – accessible infrastructure, clear technical standards, and fair-cost mechanisms – that make both partnership and shared financing possible, rather than leaving businesses, workers and communities to bear the burden alone.

8. Move from demonstration to scale

Asia Pacific is a place of solutions and has showcased sustainable solutions at different scales in varied geographies. These solutions need to be customized and scaled up throughout the region for which it requires enabling conditions in the form of policies, finance and political leadership.

We commit to facilitate regional cooperation through city-to-city and South-South learning, research, capacity building, transparent data, methane measurement, policy development, climate finance and joint advocacy to strengthen and accelerate the process of upscaling solutions.

We call on Governments, regional institutions for cooperation, international financing organizations, agencies managing climate funds, philanthropic institutions to support this transition and help build the movement for near term impacts.

A Call for Collective and Accelerated Action

The Bengaluru Declaration helped us to establish a shared understanding that organic **waste is not merely a waste problem, but a critical opportunity for climate action.**

In Jakarta we commit to move **from demonstration to scale, from isolated projects to enabling systems, from disposal to prevention and recovery, and from climate commitments to implementation.**

We call on governments to translate these principles into measurable targets, policies, budgets and programmes; on climate and development finance institutions to redirect investment toward locally led Zero Waste solutions; on businesses and producers to prevent waste and take responsibility for their impacts; and on civil society, communities, waste pickers and waste workers to continue building solutions and holding institutions accountable.

Together, we will build an Asia Pacific where preventing food waste, recovering organic resources and protecting workers and communities are recognised as essential strategies for climate action, clean air, healthy soils, resilient food systems public health and well being and environmental justice.

The solutions already exist. The task now is to make them the norm.

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Aliansi
Zero Waste
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