



British Embassy
Rome

CONCEPT NOTE

Virtual lunchtime seminar “**Moving beyond single-use plastic**”

10th March 2022, 14:00-15:00 (Rome)

Event format: Virtual platform (online)

Host: British Embassy in Rome

Target Audience: British Embassy Staff, British Embassy to the Holy See Staff, Green Embassies Network in Rome, Sustainability Champions, and select Municipalities in Rome

Presenters:

- **Valentina Ramadori**, British Embassy to the Holy See
- **Ambassador Prof. Judi Wakhungu**, Kenya’s Ambassador to France and former Cabinet Secretary-Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Kenya
- **Eng. Federica Giglio**, Head of Office for Environment and Urban Hygiene in the Municipality of Albano Laziale.

Background:

Currently, plastics are a dominant factor in our daily lives, which one can find in product packing, cosmetics, textiles and most electronic appliances. Its non-biodegradable nature is a global environmental concern, due to its associated waste management costs, and risks to both land and aquatic life. An estimated 400M tonnes of plastic are produced annually, 40% of which are single-use plastics: usable for only an average of 12 minutes vis a vis up to 500 years required for it to breakdown in the environment.

In Italy, plastic accounts for up to €70M losses in the Blue economy alone. On 14th January 2022, the Italian Parliament passed a law that bans the use of single-use, non-biodegradable, and non-compostable plastic. The law complies with the European Union Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD) and marks a fundamental step forward in the Italian environmental policy.

In the UK, the Government passed the Environment Act in 2021 putting in place tougher actions to limit single-use plastics in England. However, the path leading to plastic-free economies goes beyond political decisions. The UK Plastic Pact, a collaboration between businesses from the entire plastic value chain, and the many consumer actions, shows that everyone can contribute to reducing the use of plastic.

As countries strive to deal with plastic waste, consumer choices regarding reduction, repair, reuse, recycling of plastics combined with appropriate legislation could provide a major boost in reducing global plastic pollution.



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Objective:

This lecture aims to present concrete examples of strong policy decisions against the use of plastics through presentations from the Town Hall of Albano Laziale and Kenya. It will also seek to draw insights from conversations on plastic waste at United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) conference scheduled for 28 Feb-2 Mar 2022 in Nairobi. Specifically:

- Demonstrate the importance and impact of phasing out single use plastic drawing on British Embassy experience.
- Promote, support and sharing of best practices in waste management of plastic, through concrete examples by Town Hall of Albano Laziale.
- Highlight opportunities and lessons learnt for the successful phasing out of plastics –casestudy from Kenya.

Draft Programme:

13:00-13:05 Opening Remarks-short overview of the topic.

13:05:-13:15 Plastic phase out at the British Embassy in Italy and British Embassy to the Holy See;

Valentina Ramadori-British Embassy to the Holy See

13:15-13:25 Best practice in Plastic Waste Management

Eng. Federica Giglio -Municipality of Albano Laziale

13:25-13:45 Opportunities and lessons learnt for an effective plastic phase out.

Ambassador Prof. Judi Wakhungu

13:35-13:50 Q & A Session

13:50-13:55 Closing Remarks by Clare James, British Embassy COP26 Team Leader

Speaker Profiles

Ambassador Prof. Judi Wakhungu

H.E. Professor Judi Wakhungu EGH is Kenya's Ambassador to France, Portugal, Serbia, and The Holy See. Prior to her Ambassadorial appointment, she served as Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources from 2013 to 2021. During her tenure as a Cabinet Secretary, in 2017 she successfully enacted policy banning the use, manufacture and importation of plastic carrier bags.

Prof. Wakhungu is also a champion of Sustainable Development and Gender issues in Science and Technology Policy, a member of the Advisory Board to the Global Forest Summit, and



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a “designated energy expert” to the United Nations Commission for Science and Technology for Development.

Eng. Federica Giglio

Eng. Federica Giglio is Head of Office for Environment and Urban Hygiene in the Municipality of Albano Laziale (RM). Her office coordinates waste management and leads on plastic recycling initiatives. In 2021, the Municipality of Albano Laziale was conferred the Lazio Green-Clean Municipalities Award 2020, and in 2018 was ranked among the top three Municipalities in Italy for the best plastic packaging waste management.

