



PHOTOBOOK & KEY INSIGHTS

Responsible Sourcing Initiative Convening 2026, Nairobi

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING INITIATIVE CONVENING 2026, NAIROBI

Key Insights

- ▶ **The Harmonized Responsible Sourcing Framework sets an industry standard for inclusive and systemic change:** The Harmonized Responsible Sourcing Framework provides organizations across the recycling value chain with a practical approach to implementing responsible sourcing. As global regulatory expectations rise, adoption of the framework offers a timely pathway to strengthen standards, support informal sector inclusion, and foster shared accountability across the recycling value chain.
- ▶ **On-the-ground realities highlight persistent risks for waste pickers:** Insights from the Dandora landfill visit reveal unsafe working conditions, social stigma, and limited access to social protection for waste pickers, alongside child welfare concerns and safety risks for women. Waste pickers also emphasized the need for greater access to finance, infrastructure, and market linkages to scale their livelihoods.

Key Insights

- ▶ **Responsible sourcing must be grounded in local realities:** Insights from on-the-ground implementation show that many compliance gaps stem from capacity constraints rather than deliberate non-compliance. Effective interventions focus on addressing root causes, building on existing systems, and strengthening collective representation and supplier engagement to drive inclusive change.
- ▶ **A process-based approach to responsible sourcing assurance:** A Responsible Sourcing Assurance Model developed through multi-stakeholder consultations was presented at the convening to address queries on how responsibly sourced recycled materials can be assured. The model incorporates the Harmonized Responsible Sourcing Framework with a human rights due diligence (HRDD) process and maturity-based assessments to document progress rather than rely on pass-fail certification. Participants noted that the approach could provide credible HRDD evidence, reduce audit fatigue for recyclers, and support informal sector inclusion.

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- **Understanding the cost of responsibly sourced recycled plastics is key to scaling responsible sourcing:** Research conducted by The Circulate Initiative indicates that the estimated cost of responsibly sourced recycled plastics is under US\$ 50 per ton—approximately 8–23% higher than conventional sourcing. This is largely driven by investments in traceability and supply chain systems. Scaling these efforts will require stronger business models, transparent value chains, and tailored financing solutions.





































