United Nations Association of Australia NSW Division

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Professor Veena Sahajwalla,
Director, Sustainable Materials Research and Technology Centre, University of NSW.

Professor Veena Sahajwalla is an internationally recognised materials scientist, engineer, and inventor revolutionising recycling science. She is renowned for pioneering the high temperature transformation of waste in the production of a new generation of 'green materials' at the UNSW Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) Centre, where she is Founding Director. Professor Veena is the inventor of polymer injection technology, known as green steel, an eco-friendly process for using recycled tyres in steel production. In 2018, Professor Veena launched the world's first e-waste MICROfactorieTM and in 2019 she launched her plastics and Green Ceramics MICROfactoriesTM, a recycling technology breakthrough. Veena is the director of the ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hub for 'microrecycling', and is the Leader of the national Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub. In 2021, Professor Veena featured in the ABC's Australian Story and she was named the 2022 NSW Australian of the Year in recognition of her work. She was also awarded the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE) Clunies Ross Innovation Award. In 2023, Professor Veena was awarded the Engineering Australia Chemical College Chemical Engineer Achievement Award and the Good Design 2023 Women in Design Award. In 2025, Professor Veena was awarded the 'Office of the Order of Australia' (AO) for distinguished service to science, sustainable materials research and technology and waste management on Australia Day.

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