



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Information note for the regional preparatory meetings for the global consultations on circular economy

13-20 November 2020

Regional preparatory meetings for the global consultations on circular economy

Information note



I. Mandate

The General Conference, in its resolution GC.18/Res.7, requested the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to organize consultations on circular economy for experts from Member States with a view to facilitating exchanges on best practices, and emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States.

II. Objective and expected outcome

The objective of the consultations on circular economy is to consider ways and means to promote circular economy principles and practices, in particular in developing countries, identify barriers and devise action-oriented solutions.

The global consultations, which are tentatively scheduled for January-February 2021, will be preceded by regional preparatory meetings. This will allow Member State representatives and other relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, to present their initial views on the topic and identify issues that will shape the debate at the global consultations.

The global consultations, which will be informed by the outcomes of the series of regional preparatory meetings, will result in the development of a set of policy and technical recommendations that will be submitted to the nineteenth session of the General Conference, through the forty-ninth session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO. This process aims to arrive at actionable policymaking organ decisions which will advance the work of UNIDO and its Member States on circular economy in intergovernmental processes, thereby promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the framework of the United Nations' Decade for Action.

III. Process and rules of procedure

The consultations will be convened using the UNIDO System of Consultations¹ as a guiding framework, taking into account developments since its adoption, lessons learned, outcomes of the respective evaluations and restrictions imposed by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

All regional preparatory meetings will follow the basic format outlined in the section “Provisional agenda and organization of work at the regional preparatory meetings” below.

IV. Participation

The regional preparatory meetings as well as the global consultations will be attended by senior-level representatives from governments, industry, private sector, civil society, academia, United Nations agencies and relevant international organizations.

V. Schedule of the regional preparatory meetings

Date	Time (CET)	Regional Group
13 November 2020	09:00 – 12:00	Asia-Pacific Group
16 November 2020	14:00 – 17:00	African Group (with English-French interpretation)
18 November 2020	09:00 – 12:00	Western European and other States Group
19 November 2020	15:00 – 18:00	Latin America and the Caribbean Group (with English-Spanish interpretation)
20 November 2020	09:00 – 12:00	Eastern European Group

Representatives from governments, as well as topical experts from industry, the private sector, civil society and academia, whose nominations were communicated to the secretariat by their respective governments, are invited to participate in a meeting of their respective region as indicated in the Annex to this note.

Representatives from United Nations entities and international organizations are invited to participate in all regional meetings or selected meetings of their choice.

In consideration of global health and safety measures and to increase the number of potential participants, all meetings will be held virtually. Login modalities and usage instructions will be provided to nominated participants in advance of each meeting.

VI. Topics for discussion and guiding questions

As part of the organization of the regional preparatory meetings, representatives from Member States were invited to express their preference for topics for discussion. As a result, the following two topics were selected:

¹ [https://open.unido.org/api/documents/4792485/download/THE%20SYSTEM%20OF%20CONSULTATIONS%20\(11648e.en\)](https://open.unido.org/api/documents/4792485/download/THE%20SYSTEM%20OF%20CONSULTATIONS%20(11648e.en))

Topic 1: Circular economy as a substantial contribution to addressing the climate crisis and advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Topic 2: Mobilizing finance, technology and capacity-building to promote circular economy principles and practices in developing countries.

Both topics will be considered together in the course of the consultations. Participants are encouraged to structure their interventions so as to address both topics and present their points of view, experiences and recommendations on each, as per the following guiding questions.

Guiding questions:

- What do you see as key benefits your country, company or organization can derive from adopting circular economy principles and practices in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and meeting national climate change priorities?
- Are there successful examples of introducing circular economy principles and practices in your country, company or organization, including policy and regulatory frameworks as well as national, multilateral, bilateral and South-South cooperation initiatives and partnerships?
- What are the barriers impeding the adoption of circular economy principles and practices in your country, company or organization?
- What support, including arrangements for access to finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, would your country, company or organization require to enable the adoption of circular economy principles and practices?

More information on circular economy, including examples of existing policy frameworks, initiatives and programmes, can be found in the Background Note, which will be distributed in due course.

VII. Provisional agenda and the organization of work at the regional preparatory meetings

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (10 min)
2. Introductory presentation by the secretariat (15 min)
3. Interventions (90 min)
 - Interventions by Member States
 - Interventions by observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, etc.)
4. Moderated discussion (40 min)
5. Conclusions and adjournment (15 min)
6. Announcements by the secretariat (10 min)

Following a brief introductory presentation by the secretariat, government representatives from UNIDO Member States will be invited to make interventions not exceeding 5 minutes to respond to the guiding questions of their choice.

Once the list of government representatives requesting the floor is exhausted, representatives of observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, etc.) will be invited to make interventions not exceeding 3 minutes.

The use of pre-prepared presentations and information material is discouraged. However, participants may submit their interventions and statements in writing, prior to and within five days after each regional preparatory meeting. Such submissions will be collected by the secretariat and made publicly available on a dedicated webpage and circulated to the participants.

The round of interventions will be followed by a moderated discussion during which every participant may request the floor to comment on interventions by other participants, ask additional questions and propose solutions to identified challenges.

Key points discussed and main finding of each regional preparatory meeting will be captured in a summary report.

The summary reports will serve as background documents for the global consultations on circular economy in January-February 2021.

Recordings of the regional preparatory meetings will be kept by the secretariat, but not made publicly available.

Contact information

Queries relating to the consultations on circular economy should be addressed to the secretariat at CircularEconomy@unido.org.

Written interventions and statements may be submitted by participants of the regional preparatory meetings to the secretariat at CircularEconomy@unido.org prior to and within five days after each meeting.

The secretariat will not collect and disseminate any information materials or publications that may be submitted by participants.

List of groups for the regional preparatory meetings

African States

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Asia-Pacific States

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen

Eastern European States

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Georgia, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean States

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Western European and other States

Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey



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<https://www.unido.org/our-focus-safeguarding-environment/global-consultations-circular-economy>



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