



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



## Regional preparatory meetings for the UNIDO global consultations on circular economy

Written statements from international organizations



# Regional preparatory meeting for the UNIDO global consultations on circular economy

## Written Statements from international organizations



The present document compiles statements received by the Secretariat from international organizations in relation to the regional preparatory meetings for the UNIDO global consultations on circular economy, held virtually between 13 and 20 November 2020. The statements are reproduced without formal editing or formatting.

## Content

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. International Atomic Energy Agency.....        | 4  |
| 2. International Maritime Organization .....      | 8  |
| 3. United Nations Environment Programme.....      | 10 |
| 4. United Nations World Tourism Organization..... | 17 |

## 1. International Atomic Energy Agency

The principles of circular economy are increasingly applied in the industries associated with the applications of nuclear science and technologies. We see opportunities of further cooperation with UNIDO and other partners in fostering knowledge sharing.

Here we highlight application of concept of circular economy in the nuclear industries as well as how nuclear technology can be applied for the circular economy of plastics. 1. Plastic Industry Nuclear technologies can address the technological gaps along the circular plastic economy value chain, specifically in recycling and assessing the impact of microplastics in the ocean in an upstream and downstream approach. Radiation technology complements conventional plastic recycling and offers a unique and innovative mean to recycle and modify plastic waste to extend the life-cycle of plastics and to create new tertiary plastic products.

Radiation technology enables:

- Sorting plastic waste according to polymer type
- Breaking down plastic polymers into smaller components to be used as raw materials
- Tailoring plastic waste properties so that it can be amalgamated with other materials to make new products such as concrete composites, especially attractive when primary recycling is no longer possible. Downstream: the IAEA provides scientific data of unparalleled precision on the impact of microplastics on marine environments and organisms. We do this by:
  - Determining the presence and amount of microplastic debris in the ocean (sediment, water and biota),
  - Assessing the characteristics of microplastic debris traces in marine animals,
  - Monitoring and tracking the extent to which microplastics, and the contaminants that latch onto them, are incorporated into marine species through the food chain and reproduction.

### Nuclear Industry

The nuclear industry is both learning from other industries and sharing its technologies and good practices. Minimization of radioactive waste is a guiding principle for design and operation of any nuclear facility. Recycling is implemented during operation as part of waste minimization, and at a larger scale, when a facility reaches its end of life and is decommissioned. In the latter scenario, the bulk of the material (over 90%) is clean, or able to be reintroduced into the conventional material cycle. One example is the IAEA-supported decommissioning project of the Portuguese research reactor that operated between 1961 and 2006. When it comes to radioactive sources used in health, science and other industrial applications of nuclear technologies Recycling and reuse practices are common.

The IAEA is also addressing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) that may accumulate in several non-nuclear industries such as metal mining or in the process of phosphate fertilizer manufacturing. The opportunities and issues for the valorisation of these slightly radioactive materials are the same as valorisation of many other products contaminated with chemicals or potentially hazardous material. There is a need for developing frameworks and regulations which take the specific nature of circular economy into account. Final message The IAEA, through its mandate of scientific and technology information transfer, develops

reference publications, e-learning material, provides capacity building and promotes network of professionals, in areas which include circular economy principles and their implementation. We stand ready to work with UNIDO and Member States to extend our cooperation on this important topic.



## **International Atomic Energy Agency**

### **Contribution to UNIDO regional consultations on Circular Economy**

#### **Meeting for Eastern European Group, 20 November 2020**

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##### **1. Nuclear Industry**

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There are many nuclear facilities (including research reactors and NPPs) in Eastern Europe which have reached the end of their designed lifespan, and decommissioning activities are under way. Safe radioactive waste management and remediation are high priority areas of our collaboration with Member States. When it comes to radioactive sources used in health, science and other industrial applications of nuclear technologies recycling and reuse practices are common. More than one third of financial resources provided by the IAEA in the Eastern European region support development priorities in the area of radiation medicine.

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##### **2. Plastic Industry**

Nuclear technologies can address the technological gaps along the circular plastic economy value chain, specifically in recycling and assessing the impact of microplastics in the ocean in an upstream and downstream approach.

Radiation technology complements conventional plastic recycling and offers a unique and innovative mean to recycle and modify plastic waste to extend the life-cycle of plastics and to create new tertiary plastic products. Radiation technology enables:

- ▶ sorting plastic waste according to polymer type
- ▶ breaking down plastic polymers into smaller components to be used as raw materials
- ▶ tailoring plastic waste properties so that it can be amalgamated with other materials to make new products such as concrete composites, especially attractive when primary recycling is no longer possible.

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#### **Final message**

The IAEA, through its mandate of scientific and technology information transfer, develops reference publications, e-learning material, provides capacity building and infrastructure development and promotes network of professionals, in areas which include circular economy principles and their implementation. We stand ready to work with UNIDO and Member States to extend our cooperation on this important topic.

*20 November 2020*



## International Atomic Energy Agency

### Contribution to UNIDO regional consultations on Circular Economy

#### Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean – 19 November 2020 (Spanish version)

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Los principios de la economía circular se aplican cada vez más en las industrias relacionadas con las aplicaciones de la ciencia y las tecnologías nucleares. Observamos oportunidades de una mayor cooperación con la ONUDI y otros socios para fomentar el intercambio de conocimientos.

Aquí destacamos la aplicación del concepto de economía circular en las industrias nucleares, así como la forma en que la tecnología nuclear puede aplicarse a la economía circular de los plásticos.

#### **1. La industria de los plásticos**

Las tecnologías nucleares pueden abordar las lagunas tecnológicas a lo largo de la cadena de valor de la economía circular de los plásticos, concretamente en el reciclaje y la evaluación del impacto de los microplásticos en el océano en un enfoque ascendente y descendente.

La tecnología de la radiación complementa el reciclaje convencional de plásticos y ofrece un medio único e innovador de reciclar y modificar los desechos plásticos para ampliar el ciclo de vida de los plásticos y crear nuevos productos plásticos terciarios. La tecnología de la radiación permite:

- ▶ clasificar los residuos plásticos según el tipo de polímero
- ▶ desintegrar los polímeros plásticos en componentes más pequeños para ser usados como materia prima
- ▶ adaptar las propiedades de los desechos plásticos para que puedan amalgamarse con otros materiales y producir nuevos productos, como los compuestos de hormigón, especialmente atractivos cuando ya no es posible el reciclaje primario.

En las etapas posteriores del proceso, el OIEA proporciona datos científicos de precisión sin igual sobre el impacto de los microplásticos en los ambientes y organismos marinos. Alcanzamos este objetivo mediante:

- ▶ la determinación de la presencia y la cantidad de desechos microplásticos en el océano (sedimento, agua y biota),
- ▶ la evaluación de las características de los rastros de desechos microplásticos en los animales marinos,

► la vigilancia y el seguimiento de la medida en que los microplásticos, y los contaminantes que se adhieren a ellos, se incorporan a las especies marinas a través de la cadena alimentaria y la reproducción.

## **2. La industria nuclear**

La industria nuclear está aprendiendo de otras industrias y compartiendo sus tecnologías y buenas prácticas. La minimización de los residuos radiactivos es un principio rector para el diseño y el funcionamiento de cualquier instalación nuclear. El reciclaje se lleva a cabo durante la operación como parte de la minimización de los desechos, y a mayor escala, cuando una instalación llega al final de su vida útil y es desmantelada. En este último caso, la mayor parte del material (más del 90%) está limpio, o puede ser reintroducido en el ciclo de materiales convencionales.

Cuando se trata de fuentes radiactivas utilizadas en la salud, la ciencia y otras aplicaciones industriales de las tecnologías nucleares, las prácticas de reciclaje y reutilización son comunes.

El OIEA también se ocupa de los materiales radiactivos naturales que pueden acumularse en varias industrias no nucleares, como la minería de metales o en el proceso de fabricación de fertilizantes de fosfato. Las oportunidades y cuestiones para la valorización de estos materiales ligeramente radiactivos son las mismas que las de la valorización de muchos otros productos contaminados con productos químicos o material potencialmente peligroso. Es necesario desarrollar marcos y reglamentos que tengan en cuenta la naturaleza específica de la economía circular.

### **Mensaje final**

El OIEA, en virtud de su mandato de transferencia de información científica y tecnológica, elabora publicaciones de referencia, material de aprendizaje electrónico, proporciona creación de capacidad y promueve la creación de redes de profesionales, en esferas que incluyen los principios de la economía circular y su aplicación. Estamos dispuestos a trabajar con la ONUDI y los Estados Miembros para ampliar nuestra cooperación en este importante tema.

*19 de noviembre de 2020*

## **2. International Maritime Organization**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations specialized agency with the responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and for the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. Over the years, more than 50 treaties and hundreds of codes, recommendations and guidelines were developed under the auspices of IMO. As part of the United Nations family, IMO is actively working towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated SDGs. Indeed, most of the elements of the 2030 Agenda will only be realized with a sustainable transport sector supporting world trade and facilitating the global economy.

The IMO instruments most directly related to the principles of a circular economy are the following:

[The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 \(the Hong Kong Convention\).](#)

The Hong Kong Convention is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment.

The Convention was developed to address all the issues around ship recycling, including the fact that ships sold for scrapping may contain environmentally hazardous substances such as asbestos, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, ozone-depleting substances and others. It also addresses concerns raised about the working and environmental conditions at many of the world's ship recycling locations.

Regulations in the Convention cover: the design, construction, operation and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling without compromising the safety and operational efficiency of ships; the operation of ship recycling facilities in a safe and environmentally sound manner; and the establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism for ship recycling, incorporating certification and reporting requirements.

#### The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention) and the 1996 London Protocol

The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972, was an international policy response to decades of dumping into the ocean and incineration at sea, and one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities.

In the early 1990s the Parties to the Convention recognized the need for a more precautionary and preventive approach and undertook a comprehensive review of the Convention. In 1996 Contracting Parties to the London Convention concluded negotiations toward a new, free standing treaty, to modernize and eventually replace the London Convention, referred to as the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (“the London Protocol”).

The London Protocol entered into force in 2006. The London Protocol is a separate treaty from the Convention and may be ratified by States without being a party to the Convention. The London Protocol is the more modern and comprehensive of the two global treaties relating to the prevention of marine pollution from dumping at sea. The Protocol provides the precautionary framework needed for parties to effectively prevent pollution of the sea caused by dumping of waste and other matter, incineration, and new activities such as marine geoengineering or carbon capture and storage.

Implementing the London Protocol is a means towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, since the Protocol contributes to several of the goals, including those relating to conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources; food security; and sustainable economic growth. A central principle of these treaties is the reduction of waste generation at source (through re-use, recycling, destruction, treatment or removal of hazardous components, or disposal at land), in order to minimize the necessity for dumping at sea. The implementation of the LC/LP is therefore intrinsically linked to waste generation, waste management, and of relevance to the principles of circular economy.

#### Status of IMO conventions

For IMO conventions to be properly effective, they require widespread ratification, effective implementation, stringent oversight of compliance and vigorous enforcement. In this regard, IMO encourages States participating in the UNIDO regional preparatory meetings to review the status of IMO conventions, determine which ones they are parties to and, where relevant, take

steps towards ratifying them as appropriate. Further information on the status of IMO conventions can be found at the following link:

<https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/StatusOfConventions.aspx>

### 3. United Nations Environment Programme



#### UNEP contribution to the UNIDO Consultation on Circular Economy

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?

UNEP values the benefits of circularity and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) to ensure progress on the stand-alone goal on "ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns" – SDG 12. But the shift towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns and towards circularity, supports most if not all of the eleven targets in this goal. It also supports targets in other goals which are contingent upon the shift to SCP patterns – such as those on sustainable food production systems in goal 2, on water and energy efficiency in goals 6 and 7, on decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation in goal 8, on industry and innovation in goal 9, on resource efficient and resilient cities in goal 11, on climate change in goal 13 and sustainable land use and terrestrial ecosystems in goal 15. Sustainable consumption and production is probably the ultimate transversal issue in the SDGs, with more than 50 of the 169 SDG targets dependent on the shift to SCP patterns.

In addition, the multiple benefits that the shift to sustainable consumption and production and circularity can be further elaborated:

##### Political and social dimension:

- ✓ The **resource savings nature** of the concept of circularity is aligning interest and identifying common ground for collaboration across-Ministries on the agenda of sustainable consumption and production and resource use.
- ✓ The **possibility of a greater resource equity and availability** to service current and future green resources and energy needs.
- ✓ The **inherent inclusiveness** of the concept encourages the collaboration and alignment of the different stakeholder which constitute the entire life cycle of a product.
- ✓ The **possibilities and improvements in health and well-being** through reducing waste and pollution.

##### Economic dimension:

Circularity provides shared opportunities and benefits to innovating towards sustainable economies

- ✓ **Access to new and emerging markets with** innovative solutions that meet the needs of markets and societies, of both low-income and high-end consumers.
- ✓ **Reduce production and consumption costs along the value chain:** Reaping the full advantages of circularity requires looking at every stage of the product life cycle to seek opportunities for improvement. Innovation in all areas can generate significant cost savings.

- ✓ **Ensure preparedness for new standards and regulation:** Regulation and standards are increasingly embedding circularity considerations. Contributing to the process of design of such instruments the experience of applying circularity from all actors of the value chain will ensure higher readiness to implement it and greater success potential.
- ✓ **Attract financial resources:** Financial opportunities available for circular/ resource efficient solutions are increasing. Such opportunities are further elaborated by the UNEP Finance Initiative through the release of its report "[Financing Circularity: Demystifying Finance for Circular Economies](#)".
- ✓ **Increase technical capacity and productivity:** Building circularity in an organization and value chain triggers organizational and technical changes and has the potential to create opportunities for new and safer working conditions.

#### Environmental dimension

- ✓ **Reduce pressure on natural resources.** Circularity and SCP help transform a system in which of the estimated 90 billion tonnes of resources used in 2017, more than 50% was dispersed or emitted as waste; and less than 10% was cycled back into the economy the following year.
- ✓ **Reduce waste requiring disposal and pollution of the environment.**
- ✓ **Accelerate the achievement of the Paris Agreement.** By 2050, policies to improve resource efficiency and tackle climate change could reduce global resource use by up to 28% globally; cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 74% and increase global economic activity by 6% by 2050. This benefit is further illustrated in "[A 1.5°C World Requires a Circular and Low Carbon Economy](#)" guidance developed by UNEP and UNDP (June 2020), including technical resources and analytical tools for countries to enhance actions to achieve Paris Agreement targets through resource efficiency and circular economy.
- ✓ **Improve land productivity and soil health**
- ✓ **Reduce littering**

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?

UNEP's work on circular economy focuses on the following aspects:

1. **Knowledge:** the work of the International Resource Panel and on life cycle approaches are key to provide the scientific basis for policies and practices to advance circularity and Sustainable Consumption and Production. Compared to a linear system, circularity requires knowledge and information on products content and their impact on recyclability and health.
2. **Policies:** that take a holistic view, consider all stages of a product's life and keep products and materials at the highest possible value at the end of their use, while being transparent, risk-based, and flexible in nature. As well as pricing and fiscal policies to align market prices with full costs of products and services and trade policies.
3. **Education and awareness raising:** especially for consumers, but also to ensure that scientists involved in R&D are connected with the policy experts to enhance understanding each other's perspectives and goals.

**4. Collaboration and partnerships:** involving the value chain actors, developing innovative solutions and supporting innovation setups (i.e. circular labs) involving academia, industry, government, financial sector and other key stakeholders.

**5. Leadership:** Circularity and Sustainable Consumption and Production needs champions. We can replicate the leaders network established in the plastics value chain through the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment to other value chains.

In annex a list of resources which further details the work of the organization on this agenda.

More concretely, UNEP's circular economy is highlighted:

- Through sectoral value chain in the Programmes of the One Planet Network (food systems, tourism, and building and construction)
- In other value chains, such as plastics, electronics, textile and extractives value chains
- By engaging citizens and consumers in the transition through the Programmes of the One Planet Network on consumer information, sustainable procurement and sustainable lifestyles
- By assisting SMEs in developing countries to develop and implement circular business models through UNEP's eco-innovation approach
- By deploying sound chemicals and waste management solutions
- In the context of cities and urban resource flows
- In the Partnership for action on a green economy (PAGE)
- In the context of the oceans and blue economy agenda
- Through partnership such as the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE) and several initiatives promoted in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) and the World Economic Forum (WEF)

#### WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS IMPEDING THE ADOPTION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN YOUR COUNTRY, COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION?

Gaps and barriers in implementing circular economy can be structured around the following aspects:

**Gaps in knowledge:** there needs to be a harmonized measurement and indicator systems for evaluating the progress of circular economy

**Gaps in policy:** numerous national and regional initiatives on circular economy have been implemented around the world. However, coordinated policies, agreements and action plans are needed to support implementation of upstream solutions (initiating actions from upper stages of the value chain by applying sustainable consumption and production, such as eco-design, product lifetime extension, and innovative business model etc.), improve recyclability, incentivise demand for recycled material, and streamline downstream waste management. Such coordinated efforts are lacking and/or non-binding in most countries and regions. There is also a need for increased global policy coordination.

**Gaps in technology and innovation:** standards and guidelines for reuse and recycling are lacking. There is a need for designing and producing products with lower impacts in use and end-of-life phases, as well as improved technologies that allow secondary materials to be transformed into high value products with high recyclability. There is a lack of affordable and sustainable alternatives available to consumers.

**Gaps in coordinated financing and incentives:** for innovative product design and business models, market creation for recycled materials, and integrated waste management systems.

**Gaps in consumer demand and support:** for circular products and business models to be viable at scale, consumer demand and buy in are required (for instance, making use of rental as opposed of ownership offers). Initiatives should always consider holistically also the consumption side and how consumer behavior change can be stimulated, and the circular option be made the easy one.

**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?**

UNEP will continue to promote the following actions to increase the access to finance, technology and develop capacity to adopt circularity and SCP:

1. **Continue to build political support and leadership for action:** engaging governments at the highest political level to build circularity in their economies. UNEP will guide countries in creating a clear understanding of how to transition from the current linear model of production and consumption to a circular one.
2. **Support countries in implementing circularity:** The intervention (in its design and implementation) needs to be coordinated and synergistic, involving all actors of the value chain: government, companies, research institutions, waste sector, finance sector, consumers. In providing such support, UNEP takes advantage of the depth and breadth of experience, as well as the networks, on circular economy, plastics and pollution. Such networks, which include – among others - the One Planet Network and the Partnership for Action on Green economy, have delivering impact in over 65 countries.

UNEP regional offices also support countries in concrete projects to implementing circular economy: such as The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) Action project for six Eastern partner (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine); and through the SWITCH Africa Green, SwitchMed and SWITCH Asia programmes. Through the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals initiative (Go4SDGs), UNEP will also be bringing to scale existing SME support tools and approaches developed by UNEP and its partners. Go4SDGs has just been initiated, together with organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme, Seed Initiative – Supporting Entrepreneurs for

Environment and Development, the World Economic Forum, the International Labour Organization and the International Trade Union Confederation. UNEP regional offices have also been instrumental in the establishment and development of the African Circular Economy Alliance, whose official launching took place during the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (November 2019) and the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean (to be launched in early 2021).

3. **Facilitate the exchange of solutions, technologies, alternative materials, etc.** Private sector champions are demonstrating a growing interest to join hands with UNEP in promoting circularity and adopting sustainable consumption and production practices. To further increase the engagement of businesses, UNEP builds and connects the work across multiple initiatives and platforms, including Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, supported by the World Economic Forum, the collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the sectoral initiatives led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and the work with small firms supported through the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production network in collaboration with the UNIDO.
4. **Promote campaigns to engage citizens**, by weaving in the evidence and science on behaviour change as well as substantive life cycle analysis and findings and policy recommendations from the International Resource Panel; for an effective foundation and impetus to national policies and international initiatives on circular and green economies. In order to further amplify our messages and campaigns, UNEP engages more closely with the communities that affect lifestyles trends, such as evolving influencers, lifestyle brands, advertisers and marketers to broaden our outreach channels.
5. **Increase the interest of the finance community in synergizing and further financing circular economy**, waste management and resource efficiency. Such focus area will build on the broad membership in the finance sector of the UNEP Finance Initiative.

## ANNEX - KEY UNEP REPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS ON CIRCULARITY AND RELATED ISSUES

### **General**

Redefining value; the manufacturing revolution

<https://www.resourcepanel.org/file/1105/download?token=LpQPM9Bo>

UNEP circularity platform

<https://www.unenvironment.org/circularity>

[https://buildingcircularity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Circularity\\_Diagram\\_UNEP.pdf](https://buildingcircularity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Circularity_Diagram_UNEP.pdf)

Building circularity into our economies through Sustainable procurement

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26599/circularity\\_procurement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26599/circularity_procurement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

Financing Circularity

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/new-unep-report-lights-way-financial-institutions-shift-more>

New business models for circularity

[http://unep.ecoinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/UN\\_Environment\\_Eco%E2%80%94Manual-1.pdf](http://unep.ecoinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/UN_Environment_Eco%E2%80%94Manual-1.pdf)

Product lifetime extension

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/consumer-information-scp/product-lifetime-extension-hub>

Consumer information tools for climate change

[https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/consumer\\_information\\_tools\\_and\\_climate\\_change.pdf](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/consumer_information_tools_and_climate_change.pdf)

Global supply chains, chemicals in products, and circularity, within the Global Chemicals Outlook II

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28186/GCOII\\_PartI.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28186/GCOII_PartI.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

Circular economy in cities

<https://resourceefficientcities.org/2019/10/growing-in-circles-climate-ready-resilient-resource-efficient-and-equitable-cities/>

<https://resourceefficientcities.org/2019/10/circular-economy-in-cities-and-our-climate-dilemma/>

Circular economy indicators: what do they measure?

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/blogpost/circular-economy-indicators-what-do-they-measure>

Putting the brakes on fast fashion.

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/putting-brakes-fast-fashion>

Using Life Cycle Assessment to achieve a circular economy

[https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Using-LCA-to-achieve-circular-economy-LCI-July-2020.pdf?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=news-for-the-global-life-cycle-community-lc-net-januaryfebruary-2020-edition\\_2](https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Using-LCA-to-achieve-circular-economy-LCI-July-2020.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-for-the-global-life-cycle-community-lc-net-januaryfebruary-2020-edition_2)

### **Textiles**

Building circularity in the textile value chain

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/unep-textile-value-chain> (Includes other partners' reports)

Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/new-report-launched-sustainability-and-circularity-textile-value-chain>

Textile value chains – An overview of activities and approaches of the UNEP

[https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/textile\\_value\\_chains\\_-\\_unep\\_economy\\_division\\_activities.pdf](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/textile_value_chains_-_unep_economy_division_activities.pdf)

### **Plastics**

Building circularity in plastics

<https://buildingcircularity.org/plastics/>

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9798/-Marine\\_litter\\_Vital\\_graphics-2016MarineLitterVG.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9798/-Marine_litter_Vital_graphics-2016MarineLitterVG.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y)

National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action

<https://plastic hotspotting.lifecycleinitiative.org/>

Addressing Marine Plastics. A Roadmap to a Circular Economy.

<https://gefmarineplastics.org/publications/addressing-marine-plastics-a-roadmap-to-a-circular-economy>

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Addressing Marine Plastics: A Systemic Approach – Stocktaking Report:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/addressing-marine-plastics-systemic-approach-stocktaking-report>

Mapping of Global Plastics Value Chain and Plastics Losses to the Environment: With a Particular Focus on Marine Environment

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/mapping-global-plastics-value-chain-and-plastics-losses-environment-particular>

Addressing Marine Plastics: A Systemic Approach – Recommendations for Actions

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/addressing-marine-plastics-systemic-approach-recommendations-actions>

Single-Use Plastic Products (SUPP) and their alternatives: Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessments, <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/activities/key-programme-areas/technical-policy-advice/single-use-plastic-products-studies/>

One Planet network-wide plastics initiative

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/one-planet-network-wide-plastics-initiative>

Consumer information on plastic packaging

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/can-i-recycle-global-mapping-and-assessment-standards-labels-and-claims-plastic-packaging>

New Plastics Economy Global Commitment led by EMF in collaboration with UNEP

<https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/projects/global-commitment>

2020 annual progress report:

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/resources/apply/global-commitment-progress-report>

The global tourism plastics initiative

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-tourism/global-tourism-plastics-initiative>

[https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/brochure\\_-\\_global\\_tourism\\_plastics\\_initiative.pdf](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/brochure_-_global_tourism_plastics_initiative.pdf)

Recommendations for the Tourism Sector to Continue Taking Action on Plastic Pollution During COVID-19 Recovery

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/global-tourism-sector-should-continue-fight-against-plastic-pollution-during-and-after-covid-19>

## **Electronics**

Circularity in electronics

## **4. United Nations World Tourism Organization**

The following 3-minutes statement summarizes UNWTO's current position on the application of circular economy in the tourism sector globally. It was formulated in line with the guiding questions proposed by UNIDO, including the benefits from adopting circular economy principles and practices in connection with the SDGs and climate change, examples of current

applications, barriers and support needed. The statement was shared with Member States and organizations participating in the following regional preparatory meetings convened by UNIDO:

- 13 November 2020 09:00 – 12:00 Asia-Pacific Group
- 16 November 2020 14:00 – 17:00 African Group
- 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
- 20 November 2020 09:00 – 12:00 Eastern European Group

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The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the lead of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme which is an implementation mechanism for SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production<sup>1</sup> and one of the six programmes of the One Planet network coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme provides a suitable framework for UNWTO to support its Member States and the private sector in their efforts to introduce and further expand circular economy principles and practices in tourism. It has the overall objective to enhance the sustainable development impacts of the tourism sector by 2030, by developing, promoting and scaling up sustainable consumption and production practices that boost the efficient use of natural resources while producing less waste and pollution and addressing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the circular economy was being increasingly discussed as a strategic approach for the tourism sector, notably from the point of view of minimizing its environmental impacts, including waste and pollution as well as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Currently, the sector is facing its biggest crisis as one of the hardest hit sectors by the pandemic, registering financial losses which are so far five times larger than those recorded in 2009 during the financial crisis which come coupled with an unprecedented number of jobs at risk. At the same time, the crisis has raised awareness of the importance of local supply chains and the need to rethink how goods and services are produced and consumed, with recent perception surveys pointing at an increasing demand for sustainable tourism.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, at present, the discussion on circular economy and tourism encompasses a broader focus which includes also social aspects as the sector is looking at rebuilding better and circular economy principles and practices can support a recovery from COVID-19 is anchored on inclusivity, sustainability and can underpin the resilience that the sector needs.<sup>3</sup>

The integration of circular economy principles and practices in tourism is in its initial stages given that tourism is trade in services.<sup>4</sup> National tourism policies are still not addressing the opportunities of a circular economy, except for a few exceptions.<sup>5</sup> The private sector is also still not taking concerted action to integrate circularity in the tourism value chain. In this regard, UNWTO is currently advancing towards framing the approach from a global perspective, with the objective to provide a common vision and being aware that the tourism value chain provides

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<sup>1</sup> As reflected in SDG Target 12.1. which speaks of the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which formed the One Planet network and its programmes.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.abta.com/industry-zone/reports-and-publications/tourism-for-good>

<sup>3</sup> <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-08/SG-Policy-Brief-on-COVID-and-Tourism.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unwto.org/global/news/2019-07-15/tourism-world-trade-organization-wto-aid-trade-global-review-2019>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/resource-efficiency-in-tourism>

opportunities for systemic changes to take shape.<sup>6</sup> In turn, the circular economy can enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of tourism operations. Circular economy processes such as reducing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, recycling and repurposing can reduce economic leakages in the tourism value chain as well as waste and pollution while creating local economic development. Therefore, integrating circularity in the tourism value chain represents an opportunity for the tourism sector to embrace a sustainable and resilient growth pathway.<sup>7</sup>

UNWTO has identified that addressing plastic waste and pollution can be a catalyzer of circularity in tourism and therefore it is supporting the shift towards a circular economy for plastics through the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.<sup>8</sup> The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative has the objective to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution by tackling plastics at the source, to preserve the attractiveness of destinations and to trigger multi-stakeholder precompetitive collaboration on topics such as waste management at destination level. UNWTO is leading the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative together with the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Destinations (including national and local governments), businesses (accommodation providers, tour operators and online platforms, suppliers of plastic products, waste management entities) and supporting organizations (NGOs, associations and academia) can become signatories to the initiative.<sup>9</sup>

As a second entry point, UNWTO would like to highlight sustainable food approaches in tourism for circularity. The sector can take effective action on sustainable procurement, sustainable menus and food waste and loss reduction and management. In particular, mainstreaming food loss and waste reduction in tourism has potential to support the recovery of small and large businesses as it presents an opportunity to reduce costs and improve efficiency while curbing CO2 emissions. Lastly, circular solutions for the built environment and mobility can also be applied in tourism.

In conclusion, successfully transitioning to a more resilient tourism model through the application of circular economy principles and practices will largely depend on active public private collaboration and partnerships, inter-governmental cooperation, effective policies and policy instruments and financing. It is now the time to scale up the work the tourism sector has been doing to develop more sustainably and circular economy presents a strategic approach to accelerate consumption and production in tourism and recover better.

UNWTO looks forward to collaborating with UNIDO and the Member States in this endeavour. Please contact Virginia Fernández-Trapa (vftrapa@unwto.org) for further information.

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<sup>6</sup> UNIDO paper circular economy in tourism see.pdf

<sup>7</sup> one-planet-vision-responsible-recovery-of-the-tourism-sector.pdf (amazonaws.com)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/global-tourism-plastics-initiative>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-tourism/how-join-global-tourism-plastics-initiative>



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Vienna International Centre  
Wagramerstr. 5, P.O. Box 300,  
A-1400 Vienna, Austria



+43 (1) 26026-3983



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



CircularEconomy@unido.org