



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Contributions to the development of the provisional agenda for the global consultations on circular economy

10 to 12 May 2021

Global consultations on circular economy

Contributions to the development of the provisional agenda



The present document compiles submissions received by the Secretariat in writing prior to the Global consultations on circular economy as contributions to the development of the provisional agenda. The statements are reproduced without formal editing or formatting.

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1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus

Dear colleagues,

My name is Larissa Lukina. I am the head of the international cooperation department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus. I have a pleasure to contact you with the following matter.

I refer to the request transferred to us by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the International Organisations in Vienna regarding the global consultations on circular economy in the framework of the regional preparatory meetings.

I would appreciate if you consider our proposal concerning the wording of topic 2 for discussion (please find in the attached file).

We believe that the inclusion of countries with economies in transition will ensure a smooth and rapid transition from a traditional linear economy to a circular economy, as well as accumulate the necessary experience for developing countries to avoid possible challenges on their way to a circular economy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you need further information.

Best regards,
Larissa Lukina

Annex

Global consultations on circular economy

Topics for discussion

1. As part of the preparatory process for the consultations on circular economy, Member States were invited to express their preference for topics for discussion. As a result, the following two topics were selected:

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 and in countries with economies in transition.

2. These two topics were discussed during the regional preparatory meetings, held between 13 and 20 November 2020, guided by the following 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?
3. The two topics mentioned in paragraph 1 above will continue to be deliberated at the global consultations on circular economy.
 4. Member States are invited to further refine the guiding questions listed in paragraph 2 above or provide additional guiding questions, within the scope of the topics for discussion and taking into account main findings of the regional preparatory meetings available at <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-safeguarding-environment/global-consultations-circular-economy>

2. **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India**

India's submission for Global Circular Economy Consultations

- Definition of Circular Economy: A single one-size-fits-all definition may not result in the desired outcome of adoption of Circular Economy. It may be useful to develop consensus on a set of principles around Circular Economy and explore ways to facilitate flexible means to define Circular Economy using framework of non-negotiable principles.
- Circular Economy principles need to be adopted globally to ensure a level playing field for all countries. Unilateral prescriptions of requirements of circularity may result in competitive disadvantages and create trade issues. Development of standards for circularity should be an evolutionary process which will mature as countries adopt Circular Economy principles. Also, there is a need for advocacy and sectoral discussions for creating the right perspective regarding long term gains that would ensue from the adoption of Circular Economy principles.
- Develop a virtual platform hosted by UNIDO for better seeding of Circular Economy principles and how to build up from waste management/resource efficiency strategies to circular economy strategies. Such a platform can also become the open-source repository for guidance in making this transition.
 - product-wise
 - value-chain-wise or
 - stakeholder-wiseand contextualized for a country. Best practices may be shared on such a platform.
- Encourage alternative and circular business models (service/platform-based) which can be set up and adopted more widely in the shorter term at a lower cost compared to costly technology-based strategies.

- Publish a document recording demonstrable and tangible benefits to society/environment/economy gathered from all over the country and success stories and best practices regarding adoption of Circular Economy principles by the Industry.
- A multi-stakeholder group of experts should constitute a platform to allow different voices and perceptions to facilitate the transition: regional, first, and then global. This would also allow leap-frogging for countries relatively less advanced in the move, and open up the opportunity for catching up quickly.
- Risk financing techniques to hedge against potential risks may be developed for wider adoption of circularity in the industrial ecosystem. Also, circularity and resource efficiency could be embedded into climate emission mitigation finance, so that different components get interconnected for offering comprehensive scheme for business sector.
- Focus on the capacity building of MSMEs through development of tool kits, curriculum, Circular Economy Groups (CEG), circular economy facilitators to deepen awareness about circular economy awareness and promote collaborations for adoption of circular economy practices and technologies.
- Set up Green Finance Task Force to oversee and design interventions described above.

3. Permanent Mission of Indonesia

Dear Colleagues of UNIDO Secretariat,

With reference to the email of UNIDO Secretariat on 4 March 2021, Indonesia wishes to submit its comments and contribution regarding the development of the provisional agenda of the Global Consultation on Circular Economy as follows:

1. Indonesia is of the view that there should be an opportunity for developing countries to learn from other countries that have successfully implemented comprehensive and advance policies in enabling condition to achieve economic of scale for circular economy businesses;
2. It is important to highlight innovation undertaken by pioneers and champions of circular economy in the grass root level so that it could aspire and encourage change of behavior of others;
3. Recognizing that various efforts of promoting the circular economy done by governments to their industries should not be perceived as forms of subsidies that are not in line with international trade law;
4. Hence, based on comments mentioned in point 1 – 3 above, Indonesia would like to propose the following topics to be included in the Agenda of Global Consultation:
 - a) Enabling Condition to Achieve Economic of Scale for Circular Economy Business in Developing Countries.

- b) Implementing Circular Economy: The Importance of Policy Space for Developing Countries.
- c) Technology Application for Circular Economy by Communities and MSMEs

Having mentioned the above, we would like to thank the Secretariat in advance for its assistance.

Kind Regards,

Rahmat Kurniawan

Third Secretary

Embassy of Indonesia

Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN and Other International Organizations in Vienna

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4. Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations**

VN-PH- 184 -2021

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and has the honor to submit the comments of the Philippine Government in relation to the forthcoming Global Consultations on Circular Economy to be held on 10-12 May 2021:

The Philippine Government concurs with the findings of the regional preparatory meetings, which emphasized the role of the circular economy (CE) in the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Noting that the scale, scope, focus, and objectives of circular economy activities vary according to national priorities and other country-specific factors, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Emphasize the role of government and institutions in creating the enabling environment to sustain, scale-up, and effectively implement CE-related initiatives;
- Due to the lack of an internationally-agreed definition of CE, identify elements that characterize a "circular economy;"
- Include the following factors as barriers to the effective implementation of CE among countries: (i) lack of robust monitoring and evaluation systems; and (ii) weak capacity on the use of appropriate technologies/methodologies for the collection and analysis of relevant data; and
- Highlight the critical link and potential contribution of CE to SDG 12.

Further, proposed additional guide questions on the following topics are suggested:

Topic 1: CE as a substantial contribution to addressing the climate crisis and advancing the achievement of the SDGs:

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Website: viennape.dfa.gov.ph

- How does your country track progress towards the adoption/implementation of CE and assess its impacts, particularly with respect to advancing the achievement of sustainable development and national climate change targets?
- What are the tools, methodologies, and institutional measures that you have adopted to enable this?

Topic 2: Mobilizing finance, technology, and capacity building to promote CE principles and practices in developing countries:

- What innovative financing schemes/arrangements have been adopted in your country that enabled greater private sector engagement and scaling up of CE practices?

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 30 April 2021



The Policymaking Organs Secretariat
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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



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