



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Information note on the global consultations on circular economy

10 to 12 May 2021



Global consultations on circular economy

Information note



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.

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 were preceded by a series of five regional preparatory meetings in November 2020 to 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.

Process and rules of procedure

The global consultations as well as the preceding regional preparatory meetings are organized and 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.

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))

Participation

The global consultations will be attended by senior-level representatives from governments, United Nations entities, international organizations, industry, private sector, civil society, and academia.

Topics for discussion

As part of the organization of the global consultations, 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.

Member States were further invited to contribute to the development of a provisional agenda of the global consultations by highlighting issues requiring further discussion and proposing guiding questions relating to the two topics mentioned above and/or arising out of the main findings of the regional preparatory meetings².

Provisional agenda

Monday, 10 May 2021

Time (CEST)	Speaker
Opening Plenary	
14:00 – 14:10	Welcoming remarks
14:10 – 14:20	Opening of the global consultations
14:20 – 15:00	Statements by high-level representatives
Session 1: Circular solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and address the climate crisis	
15:00 – 16:00	Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interventions by Member States• Interventions by observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia)
Session 2: Partnerships and initiatives to mobilize circular economy actors	
16:00 – 17:00	Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interventions by Member States• Interventions by observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia)

Tuesday, 11 May 2021

Time (CEST)	Speaker
14:00 – 14:10	Recap of Day 1
Session 3: Policy frameworks to enable the transition to a circular economy	
14:10 – 15:30	Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interventions by Member States

² https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2021-04/Main%20findings%20of%20the%20regional%20preparatory%20meetings%20for%20the%20global%20consultations%20on%20circular%20economy_0.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions by observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia)
Session 4: Circular economy principles for cohesive action	
15:30 – 17:00	Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions by Member States Interventions by observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia)

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

Time (CEST)	Speaker
14:00 – 14:10	Recap of Day 2
Session 5: Means of implementation to support the shift to a circular economy in developing countries and economies in transition	
14:10 – 16:20	Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions by Member States Interventions by observer organizations (United Nations entities, international financial institutions, international organizations, industry, private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia)
Closing Plenary	
16:20 – 16:30	Adoption of the report on the proceedings
16:30 – 17:00	Closing remarks

An annotated agenda, including a list of guiding questions for discussion, will be circulated to the participants in due course.

Organization of work

The global consultations will be co-chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria, and Her Excellency Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica.

Ministers from UNIDO Member States and Heads of international organizations are invited to deliver statements at the Opening Plenary or keynote speeches at the beginning of thematic sessions. Member States and international organizations interested in this opportunity should inform the Secretariat accordingly.

For each thematic session, senior government representatives from UNIDO Member States will be invited to make interventions not exceeding 3 minutes to respond to the guiding questions of their choice. Due to the time limitations, representatives wishing to make an intervention during a specific thematic session are requested to inform the Secretariat in advance by email to CircularEconomy@unido.org. A list of speakers for each thematic session will be prepared on a 'first come, first served' basis, with due regard given to protocol considerations, and announced by the Co-Chairs at the beginning of a session. Time permitting, government representatives, who have not informed the Secretariat in advance, may request the floor by using the 'raise hand' or 'chat' functions of the virtual meeting platform used.

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 PowerPoint presentations and information material is discouraged. However, all participants are invited to submit their interventions and statements in writing, prior to and within five days after the global consultations. Such submissions will be collected by the Secretariat, made publicly available on a dedicated webpage and circulated to the participants.

A report on the proceedings of the global consultations will be adopted at the Closing Plenary by acclamation and submitted, together with recommendations of the Co-Chairs, for consideration to the forty-ninth session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO.

Recordings of the global consultations will be kept by the Secretariat, but not made publicly available.

Interpretation

The global consultations will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Spanish.

Further information

Information and documents relating to the regional preparatory meetings can be found at: <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-safeguarding-environment/global-consultations-circular-economy>

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



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