



**Industrial Development Board  
Forty-ninth session  
Vienna, 12–15 July 2021  
Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda  
Outcome of the consultations on circular economy**

**Report of the consultations on circular economy**

**Report by the Director General**

**I. Introduction**

1. 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 facilitate exchanges on best practices, emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States.
2. Prior to the global consultations, a series of regional preparatory meetings was convened in November 2020 to allow Member State representatives and other stakeholders to present their initial views on the topic of circular economy and identify issues to shape the debate at the global consultations.

**II. Organizational and procedural matters**

3. The global consultations on circular economy were held virtually from 10 to 12 May 2021.

**Participation**

4. The following 63 Member States of UNIDO participated in the consultations: Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian State of), and Zambia.

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5. The following United Nations entities were represented: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

6. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented: the African Union Commission, the European Commission, the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the World Trade Organization.

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Circular Economy Forum (Austria), the Circular Economy Club (Austria), Foreign Trade Chamber (Bosnia and Herzegovina), National Cleaner Production Center – CENER21 (Bosnia and Herzegovina), General Confederation of enterprises (Côte d’Ivoire), Nangui Abrogoua University (Côte d’Ivoire), Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (Germany), Yunus Environment Hub (Germany), Confederation of Indian Industry, Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, Melanin Kapital (Germany), the East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (Kenya), the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre for Africa (Kenya), American University of Beirut (Lebanon), the Circular Economy Club (Malaysia), Cristina Cortinas Foundation (Mexico), Institute of Engineering (Nepal), Association for Waste Recovery (Republic of Moldova), the Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan” (Romania), Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Serbia), WCYCLE Institute Maribor (Slovenia), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa), Green Building Council (Sri Lanka), Thailand’s Solid Waste Management Association, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Environment Institute (Thailand), the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centre (Ukraine).

8. The following private sector representatives participated: Enova (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Circular Brain (Brazil), Chamber of commerce and Industry (Côte d’Ivoire), General Confederation of Enterprises (Côte d’Ivoire), Accenture (Germany), Universal Plastic Products and Recycling (Ghana), Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, Private Sector Alliance (Kenya), and Impactlution (Malaysia).

### **Opening of the global consultations**

9. The global consultations on circular economy were opened at 2 p.m. CEST on 10 May 2021.

10. The Opening Plenary included statements by Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO, H.E. Ms. Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria, H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Jean Luc Assis, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d’Ivoire and Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission, as well as video statements by H.E. Ms. Gila Gamliel, Minister of Environmental Protection of Israel, and H.E. Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office of Bangladesh.

### **Officers**

11. The global consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Ms. Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria, and H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. H. E. Ms. Maria Elizabeth Bogosian, Ambassador, Alternate Permanent Representative of Uruguay to UNIDO, served as Rapporteur.

### **Agenda of the meeting**

12. Following the proposal of the Co-Chairs, the participants adopted the agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the global consultations.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Circular solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and address the climate crisis.
4. Partnerships and initiatives to mobilize circular economy actors.
5. Policy frameworks to enable the transition to a circular economy.
6. Circular economy principles for cohesive action.
7. Means of implementation to support the shift to a circular economy in developing countries and economies in transition.
8. Adoption of the procedural report.
9. Closure of the global consultations.

## **III. Proceedings**

### **Circular solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and address the climate crisis**

13. A keynote speech for this session was delivered by Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme, via video message.

14. The following Member States made interventions: Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Uruguay.

15. The following organization made an intervention: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

### **Partnerships and initiatives to mobilize circular economy actors**

16. A keynote speech for this session was delivered by Ms. Karabo Mokgonyana, the African Union's Youth Ambassador for Peace, South Africa.

17. The following Member States made interventions: Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, and Uruguay.

18. The following organizations made interventions: the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Melanin Kapital, and Circular Brain.

### **Policy frameworks to enable the transition to a circular economy**

19. A keynote speech for this session was delivered by Mr. Norbert Barthle, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany.

20. The following Member States made interventions: Austria, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Uruguay.

21. The following organization made an intervention: Thailand Environment Institute.

### **Circular economy principles for cohesive action**

22. A keynote speech for this session was delivered by Ms. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, India.

23. The following Member States made interventions: Austria, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Uruguay.

24. The following organizations made interventions: United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, and Private Sector Alliance.

**Means of implementation to support the shift to a circular economy in developing countries and economies in transition**

25. Keynote speeches for this session were delivered by Mr. Avag Avanesyan, Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia and Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

26. The following Member States made interventions: Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia, and Uruguay.

27. The following organizations made interventions: Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment “Ernest Lupan”, General Confederation of Enterprises of Côte d’Ivoire, and the Maritime Technology Corporation Centre for Africa.

#### **IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the global consultations**

28. On 12 May 2021, the participants considered the draft procedural report of the global consultations on circular economy and adopted it as a whole with the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the task of finalizing the report in coordination with the Secretariat.

29. The Closing Plenary included statements by H.E. Ms. Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria, H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica and Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO.

30. H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo declared the global consultations closed at 5 p.m. CEST on 12 May 2021.

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