

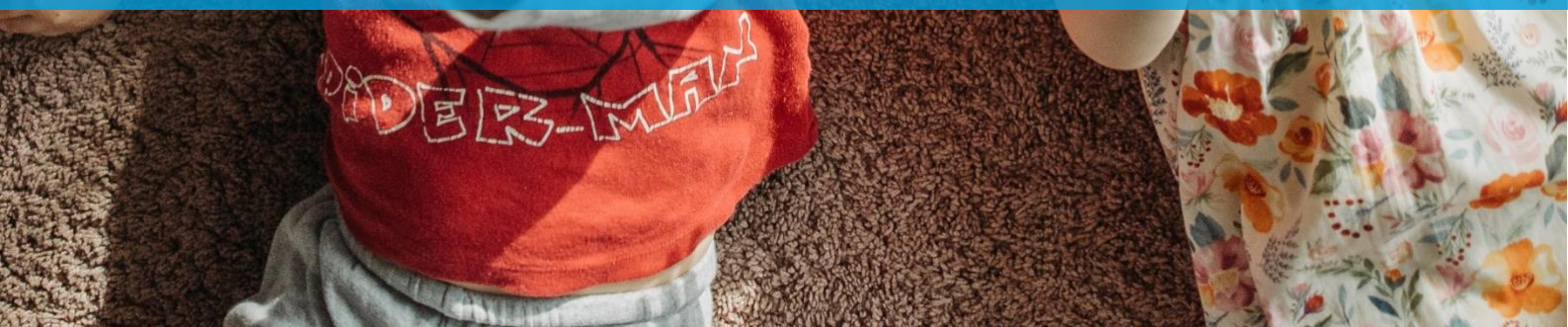


UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Global consultations on circular economy 2022-2023

Report of the regional preparatory meeting for the
Asian and the Pacific Group





This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” or “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.



Global consultations on circular economy 2022-2023
Report of the regional preparatory meeting for the Asian and the Pacific Group

Contents

I. Introduction.....	4
II. Organizational and procedural matters.....	5
III. Proceedings.....	7

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. The objective of the global 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.

3. The global 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.

4. A series of regional preparatory meetings was convened in September 2022 to allow Member State representatives and other stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, to present their initial views on the topic of circular economy and identify issues that will shape the debate at the global consultations.

5. Member States were invited to communicate to the Secretariat topics for discussion at the consultations. As a result, the following topics and guiding questions were selected:

a) Topic 1: Climate-neutral industry and circular economy

- Which circular economy approaches can facilitate the decarbonisation of industry?
- Can you share experiences in integrating circularity and climate action in industry from your country or organization?

b) Topic 2: Governance, policies and roadmaps for circular economy

- What policy and regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements and collaboration mechanisms should be put in place to enable the just transition to a circular economy?

¹[https://open.unido.org/api/documents/4792485/download/THE%20SYSTEM%20OF%20CONSULTATIONS%20\(1648e.en\)](https://open.unido.org/api/documents/4792485/download/THE%20SYSTEM%20OF%20CONSULTATIONS%20(1648e.en)).

- Do you have a circular economy roadmap in your country? If so, what arrangements are in place to enforce and facilitate its implementation?
 - Can you share good practices of engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including industry and businesses, in designing and implementing circular economy strategies and roadmaps?
 - Do you have examples of building the capacity of entrepreneurs, businesses and enterprises for adopting circular economy practices?
- c) Topic 3: Enabling environments and investments in circular businesses.
- What is the business case for the circular economy?
 - How to attract private investments and finance to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy?
 - How can public finance support this transition?
6. The global consultations on circular economy are tentatively scheduled to take place in the first half of 2023.

II. Organizational and procedural matters

7. The regional preparatory meeting for the Asian and the Pacific Group on circular economy was held in hybrid format on 30 September. The meeting was conducted in English.

Participation

8. The following twelve Member States of UNIDO participated in the meeting: Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Thailand.

9. The following United Nations entities were represented: the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN ESCWA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC).

10. The following international organizations were represented: the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

11. The following non-governmental organization was represented: Tsinghua University.

Opening of the session

12. The meeting was declared open by by Mr. Yuko Yasunaga, Managing Director, UNIDO, at 10 a.m. (CEST) on 30 September 2022.

Facilitator

13. The meeting was facilitated by Ms. Tsung Ping Chung, Chief Communications Officer, UNIDO.

Agenda of the meeting

14. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Introductory presentation by regional partner, UN ESCWA.
3. Interventions:
 - (a) Interventions by Member States;
 - (b) Interventions by observer organizations.
4. Moderated discussion.
5. Conclusions and adjournment.
6. Announcements by the Secretariat.

III. Proceedings

Introductory presentation by the secretariat

15. Ms. Alla Metelista, Senior Advisor, Strategic Planning and UN Engagement Division, UNIDO, presented the mandate, objectives and expected outcomes of the global consultations on circular economy as well as the guiding questions for the regional preparatory meetings.

16. Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, UN ESCWA, delivered an introductory presentation on trends, case studies and lessons learned in the adoption of circular economy principles and practices in the region.

Interventions by Member States

17. Myanmar stated that in coordination with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the country has provided an eco-innovation capacity-building programme for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and government officials. Eco-design, eco-leveling, and eco-friendly packaging design and production techniques were included in the training. Myanmar stressed that in order to enhance the circular economy development, more training, capacity-building programmes, as well as education and awareness programmes for MSMEs and government officials are needed.

18. Thailand informed that a concept model for circular economy has been developed, intending to minimize waste from different industries, as well as to help entrepreneurs and factory owners to apply circular economy for industrial processes. The implementation of this model entails a thorough analysis and the development of strategy for technology-transfer in line with circular economy principles while maintaining the highest value of materials and production. The project *"The measure to promote technology transfer and innovation in circular economy development"* offers a Circular economy course.

19. Indonesia stated that numerous initiatives and projects aim to improve circularity in the country. These include, the inclusion of a low-carbon development economy in its National Medium-Term Development plan 2020-2024, the assessment of green industry standards by the Ministry of Industry, public disclosure programme for environmental compliance carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, sustainable public procurement, as well as the presidency for G20 that aims to stress the importance of collaboration on climate action. Projects in cooperation with UNIDO and the United Nations Development Programme focus on the implementation of circular economy principles in industrial sectors of Indonesia. The country emphasised the need to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the promotion of inclusive trade and investment.

20. India stressed the need for more technology convergence and technology migration across sectors, expansion and growth of green bonds, private-public partnerships and climate funds, product composition declaration, extended producer

and extended consumer responsibility for multiple sectors, harmonization of eco-labels, more incubators participating in the green growth, as well as capacity-building. India stated that various circular economy projects have been developed, namely focusing on single-use plastics, infrastructure-related projects, climate resilience-related initiatives, disaster management support, national green tribunal, workshops, capacity-building, and solar alliance. It was remarked that strong political will and collaborations within countries and internationally are needed in order to strengthen such initiatives.

Interventions by observer organizations

21. UN ESCWA has developed policies and recommendations to support the circular economy transition of its members. It has assessed food loss and waste and developed a comprehensive green technology. The Organization has also developed a sustainability plan of water use for the arid and the semi-arid countries. UN ESCWA stressed the importance of having an entity or a body within countries that can follow up on circular economy initiatives and track the progress.

22. WFO informed that the objective of its Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) is to move from the linear plastic ecosystem to a circular economy system. It establishes partnerships on global and national levels and brings together international organizations and the private and public sectors. It supports its members with the development and implementation of roadmaps and offers strategic finance to tackle plastic pollution. The GPAP initiative aims to have 25 member countries by 2025 and to support them in achieving their national plastic targets.

23. UNCRD has highlighted its role in convening the Intergovernmental Circular Economy Forum in Asia-Pacific since 2009 in partnership with UNIDO. The Forum contributes to economic growth, pollution prevention, and the resilience of cities. One of the major milestones of the Forum is Hanoi 3R Declaration for the period 2013-2023. It provides a policy framework for developing and implementing 3R policies and programmes at all levels to assist Asia-Pacific countries in their transition to the circular economy. The new declaration will be characterised by a strong framework, a zero-waste future, and more country-based implementation mechanisms. UNCRD stressed that the new declaration will increase action on the implementation of the SDGs and other international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement.

24. The UNSSC referred to the six-week online programme on circular economy and the 2030 Agenda being currently offered by the Organization, and highlighted the importance of viewing circularity through the lens of sustainability. The initiative launched with the Government of Victoria in Australia, has provided training to government officials and key partners and has proven beneficial in helping the system to more cohesively address the various sectoral challenges.

25. GGGI shared its experience on governance, policies, and roadmaps. It stated that a focused and multidimensional intervention in key industrial sub-sectors of the economy could help to scale up and have a substantial impact. Inclusiveness is the second key aspect when designing policies, incentives or interventions in the field of circular economy. The last aspect is political will. GGGI stated that even in the existence of technologies, case studies and models, without sustained political will it is extremely challenging to ensure the implementation of any kind of intervention.

Conclusions and adjournment

26. Ms. Tsung Ping Chun highlighted the importance of accelerating the adoption of circular economy as means to support the achievement of the SDGs and fully implement the Paris Agreement. She thanked the participants for their engaging interventions and the exchange of inspiring experiences, stressing that all contributions of the speakers and the participants in the meeting constitute a fundamental basis for developing a circular economy ecosystem for all. Ms. Tsung Ping Chun encouraged the participants to learn from successful circular economy initiatives, take them on board and replicate in their respective countries as appropriate.

27. Ms. Alla Metelitsa closed the meeting at 11:38 a.m. (CEST) on 30 September 2022.



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



+43 1 26026-0



www.unido.org



CircularEconomy@unido.org



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION