

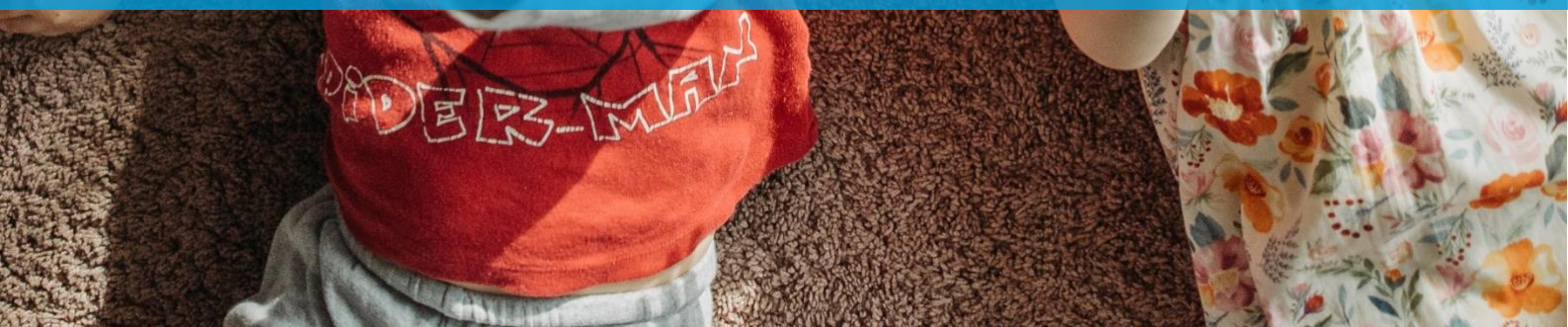


UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Global consultations on circular economy 2022-2023

Written statements of the regional preparatory meeting
for the Eastern European Group





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**Statement by representative of Ministry of Environment of Armenia
at the
UNIDO Regional Preparatory meeting on Circular Economy**

23 September 2022

Mr. Facilitator,

We would like to thank the UNIDO for organizing today's regional preparatory meeting ahead of global consultations 2022.

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic the Government of Armenia remained focused on and showed even more ambition in its climate and environmental agenda.

Green economy has been identified as a priority in the Government Programme for 2021-2026 with the principle goal of ensuring the ability of the economy to adapt to new, low-carbon energy realities.

The sector-specific policy will be primarily aimed at developing country's resilience to climate change. This will be achieved through contributing to the introduction of the best practices of adaptability, actively participating in the global efforts for low carbonic development and properly fulfilling the international climate change mitigation commitments.

Armenia made its first steps towards a sustainable development of biomass use for heating by developing a Strategy and Roadmap on Sustainable Development of Biomass Use for Heating in Armenia and outlining medium- and long-term perspectives of using biomass as an alternative source of energy.

Taking into account the importance of the introduction of circular economy elements into the national economy of Armenia, by the end of this year we envisage to develop the concept of Introduction Green Economy principles, in order to establish an integrated policy framework for the transition to a green economy through the reform of policy instruments, adoption of new analytical tools, improved access to environmental finance, the support of capacity development, and the implementation of pilot projects in the public and private sector.

Currently, Armenia is working to identify target sectors with circular economy opportunities and assess the role of the given sector in the economy of Armenia. Those sectors and sub-sectors could be agriculture, energy, construction, industry, services and trade.

Since 2019, the EU-funded EU4Environment Programme has been supporting Armenia in pursuing its path of green transformation, and in this respect we already have concrete results to show both at national and regional levels.

In particular, the Introductory Green Economy course is developed as an important tool for training of high- and mid-level civil servants of Armenia who are directly involved in the process of developing, implementing, and evaluating policies supporting the transition towards a greener and more circular economy. Nine civil servants took part in this tailor-made online course. They learned how to review, analyze and integrate green economy, sustainable consumption and production approaches into policies and strategies at national and sectorial levels.

Armenia continues its close cooperation with UNIDO towards effective implementation of resource-efficient and cleaner production project involving SMEs from plastic production, fisheries and other sectors. A series of coaching webinars equipped the Armenian experts with the tools and knowledge to assess the environmental efficiency of SMEs in plastic, fisheries and other industrial sectors.

Furthermore, specific training activities were carried out to identify and explore energy management issues faced by SMEs in meat industry, chocolate production and metal processing sectors. They also provided a platform for panel discussions on energy audits, showcasing the application of RECP methodology.

Armenia has contracted an international consultant to provide an economic analysis on Deposit Revenue System /DRS/ of packaging waste. Also in 2021 the project of “Packaging Waste (including glass, paper, plastic, wood) Management Assessment” was launched, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Armenia and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia in close cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia. Also the Ministry of Environment, based on recommendations of EPR and DRS projects, plans to develop a Roadmap of activities aimed at gradual introduction of EPR process.

Mr. Facilitator,

The existing institutional and legal structure of the Republic of Armenia does not fully provide the necessary framework for the transition to green economy.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the development and implementation of the "green economy" national document, the technical assistance and support for national capacity building in this area is essential. Tailor-made training courses and workshops for the representatives of the government, industry, civil society and academia, specifically designed to address the needs of individual states, will greatly contribute to the accelerated transition towards circular practices.

In case of developing and middle-income developing countries another impediment for embarking on and successfully implementing this transition is the lack of access to international best practices regarding green economy, including in respect of legislative regulatory framework and methodologies, and to its component elements, such as "green" finances, procurement, insurance, production, consumption, utilization, etc.

Thank you.



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