

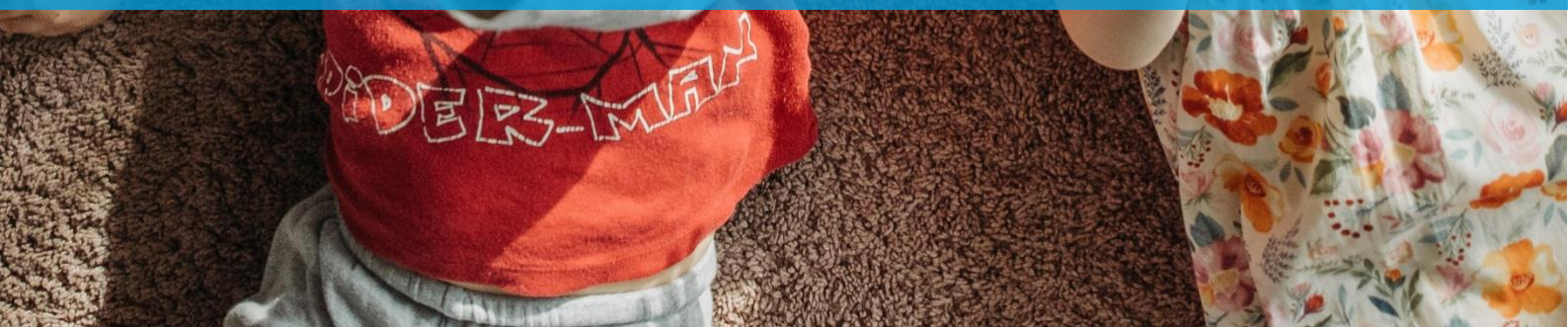


UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Global consultations on circular economy 2022-2023

Report of the regional preparatory meeting for the
Latin America and the Caribbean Group





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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 Latin America and the Caribbean Group on circular economy was held in hybrid format on 26 September. Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and English was provided during the meeting.

Participation

8. The following fifteen Member States of UNIDO participated in the meeting: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

9. The following United Nations entities were represented: the United Nations Development Programme Uruguay (UNDP Uruguay), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

10. The following international organizations were represented: the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and Sustainable Energy for all (SEforALL).

Opening of the session

11. The meeting was declared open by Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director, Division of Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, OiC, Sustainability Standards and Responsible Business Unit, UNIDO, at 15:00 (CEST) on 26 September 2022.

Facilitator

12. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Stephan Sicars, Director, Division of Circular Economy and Environmental Protection, Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development.

Agenda of the meeting

13. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Introductory presentation by the Secretariat.
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

14. 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.

Interventions by Member States

15. Costa Rica will receive \$10.3 million from the World Bank through the Global Environment Facility to develop an action plan for protecting the environment and promoting circular economy. The Ministry of Environment and Energy, with the support of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, has launched an initiative to develop a step-by-step guide to facilitate the transition to a circular economy. In coordination with other Ministries and institutions, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy supports and leads circular economy actions in various sectors.

16. Mexico noted the challenge of attracting the interest of Ministries at the forefront of circular economy. A face-to-face regional consultation on circular economy in Latin America could have a greater impact in attracting decision-makers and other stakeholders. Although UNIDO contributed to the early stages of the development of the general circular economy law, the Organization is not visible in the ongoing discussions where its presence is relevant. With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico developed a programme on circular economy in the food sector from which lessons could be learned. Mexico would appreciate receiving a short document on the successful experience in circular economy in the LAC region with proposals on the involvement of UNIDO to support decision makers and increase its visibility. UNIDO should have a stronger voice in the decision-making process and assist in the transition from a linear to a circular economy.

17. Panama has been pursuing national initiatives to shift to a circular economy in compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the past five years, the Ministry of Environment has adopted a series of legislative measures aimed at curbing the use of single-use plastics. Other initiatives include the establishment of a plastics processing plant for the production of housing materials by non-governmental organizations. Panama requests the support of UNIDO in the area of recycling of municipal, commercial and industrial solid waste, especially with the treatment of municipal solid waste, for the protection of the environment and the health of citizens.

18. Colombia updated its national circular economy strategy in 2019, shortly followed by its dissemination. The strategy aims to foster economic development, including the continued valorisation of all resources. Projects are focused on reducing water consumption and carbon footprint, and include the promotion of sustainable

consumption and production patterns. Colombia currently chairs the Regional Circular Economy Coalition in partnership with multiple organizations, in particular with the United Nations Environment Programme and UNIDO. The importance of engaging key actors, such as waste pickers' associations, in the process of consolidating an effective and inclusive model was emphasised. The support of the European Union in the development of the circular economy strategy has facilitated the consolidation of the national policy. Colombia recalled that investments from private banks and the review of public resources are fundamental to support the different ventures that promote the circular economy.

19. Ecuador reported on the adoption of a law on the rationalisation of single-use plastics and on its ongoing work on a complementary legal framework to operationalise its circular economy law. Three projects are strengthening territorial regulatory frameworks at provincial and city level with international support. The country has been working on a platform for the exchange of industrial and residential waste. Although Ecuador has created a specific space for all public, private, productive and environmental actors to exchange their positions known as the National Forum on Circular Economy, the involvement of all stakeholders has been complicated, especially from the industrial sector. This Forum serves to gather projects, initiatives and ideas for consideration with a view to generating a new public policy. Ecuador noted the establishment of a series of knowledge-sharing platforms with multiple countries.

20. Venezuela expressed its interest in supporting the global consultations on circular economy as well as the importance of informing Member States on the next steps to closely accompany the process.

Interventions by observer organizations

21. UNDP Uruguay reaffirmed its commitment to the development of the of the national circular economy strategy. The sustainable use of water, soil and materials, as well as climate change, will be at the core. In cooperation with UNIDO, Uruguay has been working on promoting circular economy in the private and public sectors, as well as on the establishment and upgrading of circular businesses. UNDP Uruguay noted that the national waste management plan, adopted at the end of last year, represents an important instrument for the implementation of circular economy practices. The dependence of Uruguay on decisions adopted by electronic device producing countries was identified as problematic, among other things, as it did not allow for a more

ambitious reparability strategy to regulate e-waste. In this sense, a project on the implementation of safe systems for the recovery of electronic devices is being developed. Packaging policies, particularly on disposable bottles, implemented in other countries, is an issue on which Uruguay would like to receive assistance. With the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, UNDP Uruguay is measuring the environmental footprint of meat and dairy production systems with a view to achieving a carbon neutrality certification. Uruguay has incorporated food losses and waste into the national waste management plan.

Conclusions and adjournment

22. Mr. Sicars highlighted the need the importance on accelerating the adoption of circular economy principles, policies and practices as means to support the achievement of the SDGs and fully implement the Paris Agreement. He thanked the participants for their engaging interventions and sharing of inspiring experiences. Mr. Sicars encouraged the participants to learn from successful examples of circular economy initiatives, take them on board and replicate in their respective countries as appropriate.

23. Mr. Sicars closed the meeting at 4.30 p.m. :30 (CEST) on 26 September 2022.



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