

# Achieving the long-term global goal through circularity: the role of capacity building in the transition to a circular economy

## State of the play

Material consumption and CO2 emissions continue on an **upward trend**

**62%**  
of the global CO2 emissions are released due to material consumption

**50%**  
of the reduction of global CO2 emissions must come from actions in the field of material extraction and use

The Circularity Gap Report 2019

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought attention to the underlying **vulnerabilities and limitations of existing linear supply chains**

**Circular economy**  
Regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized

The world is only **9% circular**

↑  
**Complementary and mutually supportive**

↓  
**Paris Agreement**  
Current Nationally Determined Contributions' commitments are not enough to ensure the long-term goal

⚡  
No references to circular economy in over 500 global agreements

## Gaps and challenges

The concept of circular economy remains **abstract and disassociated** from climate actions

**Weak national policies and insufficient coordination**

**Inadequate access to finance, technologies and data**

**Coherence, synergies and coordination within global initiatives are insufficient**

In essence

**Lack of awareness and overall knowledge on the synergy linking climate and circular economy agendas**

## Needs

**Capacity building to:**

- Improve awareness and knowledge
- Achieve a global consensus
- Build policy frameworks
- Incorporate circular economy into Nationally Determined Contributions
- Build a global coalition for action
- Develop standardized indicators

## Findings

Findings arising from the **global consultations on circular economy:**

Circular economy offers a **promising solution to some of the most pressing global challenges**

Actions are required to build **regulatory frameworks**

**Capacity building will be a key leverage to enhance shift into a circular economy**

## Proposals

Proposals arising from the **global consultations on circular economy:**

Develop **global instruments, agreements and frameworks**

Support and pursue **global alliances and consultations on circular economy**

Build on existing **frameworks**

Devise new **adaptive business models, regenerative and restorative by design**

Create **public-private partnerships at the national level**

**“We have the opportunity with this consultations to learn about your experiences, business models and enabling policy frameworks that contribute to the implementation of circular economy”**

H.E. Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo  
Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica, and Co-Chair of the global consultations on circular economy

**“As we are all aware, the urgency for implementing new forms of economy arises from our understanding and recognition that the biophysical resources of our planet are limited, but our consumption of natural resources is growing rapidly”**

H.E. Ms. Leonore Gewessler  
Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria, and Co-Chair of the global consultations on circular economy

## Action on the ground

### UNIDO:

Promotes circular economy as a model + Builds capacity and fosters the creation of green expertise + Advises policy makers + Assists technology transfer + Co-launches **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency** + Convenes **global consultations on circular economy**

### Successful examples:

**Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production**  
Mitigates incumbent environmental and human risks related to the production of goods

**Programme for Country Partnership**  
Identifies industrial synergies to ignite circularity and channel investments towards prioritized sectors

**switchmed**  
Regional initiative aimed at accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns by promoting circular economy approaches