



## UNFCCC COP 25

### Concept Note Circular Economy Roundtable (Packaging and Business Model)

### *Achieving 1.5°C: The role of Circular Packaging and Business Models*

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Tuesday, 10 December 2019  
11:30 – 13:00

**Organised by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development**

**Supporting Organizations:**  
FAO, ICC

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# Circular Economy Roundtable (Packaging and Business Model)

## Description:

The science is clear: nothing short of system-wide transformation at the global level is needed. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, materials, urban infrastructure (including transport and buildings) and industrial systems.

One third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted, representing \$1B USD in lost value.<sup>1</sup> Even more pressing, this results in over 4.4 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub>e emitted every year.<sup>2</sup> In fact, if food loss and waste was its own country, it would be the third largest emitter of GHG emissions after the U.S. and China.<sup>3</sup>

To minimize how much food is lost along the value chain packaging plays a critical role, protecting food during transport, providing consumer convenience & portion size and extending lifetimes of some produce that are at risk of spoiling before it reaches the end consumer. However, society pushback on plastic leakage into the environment has been swift and substantial. Plastics and packaging have become easy targets by consumers and policymakers, resulting in an urgency to bring to market solutions that eliminate plastic packaging or introduce substitute materials. These solutions are not always beneficial for the environment and may increase food waste so transformative business models that avoid the need for single use packaging are also increasingly attractive

It's critical for business, governments and civil society to work together on finding the right balance between minimizing food loss and minimising packaging waste through effective packaging solutions.

The **Roundtable on Circular Economy (Packaging and Business Model)** will convene leading government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders to highlight the role of circular economy action in driving systems transformation to net zero and climate resilient economy.

Emphasizing the importance of adhering to the recommendations of science, the Roundtable will be framed in the context of ambition to limit global warming to 1.5°C, in accordance with the findings outlined by the IPCC, as well as the planetary boundaries highlighted through the SDGs.

This roundtable will see business leaders highlight concrete examples of actions to implement circular economy principles and business models across value chains, and their contribution to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i2697e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/nr/sustainability\\_pathways/docs/FWF\\_and\\_climate\\_change.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/nr/sustainability_pathways/docs/FWF_and_climate_change.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/whats-food-loss-and-waste-got-do-climate-change-lot-actually#:~:targetText=According%20to%20figures%20recently%20released,4.4%20Gt%20CO2e\)%20per%20year.](https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/whats-food-loss-and-waste-got-do-climate-change-lot-actually#:~:targetText=According%20to%20figures%20recently%20released,4.4%20Gt%20CO2e)%20per%20year.)

## Objective of the event towards the following issues:

### *Pre-2020 action:*

- ***What are the current challenges, opportunities and metrics (such as data and analysis) for pre-2020 actions to realize the transition using technology, innovation and finance for this thematic area?***

As the demand for materials, products and services continue to increase over time, the private sector is increasingly realizing that taking more ambitious climate commitments makes business sense, reduces climate risks and ensures long term stability of their operations. Businesses are now committing to ambitious climate action aligned with the pathways to achieve 1.5°C and climate neutrality.

Digitalization and other technological advancements are revolutionising processes across entire industries, having significant impacts across sectors and geographies. Meanwhile, **circular economy applications** are creating further value across systems and value chains. Increasingly these industries are taking the steps to recognise what these impacts may be on their workforce, and to ensure their industry makes a **just transition**.

However, commitments from business leaders will require enabling policy environments to provide clear, long term signals and incentives for companies to strengthen their markets in a low-carbon future while avoiding stranded assets.

### ***Climate Action Pathway / Yearbook of Global Climate Action / GCA portal (NAZCA)***

- *How does the future need to look like in 2050 in order to reach the 1.5-degree, net-zero, resilient goal and how we are moving towards this future?*
- *What are the systemic transformational actions and solutions to transition to this future, providing evidence that is science-based?]*

By 2050, industries will have transformed business operations through deep decarbonization across all sectors, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will have enhanced the circular economy and material efficiency to achieve net zero emissions and climate resilient infrastructure, services and products.

This vision of the future needs to be one that supports a prosperous, competitive and climate neutral economy that puts people and communities at the centre.

This event will aim to highlight these key enablers that will play a crucial role in the coming years to bring us on track with the systems transformation across the global economy.

### **Types of speakers:**

*High-level speakers from Industry*

*High-level representatives from National Governments*

*High-level speakers from NGOs and Civil Society*

*High-level Champion for Global Climate Action*