





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

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### **Content**

- Circular economy as a means to advance the achievement of the long-term global goal
- Circular economy in Nationally Determined Contributions
- Gaps, challenges and needs facing developing countries in adopting circular economy
- Action on the ground
- Findings and proposals







## Circular economy as a means to advance the achievement of the long-term global goal

- Material consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions continue on an upward trend while fueling economic growth
  - Over the last four decades, the volume of material extraction, processing and production has more than tripled **while releasing 62 per cent of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**
  - Only 50 per cent of GHG emissions can be reduced by introducing renewable energy and planting forests, the rest has to come from reducing extraction and use of raw materials
- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought attention to the underlying vulnerabilities and limitations of existing linear supply chains







## Circular economy as a means to advance the achievement of the long-term global goal

- Circular economy is a regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing energy and material loops
- The circular economy agenda and low-carbon strategies are complementary and mutually supportive
- The world is only 9% circular







## **Circular economy in Nationally Determined Contributions**

- With narrow sectoral focus on individual actions together with lack of ambition, current NDC commitments are not enough to ensure the long-term goal of decarbonization of the Paris Agreement
- Over 500 environmental agreements exist at the global stage, but they contain no references to a circular economy
- Successful cases: Nationally Determined Contribution of Chile, The Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption, National Plan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

As a multisectoral approach, circular economy can help countries achieve and boost NDC targets







# Gaps and challenges facing developing countries in adopting circular economy

- The concept of circular economy remains **abstract** and **disassociated** from climate actions as there is no international consensus on its definition and principles
- Weak national policies and insufficient coordination among stakeholders constrain ambitious commitments to the long-term goal
- Inadequate access to finance, technologies and data for large-scale transformational programmes integrating circular economy and climate action in a holistic matter
- Coherence, synergies and coordination within global initiatives are insufficient

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





## Needs of developing countries in adopting circular economy

#### **Capacity building to:**

- Improve awareness and knowledge of businesses and policy-makers on the sustainable development benefits associated with circular economy in the achievement of the Paris Agreement;
- Achieve a global consensus on the concept and a set of circular economy principles in accordance to needs and countries conditions;
- Build policy frameworks attractive for investors and the private sector that integrate circular economy and climate action holistically;





## Needs of developing countries in adopting circular economy

#### **Capacity building to:**

- Incorporate circular economy into Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement;
- Build a global coalition for action that is both diverse and inclusive that looks for global targets and gets international cooperation;
- Develop standardized indicators of circular economy to track improvements at the regional, national and international levels.





#### **UNIDO:**

- Promotes circular economy as a model towards social and environmental prosperity and an inclusive and sustainable industrial development;
- Builds capacity and fosters the creation of green expertise by engaging with both private and public sector;
- Advises policy makers to innovate in the regulatory environment, attract green investment and enable the expansion of circularity;
- Assists technology transfer to upgrade supply-chains;





#### **Successful examples:**

Action scheme devised for over 60 developing and transitioning countries, aimed at mitigating incumbent environmental and human risks related to the production of goods

PCP entails the establishment of multistakeholder partnerships led by the host governments, aimed at **identifying industrial synergies to ignite circularity and channel investments towards prioritized sectors** 









#### **Successful examples:**

Switchmed is a regional initiative supporting eight countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), aimed at accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns by promoting circular economy approaches

















#### **UNIDO:**

- In collaboration with the EU and UNEP, launches the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.
- Convenes and organizes global consultations on circular economy;









## Findings and proposals

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

- There is a common understanding that 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.





## Findings and proposals

To promote capacity building, the global consultations on circular economy raised some specific recommendations:

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 publicprivate partnerships at the national level





# **World Environment Day**

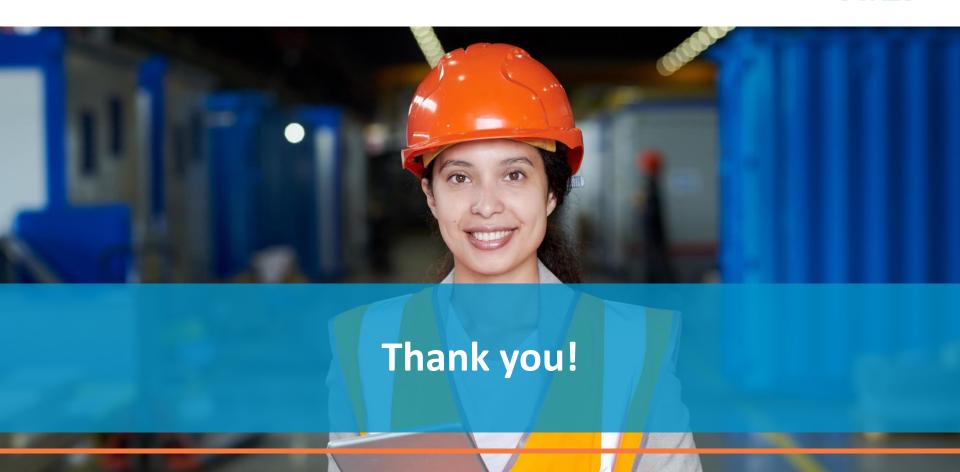
5 June 2021



- Hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan under the theme "Ecosystem Restoration" and the campaign "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore."
- The Day will also serve as the formal launch of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, declared by the UN General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/73/284, which is being led by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations











## For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us

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