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

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

- Material consumption and CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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**

The Circularity Gap Report 2019





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.



Action on the ground

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;



Action on the ground

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**



Programme for
Country Partnership

Action on the ground

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**





Action on the ground

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 **public-private 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



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Thank you!

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us

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