

United Nations Climate Change Conference
Glasgow 2021

Side event

"Accelerating climate action through circular economy, a holistic approach to the long-term global goal"

Friday, 5 November 2021 from 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. (GMT)
Multimedia Studio 1



Information note

Background

Each of the last four decades has been successively warmer than any decade that preceded it since 1850¹. Yet a narrow sectoral focus on priority actions – transition to renewable energy, implementation of energy efficiency measures and reforestation- together with lack of ambition, characterize current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Through a multi-sectoral approach, circular economy can enable countries achieve and boost NDCs' targets, while also accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As an industrial system that is restorative and regenerative by design, circular economy aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, resulting in a drastic cut in greenhouse gas emissions². Applying circular strategies in just five key areas (cement, aluminum, steel, plastics, and food) can eliminate almost half of the global greenhouse gas emissions arising from the production of goods³. To date, however, very few countries have incorporated circularity into their NDCs, while limiting global warming to around 1.5°C or even 2°C will only be possible if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced immediately, rapidly and on a large scale.

Driven by Government leaders, the side event will discuss how to accelerate the global circular economy agenda in light of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report scenarios. By building on the outcomes of the global consultations on circular economy⁴, convened by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in May 2021, concrete actions and their mainstreaming into NDCs will be explored. Representatives from United Nations and international

¹ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Pöan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

² Delivering the circular economy, A toolkit for policymakers, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2015

³ Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2019.

⁴ (<https://www.unido.org/our-focus-safeguarding-environment/global-consultations-circular-economy>)

organizations and the private sector, will also contribute to the discussion as they reflect on their role in speeding up circularity.

Provisional agenda

- I. Welcome and keynote addresses
- II. Panel discussion based on guiding questions
- III. Question and answer session
- IV. Takeaways

Welcome and keynote addresses

- 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

Moderator

- Mr. David B. McGinty, Global Director, Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE)

Panelists:

- Mr. Gustave Aboua, General Director of Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Mr. Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Ms. Shikha Bhasir, Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW).
- Mr. Pierre-Yves Pouliquen, CSO, SUEZ Group.
- Ms. Jessica Long, CSO and Managing Director, Closed Loop Partners

Recommendations:

- Only registered participants to the COP26 Platform will be able to participate during the question and answer session.
- Please connect at least 8 minutes before the meeting starts to ensure all technicalities function as needed.
- Headset and microphone are highly encouraged.