Circularity as a game changer for climate action: upscaling applied research and economic solutions

High-level side event at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28)
Sunday, 3 December, 18:30-20:00
SE Room 2 (175 pax)

Summary

Circularity is transformational, doable, and above all a means of addressing climate change. This session examines key challenges and opportunities and reflect on real examples of success and best practices from the research-policy space and the real economy.

Our natural systems function in a circular way (carbon, water, and nutrient cycles). These natural cycles could and should be emulated in our economic system in order to cope with systemic challenges such as the climate crisis.

The concept of circularity continues to engage researchers, policymakers and practitioners around the globe. While policy progress has been made, particularly in area of waste management, we are a long way from a holistic and universal application of circularity as a foundation for climate action. Meanwhile, the private sector is moving ahead, prompted by real-life economic benefits, and there are engaging examples to share and learn from both developed and developing countries.
COP 27 side event: Accelerating the transition to a circular economy

What have we learned so far, where might innovative breakthroughs come from, and how to overcome existing barriers? Drawing from country experience United Nations University (UNU), UN PAGE partnership, the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), and Ellen MacArthur Foundation reflect on circularity as a game changer for climate action in the real economy.

Session Flow and Speakers

Opening and keynote
- Mr. Angus Mackay, Director Division for Planet, United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- Mr Marwala, UNU Rector (under secretary general UN)-TBC

Moderator
- Ms. Miranda Schnitger, Climate Lead, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Panel introduction
- Government representative from Brazil (tbd)
- Government representative from India (tbd)
- Government representative from Morocco (tbd)
- Government representative PAGE donor country (tbd) or/and Africa

Research presentations/Insights
- Ms. Nidhi Nagabhatla, Senior Fellow, UNU CRIS
- Ms Sanae Okamoto, Researcher UNU MERIT
- Ms Edeltraud Guenther, Director, UNU FLORES

Panel discussion

Contributions from the floor (tbc)
- GACERE (Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency)
- Chief Economist of the African Development Bank
- Representative from the African Circular Economy Alliance
- Subject matter experts from involved UNU agencies
- PAGE Partnership
Private sector voices

Closing remarks

- Ms. Nidhi Nagabhatla, United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)

Public engagement

The event will be live streamed with live polling from the public in real-time.
Organisers

- United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU MERIT)

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