

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Meeting Objectives and Agenda

*Regional Dialogue on Accelerating the Transition to Circular Economy for
Climate Resilience in the Arab Region*

Kempinski Amman Hotel, Jordan
22-23 November 2023



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Meeting Objectives

To analyze current status based on best practices and failures

- Build a **common understanding** on circular economy and build **awareness** around a common taxonomy for circularity in the Arab region.
- Identify **factors that hamper** a fast transition including investments, regulations, institutions endorsing policies.
- Determine the **key capacities and governance framework** necessary to accelerate the transition.

To identify a concerted stepwise process to mainstream circular economy

- Provide **examples of linkages** to national and regional **policies** that could drive circularity
- **Share experiences** from different countries **regarding the scale of the transition**

To exchange on access to finance and effective governance

- Evaluate **potential risks** and identify measures to mitigate them, **promoting and accelerating investments** in circularity.
- Explore the **opportunities presented by multilateral and bilateral climate, biodiversity, and ESG finance** for a sustainable transition that accelerates circularity in the region.
- Define the **necessary forms of governance** to adopt a systemic approach that is inclusive and equitable.

To discuss ways to ensure sustainability of the dialogue and to set a framework for promoting the transition to circularity in the Arab Region.

Meeting Agenda – 22 November

Opening Session	
Moderator:	Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:20 – 9:40	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Jihad Al Sawair, Advisor to the Minister on Technical Affairs, Director of the Green Economy Unit, Ministry of Environment, Hashemite Kingdom of JordanMs. Veronika Ertl, Head, Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS-REMENA)Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Team, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:40 – 9:50	Meeting Objectives and Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Sarah Daniel, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:50 – 10:00	Tour de table
10:00 – 10:25	Keynote Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Key Drivers for Circular Economy Acceleration<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Grzegorz Peszko, Lead Economist, Global Platforms, Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy, World Bank (Online)
	Discussion

Opening Session

- **Tour de Table**
- **Keynote Presentation on the Key Drivers for Circular Economy Acceleration**
 - By Mr. Grzegorz Peszko from the World Bank on Key Drivers for Circular Economy Acceleration.

Session Duration: 1 hour 5 minutes (9:20-10:25)

Meeting Agenda – 22 November

Session 1	
Enabling Policies for Transition Acceleration	
Moderator:	Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Team, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
10:25 – 10:45	Circular Economy for Accelerating Climate Action: Scaling with Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Valérie Boiten, Senior Policy Officer, Ellen MacArthur Foundation (Online)
10:45 – 11:45	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Sarah Elsaid, Regional Coordinator, African Circular Economy Network Foundation (ACENF) (Online)• Mr. Tarik Chfadi, Researcher, International Water Research Institute (IWRI), Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), Kingdom of Morocco (Online)• Mr. Luc Reuter, SwitchMed Policy Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)• Mr. Mohammed Al Ghafri, Public Policies Analyst, Economic Policies Department, Ministry of Economy, Sultanate of Oman
11:45 – 12:15	Discussion Coffee Break

Session 1: Enabling Policies for Transition Acceleration

- Identifying **key policies** for ensuring a just, environmentally sustainable and economically viable circularity of resources.
- Exploring **recommended policy interventions that Arab governments** should prioritize to advance this transformative agenda effectively.

Session Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes (10:25-11:45)

Meeting Agenda – 22 November

Session 2	
Financing the Transition to Circular Economy	
Moderator:	Ms. Veronika Ertl, Head, Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS-REMENA)
12:15 – 12:30	Connecting ESG to Circular Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Yasser Akkaoui, Founder, Capital Concept
12:30 – 13:15	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Krystle Cooper, Deputy Country Representative, Global Green Growth Institute, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan• Ms. Bouthaina Aburoza, Founder and Managing Director, Qutoof Professional Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan• Mr. Fadi Khalil, Head, Green Committee, Association of Banks in Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
13:15 – 14:15	Discussion Lunch

Session 2:

Financing the Transition to Circular Economy

- Highlight **financial opportunities** and **instruments** available at national and regional levels.
- Exploring ways to **address challenges facing the private sector in accessing finance**, and to **facilitate finance accessibility** for Circular Economy transitions.

Session Duration: 1 hour (12:15-13:15)

Meeting Agenda – 22 November

Session 3 **Ensuring Effective Governance for Accelerated Transition to Circular Economy**

Moderator: Mr. Kareem Hassan, Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Centre

14:15 – 15:15 **Panel Discussion**

- Mr. Eyad Yaqob, CEO, Climate Change Center, Arab American University, State of Palestine
- Mr. Yaser Suleiman, Project Leader, Jordanian Module of the Global Project Environmental Protection Worldwide, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Mr. Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Adviser, Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Union for the Mediterranean (Online)
- Mr. Maisam Otoum, Jordan Country Director, cewas Middle East Discussion

Session 3: Ensuring Effective Governance for Accelerated Transition to Circular Economy

- Exploring the crucial **role of governance** in steering the transition towards Circular Economy
- Discussing **strategies for inclusive stakeholder engagement**, private sector involvement, regional coordination mechanisms, societal integration
- Highlighting the **significance of regional and international initiatives** and the contributions and **role of green SMEs in this transition.**

Session Duration: 1 hour (14:15-15:15)

Meeting Agenda – 22 November

Session 4
Countries Experience and Lessons Learnt in the Transition

Moderator: Mr. Hammou Laanrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

15:30 – 16:30

Panel Discussion

- Ms. Samah Saleh, Director General of Urban Development, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Ms. Loubna Al Abed, Chief, Service of Non-Hazardous Waste Recovery, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Kingdom of Morocco
- Ms. Meriem Sahtout, Training Quality Chief, Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies, Republic of Tunisia
- Mr. Gaby Kassab, President and Founder, Ecoserv, Republic of Lebanon (Online)

Discussion
End of Day 1 and Evaluation

Session 4: Countries Experience and Lessons Learnt in the Transition

- Exploring **countries and private sectors' experiences** in transitioning to a circular economy across various sectors.
- Extracting **valuable lessons** from various case studies
- Identifying **crucial steps for scaling up** these efforts.
- Highlighting the **potential role of NGOs** in driving circular economy initiatives parallel to governmental efforts.

Session Duration: 1 hour (15:30-16:30)

Meeting Agenda – 23 November

Thursday, 23 November 2023	
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Miranda Andersson, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (Online)
Session 5	Prioritizing Key Sectors for the Transition to a Circular Economy
Moderator:	Ms. Sarah Daniel, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:15 – 10:15	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Fahad Al Jahwari, Economic Analyst, Economic Policies Department, Ministry of Economy, Sultanate of OmanMr. Nabil Hamdi, General Engineer, Director at the Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Environment, National Focal Point for SwitchMed Programme (SDG12), Republic of Tunisia (Online)Ms. Chantal Akl, Head of Industrial Parks and Zones Bureau, Ministry of Industry, Republic of LebanonMs. Shada Sherif, Founder, SustainMENA, Senior Advisor, Green Economy, Climate Change & Sustainability, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
	Discussion

Session 5: Prioritizing Key Sectors for the Transition to a Circular Economy

- Identifying **main criteria for prioritizing key sectors** in the transition to circular economy.
- Factors considered include **policy availability, economic viability, transition costs, return on investment, revenue generation, environmental impact**, among others.

Session Duration: 1 hour (9:15-10:15)

Meeting Agenda – 23 November

Session 6:

Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Public Policies

- Examining the **essential approaches and steps required to integrate the principles of a circular economy across government and society.**
- Assessing the **importance of policies, collaboration, and coordination mechanisms** in this integration within the region.
- Exploring the **challenges** hindering this mainstream
- Investigating the **role of the private sector and SMEs** in accelerating this shift and facilitating the transition towards a circular economy.

Session Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (10:15-11:45)

Session 6	
Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Public Policies	
Moderator:	Ms. Maha Al Zu'bi, Regional Researcher, Sustainable & Resilient Water Systems, Co-Lead, From Fragility to Resilience in CWANA Regional Integrated Initiative, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
10:15 – 11:15	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Loubna Zaitouni, Senior Legal Affairs Specialist, New Economy Department, Ministry of Economy, United Arab Emirates• Mr. Mohammad Asfour, Consultant, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan• Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA• iPARK Representative (tbc)
11:15 – 11:45	Discussion on ways for mainstreaming circular economy in the Arab Countries. The outcomes of the discussion will feed into the policy guidelines for States on mainstreaming circular economy for guiding them in initiating, accelerating or scaling up their transition towards circular practices.
11:45 – 12:15	Coffee Break

Meeting Agenda – 23 November

Session 7:

Ensuring Sustainability of the Dialogue on Circular Economy

- Sharing **key conclusions** from the meeting
- Discussing **ways to ensure sustainability of the dialogue** and **setting a framework** for promoting the transition to circularity in the Arab Region.

Session Duration: 1 hour (12:15-13:15)

Session 7		Ensuring Sustainability of the Dialogue on Circular Economy	
Moderator:		Mr. Hamza Saidi, Project Coordinator, KAS-REMENA	
12:15 – 12:25		Key Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Sarah Daniel, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
12:25 – 13:15		Discussion on the Way Forward	

Meeting Agenda – 23 November

Closing Session

Closing Remarks

13:15 – 13:30

- *Ms. Veronika Ertl, KAS-REMENA*
- *Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA*

End of meeting

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch

Session Duration: 30 minutes (13:15-13:30)



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Thank you