

Peer Learning Round Tables



Cluster 3: Planet

Pathways to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery
for climate and the environment

Session 3-2

Making sustainable production and consumption work for the circular economy of tomorrow

Monday, 15 March 2021, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1

Whereas Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is now recognized as both an overarching objective and pre-requisite for sustainable development, and it is central to 2030 Agenda, how can governments take on the integrated and transversal task of implementation? Any lessons on the importance of **policy coherence** to promote SCP and circularity?

Question 2

What are effective policy options for governments to create **incentives** for behavioural change, to strengthen regulations and standards, and to redirect financial flows towards SCP? When voluntary commitments hit the glass ceiling of reality, does **regulation** need to step in?

Question 3

Building on the work done under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP, how do we use the decade of action as an **opportunity** to develop and deploy **innovation** and **advanced technologies** to change how we produce and consume?

Question 4

In which economic sectors is there a need for a specific **gender focus** to tackle negative impacts of consumption and production? What is the distinctive role women could play in the circular transition?

Background

The world continues to use natural resources unsustainably with a global material footprint rising-up in the past two decades to 85.9 billion tons. In fact, we are still in a "take-make-dispose" linear model and less than 10% of the natural resources extracted are cycled back into the economy. The need to enhance resource efficiency and embrace practices to reduce, is more than ever a priority, our priority.

The pandemic offers an opportunity to reverse current unsustainable trends and build a better future. In fact, the early stages of the COVID-19 crisis have revealed the fragility of global and opaque value chains and taken an unprecedented toll on the economy worldwide. In a variety of key sectors, the recovery can be greatly helped by circularity principles which provide credible solutions. Design and product policy approaches such as repairability, reusability and remanufacturing can drive substantial net materials savings, emissions and costs reduction, resilience and competitiveness. At the same time, making responsible choices easier for both businesses and consumers, through traceability of value chains, is an essential precondition.

Crucially this is the way forward for achieving sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and interlinked SDGs, as it addresses both the production and the consumption sides of the equation in our recovery plans to build a more just, secure, sustainable and prosperous economy and society.

Organizers

Lead organizer	UNECE/ Economic Cooperation and Trade Division UNEP
Contributors	UN Women (tbc)

Registration

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