Dear colleagues,

- Estonia sees great potential in unlocking circular economy opportunities, including interlinkages between digital and green transition.
- Estonia is preparing its own circular economy principles and action plan by the end of 2021.
- We have set up a governance structure for circular economy, which is led by Minister of the Environment.
- The Minister is advised by lead group that consists of all Ministries and the Government Office at deputy secretary general level.
- The lead group is advised by an expert group from different fields, for example, economy, event organising, social and nature.
- Ideas for discussion in this expert group are provided by specific working groups where all stakeholders can take part, for example, bioeconomy, waste and international development cooperation.

- Estonia has supported 68 million Euros from European Union funds in investment for more resource-efficient solutions in enterprises, especially in mining and manufacturing industry. We plan to continue this support measure, in order to improve our resource productivity and competitiveness.
- The resource-efficiency measure has 4 interlinked activities - raising awareness, training resource auditors, supporting resource analysis and investments in resource efficient solutions.
- So far, 172 investments projects have been supported that have included extra 130 million Euro private sector finances.

- We are proud of our bottle deposit system in Estonia which was launched already in 2005. In 15 years more than 4 billion packages have been collected.
- 95% of metal cans, 90% of plastic bottles and 86% of glass placed on the market are collected and recycled.
- In cooperation with Latvia, we are implementing an Interreg project to assess whether such system could be cross-border.
- We see, that it is necessary to create a bottle deposit system across the EU, that takes into account already existing systems.
- We see digital solutions in environment policy as one of Estonia’s priorities. This enables new solutions for circular economy, waste management and moving towards climate neutrality.
• For example, development of an electronic product passport, which includes product-specific information in digital form on the sustainability and recyclability of the product.

• We explore possibilities to have cross-border waste shipment digital systems and an overarching and unified IT system that ensures real time overview of waste flows from generation to end of waste status.

• Estonia has been advocating for digital and data-driven society since the 1990s.

• This is why Estonia has launched a new global cooperation initiative -- the Data for the Environment Alliance - DEAL. DEAL will be a coalition of state and non-state actors, who collaborate on environmental data and digital solutions, improve national data management capacities across the globe and support the UN Environment Program in developing a global environmental data strategy by 2025.

• DEAL initiative has received broad support from over 25 countries and organisations, including UNEP, WTO and EEA. We are glad that many of you have already shown interest in DEAL and we invite everyone to join in and collaborate actively with the alliance.

• DEAL will be officially launched with the members of the alliance in February 2022 at UNEA-5.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak about Estonia’s examples and plans, for us to learn from each other and be better through it.