

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Circular Economy and climate change

Document (March 2021): [E/ECE/1500](#)

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*
- Building back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Climate change mitigation
- Public private partnerships on cross-cutting issues

On 21 July 2021, EXCOM decided to reach out to its subsidiary bodies for feedback and contributions on the high-level themes and to regularly report back to the Commission session on follow-up actions.

* <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Excerpt from E/ECE/1500



I. Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

The Economic Commission for Europe,

1. Recognizing the adverse impacts of the crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development, among others, and the need to build back better, to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient future and to get back on track to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
2. Emphasizing the importance of circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supporting economic prosperity and resilience, addressing environmental pressures, mitigating climate change and building back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,
3. Recognizing the need for multilateral and coordinated multi-stakeholder approaches to develop integrated solutions to respond to these challenges and stressing the importance of public private partnerships,
4. Noting that the United Nations Environmental Assembly refers to a more circular economy as one of the current sustainable economic models, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimized, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced,



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Dangerous goods and the sustainable development goals

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Main related target(s)

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

Other related target(s)

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Main related target(s)

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Main related target(s)

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Dangerous goods and the sustainable development goals



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Main related target(s)

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Other related target(s)

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

12.A Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Main related target(s)

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Main related target(s)

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

Major challenges to the achievement of circular economy

- Design of products and materials in such a way:
 - that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled and recovered
- Avoid or minimize the generation of:
 - waste, especially hazardous waste
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
- Challenges and ongoing activities in the area of transport of dangerous goods:
 - > materials for dangerous goods packagings, containments, etc.
 - > new provisions for the carriage of batteries, cells, hydrogen, etc.
 - > greener vehicles/vessels for the transport of dangerous goods (use of new propulsions technologies e.g. hybrid, electric, fuel cells)

COVID-19 impact and solutions implemented by contracting parties

- Transport of dangerous goods issues in contracting parties:
 - Transport conditions for COVID-19 vaccines (dry ice/refrigerated)
 - Transport of medical wastes
 - Delivery/supply of hospitals with pressured gas receptacles (e.g. oxygen, helium, compressed gaseous or refrigerated liquid CO₂)
 - Restrictions/cancellation of training for ADR drivers and safety advisers
- > Partially resolved through multilateral agreements and amendments simplifying the provisions for the transport of nitrocellulose membrane filters to facilitate their availability for COVID-19 rapid test devices worldwide.

Possible actions or contributions **

- Report back on the ongoing activities related to circular economy such as:
 - The use of battery electric vehicles/vessels and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles/vessels for the transport of dangerous goods
 - Regulatory aspects on the use of recycled plastics material for packagings
 - New provisions for the carriage of batteries, cells, hydrogen, etc.
 - COVID-19 responses (e.g., NC membrane filters)
- Promote globally our:
 - Legal instruments (such as RID, ADR and ADN agreements)
 - Recommendations (GHS, Model Regulations, Manual of Test and Criteria)
 - Invite countries not yet being a contracting state/party to the RID/ADR/ADN
- Insertion of new agenda item on collaboration and capacity building:
 - Exchange of lessons learned and best practice experiences (e.g. incidents, accidents involving dangerous goods)
 - Workshops on identified subject in the interest of stakeholders (processing waste recycling, new models of production, etc.)