

Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development I Side Event I Draft Concept

Circularity for the ‘Africa We Want’: Inspiring Transformations towards Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions

a. Brief Description of the Event

In this side event, participants will explore the circular economy as a holistic framework that reinforces the principles of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in addressing poverty eradication, resilience, and innovation in the face of multiple crises bedevilling the continent of Africa. Participants will also deliberate on the Africa Union Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and how this framework can be integrated into the existing strategies and policies of member states to further galvanize circularity in all the sectors.

b. Background and Context

Africa is making steady progress in implementing Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want and achieving its aspirations. However, Africa’s current consumption and production practices pose a clear challenge to the sustainability agenda. The resource-intensive linear economy approach of ‘take, make and waste’ intensifies the continent’s environmental challenges, including waste, pollution, and biodiversity loss, among others. Adopting a circular economy approach in Africa entails taking a much broader approach to addressing these crises beyond waste management, focusing instead on transforming entire value chains, thereby supporting the achievement of Africa’s inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development, as outlined in Agenda 2063. Circular economy enhances the resilience of communities and economies by promoting regenerative and restorative practices. This resilience is vital in times of multiple crises, providing a buffer against resource shortages, economic shocks, and environmental degradation. Circular systems enable quicker recovery and adaptation to changing circumstances.

By showcasing successful examples of applicable circularity solutions in Africa, this event will aim to inspire and empower stakeholders to adopt and implement these solutions to scale climate action in their respective regions. The event will explore how circular economy can help the continent eradicate poverty (SDG 1), end hunger (SDG 2), combat climate change (SDG 13), promote peaceful societies (SDG 16), and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17).

c. Objectives of the Event

- ❖ To increase awareness of existing circular economy solutions across Africa that can be scaled in meeting national climate change commitments and plans, and in response to the Global Stocktake.
- ❖ To connect those who are delivering circularity solutions with those who are setting government ambition/targets in order to strengthen collaboration and provide governments with confidence that Non-arty Stakeholders are supportive and can deliver action.
- ❖ To increase awareness of the AU circular Economy Action Plan and mobilize support from stakeholders towards its adoption and implementation.
- ❖ To explore innovative circularity financing mechanisms e.g. African originated blended finance, non-financial support initiatives, and technical assistance facilities encouraging investments in Africa’s circular economy.

d. Draft Programme

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
10:00 AM	Opening Remarks	Harsen Nyambe, Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy
10:10 AM	<p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Juliet Kabera, Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) ❖ Dr. Jane Nyakango, Director, Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre ❖ Dr. Yemi Katerere, Independent Consultant, African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance - (Male) ❖ Margaret Kamau, Project Manager, Climate Change and Green Growth Division, AfDB ❖ Dr. Philip Osano, Centre Director-Stockholm Environment Institute ❖ Mamogala Musekene, Deputy Director General-Chemicals and Waste Management-South Africa 	<p>Panel Moderator; Eugene Nforngwa, Thematic Lead, Just Transition and Energy, PACJA</p> <p>Panel Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What local actions and solutions are you seeing that are helping to deliver on 'The Africa We Want' in relation to circularity? ▪ What are the innovative climate finance mechanisms that have the potential to mobilize investments in circular economy projects in Africa? ▪ What support is needed from other stakeholders in order to scale solutions in the circular economy sector?
10:55 AM	Q&A Session	Moderator ; Leah Wanambwa, Senior Policy Officer; Climate Change-AUC
11:20 AM	Closing Remarks	(Female/Male)
11:30 AM	Departure	All

e. Key Messages

- By advocating for fit-for-purpose, locally contextualized policies to deliver green, resilient, and sustainable communities, the Africa Union Circular Economy Action Plan offers a pathway to address climate, economic, and social challenges while equitably transforming and uplifting African communities.
- The Action Plan emphasizes the need for collaboration and joined-up action through multi-sectorial coordination and partnerships.

f. Contact Event Organizers

AUC, ECA, AfDB