COP28 UN SDG Pavilion Event
Circular Economy: A Path to Climate Solutions and Sustainable Development

Date & Time
December 2nd, 2023, 10:30-11:45 AM (Dubai Time)

Event Context
The circular economy has emerged as a compelling solution to the world's most intricate sustainable development challenges and the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and rising waste and pollution. In a circular economy, waste and pollution are eliminated, materials are kept in use, nature is regenerated, all by design. It's a system approach that aims at addressing the root causes of many of the development challenges we face.

The urgency of the global climate awakening is undeniable and requires systems transformation. Transitioning to renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency remain vital and are key to addressing 55% of emissions. However, in addition to energy supply solutions, additional solutions, sometimes termed demand solutions, are needed - for example, to address the remaining 45% of emissions that spring from how we currently produce and consume (source: EMF, 2021). To address and reduce these GHG emissions, systems transformation such as the transition to the circular economy are crucial. The need for systems transformation was also highlighted in the recently published Global Stocktake.

Event Focus
This event will explore how the circular economy can contribute to tackling the global climate crisis - for example with regard to mitigating emissions and in terms of building resilience and adapting to the effects of climate change. It will also be a chance to explore how the circular economy can contribute to other SDGs such as those related to energy, economic growth, sustainable cities and rural areas, oceans, life on land. Speakers will help bring what circular economy actions can look like - for example by using built environment, mobility, products or food case studies.

Co-organisers
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF)
- ClimateWorks Foundation (CWF)
- National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, China (NCSC)
Provisional Agenda and Speakers

10:30-10:50 Opening Remarks
Moderator: Mr. Xu Huaqing, Director General, NCSC
Featured Speakers (Invitations have been extended, confirmations are pending):
- John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
- Liu Zhenmin, Senior Advisor to the Chinese COP Delegation
- Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Helen Mountford, President and CEO, ClimateWorks Foundation
- Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

10:50-11:00 Keynote Presentation
Theme: The Circular Economy's Role in Climate Action and SDG Achievement
Presenter: Miranda Schnitger, Climate Lead, EMF

11:00-11:35 Panel Discussion
Unlocking Synergies: Circular Economy, Climate Action, and Sustainable Development Goals
Moderator: Zhang Xiaohua, China Director, ClimateWorks Foundation
Panelists:
- Wang Yi, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Expert in China’s Climate Policy and Circular Economy)
- Nathan Hultman, University of Maryland (Expert in US Federal Climate Policy)
- Zhu Liyang, Chinese Association of Circular Economy (Industrial expert)
- A UN system representative (SDG Expert)
- A business leader
- Sherif Elrefaey (Youth Representative from Egypt)

11:35-11:40 Q&A Session

11:40-11:45 Closing Remarks

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