

XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

SIDE EVENT

High-level launching of the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy

Monday, February 1st 2021 | Time 13:00 to 14:00 | Online

I. Background

The XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) will take place the 1st and 2nd of February 2021. Due to the pandemic, it will be held in a virtual format for the first time. The Forum will address the pressing environmental issues of the region, opportunities for a sustainable recovery, and urgent actions for nature in the next decade to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Ministers will discuss priority areas for the region, including biodiversity, climate change, pollution and the transition to a circular economy, which are all important to build back better and sustainably, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this important Ministerial Forum, Government will welcome and recognise the establishment of the Latin America and Caribbean Coalition on Circular Economy.

The LAC region has been very active promoting circular economy. Countries are interested in, are developing, or have already developed their national circular economy strategies, plans and/or roadmaps. However, there is still a need to increase cooperation, scale up initiatives and strengthen public-private partnerships, as well as innovation and capacity development.

II. Regional Coalition on Circular Economy

The idea of a Regional Coalition of Circular Economy started by the end of 2019, responding to the great interest and initiatives on circular economy promoted by governments, private sector research institutes and other stakeholders in the regional, as well as by the multiple initiatives regional and international organizations providing technical support for the innovation, circular approaches, and the transition to circular economy.

The Coalition brings together the unique expertise, mandate, and knowledge of eight strategic and permanent partners, who came together to build cooperation, identify synergies, and deliver a more coherent support to countries and to the LAC region, creating a bigger impact, while avoiding duplications. The strategic and founding partners are: the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy Coalition (PACE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The Coalition will be led by a steering committee composed of four high-level government representatives on a rotating basis, starting with Colombia, Costa Rica, Perú and the Dominican Republic for the 2021-2022 period.

Mission, and Objectives of the Coalition on Circular Economy:

Mission: To provide a regional platform to enhance inter-ministerial, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation, increase knowledge and understanding on circular economy, provide capacity building and technical assistance for the development of public policies for circular economy and sustainable consumption and production.

Objectives

- a) Create a common regional vision and agenda on circular economy;
- b) Facilitate South-South and triangular Cooperation between governments, private sector and international organizations, among other actors to raise awareness on circular economy, share knowledge and best practices and join efforts;
- c) Support the development of tools and indicators to promote and to measure circular economy with national/regional and sectoral focus;
- d) Facilitate and offer capacity building opportunities (training, research, webinars, etc.);
- e) Support pilot projects in the private and public sectors implementing the principles of circular economy, with special focus on SMEs;
- f) Support resource mobilization to adopt circular economy in the region; Increase visibility of circular economy and showcase the regional leadership in relevant regional and international fora (e.g. High-level Political Forum (HLPF), Conference of Parties COPs), including the events of the strategic partners.

SIDE EVENT

High-level launching of the Latin America and the Caribbean Coalition on Circular Economy

Objectives

1. Launch the Latin America and the Caribbean Coalition on Circular Economy.
2. Exchange knowledge and best practices among governments, stakeholders, and international organizations to discuss about the main opportunities and challenges for a circular economy transition.
3. Highlight the benefits of circular economy the sustainable economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its contributions to reduce climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.
4. Invite all governments and stakeholders to join the Coalition and participate in their activities.

Agenda

SESSION I: Welcome remarks and launching of the Coalition on Circular Economy.	
<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>15 min.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Leo Heileman, Regional Director, and Representative UN Environment Programme (UNEP) • Mr. Carlos Correa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Chair of the Coalition. <p><i>Note: The session will present the Regional Coalition (with a PPT) mission, vision, objectives, key areas of work and all strategic partners.</i></p>
SESSION II: Circular economy: key mechanism to build back better while contributing to the climate change, biodiversity and pollution prevention goals.	
<p>Interactive discussion</p> <p>35 min.</p>	<p>The interactive discussion will convene high-level government representatives and partners to discuss about the role of circular economy as a key mechanism to tackle climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss in the region.</p> <p>Moderator: Strategic partner</p> <p>Panelists (TBC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Peru:</i> Mr. Mariano Castro, Viceminister of Environment. • <i>Costa Rica:</i> Mr. Rolando Castro, Viceminister of Environment. • <i>Dominican Republic:</i> Mrs. Milagros de Camps, Viceminister of Environment. • <i>Uruguay - Ministry of Industry and Commerce (tbc)</i>

	<p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the contributions of circular economy for a sustainable recovery during COVID-19 pandemic? 2. What is the potential of value retention policies and strategies, such as remanufacturing and repairing to create green jobs? 3. What are the key contributions of circular economy for climate change mitigation, pollution prevention and biodiversity loss in the region? 4. And what are the main challenges to make the transition to circular economy in the LAC region? 5. How can the Coalition scale up ongoing initiatives and strength cooperation with strategic regional and international partners?
<p>Closing remarks 5 min.</p>	<p>Closing remarks (TBC) This session will conclude the side event with the main key messages and a call for regional actors to join the Coalition.</p>

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