



EVENTSUMMARY

UNEP and UNIDO organized on the 14th of July 2021 a side-event at the High-Level Political Forum called **Circularity for Resilience and Jobs: Green Recovery Policies are the Global Opportunity Today**. The online session has been joined by 242 participants on the Webex platform and viewed over 160 times on the UNEP YouTube channel. This event brought together youth, industry and governmental voices to discuss the urgent need for greater global collaboration to incentivise an inclusive transition towards a more resilient and sustainable economy.

The youth today are uncompromising in demanding concrete action. They call for systemic change which not only decouples economic growth from resource extraction but challenges the existing economic paradigm, which focuses on growth to the detriment of human wellbeing and has resulted in increasing global inequality. While the pandemic has highlighted existing disparities, this crisis also offers a moment for reflection on the future and has shown the importance of interconnectedness and cooperation to face global challenges.

The panelists discussed how a shift towards greater circularity and resource efficiency, particularly in the pandemic recovery, are critical in making peace with nature and halting our unsustainable consumption and production - the root cause of three triple planet crisis of climate instability, biodiversity loss, and rising pollution. Focusing on key sectors (food & agriculture, energy & materials, health & wellbeing, buildings & construction) which have the largest environmental footprints and job multipliers, is essential to shift the needle towards sustainability and inclusive recovery. To create political pressure for this shift, environmental education is needed to raise awareness and generate grassroots demand among voters for policymakers that place the environment at the centre of the political agenda and use both fiscal incentives and regulatory legislation to push for a future that is more green, inclusive, and resilient.

Governments cannot succeed alone; a global movement is needed to accelerate towards sustainable consumption and production without leaving behind traditionally marginalised or exploited actors. A well-managed transition is not only essential to rebalance our relationship with the planet, but also represents an opportunity to unlock new jobs, lift millions out of poverty, and build a more equitable future.



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