



“Securing people’s well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa”

Title of the side event: Enhancing Sustainability through Circularity

Tentative Date and time of the event: 15 September 2022 at 13:00 – 14:00

Background and Objective

UNEP, through SWITCH Africa Green Programme, is developing guidelines for implementing circular economy in Africa and assessment of green financing mechanisms for supporting MSMEs to green their businesses. Consultations of different stakeholders on development of the two documents have been ongoing through June and July 2022. The draft reports will be available for validation during a regional workshop on 24-25 August 2022. The validated reports will then be ready for use in promoting circular economy in Africa by the different stakeholders.

Africa is at the forefront of integrating circular economy in the development process of countries as a means to attain the implementation of SDGs, promote resource efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production. The side event will be an hour discussion by panelists who will discuss topical issues that are geared to enhancing sustainability through circularity in front of well selected participants that are well versed with the subject matter and are from countries and relevant institutions.

The side event will contribute to the operationalization of the AMCEN decision and UNEA resolution on green business development, circular economy and sustainable consumption and production. The main objectives of the side event include:

- Stimulation of discussions on how best African countries can integrate circular economy in their development process as a contribution to transition to green economy and in implementing relevant SDGs.
- Explaining the relevance of the regional guidelines in attaining the benefits of implementing circular economy in the countries
- Engaging different stakeholders in appreciating the opportunities and challenges of adopting circular economy principles
- Understanding the different green financing mechanisms available in Africa to Micro-, Small- and Medium-Enterprises (MSMEs) to different institutions including policy makers, financial institutions, guarantee funds, development partners and private sector
- Contribution of a circular economy transition in combating climate change efforts in Africa.

Expected outcomes

- Better understanding and appreciation of integration circular economy in the development processes of African countries including NDCs.
- Contribution to the implementing of the AMCEN decision and UNEA resolution on circular economy
- Increased awareness of guidelines for implementation of circular economy in Africa

- Understanding the different green financing mechanisms for MSMEs to implement circular economy
- Understanding role of circular economy in upcoming COP 27.

Organization and management

The side event will be organised and managed by the EU-funded SWITCH Africa Green Programme with the audience that includes participants from countries, financial institutions, development banks, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), development partners, private sector and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The programme will support participation of any panelists that may require support to participate.

Session agenda

Moderator: Mr. Bertrand Assamoi. Associate Partner, Dalberg Advisors.

13:00 – 13:10 Introduction and Opening remarks **Mr. Richard Munang, Deputy Director, Africa Office, UNEP.**

13:10 – 13:40 Panellists interventions (specific questions to be provided), each 3-5 minutes:

- **Dr. Kwaku Afriyie**, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ghana
- **Prof. Bisong**, Nigeria Circular Economy Working Group.
- **Hon. Maminata Traore Coulibaly**, Minister of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation, Burkina Faso.
- **Ms. Manjula Basant Rai**, founder and CEO, Spaanda, UK. Representing the private sector and green financing.
- **Dr. Moustapha Kamal Gueye**, Global Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, International Labour Organization (ILO).

13:40 – 13:50 Audience intervention, Q&A.

Interventions from the floor:

- **Ms. Alida Bazye** – representing MSMEs

13:50 – 14:00 Wrap up and closing remarks, UNEP.

Contacts

For further information on the side event, please contact: Mr. Patrick Mwesigye (patrick.mwesigye@un.org) and Ms. Rhoda Wachira (rhoda.wachira@un.org) on technical issues and Ms. Carol Kilel (carol.kilel@un.org) and Ms. Sylvia Munuhe (sylvia.munuhe@un.org) on logistical issues. Thank you.

Remarks:

- *All side events scheduled during the day are expected to start right after the sessions in the main meeting and will not exceed 1 hour.*
- *Rooms are equipped with all conference facilities.*
- *A template will be circulated to all organizers for them to provide feedback/information on the outcomes of their respective side-event so that these could be captured in the report of the 18th AMCEN Regular Session.*
- *Advertising the events to AMCEN participants and organizing refreshments/snacks will be mainly the responsibility of the organizers.*