

# GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY LAUNCHED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION, UNEP AND UNIDO

In February 2021, the European Commission, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Industrial Development Organization UNIDO launched the [Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency \(GACERE\)](#) within the wider context of the UN Environment Assembly.



Building on existing initiatives and cooperating with regional alliances, such as the [African Circular Economy Alliance](#) and the [Coalition on Circular Economy of Latin America and Caribbean](#), the objective of this Global Alliance is to support the transition to a global circular economy for more efficient and equitable use of resources so as to achieve sustainable consumption, production and more inclusive and sustainable industrialization.



The founding members of the Alliance are currently the following countries: Canada, Chile, Colombia, India, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa and Switzerland. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, and the World Circular Economy Forum have also indicated interest in supporting the Global Alliance.



[The Concept Note presenting the Global Alliance](#) highlights that based on data from the report Global Resources Outlook 2019, the world's material resources extraction and processing accounts for more than 90% of global biodiversity loss and water stress, approximately half of global greenhouse gas emissions and about one third of the health impacts. These results illustrate the central role of resource management to facilitate the achievement of goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The interconnections between climate change, biodiversity loss, overconsumption of resources, waste generation are now well recognized, as are the consequences from the associated impacts to people such as environmental injustices, social inequity and work opportunities. A just transition framework for the circular economy can identify opportunities that reduce waste and stimulate product innovation, while at the same time contributing positively to sustainable human development, ensuring that no one is left behind and to sustainable growth and jobs



The Concept Note also highlights that there are a number of initiatives that either have as an explicit objective the transition towards a global circular economy or are contributing to it. In this context, the Global Alliance would gather:

- Governments that are willing to take the leadership in advancing on circular economy and resource efficiency to achieve sustainable consumption and production (SDG12).
- International organizations, including UN agencies, funds and programmes, that play a key role in accelerating the achievement



of sustainable consumption and production as well as natural resource management and want to support a global just transition to a circular economy for achieving sustainable development.

- Business leaders, professional associations and industrial clusters who want to seize the opportunities offered by the circular economy model for the improving resource efficiency of their businesses, thus contributing to decoupling the world's economic growth from environmental degradation.
- Environmental NGOs, civil society organizations and representatives of Indigenous Peoples who want to provide their expertise on circular economy practices contributing to sustainable consumption and production, and better natural resource management.
- Relevant international networks and initiatives, as their participation will ensure information sharing and complementarity.

Work to build the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) is underway. A series of meetings and initiatives are being organized by the promoters in order to establish alliances with all the actors interested in participating. The promoters of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy are also inviting its members [to develop and share working papers](#) offering relevant facts and figures, as well as arguments outlining key benefits of the circular economy to address planetary crisis or a sustainable development challenge. These knowledge products, as for example the paper [Circular Economy and Climate Change](#), will be part of the toolbox of the Global Alliance to support the transitioning towards a circular economy.

For the European Commission this initiative is managed by the Directorate General for the Environment. The Alliance is part of the [EU Circular Economy Action Plan](#), one of the main building blocks of the [European Green Deal](#), Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth and for achieving the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss. More information on the progress and results of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy can be found in the European Commission webpage presenting the initiative.

#### To know more

[Global Alliance on Circular Economy in eu website](#)

[Launch of the Circular Economy Global Alliance in Europa.eu website](#)

[EU Circular economy action plan](#)

[Global Alliance in UNEP website](#)

[Launch of the Global Alliance in UNEP website](#)

[Circular Economy in UNEP website](#)

[Circular Economy in UNIDO website](#)

[Article on Circular Economy in UNIDO website](#)

[African Circular Economy Alliance](#)

[Coalition on Circular Economy of Latin America and Caribbean](#)

[Global Resources Outlook Report 2019](#)

