

# The Circular Economy and SDG 9: Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization

Frank Van Rompaey, UNIDO Representative in Geneva

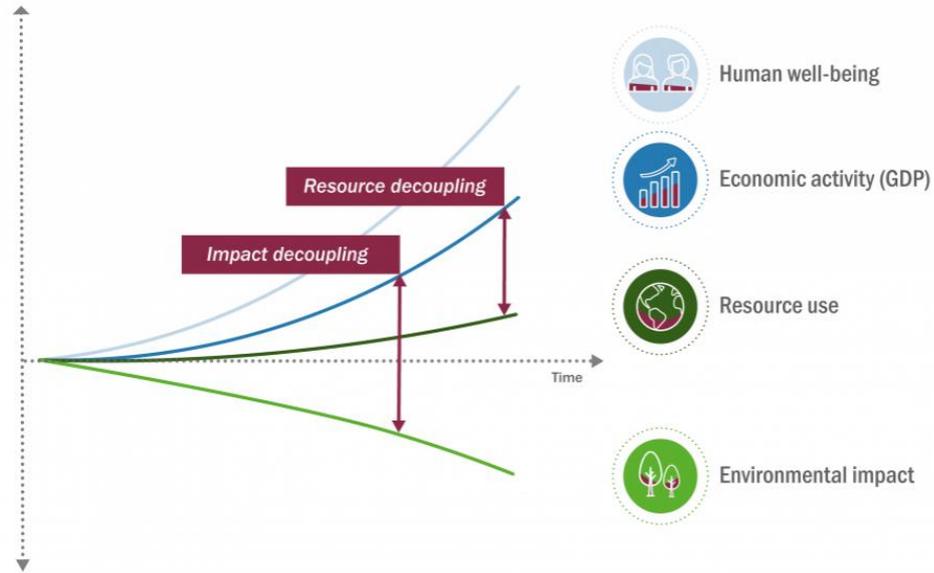
*WTO Aid for Trade Workshop “Circular Economy, economic diversification and Aid for Trade”,  
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## Industrialization allows countries to progress towards socio-economic *and* environmental goals

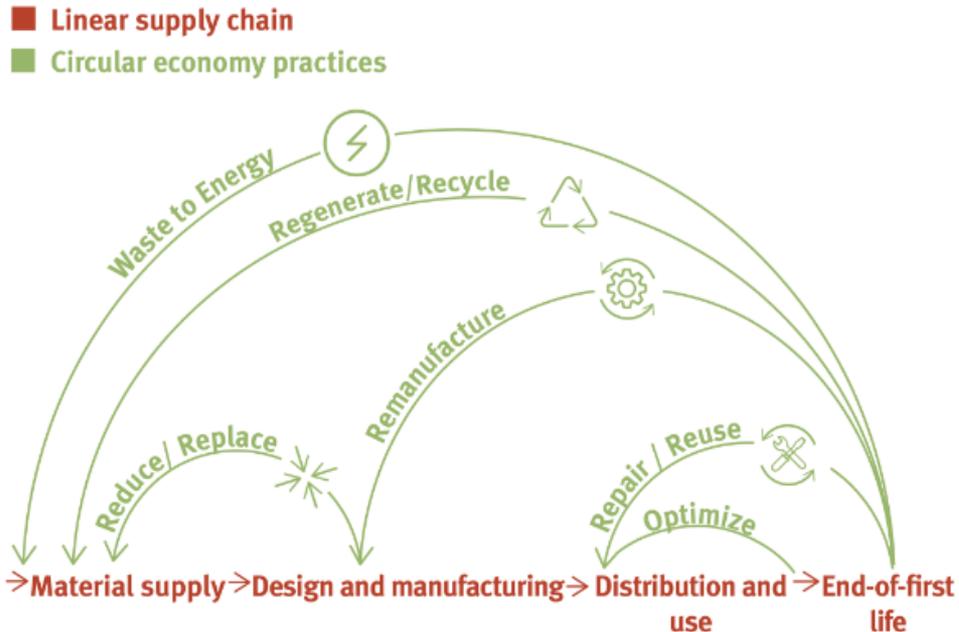
- Industrialization = key for trade and economic diversification
- Industrialization reduces the intensity of energy and material consumption
- Industrialization decreases emission intensity

# The challenge



Source: UNEP. (2011) Decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth, A Report of the Working Group on Decoupling to the International Resource Panel.

# The Circular Economy- an aspirational model



Source: UNIDO, <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-cross-cutting-services/circular-economy>



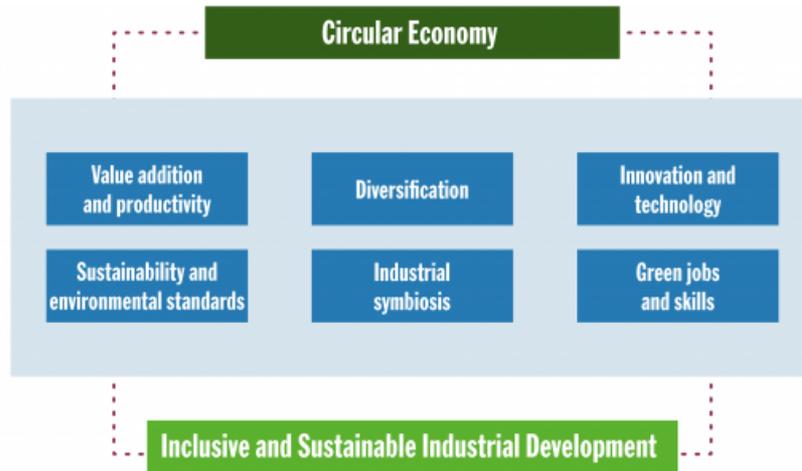
# The Circular economy- building blocks



Source: UNIDO, <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-cross-cutting-services/circular-economy>



# The Circular Economy- a driver of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization



Source: Albaladejo, M., Franco Henao, L. & Mirazo, P. (2021). The Circular Economy: A driver of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. *UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform*. <https://iap.unido.org/articles/circular-economy-driver-inclusive-and-sustainable-industrial-development#fn-733-0>



## Action on the ground

### UNIDO:

- **Promotes circular economy as a model** towards social and environmental prosperity and an inclusive and sustainable industrial development;
- **Builds capacity and fosters the creation of green expertise** by engaging with both private and public sector;
- **Advises policy makers** to innovate in the regulatory environment, attract green investment and enable the expansion of circularity;
- **Assists technology transfer** to upgrade supply-chains;



## Action on the ground

### Successful examples:

Action scheme devised for over 60 developing and transitioning countries, aimed at **mitigating incumbent environmental and human risks related to the production of goods**

PCP entails the establishment of multistakeholder partnerships led by the host governments, aimed at **identifying industrial synergies to ignite circularity and channel investments towards prioritized sectors**



Programme for  
Country Partnership

## Action on the ground

### Successful examples:

Switchmed is a regional initiative supporting eight countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), aimed at **accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns by promoting circular economy approaches**





## Action on the ground

### UNIDO:

- Convenes and organizes **global consultations on circular economy**;
- In collaboration with the EU and UNEP, launches the **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency**.





## Findings and proposals

### Findings arising from the global consultations on circular economy:

- There is a common understanding that **circular economy offers a promising solution to some of the most pressing global challenges;**
- Actions are required to **build regulatory frameworks;**
- **Capacity building will be a key leverage** to enhance shift into a circular economy.



## Findings and proposals

The global consultations on circular economy raised some specific recommendations:

Develop **global guidelines on how to implement CE**

Support and pursue **global alliances and consultations** on circular economy

Build on **existing environmental agreements**

Devise **new adaptive business models**, regenerative and restorative by design

Create **public-private partnerships** at the national level

# Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)

- An **alliance of governments at global level**, supported by stakeholders, willing to work together on and advocate for a global just circular economy transition and a more sustainable management of natural resources, at the political level and in multilateral fora;
- **Current members:** Canada, Chile, Colombia, EC on behalf of the EU, India, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, UNEP and UNIDO;
- **Observers:** Mexico, Singapore, Switzerland;
- **Strategic partners:** EMF, PACE and WCEF/SITRA;



## GACERE aims to:

- Advocate for a global just transition
- Undertake a mapping of domestic policies, fiscal and regulatory frameworks
- Identify barriers, knowledge and governance gaps that hinder circular and just transitions
- Determine research needs and possible global governance improvements
- Take forward and support sectoral, bilateral and/or regional partnerships for the circular economy transition
- Facilitate global conversations on the governance of natural resources



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**Thank you!**



For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us

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