



Note

Shifting Towards Circular Policy Framework in Developing Countries

Taking stock and Getting Inspired

By Leslie Sajous

Summary

This note explores how policy frameworks in developing and least developed countries, with a special focus on trade-related policies, are promoting circular economy. It aims to highlight some best policy practices to better support circularity, implemented by national governments, through national policy making as well as implementation of commitments taken at regional level. It will provide examples from various regions of the developing world.

Introduction

Circular economy is not a new concept, but one that seems to be getting more and more attention since COVID-19 pandemic started, coupled with climate crises hitting the planet across the five continents. Highlighting the necessity for more economic and agriculture resilience, as well as for more sustainable production & consumption patterns, policy makers need to encourage the shift towards value chains (at global, regional and national levels) that are more circular.

According to Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, circular economy (CE) is a resilient system that is good for business, people and the environment. It is a systems solution framework that tackles global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution. The CE is based on three principles: (i) eliminate waste and pollution; (ii) circulate products and materials (at their highest value); and (iii) regenerate nature.¹

Policies, including trade-related policies, are one tool that is critical to boost or hinder the development of CE. National, regional and international policy frameworks could support the adoption of more circular business models, reduce trade disputes and allow the flow of goods & services that are beneficial for the society and the environment. In fact, there are a number of policy interventions that governments can put in place to help sectors and industries adapt to new market opportunities offered by a transition towards CE. This includes, among others²: (i) reviews of economic, trade, and labour policies; (ii) training, re-skilling, and innovation investments; and (iii) transparent and inclusive roadmap developments and policy dialogues.

Developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are at lower levels of development, with specific political and cultural contexts at national and even local levels, that will have to be taken into account for CE to be a

success in these countries.

About this note

The Note will explore how policy frameworks in developing countries and LDCs, with a special focus on trade-related policies, are promoting CE. It will highlight some best policy practices to better support circularity, implemented by national governments, through national policy making as well as implementation of commitments taken at regional level.

Circular economy considerations in current national policy frameworks of developing countries

This part analyses whether circularity is mentioned in national policies and strategies of developing countries and LDCs, with a special focus on South and South East Asia (SSEA) countries. The objective is to analyse how policy frameworks currently support the implementation of a more circular economy, at national level, in the developing world. Trade-related policy measures and options will be highlighted in this analysis.

Looking at recent WTO TPRs from a “circularity” point of view: the case of South and South East Asia

The first step consisted of analysing the latest Trade Policy Reviews (TPR) undertaken at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the last five years, including the report by the Secretariat, the report by the country concerned as well as the minutes of the meeting. The analysis focussed on South and South-East Asia. There were ten countries from this region who underwent TPRs during this period. These were (in chronological

¹ EMF. Circular Economy Introduction. URL: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview>

² EMF. 2021. Universal CE policy goals. URL: [\[EN\] Universal circular economy policy goals Jan2021.pdf](#)

order): Viet-Nam, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia and Cambodia. It was found that three TPR mentioned “CE”, namely: Viet Nam, Indonesia and Thailand.

1. For Viet-Nam, a shift to a more CE was highlighted in the investments to be made to sustain the transition from a low to a middle-income country.³
2. For Indonesia, CE was mentioned under the policy and institutional framework analysis, as one of the objectives of the forestry policy.⁴
3. For Thailand, the extent to which CE was embedded in their trade policy framework appeared to be quite extensive.⁵

In Thailand, the Government is actively promoting a Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economy, through implementation of various trade-related policies and strategies. The development guidelines of CE in the country can be divided into three main areas: (i) *Production*: through the bio industry development strategy, they are promoting the use of degradable raw materials; (ii) *Waste management*: through the application of digital and information technologies in the industrial systems (i.e. factory inspection 4.0 to monitor water balance and secondary waste); and (iii) *Secondary use of raw materials*: through the promotion of waste processing and used goods, as well as setting of standards for secondary use of raw materials.

More concretely, the government has taken the below steps and measures that have trade-related implications to promote the adoption of circular economy through the above three channels:

● ***Monetary and fiscal measures to promote investment and support entrepreneurs***

The national board of investments, based on the

current investment promotion policy, has incentivized investments in the BCG economy model. The ministry of finance has provided tax incentives for business to purchase bio-plastic packaging. Finally, the bank for agriculture and agricultural cooperatives has given low interest loans to agri-business in conducting environmental-friendly projects.

● ***Measures to support technology and innovation development***

An industry transformation centre 4.0 has been established in all ministry of industry offices (76) to assist small businesses in accessing new technologies and innovations, including to provide technological transfer and knowledge on how to establish CE business models to enhance the CE national strategy.

● ***Measures to promote value added for agricultural products***

The ministry of agriculture and cooperatives is supporting the bio-economy/CE by supporting more efficient farming products through community enterprises for instance, as well as promoting the establishment of smart farming projects.

Policy cases promoting a more circular plastics’ trade in developing countries

On the specific issue of plastic, which is a common circularity issue, developing countries and LDCs have also taken some steps to embed more circular economy processes. In 2018, China, the primary plastic waste importer, introduced a ban on certain types of plastic waste imports. It triggered redirection of trade flows to other developing countries with less restricted regulations.⁶

³ WTO. 2021. TPR Report by the Secretariat - Viet-Nam. URL: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s410_e.pdf

⁴ WTO. 2020. TPR Report by the Secretariat - Indonesia. URL: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s401_e.pdf

⁵ WTO. 2020. TPR Report by the Secretariat - Thailand. URL: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s400_e.pdf

⁶ CUTS. 2021. An Overview of Plastics’ Management in

Many developing countries and LDCs have put in place waste management policies and strategies with the aim of adopting more sustainable and circular processes. For example, the government of Bangladesh established a National 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Strategy for Waste Management back in 2010. This strategy wished to reduce environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with present-day disposal practices.⁷ In Cambodia, the city of Phnom Penh has put in place a waste management strategy and action plan 2018–2035 to create a reliable waste management system and coordinate the efforts of different actors, to minimise the environmental and health impacts. CE is mentioned 6 times in this plan, when dealing with sustainable construction: “it should be planned, designed and carried out in innovative and eco-friendly ways in line with the principle of a circular economy”; as well as when presenting potential sources of funding, they have included some companies that provide funds towards the adoption of more circular approaches (i.e. Unilever, C&A).⁸

Further enlarging the geographical lens: Some developing countries’ efforts in integrating circularity in their national policy framework

Going beyond the analysis of circular economy policy frameworks of some South and South East Asian countries above, the below examples come from other developing countries which have embedded, to various extent, circularity into their national policies.

South & Southeast Asia. URL: https://www.cuts-geneva.org/pdf/SSEA2021-Note-Plastics_Management.pdf

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Phnom Penh City. 2018. Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2035. URL: https://iges.or.jp/en/publication_documents/pub/policysubmission/en/6688/Phnom+Penh+Waste+management+strategy+and+action+plan+2018-2035_web.pdf

The case of Rwanda

The Rwandese National Environment and Climate Change policy was introduced in June 2019. One of the guiding principles of this policy is: “Endeavour to promote Circular Economy and industrial symbiosis: Industries are brought together in innovative collaborations, finding new ways to efficiently use resources and thus increase revenues while reducing waste and associated costs”.⁹ The policy aims to promote more circular production and consumption patterns, which will have trade related effects if the four envisaged policy actions below are fully implemented:

1. Put in place institutional and legal framework for the circular economy (i.e. where several ministries have been appointed to act accordingly, including ministry of commerce and ministry of environment).
2. Reinforce strategies to implement circular economy concepts for sustainable development to enhance climate resilience and adaptive capacity to protect natural capital.
3. Incentivise the private sector to optimise the use of circular economy principles across various sectors of the economy.
4. Promote resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) technologies, development and transfer.¹⁰

It is noteworthy that Rwanda will be the first African country to host the World Circular Economy Forum later this year; which is a landmark event of the year that brings together business leaders, policymakers and experts to present the world’s best circular economy solutions.¹¹

⁹ Rwanda Government. 2019. Environment & Climate Change Policy. <http://www.fonerwa.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Rwanda%20National%20Environment%20and%20Climate%20Change%20Policy%202019.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid

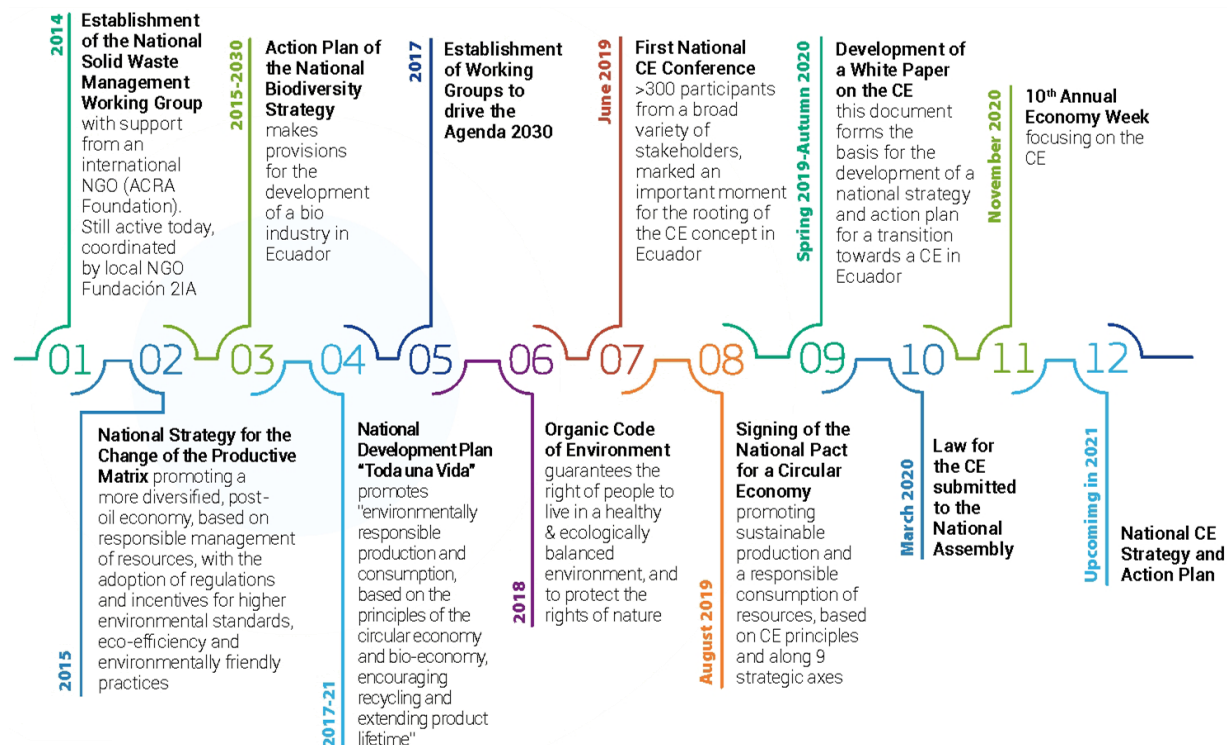
¹¹ World Circular Economy Forum. Events. <https://www.sitra.fi/en/projects/wcef/#events>

The case of Ecuador

The government of Ecuador adopted a national tax on drinks in non-reusable, recyclable bottles of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) in 2011. According to information provided by Ecuador during their TPR review, imported and domestic bottled drinks are subject to the tax, which can be claimed back if the used PET bottles are returned. Ecuador further indicated that since the introduction of the tax, the number of recycled bottles in the country had averaged around 1.6 billion units, or two bottles per week for each person living in the country. Ecuador highlighted that the 70% recycling rate for PET bottles produced and imported into Ecuador achieved in 2017 reflected the tax's success. Ecuador also noted that the introduction of the tax had resulted in higher incomes for people involved in the collection of used bottles for recycling, which were among the poorest segments of the population.¹²

Since then, the Government has taken several policy actions to tune towards a full CE model. Some of these actions have direct linkages with how trade is conducted in/by the country. In 2015, Ecuador adopted a National Strategy for the Change of the Productive Matrix that aims at a more responsible management of resources, and the adoption of regulations and incentives for higher environmental standards, ecoefficiency and environmentally friendly practices. The Government involved various ministries and policy makers over the last decade to develop more comprehensive policy approaches directly focusing on the CE. This includes: the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Circular Economy Transition adopted in 2021, the Law for the Circular Economy (under approval by the National Assembly), and the Law for Extended Producer Responsibility, a specific normative for electronic waste (expected to be adopted soon), as well as updates to the legislation on nonrecyclable plastics.¹³

Figure 1: Key policy milestones for the circular transition in Ecuador



Source: <https://www.switchtogreen.eu/ecuador-goes-circular>

¹² WTO. 2020. Trade policies for a circular economy: What can we learn from a WTO experience? https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/ersd202010_e.pdf

¹³ European Union. 2021. Ecuador goes Circular - The strategy behind. <https://www.switchtogreen.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ecuador-ModuleV4.pdf>

The case of China

Recently, the Chinese Government National Development and Reform Commission released the Development Plan for the Circular Economy in July 2021, in the overall 14th Five-Year Plan Period. The “Plan”, which covers the period of 2021-25, aims to develop the country’s CE, with the hopes of increasing resource efficiency, spurring innovation, and meeting climate commitments.¹⁴

By 2025, China should have turned its production system fully circular. This will be based on three main targets to be accomplished: (i) Building a resource recycling industry system and improving resource utilization efficiency; (ii) Building a recycling system for waste materials and fostering a recycling-oriented society; and (iii) Deepening the development of the agricultural circular economy and establishing circular agricultural production. Those targets to be fully implemented will have a direct impact on trade. Below are some of the tasks extracted from the Plan that will directly impact economic policies and trade:¹⁵

● *Building a resource recycling industry system and improving resource utilization efficiency*

- Promoting the green design of products, including by improving green design policies, guidelines, and classification;
- Strengthening clean production, including through mandatory and voluntary audits, [...], and establishing incentives and punishments;
- Promoting the circular economy in industrial parks, including by encouraging higher resource utilization, [...];
- Promoting the co-processing of urban waste, including by improving policy mechanisms and regulatory standards, [...].

● *Building a recycling system for waste materials and fostering a recycling-oriented society*

- Improving the level of processing and utilization of renewable resources, [...];
- Standardizing the development of the second-hand commodity market, including by improving relevant laws and regulations, encouraging internet trading, and increasing regulation of offline markets; and
- Promoting the development of the remanufacturing sector, [...].

● *Deepening the development of the agricultural CE and establishing circular agricultural production*

- Strengthening the utilization of agricultural and forestry waste, [...];
- Promoting a circular development model for agriculture, including by building ecological agriculture industry consortiums, encouraging clean energy use, [...].

More generally, the Plan calls for strengthening the legal and regulatory environment and policy enforcements. Specifically, it calls for improving CE laws, regulations, and standards, as well as statistics collection, tax and financial support, and industry supervision.

The case of United Arab Emirates

In January 2021, the UAE Cabinet approved the UAE Circular Economy Policy which is a comprehensive framework for determining the country’s approach to achieving sustainable governance and the ideal use of natural resources, by adopting consumption and production methods that ensure the quality of life for current and future generations.¹⁶ The policy

¹⁴ China Briefing. 2021. URL: [China's Circular Economy: Understanding the New Five Year Plan \(china-briefing.com\)](https://china-briefing.com)

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ UAE Government. 2021. UAE Circular Economy Policy. <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/federal-governments-strategies-and-plans/uae-circular->

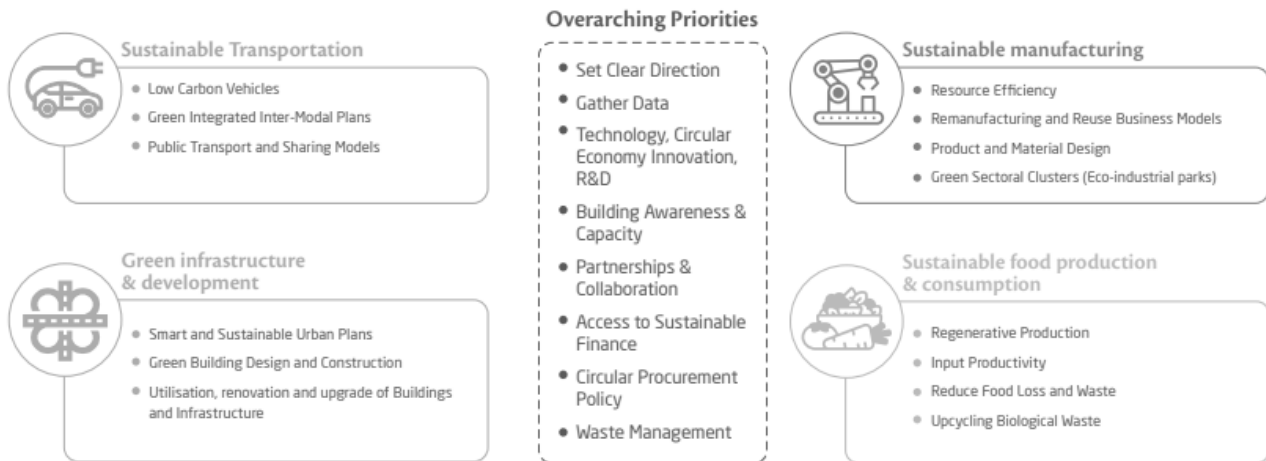
has been developed in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry for Artificial Intelligence, which shows the interlinkages CE has on trade, climate and other economic & environmental issues.

The policy comprises several key objectives, such as: promoting environmental health; supporting the private sector in adopting clean production methods; and reducing natural environmental stress, to achieve the country’s vision to be a global pioneer of green development. The policy and its outcomes are expected to: generate considerable economic proceeds for the country; mitigate environmental pressures; ensure the

supply of raw materials; increase competitiveness; motivate innovation; strengthen economic growth; and create job opportunities.¹⁷

Priority sectors to drive CE in the country include: green infrastructure and development, sustainable transportation, sustainable manufacturing, as well as sustainable food production and consumption. The figure below shows the main areas in which the circular economy principles can be applied in each of the four priority sectors, along with the eight common core areas of focus that will support the transition to a circular economy across all sectors. Several of these have trade and trade policy implications.

Figure 2: Implementation areas of the UAE CE policy principles



Source: UAE Circular Economy Policy 2021-2031.pdf

Instances of regional policy frameworks promoting circular economy

In this part, some good policy practices from regional organizations in Asia and Africa are presented. Those initiatives aim to support their member states in embedding circularity into their national policy frameworks, including their trade-related policy options and strategies. It provides examples on how regional policy efforts might support the shift towards CE at national level through experience-sharing and capacity-building. This part will also touch upon some limitations developing countries and LDCs might face in implementing those regional frameworks, while adopting more circular policies at national level.

The ASEAN framework for circular economy: focusing on the trade policy-related action points

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the Framework for CE for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) at the 20th AEC Council Meeting held on 18 October 2021. The Framework aims to “guide ASEAN in achieving its long-term goals of a resilient economy, resource efficiency, and sustainable and inclusive growth”.¹⁹

The framework is based on five strategic priorities: (i) Standard Harmonisation and Mutual Recognition of Circular Products and Services; (ii) Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation in Circular Goods and Services; (iii) Enhanced Role of Innovation, Digitalisation, and Emerging/Green Technologies; (iv) Competitive Sustainable Finance and Innovative Environment, Social & Governance (ESG) Investments; and (v) Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resources.

Figure 3: The ASEAN framework for Circular Economy



Source: Framework for CE in ASEAN. Brochure-Circular-Economy-Final.pdf

¹⁹ ASEAN. 2021. ASEAN adopts framework for Circular Economy. <https://asean.org/asean-adopts-framework-for->

[circular-economy/](#)

Looking under each strategic priorities, there are suggested policy actions to be taken towards more circular policy frameworks at national level in the member countries. Some of the proposed policy actions related to trade have been extracted and are compiled below:

● **Strategic priority 1 on standards**

harmonisation and mutual recognition

- Explore trade-related standards and regulations that would support CE in the region.
- Develop and promote the utilisation of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for product and service standards embedding CE principles, in accordance with prevailing international regulations, standards, and practices, where these exist, including those of MSMEs.
- Harmonise circular products and services standards with other existing MRAs and standards in various ASEAN sectoral bodies and pillars

● **Strategic priority 2 on trade openness and trade facilitation**

- Alleviate unnecessary barriers to and promote trade, investment, and innovation in environmental goods and services to ensure the diffusion of the best available circular technologies.
- Facilitate movement of second-hand goods and materials across border to support circularity efforts, such as through the development of a taxonomy to help minimise unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- Ensure compatibility of environmental goods and services in ASEAN bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations
- Consider a review of existing agreements and regulations with aim of identifying entry points for circularity and addressing possible trade barriers.

● **Strategic area 3 on innovation, digitalization and emerging technologies**

- Promote inclusive dialogue and partnerships amongst private sector, academia and research institutions, governments including ASEAN development partners, and with CE experts, to collaborate on open innovations, effective policy frameworks for fulfilling circular objectives and facilitate knowledge and technological exchange and know-how
- Encourage protection of intellectual property for environmentally sound technologies to foster innovations that promote CE
- Develop CE technology policy frameworks, certification protocols, and transparency mechanisms

● **Strategic area 4 on sustainable finance and innovative investments**

- Consider the use of different and new financial instruments for CE-related projects such as but not limited to, blended financing, green, transition and sustainable bonds, carbon pricing, and catalytic capital, [...].
- Consider the use of fiscal and tax policies, such as green tagging for expenditures, fiscal incentives for green investments, environmental taxes, and reward mechanisms to support CE goals within the context of broader national strategies.
- Re-orient financial, institutional, and investment policies to prioritise responsible and sustainable businesses and infrastructure, including the development of green technologies and the transformation of public and private partnerships (PPP) towards circular economy.

● *Strategic area 5 on efficient use of energy and other resources*

- Strengthen coordination and collaboration amongst ASEAN sectoral bodies, institutions, governments, the private sector and the broader ASEAN community, in promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency, [...].
- Re-consider existing policies that discourage circularity in operations, and explore those which support circular economy

The African Circular Economy Alliance: a partnership towards circular economy policy development and implementation

● *The Durban Declaration for environmental sustainability*

In November 2019, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which brings together 44 Environment Ministers from across the continent, announced the Durban Declaration for environmental sustainability. The declaration marked the first pan-African policy announcement to include CE ambitions for the continent.¹⁸ On the CE, the Declaration states that the ministers:

- recognize the value of the circular economy and its potential to improve the way in which they produce and consume goods and services, reduce waste, create jobs and contribute to sustainable development.
- agree to raise the political visibility and awareness of the CE in Africa through the development of policies, regulatory

frameworks and institutional arrangements.

- commit themselves to replicating, scaling up and using CE approaches as part of the region's transformation efforts as contained in Agenda 2063 of the African Union.
- encourage the private sector and other non-state actors to promote and invest in the CE to create employment and sustainable trade in and markets for green products and services.
- commit themselves to the implementation of a CE approach in Africa to assist with reducing the dependence on natural resources and reducing pollution in Africa.
- resolve to implement a CE in order to contribute to economic growth and job creation and divert waste away from landfills through capacity development programmes.¹⁹

Some of the trade-related policy aspects of the declaration have been put in bold in the above text.

Also on the continental level, in 2020, the African Union and AMCEN set up an Africa Union Circular Economy Expert Working Group, following the Durban Declaration and a mandate from the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment. The Expert Working Group's aim is to generate a roadmap for the development of the CE Action Plan for Africa and promote partnership building in support of the implementation of the African CE Action Plan.²⁰

● *The African Circular Economy Alliance*

The African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) is a

¹⁸ EMF. 2020. Circular Economy in Africa: Examples and opportunities. URL: <https://emf.thirdlight.com/link/i6ivujitl99o-2v5rxs/@/preview/1?o>

¹⁹ AMCEN. 2019. Draft Durban Declaration on taking action for environmental sustainability and prosperity in Africa. URL:

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30732/AMCEN_17Declaration.pdf?sequence=7

²⁰ EMF. 2020. Circular Economy in Africa: Examples and opportunities. URL: <https://emf.thirdlight.com/link/i6ivujitl99o-2v5rxs/@/preview/1?o>

government-led coalition of African nations²¹ with a mission to spur Africa's transformation to a CE that delivers economic growth, jobs, and positive environmental outcomes. The Alliance serves as a platform that supports the transition to a circular economy at the national, regional, and continental levels through: policy development; leadership and advocacy; and support in scaling CE businesses and projects. Its 5+ year goal is to have an “Improved policy & business ecosystem for initiating & implementing CE activities in member countries”.²²

They are supporting five industries that offer immediate opportunities for increased circularity in sectors that will improve the economy, jobs, and the environment on the continent in the long term²³:

- **Plastic waste recycling:** Recycling plastic packaging to increase circularity within the packaging industry.
- **Food waste conversion industry:** Converting food waste to organic fertilizer to increase circularity in food systems.
- **E-waste recycling industry:** Promoting circularity in the large and growing electronics sector through substantial recycling and collection facilities.
- **Recycled garments industry:** Converting fashion and textiles waste into garments for commercial export markets.
- **Mass timber industry:** Redesigning how we build by using mass timber as a more sustainable input resource for expanding the built environment.

Policies, including trade-related policies, are recognized as enablers of change towards more circularity by the member states; to build consumers’ trust, to adopt relevant standards, to

finance proper infrastructure, to allow second-hand clothing for upcycling, etc. At their annual meeting in 2021, they organized a special workshop on “Designing national CE roadmaps”.²⁴

Some Potential Opportunities on the road to more circular policy frameworks

There are various trade-related policy measures that could support the growth of CE at country level, such as²⁵:

- Implementing tax and procurement policies that foster repair, sharing, resale, and remanufacturing to maximise asset use and return on invested energy.
- Reviewing and harmonising resource classifications and definitions in waste legislation.
- Strengthening resource loops through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) to support circular opportunities from reuse to recycling.
- Aligning taxation and fee incentives, such as EPR, with circular economy outcomes.
- Reforming and, where relevant, deploying subsidies.
- Incorporating circular economy principles into trade policies.

Those are just potential interventions showcasing the interlinkages between trade-related policies and circular economy, which could be leveraged to create economic incentives and help businesses of all sizes to adopt more circular models and leverage new market opportunities.

²¹ In 2017 The ACEA was launched with three member countries: Rwanda, South Africa and Nigeria. In 2019, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire joined the Alliance. In 2021 Benin, Burkina Faso, and Sudan also became members.

²² ACEA. Theory of Change. URL:

²³ ACEA. Five Big Bets for Africa's path to circularity. URL: https://www.aceafrica.org/files/ugd/056cf4_bfd032e99cc84dfc94686f0c6fe2bf44.pdf

²⁴ ACEA. Annual Meeting. Designing National Circular Economy Roadmaps (Video). URL: <https://vimeo.com/538751391>

²⁵ EMF. Universal circular economy policy goals. URL: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/universal-policy-goals/overview>

Conclusion

This Note has showcased that circular economy is already considered in current national policy frameworks of some developing countries around the Globe, mostly in Latin America, but also more and more in Asia and Africa. Trade is an integral part of circular economy, though trade-related policy options and strategies seem to be lagging behind in efforts to adopt and implement more circularity in their policy frameworks.

Good policy practices have been presented in this Note from developing countries and some LDCs, as well as from regional organizations on how CE could be embedded in the policy frameworks, including trade-related ones.

On the other hand, most of the developing countries and LDCs lack human, financial, technical and technological capacities to fully implement their national plans and policies related to circular economy (in the case they have one). Or, they may have challenges in translating relevant circular economy principles they have signed on at regional level into their national policy frameworks including on trade.

Therefore, it is imperative that developing countries and LDCs receive the required human, financial and technological assistance to be able to holistically revise their policy framework (including on trade), and coherently implement it, so that it benefits their businesses, people and environment.

It is obvious that policy gaps, as well as capacity constraints, will have to be addressed to exit linear processes, and ensure more CE processes in the near future. Regional collaboration between countries that are frontrunners in the domain and others with more limited knowledge and capacities, including on policy revision and implementation, can pave the way toward more circularity. It will also be critical to develop and implement coordinated policy measures, which will require trade policymakers to work closely with other key public and private stakeholders (such as environment ministries, trade unions, cooperatives, and the private sector of all sizes) to ensure a fair and inclusive transition towards circular economy.



CUTS International, Geneva

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37-39, Rue de Vermont, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
geneva@cuts.org • www.cuts-geneva.org

Ph: +41 (0) 22 734 60 80 | Fax: +41 (0) 22 734 39 14 | Skype: cuts.grc

Also at Jaipur, Lusaka, Nairobi, Accra, Hanoi, Delhi, Calcutta and Washington, D.C