
Virtual Event: Chatham House Circular Economy Conference

1-2 April 2020

Day 1: April 1st 2020

10.00 – 10.20

Introduction and welcome remarks

Melissa MacEwen, MAVA Project Manager, Environment and Resources Programme, Chatham House

Prof Tim Benton, Director Energy, Environment and Resources Programme

Patrick Schröder, Senior Research Fellow, Environment and Resources Programme, Chatham House

10:20 – 10:40

Keynote presentation: Marius Vaščega, Head of Cabinet, Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission

10:40 – 11:00

Question & Answer session

11.00 – 11.40

Panel 1: Inclusive policy approaches for solving the global waste crisis

Panellists:

Ashish Chaturvedi, GIZ India

Malek Sukkar, Averda

Joanne Green, Tearfund

Moderator: Patrick Schröder, Chatham House

11.40 – 12.00

Question & Answer session

12.00 – 13.00

Lunch break

13:00 – 13:40

Panel 2: Financing the circular economy and closing the investment gap

Panellists:

Davinah Milenge-Uwella, African Development Bank

Arnold Verbeek, European Investment Bank

Sumanah Manohar, BlackRock

Anouj Mehta, Asian Development Bank

Moderator: Jan Raes, Sustainability Advisor ABN AMRO Bank N.V., representative of the FinanCE working group

13:40 – 14:00 **Question & Answer session**

14:00 – 14:40 **Panel 3: Trade in the circular economy: closed local economies or global collaborating systems?**

Panellists:

Shunta Yamaguchi, OECD
Malena Sell, SITRA Finland
Marianne Kettunen, IEEP
James Vause, UNEP-WCMC

Moderator: David McGinty, PACE

14:40 – 15:00 **Question & Answer session**

15:00 – 15:15 **Closing remarks day one**

Day 2: April 2nd 2020

10:00 – 10:40 **Panel 4: Industry 4.0 and circular economy: identifying opportunities for developing countries**

Panellists:

Pía Alonso Ribas, UNIDO Latin America
Becky Faith, Institute of Development Studies
Muyiwa Oyinlola, De Montfort University

Moderator: Khaled Soufani, University of Cambridge

10:40 – 11:00 **Question & Answer session**

11:00 – 11:40 **Panel 5: Beyond plastic recycling: Innovations for sustainable packaging**

Panellists:

Edward Sims, EY
James Close, London Waste and Recycling Board
Marcos Alegre, Cleaner Production Centre Peru

Moderator: Paula Chin, WWF UK



11:40 – 12:00 **Question & Answer Session**

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch Break**

13:00 – 13:40 **Panel 6: Advancing multilateral action on marine plastic pollution**

Panellists:

Jillian Dempster, New Zealand Mission to UN, Chair Ad-hoc Working Group on Marine Litter (tbc)

David Azoulay, Center for International Environmental Law

Moderator: Patrick Schröder, Chatham House

13:40 – 14:00 **Question & Answer Session**

14:00 – 14:30 **Closing remarks**

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Context for the event:

A radical transformation in the way the world uses natural resources is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global climate targets and meeting the needs of future generations.

The circular economy that minimises waste and keeps materials and products in circulation for as long as possible, is increasingly regarded as a promising model for driving sustainable and resilient economic growth in both developed and emerging economies.

To successfully scale circular practices and ensure the transition from a linear to a circular model leaves no one behind, an open, inclusive and collaborative approach is required.

Until recently, the discussions around the circular economy have predominantly focused on industrialized economies of Europe and China. In fact, a great deal of circular economy activity is already taking place in emerging economies, as our latest report [*An Inclusive Circular Economy: Priorities for Developing Countries*](#) discusses.

Many countries across sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia and Latin America are adopting national policies and launching initiatives to promote the circular economy. To promote collaborative opportunities for an inclusive and sustainable circular economy transition at the international level, a clearer understanding of the opportunities, trade-offs and winners and losers of such a transition is needed.

Supporting transformative alliances and finding solutions to overcome challenges especially in poorer countries, disadvantaged industry sectors and consumers is equally critical. In short, a 'win-win-win' vision for the environment, people and the economy, needs to be built together with credible pathways to achieving this vision.

This inaugural conference will bring together circular economy leaders from policy, business, academia and civil society across the emerging economies and the developed world to identify best practices, initiatives and existing alliances that can help to build the pathways for achieving this vision.

The conference will build on previous and ongoing research by Chatham House, and others, to drive forward an inclusive circular economy agenda and promote a just transition from linear to circular economic models.

