

Concept note

Side event at LLDC3

"Transition to a Circular Economy in Landlocked Developing Countries: Pathways to a UN Global Framework for the Transition to a Circular Economy"

Co-organizers: Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Turkmenistan

Date and time: August 6 from 18:15 to 19:45

Venue and modality: in person, Conference Hall 3.07–10, Avaza, Turkmenistan

Event language: English (with translation into Russian)

Introduction

Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) have specific challenges related to economic, geographical and environmental development and need to use their natural resources efficiently. Circular economy is an economic system aimed at efficient and continuous use of available resources, maximizing added value and eliminating waste. This is achieved through strategies such as recycling, reuse, recovery or reuse for similar products and materials, as well as the development of durable and easily recyclable products. The transition to a circular economy means a radical departure from traditional linear business models of production that only serve to achieve economic efficiency and do not take into account the destruction of nature. The development of a circular economy will provide landlocked developing countries with a transformative path to increase resilience, competitiveness, promote sustainable growth and meet climate and environmental commitments.

Given that most landlocked countries are in the early stages of the transition to a circular economy and face a number of challenges, including some economic, regulatory, informational and technological barriers and obstacles to the adoption of circular practices and business models, it is important to strengthen economic policies aimed at increasing their capacity to accelerate this process.

Policy plays a key role in the transition to a circular economy by removing market barriers and failures and correcting economic distortions that reduce the competitiveness of circular economy business models and prevent them from scaling up.

Turkmenistan's commitment to regional sustainability, providing a platform for hosting the III International UN Conference for Landlocked Developing Countries and its emerging new partnerships provide a unique opportunity for action-oriented dialogue to promote the development of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources. Turkmenistan has previously raised the need

to develop and adopt a **Global Framework Program for the Circular Economy Transition** based on the priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Landlocked countries have every opportunity and incentive to act as co-developers and pioneers in the implementation of such a program.

The purpose of the side event

To discuss existing practices and frameworks for implementing regional and national **circular economy models**, and to develop a number of recommendations to accelerate the transition to circular economy models in landlocked countries. In addition, important issues for discussion will be the development and implementation of national policies, programmes and strategies in areas of key importance for the circular economy, such as waste management, public procurement, innovation, trade and supply chain traceability.

Discussions and exchange of ideas will help in identifying various approaches to regulating the transition to a circular economy and highlight the role of international cooperation on critical resources.

Topics for discussion:

1. To identify the key economic, regulatory, information and technological challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and assess what steps need to be taken to build capacity.
2. Discuss a system of priorities in developing a system of consistent incentives and support schemes throughout the product life cycle, including entry and expansion models, to motivate participants to change their behaviour and working methods and to stimulate the necessary cooperation between them (promoting responsible consumption).
3. Present and share best practices among landlocked developing countries that have effectively implemented the transition to a circular economy, including through the adoption of relevant regulations.
4. Identify potential measures and concrete pathways for landlocked developing countries to move towards a circular economy.

Target audience

The event will bring together high-level representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, academia, the private sector and civil society.

Program

5 min.	Moderator: Mario Apostolov, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
15 min.	Introductory remarks: Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Perhat Yagshyev, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan Dmitry Shlapachenko, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan
40 min.	Subject: Existing practices and frameworks for transition to a circular economy for landlocked developing countries Focus: Priorities and incentives for the development of a circular economy, motivation to change working practices, including recycling and waste management and the creation of institutional frameworks Discussion participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eric Livny, Resident Representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Turkmenistan (keynote presentation)- Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan- Babaniyaz Yalakov, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan- Rita Columbia, UN Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia- Artur Andrysiak, Permanent Representative of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Turkmenistan- Vesna Dzuteska-Bisheva, Team Lead, Inclusive Growth, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Presentations by representatives of LLDCs countries
20 min.	Open discussion and Q&A
10 min.	Concluding remarks and summing up Perhat Yagshyev, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan Dmitry Shlapachenko, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan