

Draft UNEA-6 Resolution on
Stepping up efforts for accelerating a circular economy transition
domestically, regionally and globally

Proposal by the European Union and its Member States

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

PP1: *Recalling* its resolutions 4/1 on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production and 5/11 on enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production, as well as 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management, and *taking note* of relevant reports by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme¹,

PP2: *Recognizing* that a circular economy is an economy in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimized, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced, *also recognizing* that it is necessary to take into account local conditions and national circumstances for achieving a circular economy and reaping its benefits,

PP3: *Noting with concern* that there is no progress, but even regression, on one third of the targets related to SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production and on another third progress is slow², and that there is a lack of action at global level in moving from linear to circular economies, hampering the achievement of sustainable consumption and production,

PP4: *Welcoming* the analysis by the International Resource Panel in its report *Global Resources Outlook 2024*³, which stresses the importance of environmentally sound material resource extraction, cultivation, processing, management and use for human well-being, sustainable development and growth, and develops a sustainability transition scenario, at the horizon 2060, aiming at reducing and rebalancing global per capita material use, whilst significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and halting and reversing biodiversity loss,

PP5: *Stressing* that transitioning from a linear to a circular economy, including across sectors of productive activity and high environmental impacts, supports the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”, as well as the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, thus contributing to addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as land degradation and water stress,

PP6: *Also stressing* that transitioning to a circular economy can contribute to addressing inequalities; and that a circular economy and related business models provide employment, new sustainable and decent job opportunities, improve resource efficiency and can support lifting countries out of poverty,

PP7: *Recognizing* the importance of sharing relevant, transparent and reliable product information along supply and value chains to promote sustainable choices of all actors,

¹ In particular UNEP/EA.6/8.

² The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023, p. 8.

³ [Add ref. when available]

including information for consumers, as well as of favoring the development of comparable metrics and enhanced disclosure for the transition towards a circular economy,

PP8: *Welcoming* the work by Parties to the Basel Convention on increasing transparency of the transboundary movements of electronic waste and facilitating environmentally sound treatment of plastic and electronic waste and its contribution to achieving environmentally sound management of waste globally,

PP9: *Noting with concern* the increasing negative impacts on human health and the environment caused by the transboundary movements of used vehicles and the use of low-quality fuels, *welcoming* the work conducted by UNEP within its Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, including the report on Used Vehicles and the Environment and its key findings, and *recalling* the Basel Convention's classification of waste vehicles and their components as waste and its restriction and regulation of transboundary movements thereof, notably with regards to their environmentally sound management,

PP10: *Recognizing* the unsustainable growth of textile production and consumption worldwide, with global textiles production that almost doubled between 2000 and 2015⁴ and the consumption of clothing and footwear expected to increase by 63% by 2030⁵, with a corresponding likely increase of textile waste as well as the associated significant environmental impact of textiles throughout their lifecycle,

PP11: *Stressing* the opportunities offered by a circular and sustainable bioeconomy building on sustainably produced biomass and residual materials, with regenerative practices that diminish resource use,

PP12: *Also stressing* the opportunities offered by a circular and sustainable bioeconomy for achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, such as SDG 2 on ending hunger and SDG 8 on sustainable economic growth, relevant multilateral agreements and their decisions and protocols, while respecting human rights, including Indigenous Peoples' rights in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁶, and minimizing negative impacts on the environment including biodiversity and local communities, as well as contributing to halting deforestation and forest degradation, in line with SDG target 15.2 and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use,

PP13: *Recognizing* that a circular economy and a circular and sustainable bioeconomy both strive to increase the sustainability of consumption and production and should be developed in a mutually supportive way and with the participation of all stakeholders and in a way that contributes to halting the loss of biodiversity and to climate change mitigation,

PP14: *Acknowledges* the untapped potential for domestic resource mobilization for cost recovery mechanisms and sustainable fiscal reforms and better use of pricing and incentive policies for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy⁷, and phasing out and repurposing harmful incentives, including subsidies,

PP15: *Underlining* the importance of science-based information, knowledge and recommendations in the field of circular economy and natural resource management, notably by the International Resource Panel, and the opportunities that such advice offers for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, land degradation and water stress, including in relation to overconsumption and sufficiency levels of material resource use,

⁴ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), [A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning fashion's future](#).

⁵ European Environment Agency (2019), Textiles and the environment in a circular economy.

⁶ [UNDRIP](#).

⁷ [Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries \(imf.org\)](#); [Policy Perspectives-The economics-of-the-transition-to-a-more-resource-efficient-circular-economy.pdf \(oecd.org\)](#); [Green growth and taxation - OECD](#).

1. *Calls upon* Member States to develop, review or update relevant national plans and policies, sustainable development strategies and sector policies or equivalents to transition from a linear to a circular economy for achieving sustainable consumption and production, as well as decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and primary resource consumption, and *requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate the sharing of best practice, where possible in cooperation with relevant multi-stakeholder coalitions⁸ and other relevant organizations, while avoiding duplications, and exploiting e.g. the Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspots Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT)⁹, to support Member States and to present a report at the seventh session of the Assembly on activities carried out and progress made at the global level;

2. *Invites* Member States to step up action, in cooperation as appropriate with the private sector, including through public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder coalitions to a) promote product lifetime extension and value retention processes, such as re-use, repair, refurbishment and remanufacturing, and reducing obsolescence, b) prevent and minimize waste, starting already at the design-phase of products, through to extraction of resources and the production phase, as well as the conception-phase of services and business models, c) address overconsumption and encourage sufficiency levels of material resource use, d) enhance the design of toxic free products, taking into account life-cycle assessments, inter alia to make recycling easier, e) develop, improve and implement extended producer responsibility schemes and promote product as a service models, and f) develop circular business models and services to reduce the environmental footprint and material use, in particular from primary resources;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate a) the exchange on measures, standards and digital tools for sharing relevant product information along supply and value chains, including information for consumers, b) the development of comparable metrics, monitoring and reporting protocols and related environmental accounting principles and disclosure measures, collaborating with existing initiatives, including those by the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and its One Planet Network¹⁰, relevant UN bodies and agencies, international standardization organizations and relevant stakeholders, and *invites* Member States to actively engage in such exchanges and developments, also by improving access to data and relevant information;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations, its organizations, agencies and programmes, including the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as international finance organizations (IFIs), multilateral development banks (MDBs) and Member States in a position to do so, as a contribution to reduce the global environmental footprint, to increase support to strengthening the capacity for environmentally sound management of waste of Member States from least developed countries;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to harmonize legislation and standards, as appropriate, on the trade in used vehicles and the fuels they are allowed to use, aiming to minimize the environmental and health impacts, *also calls upon* exporting Member States to ensure the roadworthiness of vehicles to be exported and to strive for low sulphur and benzene fuel standards and no metal additives, *encourages* exporting and importing Member States to cooperate in tightening standards for used vehicles and fuels, and *requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue supporting Member States through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, and present a report to the seventh session of the Assembly with recommendations, which may include options for regional or global regulations on the trade in used vehicles and fuels in view of limiting negative

⁸ E.g. [GACERE](#), [ACEA](#) and [Coalición de Economía Circular – América Latina y el Caribe](#).

⁹ <http://scp-hat.lifecycleinitiative.org/>.

¹⁰ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/>.

environmental and health impacts;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to take action to increase the sustainability of textiles supply chains, in particular by addressing the entire life-cycle, including product design and textile waste, to promote the use of recyclable and recycled fibers, as well as new business models, to tackle overproduction and overconsumption, to emphasize the role of consumers and to enhance traceability and transparency, including by exploiting the potential of digital product passports, as well as paying particular attention to the sustainability of global trade in used textiles as well as increasing circularity of textiles globally with environmentally sound recycling where national capacities comply with stringent environmental standards, and *requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the findings in the report “Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain: A Global Roadmap” and further engage stakeholders to develop circular global textile value chains and to present a report at the seventh session of the Assembly;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure that a circular and sustainable bioeconomy and its food and non-food bio-based sectors and measures respect resource efficiency and ensure optimized use of biomass within sustainability limits and in line with the cascading principle of biomass use, whereby biomass is used where it has more added-value and lower environmental impact, and whose supply avoids harmful effects on the environment, notably on biodiversity, air, water and land, and food security;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with relevant entities of the UN system, to prepare a report, for consideration at the seventh session of the Assembly, to enhance the knowledge base on the environmental aspects of relevant new technologies ensuring sustainable yields and efficient conversion of available biological resources for food and feed production and conversion of biomass for other bio-based products to unlock the full potential of the circular and sustainable bioeconomy while reconciling the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems services, and rural development and food security;

9. *Encourages* Member States to support the implementation and monitoring of the 2022-2030 Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production adopted by the Board of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and contribute to the establishment of its Global Dialogue, and *invites* the United Nations General Assembly to mandate a UN conference on sustainable consumption and production (“UN SCP Conference”) to bring all relevant stakeholder representatives together and launch a regular intergovernmental conversation on how to accelerate progress to achieve SDG 12 and other SCP related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, including by transitioning to a circular economy;

10. *Encourages* Member States to exploit the untapped potential for domestic resource mobilization and the many opportunities offered by implementing sustainable fiscal reforms and cost recovery mechanisms, such as extended producer responsibility schemes, and by adopting sustainable public procurement for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy and *requests* the Executive Director of UNEP to strengthen the Programme’s support to Member States in the implementation of these instruments and to facilitate sharing of best practice accordingly,

11. *Invites* the International Resource Panel to continue to report regularly to the Assembly, *encourages* Member States to join the Steering Committee of the Panel and, for those in a position to do so, contribute financially to its work, and *requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to step up human and financial resources to support the work of the Panel, including the Global Materials Flow Database, in collaboration with other relevant UN agencies,

12. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the Assembly at its seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.