



Establishing sustainable circular economies

by Blaizen Bloom

Old Dominion University Model United Nations Society

Welcome to the *Circular Economy*

As noted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ‘Our current economic system can be considered a “linear economy”, built on a model of extracting raw materials from nature, turning them into products, and then discarding them as waste. Currently, only 7.2 percent of used materials are cycled back into our economies after use. This has a significant burden on the environment and contributes to the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crises.’¹



A *circular economy*, UNDP explains, aims to help solve this challenge by minimizing waste and promoting sustainable use of natural

resources, through smarter product design, longer use, recycling and to regenerate nature. Adopting some version of these ideas would be an important milestone for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), creating a powerful goal for achievement by the UN’s 193 Member States.

The concept of a *circular economy* was first popularized in the early 1990s, although some important ideas date to the era before industrialization.² The movement towards a more sustainable economy has been rooted in the crossing of economic and ecological fields, with the goals of continued economic growth and environmental conservation through an emphasis on performance.

These ideas have been popularized as the 3Rs: *Reuse, Reduced, Recycle*. Another version is 6Rs: *Reuse, Recycle, Redesign, Remanufacture, Reduce, Recover*. Originally *affordability* was not an important element, but as the concept gets more political attention, *affordability* becomes much more important.³

The basic problem is unsustainable consumption. In the past two decades, enormous progress has been made to recued global poverty. More people have more relative wealth than ever before. Africa, China and India have witnessed unprecedented progress.⁴ Under the

¹ ‘What is circular economy and why does it matter?’ *United Nations Development Programme*, 24 April 2023, <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/what-is-circular-economy-and-how-it-helps-fight-climate-change>

²Winans, K., A. Kendall, and H. Deng. “The History and Current Applications of the Circular Economy Concept.” *Renewable and Sustainable Energy*

Reviews 68 (February 2017), pp. 825–33.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2016.09.123>

³ *The Concept of Circular Economy: its Origins and its Evolution*, January 2018.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.17021.87523>

⁴ Homi Kharas and Meagan Dooley, ‘The evolution of global poverty, 1990-2030’, *Brookings Institution*, 2

Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), the UN Member States are committed to eliminate poverty by 2030.

But lifting people from poverty creates problems. Waste makes these problems of consumption worse. Material consumption has risen over 65 percent globally, reaching 95.1 billion metric tons in 2019. In the same year, an estimated 13 percent of the food destined for human consumption was lost after harvesting and another 17 percent was wasted. The amount of electronic waste reached 7.3 kilograms per capita in 2019, and the majority is not managed in a sound way, harming the environment and our health.⁵



Studies show that, to return to safe limits of consumption, we need to reduce global material extraction and consumption by a third.

February 2022,
<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-evolution-of-global-poverty-1990-2030/>

⁵ 'What is circular economy and why does it matter?' UNDP, op.cit.

⁶ Mulvaney, Dustin, Ryan M. Richards, Morgan D. Bazilian, Erin Hensley, Greg Clough, and Seetharaman Sridhar. "Progress towards a Circular Economy in Materials to Decarbonize Electricity and Mobility." *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 137 (March 2021): 110604.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2020.110604>.

Transitioning to a circular economy, UNDP notes, will be instrumental to achieving this.

With the continued shift towards a de-carbonized industrial and energy model intense on usage of rare earth elements, calls for the development of circular economies have continued to grow in recent years. Rare earth elements in particular have a less than 1 percent rate of recovery globally, with only 18 out of 60 metals exceeding 50 percent recovery rate globally.⁶

More broadly, only 7 to 9 percent of all natural resources extracted are reused. (sources differ). It is during extraction of raw materials that 62 percent of current greenhouse gas emissions being emitted.⁷ Current production of goods utilizes 160 percent of the Earth's natural capacity with material extraction since 1970 tripling to present day and doubling since 2000. This comes as the usage of recycled materials has shrunk from 9.1 percent in 2018 to 7.2 percent globally in 2023.

In the global quest for net-zero (cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible), achieving a circular economy is a prominent path forward, a path that allows continued economic growth. Studies have found that the transition to a circular economy could help economic growth, as much as USD 4.5 trillion by 2030 and USD 25 trillion by 2050.⁸

⁷ "Making the \$4.5 Trillion Circular Economy Opportunity a Reality." World Economic Forum, 14 November 2019.

<https://www.weforum.org/impact/helping-the-circular-economy-become-a-reality/>

⁸ For comparison, the global economy was valued at USD 80 trillion in 2017. Velenturf, Anne P.M., and Phil Purnell. "Principles for a Sustainable Circular Economy." *Sustainable Production and Consumption*, vol. 27 (16 February 2021), pp. 1437-57.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spc.2021.02.018>

The question for the ECOSOC moving forward lies not whether our economic systems must be restructured to match such a more environmentally and economically sustainable system, but by what time frame it will need to be implemented, how change will be financed, and exactly what the UN Member States will be asked to do.

Variations in Achievement

At the most basic premise of the circularity of an economy lies within the natural cycles found with compounds like water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen that occur naturally in a sustainable cycle excluding human involvement. It is through these processes that nature poses that a basis for a circular economy can be modeled where human conceptions of waste don't exist where everything instead plays an important role in the circle of life.⁹

An older version of a circular economy originated before the modern mass consumerist society, before the contemporary re-use economy. The modern reincarnation of a circular economy looks into how industry can help lead reuse, repair, and remanufacturing of goods as an alternative to producing all new goods. The focus here remains on maximizing efficiency in all sectors including waste, most commonly reflected in the modern hybrid model of economy.

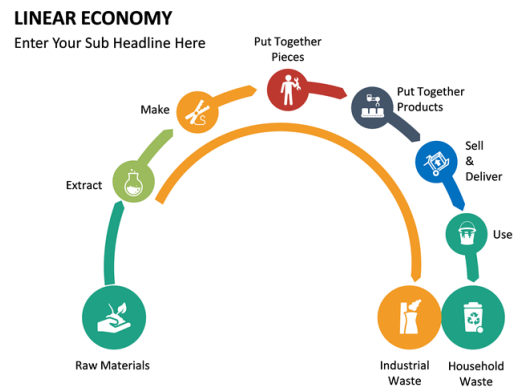
The *performance economy* is the latest in theory on how to successfully implement a circular economy. This model looks at minimizing waste as a whole by leasing durable, effective machines and other contraptions allowing a user to return a product once use is no longer desired, with the owner responsible for repair and

maintenance of a few objects versus mass production of many, less capable products of the same variety. The goal of objects then focuses on marketing the performance and capabilities of a rented product rather than affordability of an owned product.

The major difference between the performance economy and alternatives is attitudes toward re-use. A circular economy focuses on tackling issues at the start of the chain of extraction, not just finding ways to utilize the waste produced.¹⁰ Ultimately, real versions of a circular economy would likely deviate from any ideal, incorporating ideas and adapting.

Current Economic Systems

The predominant economic model of modern society, *linear economies* are based on the concept of extract, produce, consume, dispose from start to end of the life of a product. However, with the onset of the millennium from rising environmental concerns from such an approach for economy to the increasing cost of materials from growing scarcity in materials that enabled rapid economic growth.



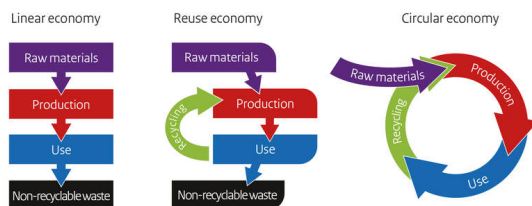
⁹ "Four Lessons from Nature to Build a Circular Economy." *World Economic Forum*. N.d., accessed 30 June 2023. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/11/4-lessons-from-nature-to-build-a-circular-economy/>

¹⁰ *The Concept of Circular Economy: its Origins and its Evolution*, January 2018. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.17021.87523>

The prevalence of this system came largely from two factors that have to be overcome if such a system were to be replaced. The *convenience* afforded by both producers and consumers through a single-use disposable system is what originally brought about the phase out of long-use, durable objects most pronounced beginning in the 1920s. The second consideration to make lies with the *rapid technological advancement* in affluent societies, and the desire to upgrade and replace disposable items.¹¹

The alternative is the *re-use economy* to which economies and industries have begun to shift in some places. While recycling alone cannot solve the crisis of plastic pollution, it remains a key towards addressing part of the epidemic.¹²

From a linear to a circular economy



Despite the importance of such a linear system in establishing the modern system for industry and consumerism seen today, the major issues raised for environmental and economic viability have resulted in demands for a new economic model that establishes longevity in those fields.¹³

United Nations Action

Although the issue has yet to be debated in the UN General Assembly, it has been considered in the UN system. Meeting in Nairobi in 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) passed a resolution on *Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production*.¹⁴ This resolution establishes the importance of the circular economic goals and requests initial action, but by the UN Environmental Program.

The resolution also ‘Invites Member States to integrate circular economy approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans.’ This gentle language is not accidental. The UNEA, like the ECOSOC or General Assembly, cannot require action from the Member States, because only the Member States are sovereign. The UNEA resolution is important, rather, as a statement of agreed international principles, an endorsement of this promising concept.¹⁵

¹¹ Morsetto, Piero. “Sometimes Linear, Sometimes Circular: States of the Economy and Transitions to the Future.” *Journal of Cleaner Production*, no. 390 (1 March 2023), pp. 136-38.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.136138>

¹² “How National Policies Can Accelerate the Transition to a Reuse Economy.” *World Economic Forum*, 18 January 2022.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/01/how-national-policies-can-accelerate-the-transition-to-a-reuse-economy/>

¹³ Sariatli, Furkan. “Linear Economy Versus Circular Economy: A Comparative and Analyzer Study for Optimization of Economy for Sustainability.” *Visegrad Journal on Bioeconomy and Sustainable*

Development, vol. 6, no. 1 (January 2017), pp. 31-34.

<https://doi.org/10.1515/vjbsd-2017-0005>

¹⁴ ‘UN Environment Assembly concludes with 14 resolutions to curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide’, *UN Environmental Program*, 2 March 2022, <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-assembly-concludes-14-resolutions-curb-pollution>

¹⁵ The full text of the resolution is ‘Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production’, resolution 5/11, *United Nations Environment Assembly*, 2 March 2022,

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39920/ENHANCING%20CIRCULAR%20ECONOMY%20AS%20A%20CONTRIBUTION%20TO%20ACHIEVING%20SUSTAINABLE%20CONSUMPTION%20AND%20PRODUCTION>

As the resolution notes, circular economic methods can greatly aid progress toward the UN's headline development goals for all countries, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the UNEA resolution says, '...circular economy approaches provide opportunities for more resource-efficient, less resource-intensive consumption and production practices and environmentally sound technologies and infrastructure, while at the same time supporting livelihoods,' Achieving the SDGs is the most important goal of the UN system, with the deadline of 2030 rapid approaching. Circular economies stand out for the for covering many of the 17 SDGs, including:

[SDG Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth](#)

[SDG Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure](#)

[SDG Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities](#)

[SDG Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production](#)

[SDG Goal 13: Climate Action](#)



A preliminary pathway for implementation of circular economies is carved from the SDGs as a basis for the goals that the UN must strive to

[VING%20SUSTAINABLE%20CONSUMPTION%20AND%20PRODUCTION.%20English.pdf?](#)

¹⁶ Raimund Bleischwitz, Miying Yang, Beijia Huang, Xiaozhen XU, Jie Zhou, Will McDowall, Philip Andrews-Speed, Zhe Liu, and Geng Yong. "The

achieve in implementing any policy goal. The ability to focus not just in one area but on the interconnection with others highlights the benefits of such an intersectional viewing of proposed interventions to tackling those issues and promote wide progress among the varying areas of interest.

The UN has historically remained at the forefront of environmental issues, from climate change to species extinction. There is growing awareness among the Member States that restructuring the global economic system is the next major focus for international collaboration to achieve the SDGs. Any ECOSOC resolution on circular economies should stress SGD targets.

Country & Bloc Positions

China's policy in the ECOSOC stresses the importance of strong commitments for restraint from others, especially European and North American states. It supports the ideas of economic circularity. But it strongly resists UN mandates that could be seen as eroding its national sovereignty.

Since the early 2000's, The People's Republic of China has been at the forefront of promoting an ecological consciousness through mainstreaming circular concepts and practices into modern economic principles. China first implemented a framework to achieve a circular economy in 2005, establishing a framework for future growth based on a sustainable economic model.¹⁶

China's continued dominance in the display of an effective transition to a circular economy through continued economic growth and viability that have become detached from typical indicators of resource and waste intensity, and

Circular Economy in China: Achievements, Challenges and Potential Implications for Decarbonisation." *Resources, Conservation and Recycling* 183 (August 2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2022.106350>

the recycling and treatments of produced wastes.¹⁷

Their initial plan was followed up in 2013 with an actionable plan highlighting sites with significant steps towards a circular economy that served as demonstration for how the rest of China could follow with achieving such otherwise lofty goals.

Those steps were only furthered through collaboration with the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) where eco-industrial parks were established to further promote economic viability and growth whilst promoting natural and built green infrastructure in those sites beginning in 2001.

European Union (EU): The 27 Member States of the EU are leaders on the international stage, progressing environmental issues with momentum towards a circular economy. They have spent more than anyone else on relevant domestic and regional policies, and they finance international aid to help others make progress. There are limits. With their own economies struggling to recover from the pandemic recession and the demands of the Ukraine War, the EU Member States are not ready to spend more.

As part of the effort to achieve the goals of the Green New Deal for a net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and slow species extinction, the New Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) passed in March, 2020 forms the framework as the EU

moves forward for a circular economy on the continent.¹⁸ However, this was a new major step in a history of progress towards the implementation when the EU passed their first historic circular economy plan in 2015 establishing 54 actionable steps which were accomplished or started with the passage of CEAP.¹⁹

Although European desires to achieve circular economies remain highly popular, the ability to follow through on goals remains limited. For example, only 9 of the member states are on track to meet waste recycling goals by 2025 at municipal and national levels.²⁰

Further, with the EU already investing billions into climate resilience and adaptation for developing nations, taking steps to ensure adequate funds are in place to establish the framework of infrastructure needed to promote circularization of economies remains of interest to their goals.²¹

India: Under his 'Make India' policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed above all to rapid industrialization and strengthening Indian sovereignty. India does not oppose ECOSOC initiatives on the topic, but resists mandates that could compel it to act. In its domestic policies, India remains behind its industrialized counterparts in action towards a circular economy. But it has begun small steps to in this direction. In 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published a draft tax credit initiative

¹⁷ Mathews, John A., and Hao Tan. "Circular Economy: Lessons from China." *Nature*, no. 531 (23 March 2016), pp. 440-42.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/531440a>

¹⁸ "Circular Economy Action Plan." *Environment*. N.d., accessed 1 July 2023.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en

¹⁹ "First Circular Economy Action Plan." *Environment*. N.d., accessed 1 July 2023.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/first-circular-economy-action-plan_en

²⁰ "Many EU Member States Not on Track to Meet Recycling Targets for Municipal Waste and Packaging Waste." *European Environment Agency*, 29 June 2023.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/many-eu-member-states>

²¹ Abnett, Kate. "EU Pledges 4 Billion Euros More in Climate Funds for Poorer Countries." *Reuters*, 15 September 2021.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/eu-pledges-extra-4-billion-euros-international-climate-finance-2021-09-15/>

that would be among the first steps that nations would take in supporting business ventures to promote sustainability in their domestic ventures.²²

Such actions came off the heels of a new focus by the government in 2021 began investigating policy interventions through the creation of many new committees looking at topics from plastics to e-waste.²³ As a recent addition to the list of nations investigating the implementation of circle economies, India will have a great interest in finding systems to model their own progress on.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): The NAM is the UN's largest voting bloc, composed of 120 member states and 17 observers mostly composed of developing member states. Largely consisting of developing countries, it plays an in-between role on issues of climate change. Some of its members are badly affected by pollution, climate change, rising sea levels and desertification. But many also depends on unrestrained economic growth to lift their people from poverty.

Generally, the NAM states tend to accept climate change goals, but resist measures that would force them to make sacrifices or weaken their national sovereignty. They stress the importance for former colonial countries to adapt first and pay for adaptation elsewhere.

The NAM Member States are sensitive to international economic conditions that affect their future needs. They seek to protect their economies, and especially support measure to provide a base for economic growth. To gain

NAM support, efforts towards a global circular economy must promise generous funding to invest in the infrastructure they need to accomplish such a feat. The focus within these states currently is to utilize available resources focusing on repairing old products rather than replacing them with new, these nations would be especially opposed to restrictions on how to utilize their own funds as member states who have contributed little to the global problems necessitating a circular economy. In addition, efforts to expand access to technology and other resources for the enactment of circular policies would be looked very favorably upon by the NAM bloc.

Russia: There is an important domestic dialogue within Russia about economic circularity. Internationally, Russia says Member States are free to act as they will. But the Putin government resists international pressure for any kind of domestic reform; humanitarian, environmental economic or political.

Russia will try to steer the ECOSOC away from measure that could create a precedent that might harm its freedom to export oil and gas, it's most important sources of revenue. Many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America also depend on natural resources exports, and are sympathetic to Russia's position.

Currently, there has been little done within the Russian Federation legislatively to advance the ideals of a circular economy with most efforts being indirectly, tangentially related.²⁴ Further splash back from the war in Ukraine will only provide further hindrance to the Federation's capability to move towards adopting a waste

²² Singal, Nidhi. "Indian Government Introduces Draft for Green Credits, to Reward Environmental Initiatives." *Business Today*, 29 June 2023. <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/economy/story/indian-government-introduces-draft-for-green-credits-to-reward-environmental-initiatives-387559-2023-06-29>

²³ "Govt Driving Transition from Linear to Circular Economy." *Press Information Bureau*, 18 March

2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1705772>

²⁴ Liubarskaia, Maria A, Valery P Piliavsky, and Natalia A Putinceva . "Circular Economy in the Russian Federation: Problems and Potential for the Development." *Circular Economy: Recent Trends in Global Perspective*, 24 November 2021, pp. 281-307. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-0913-8_9

system capable of processing more than a small portion of waste back into salvageable materials for the economy.

However, given the nation’s history of continued increases in foreign aid and investment for developing nations indicates a trend excluding implications of the Eastern European war. In normal times, Russia would likely be an ally to increased funding for developing nations. Yet under current conditions they might prefer milder actions in the current time for international progress economically.

United States: Economic policy in the US is very controversial, with strong partisan divisions. The Republic Party opposes virtually all measures to address climate change. For American diplomats, these issues involve difficult changes political power shifts from party to party. For the United States, even resolutions that only urge action by Member States can be highly controversial. Under President Biden, the US is supportive. It is committed to tackling environmental issues including the development of more sustainable modes of economy both domestically and abroad. But even the Biden Administration resists binding commitments. It especially cautious about the domestic political consequences of any initiative associated with climate change.

Since 2009 US agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have incorporated circularity as a key aspect to the sustainable materials management (SMM).²⁵ However, much of these processes have been limited to recycling and limited reduction in plastic production and pollution. Although agencies such as the National Institute of

Standards and Technology (NIST) are key proponents of the research into circular economies and how they can be implemented in the US.²⁶

Internationally, the US international development agency, USAID, promotes circular economies along with the creation and scaling of green energy through the SURE program.²⁷ Another milestone came when the US Congress passed the bipartisan *Save Our Seas 2.0 Act* to encourage collaborating with other nations on the removal of plastic pollution from the oceans.²⁸



Some Proposals for Action

As it deliberates on whether and how to promote development of circular economics, the ECOSOC has many options it can pursue. The

²⁵ “What Is a Circular Economy?” EPA. N.d., accessed 2 July 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/what-circular-economy>.

²⁶ “Circular Economy.” NIST, 9 March 2023. <https://www.nist.gov/circular-economy>

²⁷ “Promoting a Circular Economy: Energy: Scaling up Renewable Energy.” USAID. N.d., accessed 2 July 2023. <https://www.usaid.gov/energy/sure/circular-economy>

²⁸ Save our seas 2.0 act. Bill, Congress.gov § (2020). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

United Nations has published many policy briefs on how to achieve circular economies, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) paper published in 2021, with areas of precedent on global cooperation for sustainable measures environmentally, economically, and socially.²⁹ What path the ECOSOC chases remains open for the Member States to decide. Some of those possibilities include:

Form a Commission to examine the implementation and problems with enacting circular economies. This is the least demanding option for the ECOSOC. Rather than call for action, deploys resolving the issue. The ECOSOC may create a commission under the Secretary-General composed of experts of related fields to more closely examine the resources needed for member states to adopt policies towards a circular economy before committing resources to any such initiatives. Such a path for action would likely be popular among nations skeptical at global action preferring instead individual national actions. USD 20 million of funding donations would be needed to ensure a successful investigation by the SG.

Create a United Nations fund to assist member states in implementing policies, utilizing equipment, and preparing infrastructure to support circulation of consumed goods back into production. The ECOSOC could look to wealthier, industrialized nations to provide the base of funding for this program to support industrializing nations establish the foundation for a circular economy and further support the implementation of SDG 10 - Reduced Inequality. Alternatively, it could call on

Member States to create their own sovereign funds to support work within their own territory and oceanic economic zones. The General Assembly would also need to develop policies—criteria—to guide budget allocations. Regardless, any fund would need to accrue \$4.1 trillion USD funding globally.³⁰

Call for a Global Summit to guide corporations, NGOs, and member states in enacting initiatives and taking steps to move towards the development of a global circular economy, similar to the COP conferences on climate change and biodiversity. This conference could include forming recommendations or establishing a road map for participating stakeholders to transition their commercial and industrial sectors, further supporting SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals. Based upon the cost of similar international conferences, the costs could add up to \$400 million USD for the host country.³¹

Implement a Global Compact Framework for nations to implement or follow on an international scale of standards to be enforced on nations and corporations to ensure a basic standard for global cooperation in achieving a circular economy. Although this committee would lack the authority to enforce such a framework, it could be the first step towards a global compact towards establishing basic standards for the fair and equitable development of circular economies.

Domestically, a framework could include a wider model for how to achieve a circular economy by 2050 in line with many of the initiatives pushed forth in climate and

²⁹ “UN/DESA Policy Brief #109: Accelerate Action to Revamp Production and Consumption Patterns: The Circular Economy, Cooperatives and the Social and Solidarity Economy | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2 July 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-109-accelerate-action-to-revamp-production-and-consumption-patterns-the->

[circular-economy-cooperatives-and-the-social-and-solidarity-economy/](https://www.unep.org/resources/state-finance-nature-2021)

³⁰ UNEP, WEF, ELD, Vivid Economies. “State of Finance for Nature 2021.” (27 May 2021). <https://www.unep.org/resources/state-finance-nature-2021>

³¹ “COP26: Climate Summit May Cost ‘Several Hundred Million Pounds.’” BBC News, 15 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-51112821>

conservation summits over the years. Such should easily incorporate past international action plans for how states can achieve circular economies within the same time frame with a goal of making adoption of other initiatives easier with increased resource accessibility that comes with such an economic model.

Either solution would bear no cost the body would need to address, but would accomplish SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals.

Establish a Database for technology and data from research and innovation for member states with less access to such information to be supported by developed nations who have spearheaded efforts into enacting such policies. This may be unpopular among some developed nations who fear their information will fall into the hands of their international rivals, though developed nations would benefit greatly if coupled with the resources to utilize the information. The allocation of \$50 million USD would be needed to fund the infrastructure to ensure project feasibility.

Identify sites Globally exhibiting Circular Economies in practice. A solution that is less prone to sharing information could involve finding sites that have successfully implemented, or are more closely aligned with the goals of, a circular economy that could instead serve as models for how other countries can adopt similar practices for the same end conclusion. Such an intervention places much more control in what information gets shared globally with less pressure to share information at the cost of global goodwill, though

developing nations would be at a stronger disadvantage from more obtuse access to information. \$50 million USD would be needed to ensure the best sites are selected.

Collaborate with Corporations to establish best practices. This body could look towards working jointly with corporations to find voluntary reforms that could be implemented privately in a way that transitions towards sustainable economic models for the planet that continue to promote economic viability of those corporations internationally. This is especially true for businesses seeking to garner positive public relations on an international scale and invest into new markets. This solution would bear no cost the body would need to address, but would accomplish SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals.

Encourage Consumer Awareness in collaboration with NGOs for corporations whose product lines are line with certain requirements set forth. This is another avenue for encouraging corporations to comply with actions to obtain circular economies that also raise awareness in consumers to support products produced and disposed in circular ways. Costs to advertise and popularize those campaigns would need at a minimum \$250 million USD for chance at success, whilst further accomplishing SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goal.



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Old Dominion University Model United Nations Society

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