



صندوق النقد العربي  
ARAB MONETARY FUND

## **High-Level Virtual Workshop**

**“Transitioning to a Circular Economy in the Arab Region”**  
**14-15 June 2023**

**Arab Monetary Fund**



## **High-Level Virtual Workshop** **“Transitioning to a Circular Economy in the Arab Region”** **14-15 June 2023**

### **Introduction**

The concept of a circular economy has emerged as a promising approach to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today. In contrast to the traditional linear economy, which is based on a "take-make-use-dispose" model, a circular economy aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them before recovering and regenerating materials at the end of their life cycle. The benefits of a circular economy are numerous and far-reaching, including reducing waste, improving resource efficiency, and promoting sustainable growth. By designing products and services that prioritize refuse, rethink, reduce, reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose, recycle, and recovering, a circular economy can reduce the environmental impact of production and consumption, while creating new economic opportunities and jobs.

At its core, a circular economy requires a fundamental shift in how we approach production and consumption. It requires a collaborative and integrated approach that engages stakeholders across the entire value chain, from design and manufacturing to end-of-life recovery and recycling. It also requires a supportive policy and regulatory framework that incentivizes and rewards sustainable practices and innovation. While the transition to a circular economy is not without its challenges, it presents a unique opportunity for businesses, governments, and individuals to work together towards a more sustainable and equitable future. As we continue to confront the environmental and social challenges of our time, the circular economy offers a vision of a more resilient, regenerative, and prosperous economy for all.

As we all know, the global economy is facing numerous challenges, including climate change, resource scarcity, and environmental degradation. In response, the concept of the circular economy has gained traction as a promising approach to address these challenges. A circular economy is one that is restorative and regenerative by design, and aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times.

The Arab region, like many other regions, faces its own set of economic, social, and environmental challenges, hence transitioning to a circular economy presents a unique opportunity to address these challenges. This workshop will provide a platform for stakeholders from across the world and the Arab region to share their experiences and insights, learn from each other, and identify opportunities for collaboration and action on a wide range of topics related to the circular economy, including policy and regulatory frameworks, innovation and entrepreneurship, sustainable design and materials, and stakeholder engagement and collaboration.



## High-Level Virtual Workshop “Transitioning to A Circular Economy in The Arab Region” 14-15 June 2023

### Objectives

The objective of the "Transitioning to a Circular Economy in the Arab Region" workshop is to bring together stakeholders to identify and discuss opportunities for transitioning to a sustainable and circular economy. The workshop aims to raise awareness of the circular economy concept, share best experiences and practices, identify barriers and potential solutions, facilitate collaboration among stakeholders, explore opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, and discuss the role of policy and regulation. The workshop also aims to contribute to the development of a more sustainable and circular economy in the Arab region that promotes economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social well-being for all.

### Participants

The workshop targets the high-level technical officials from the national concerned parties in the Arab region, including:

- The Ministries of Finance.
- The Ministries of Economy.
- The Ministries of Industry.
- The Ministries of Investment.
- The Ministries of Climate Change and Environment.
- Central Banks.
- Arab Coordination Group.
- General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.
- Arab Federation for the Consumer.
- International organizations that support circular economy transmissions.

### Timeframe

According to the following program, the workshop will be organized virtually on 14-15 June 2023. It will start at 2p.m. (Abu Dhabi time), considering the time difference between various Arab countries to ensure a high participation of targeted stakeholders.

**High-Level Virtual Workshop**  
**“Transitioning to a Circular Economy in the Arab Region”**  
**14-15 June 2023**

**PROGRAM**

Timing (UAE Time)	Sessions
<b>Day One: Wednesday, 14 June 2023</b>	
14:00-14:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
14:10-14:50	<b>Session One</b> <b>Circular Economy (CE) and its importance to the global economy.</b> <b>Andrea Liverani</b> , <i>Lead Specialist in the Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global, World Bank.</i> Q&As
14:50-15:30	<b>Session Two</b> <b>Policy and regulatory frameworks for CE: policy interventions that governments can implement to CE projects.</b> <b>Grzegorz Peszko</b> , <i>Lead Economist, Global Platforms, Environment, Natural Resources &amp; Blue Economy, World Bank.</i> Q&As
15:30-16:10	<b>Session Three</b> <b>Obstacles, Challenges and Opportunities for CE in the Arab Region.</b> <b>Dr. Hammou Laamrani</b> , <i>Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA.</i> Q&As
16:10-16:50	<b>Session Four</b> <b>Circular Economy Index in the Arab Region.</b> <b>Dr Anwar Othman</b> , <i>Economist, Arab Monetary Fund.</i> Q&As
16:50-17:30	<b>Session Five</b> <b>The Role of the Circular Economy in Achieving the SDGs.</b> <b>Dr Shardul Agrawala</b> , <i>Head of the Environment and Economy Integration division (OECD Environment Directorate).</i> Q&As

**High-Level Virtual Workshop**  
**“Transitioning to A Circular Economy in The Arab Region”**  
**14-15 June 2023**

<b>Day Two: Thursday, 15 June 2023</b>	
14:00-14:40	<p><b>Session Six</b></p> <p><b>The role of CE in mitigating climate change risk.</b></p> <p><b>Dr Hassaan Ghazali</b>, <i>Senior Manager, Research &amp; Policy, UICCA, UAE.</i></p> <p>Q&amp;As</p>
14:40-15:20	<p><b>Session Seven</b></p> <p><b>The role of private sector in a circular economy: how businesses can embrace CE principles and practices, and the benefits that CE can bring to businesses.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Ibrahim Abdul Majeed Al Ali</b>, <i>Abu Dhabi Waste Management Company – Tadweer.</i></p> <p>Q&amp;As</p>
15:20–16:00	<p><b>Session Eight</b></p> <p><b>Circular economy in practice: Examples of successful CE projects and initiatives from Arab Region.</b></p> <p><b>Samah Saleh</b>, <i>Ministry of Environment, Egypt</i></p> <p>Q&amp;As</p>
16:00-16:40	<p><b>Session Nine</b></p> <p><b>Circular economy and waste management: Latest innovations on waste management practices and their contribution to the CE.</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Mónica A. Altamirano</b>, <i>Director, Climate Impact, WaterEquity-Netherlands.</i></p> <p>Q&amp;As</p>
16:40 –17:20	<p><b>Session Ten</b></p> <p><b>The future of circular economy in the Arb region.</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Hammou Laamrani</b>, <i>Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA.</i></p> <p>Q&amp;As</p>
17:20 –17:30	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>