



Special Session 11

Enabling the Circular Carbon Economy

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 3.45–5.15 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

The Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) has gained traction as a pathway to deliver resource efficiency and relieve pressure on natural resources to achieve global climate goals.

The CCE framework is particularly relevant in hard-to-abate sectors where decarbonization is difficult, including energy-intensive industries such as **cement, steel, and chemical production**. These heavy industry sectors are integral components of the global economy and development aspirations of the Arab region and are also growing emitters of carbon, jointly representing around 20 per cent of energy and process-related emissions globally.

This makes decarbonization of energy-intensive industrial sectors most critical in addressing climate change and ensuring a just, inclusive transition.

The session will stimulate discussion on how to successfully apply CCE principles in energy-intensive industries through industrial design, technology transfer, and innovative financing while promoting human wellbeing, preserving nature, cutting pollution, making economies more competitive, and creating green and decent jobs. The session will also deliver recommendations on key action areas by public and private actors to drive deployment of CCE technologies and stimulate innovation in the energy intensive industries in the Arab region.

Questions to be addressed

- Does accelerating circularity pose challenges to the current economic model – where are we seeing support in the region for making this shift?
- What are the main barriers to accelerating CCE in the region and how can they be overcome?
- What are some specific examples of solutions that can be applied to accelerate circularity, given current global challenges?
- What support is needed across the Arab region to create an enabling environment for further innovation and deployment to decarbonize key industrial sectors?
- What is the role of businesses in accelerating a shift? Is there sufficient investment and how could R&D be accelerated?
- How is circular economy a growing priority for the Arab region's development cooperation, particularly with Europe?
- What forms of international cooperation and coordination can help to facilitate the emergence of new low-carbon value chains across the Arab region?

Moderator

- **Ms. Radia Sedaoui**, Chief, Energy, UN-ESCWA

Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Princess Mashaal Saud Alshalan**, Founding Partner, AEON Collective

Panelists

- **Mr. Fadhli Zayed Fadhli** Ahmed, Projects Lead Engineer, Emirates Steel Arkaan, UAE
- **Mr. Mohamed Salaheldin Ahmed**, General Manager, Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals Co., Sidpec, Egypt
- **Dr. Nael Alhosami**, General Manager, Amman Chamber of Commerce, Jordan
- **Mr. Faisal Al Qurooni**, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Energy, KSA
- **Mr. Soufiane Hsina**, Business Development Manager, Ciments Du Maroc, Morocco
- **Mr. Stefan Buettner**, Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, UNECE
- **Ms. Rana Ghoniem**, Chief, Energy Systems and Decarbonization Unit, UNIDO

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#).

Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room II (B1 level).