

Towards local action on circular development in sub-Saharan Africa

Side-Event: Green Tent by the Major Groups and Stakeholders: Innovative solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Tuesday 12th of March from 17:30 – 19:00 at the Green Tent in the UN Office in Nairobi

Context

Over the next 15 years, cities in Africa will experience higher growth rates than any other region of the world, thus placing considerable strain on their ability to provide essential services and potentially deepening already existing inequalities and poverty. Following “business as usual” approaches to urban development, material consumption in Africa’s cities is forecasted to increase by 790% between 2010 and 2050 (IRP, 2018), making it the region with the highest anticipated growth in resource demand in the world. The implications of this upsurge in consumption are staggering in a continent already facing colossal waste and resource related challenges.

Innovative solutions will be required to ensure that waste and resource management support more circular development, allowing for waste streams to be re-used and recycled within cities to drastically reduce demand for new resources, increase access to resources, protect biodiversity and limit future greenhouse gas emissions. Well-designed, circular development projects can also change how resources are allocated and accessed, make waste collection services more affordable to end-users, create much needed jobs, and stimulate local economies.

This event will kick-start exploratory discussions on the needs and challenges linked to the operationalization of circular development in sub-Saharan Africa by bringing together city representatives and key stakeholders in an interactive session.

Methodology

(5min) **Introduction and thematic framing:** Roman Mendle

(10min) **Short opening remarks:** “What is the most urgent need with regards to circular development at the local level?”

Each speaker to answer the above question within 1 minute.

(60min) **Interactive panel discussion in three twenty-minute rounds**

- Round 1: Circular development and food systems
- Round 2: Taking a lifecycle approach to materials and waste management
- Round 3: Local economic development and the role of waste pickers

(15min) **Audience participation**

Speakers

Facilitator: Roman Mendle, Circular Development Program Manager, ICLEI World Secretariat

Panelists:

- Ms. Enezael Emmanuel Ayo, Environmental Health Officer, City of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Mr. Leboo Ole Morintat Deputy County Secretary, Nairobi City County, Kenya
- Mr. Semyalo Ismail Mulambuzi, Secretary General, Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities and Counties Cooperation (LVRLACC)
- Mr. Simon Mbata, National Coordinator and Founding Member, South African Waste Pickers Association's
- Ms. Ana Rocha, Executive Director of Nipe Fagio, Tanzania
- Dr. Rene Peter Hohmann, Head of Global Programmes, Cities Alliance
- Ms. Martina Otto, Head, Cities Unit, UN Environment
- Mr. Thomas Chiramba, Senior Officer, Human Settlements, Regional Office for Africa, UN Habitat