Circularity in Sectors

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A. Background and Linkages to Strategic Objectives

Programme Objective:
To scale up the adoption of circularity policies and practices in the plastic, textile, electronic high-impact sectors, while ensuring positive social and economic outcomes, through a common framework of interventions across UNEP.

Programme Duration:
Jan 2023-Dec 2025

Envisaged impact of programme:
- Reduced GHG Emissions.
- Reduced waste and leakage to the environment.
- Reduced Nature loss.
- Reduced loss of human health.

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A. Background and Linkages to Strategic Objectives

Programme Outputs (key areas of work):
- Uptake of circular and sustainable practices.
- Shift in government policy and regulatory environment.
- Alignment of financing and leveraging public and private investment.
- Social action and behavioral change.
- Knowledge and science to orient decision making.

Synergies with other programmes within MTS:
- Decarbonization.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and systems.
- Pollution and Health.
- Towards Zero Waste.
- Finance and Economic Transformations.

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A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW

Contribution to MTS Outcomes (PoW 2025 Outcomes): Towards a Pollution-free Planet

Outcome 3A: Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Outcome 3B: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites.

Outcome 3C: Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.

Contribution to PoW Direct Outcomes

Climate

1.6 - Private sector and financial markets apply sustainability and climate-friendly standards and norms as core values of the economy.

Nature

2.10 - Sustainable value chains and circularity maximized.

2.15 - Consumer awareness and behaviour shift to lower footprints.

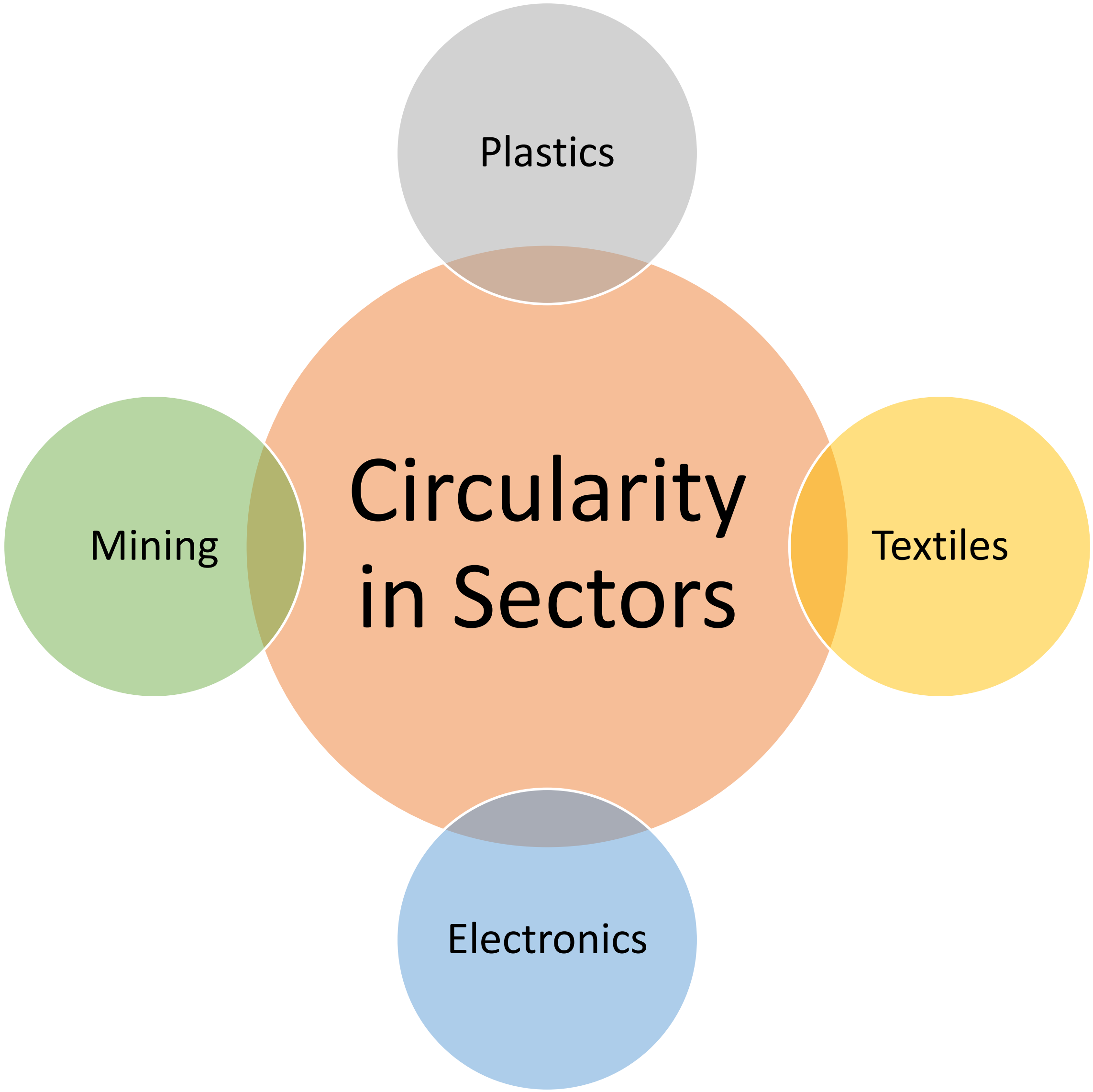
Pollution

3.3 - Plastic pollution reduced. **3.9** - Harmful chemicals reduced.

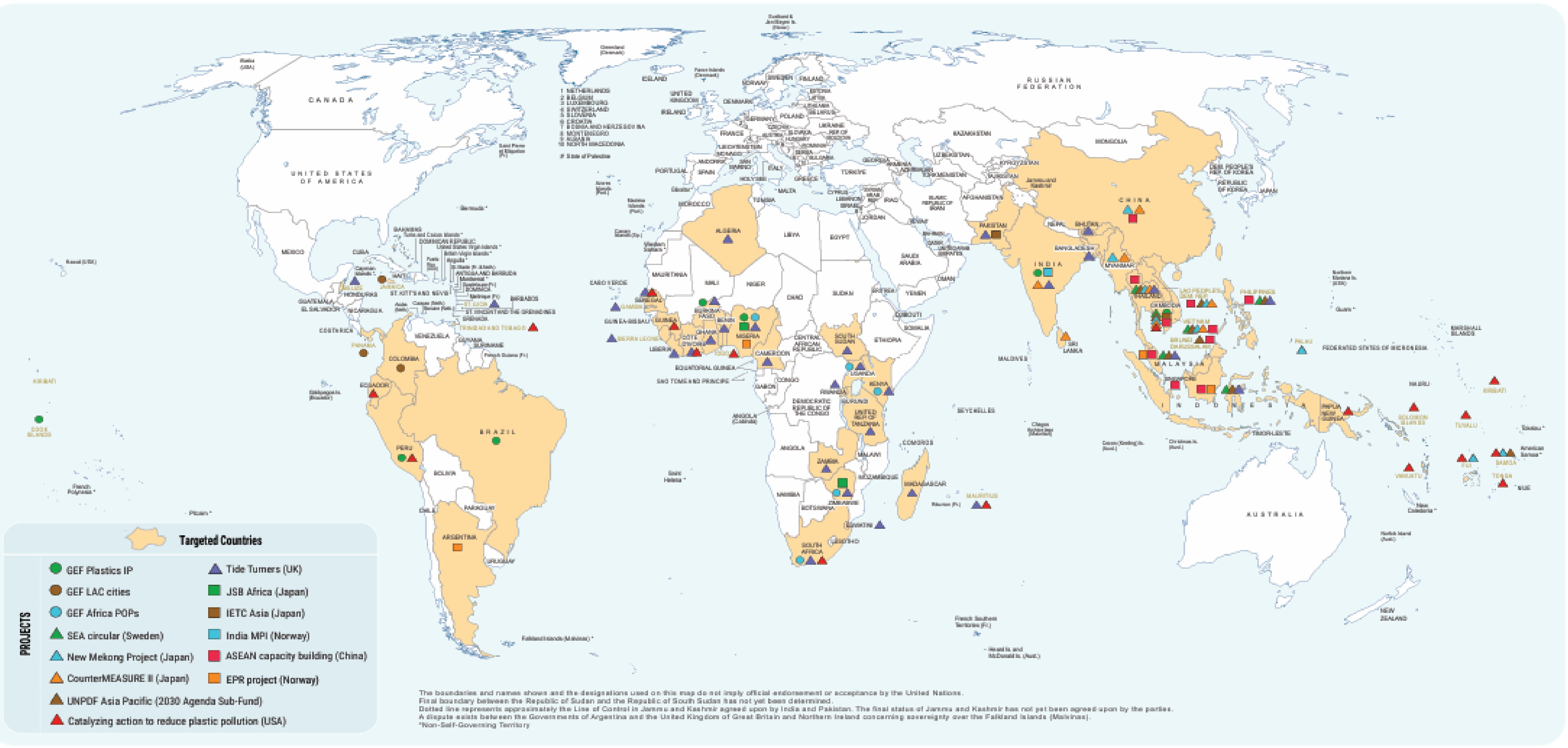
3.12 – Markets/supply chains/trade/consumer behaviour shifted to reduce pollution.

3.14 - Economics support a shift away from harmful chemicals.

B. Project Portfolio: Overview



B. Project Portfolio: Plastics High Impact Sector



C. Results Achieved (Plastics)

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Country support on:

EPR	Reuse	IWM/Plastics	Policy/Monitoring
• Argentina • Indonesia • Malaysia • Nigeria • Thailand • Philippines	• Zimbabwe	• Laos • Indonesia • Bhutan • Cambodia • Pakistan	• Malaysia • Viet Nam • Thailand • Cambodia • Laos • Fiji • Palau

Partnerships:

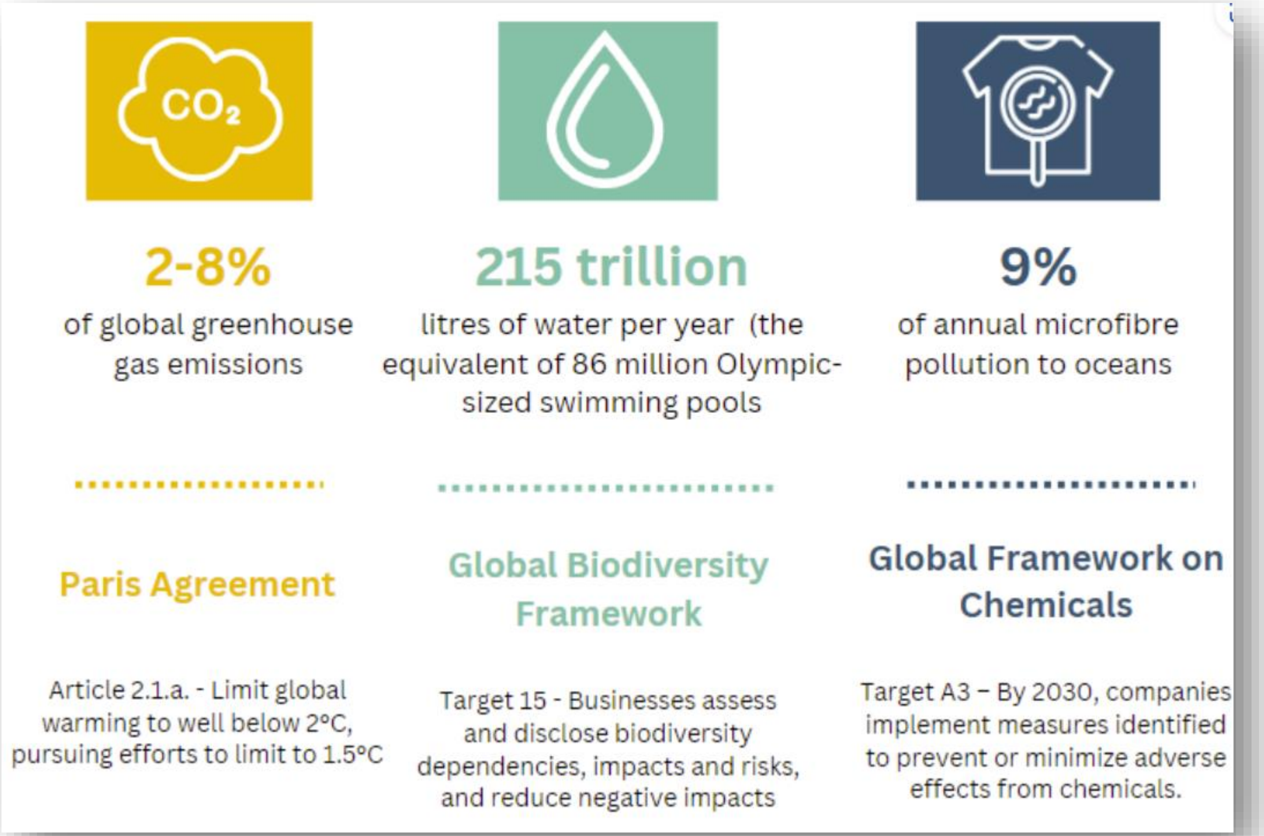
- Plastics in sustainability strategy of 8 financial institutions.
- Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution : > US$ 15.5 trillion in combined assets.

B. Project Portfolio: Textiles High Impact Sector

Description of Project Portfolio:

- One UNEP Textiles project.
- Used Textile Trade.
- Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in Textile Value Chains (India, Kenya, South Africa, Tunisia).
- GEF: Transforming the Fashion Sector for Nature (Phase 2).
- GEF: Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains.
- GEF7: Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), in the textiles sector in Asia.
- SAICM: A review of PFAS as a Chemical Class in the Textile Sector.

Each year the textile sector is estimated to be responsible for:



C. Results Achieved (Textiles)

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Country support in:

1. Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia
2. Benchmarking tool complete and 22 voluntary sustainability standards assessed.
3. GEF integrated programme to remove hazardous chemicals from value chains launched in December 2024.

Policy dialogues and reporting standards:

- Global Textile Policy Dialogue launched; national dialogues in Ghana, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Tunisia.
- Engaged in G7 Agenda on Circular Textiles.
- Inputs provided to the Global Reporting Initiative's Textile and Apparel Sector standard.

B. Project Portfolio: Minerals and Metals High Impact Sector

Description of Project Portfolio:

- Portfolio funding: US$ 10.3 million.
- UNEP-GEF planet GOLD programme in 20 countries.
- UNEA 6/5 Resolution follow-up.
- SG Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals – UNEP contributions.
- Enhancing Circularity and Sustainability in Businesses and Value Chains.
- Preventing and Addressing the Degradation of Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems from Source to Sea.
- One UNEP Mining project under development.

C. Results Achieved: Mining Sector

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1. **Secretary-General's Panel on critical energy transition minerals** *Resourcing the energy transition: principles to guide critical energy transition minerals towards equity and justice (Sep 2024).*

2. **CRITICAL TRANSITIONS Circularity, equity, and responsibility in the quest for energy transition minerals** (UNEP working paper, Nov 2024).

3. **ESG aspects of African Mining Vision and its Governance Frameworks**

4. Strengthening of partnerships under UNEA 6/5.

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHT

UNEP and IGF strengthen collaboration on environmental sustainability of minerals and metals

B. Project Portfolio: Electronics High Impact Sector

Description of Project Portfolio :

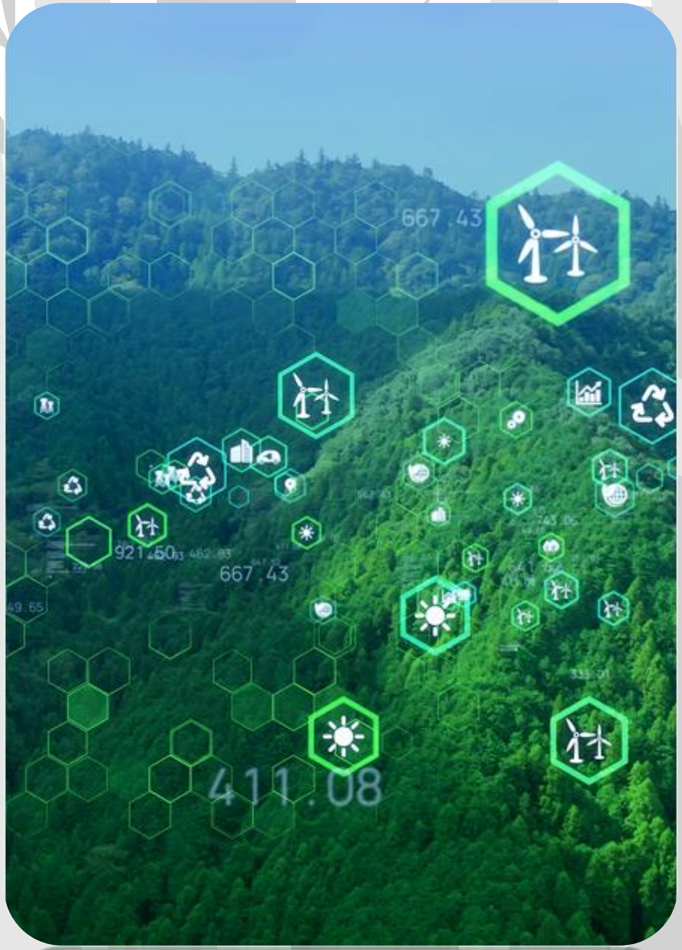
- Project Portfolio : US$ 8 million.
- Sustainable procurement for ICT Pact (Circular and Fair ICT).
- UNEP-GEF child projects in SADC and Kazakhstan (under UNIDO-GEF Global Electronics Programme).
- E-waste (under the Towards Zero Waste Programme).
- One UNEP Electronics project under development.

54 million tonnes of e-waste produced annually, doubling by 2050

D. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned:

- Initial Financial Resource Gaps.
- Complexity of Multi-Stakeholder Engagement
- Capacity Building Needs
- Behavioral Change Challenges
- Upstream Innovation

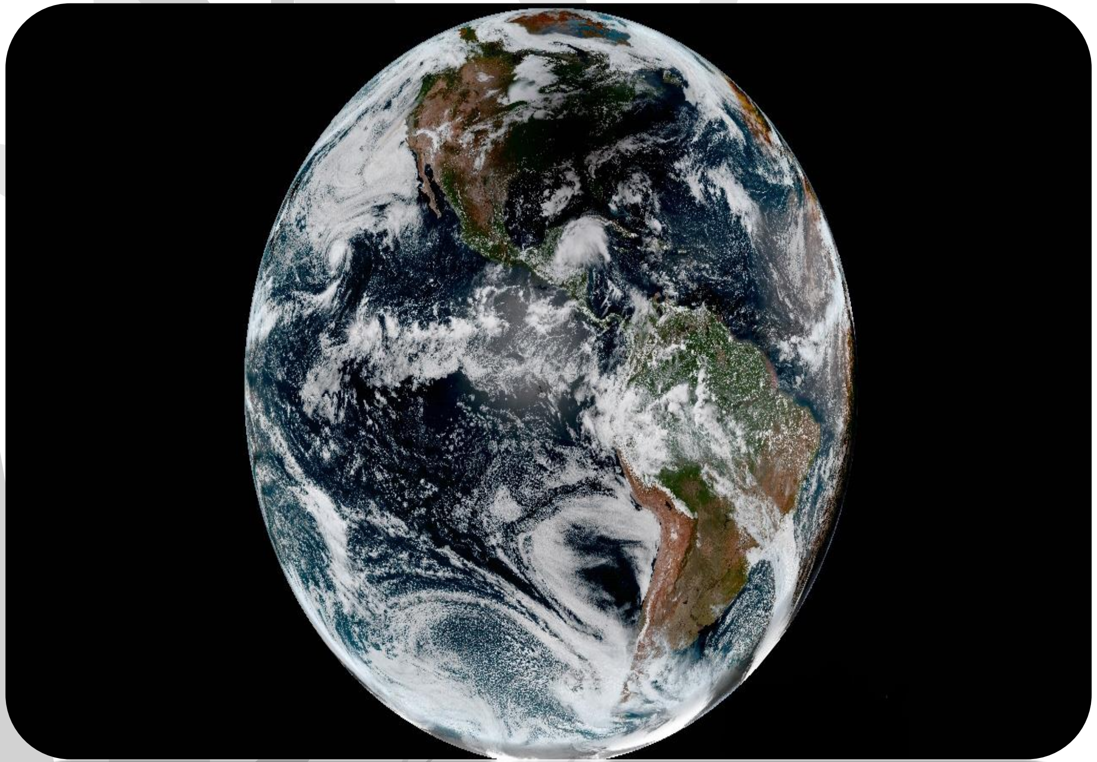


Changes Made:

- Securing Financial Resources.
- Capacity Building Strengthened.
- Prioritization of Upstream Solutions.
- Cross-Sector Alignment.

E. Way Forward

- A: Policy Enhancements
- B: Innovative Project Scaling:
- C: Strengthened Partnerships
- D: Capacity Development
- E: Boosted Financing



Role of Member States:

- Policy Adoption
- Financial Contribution
- Knowledge Exchange

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G. The Way Forward

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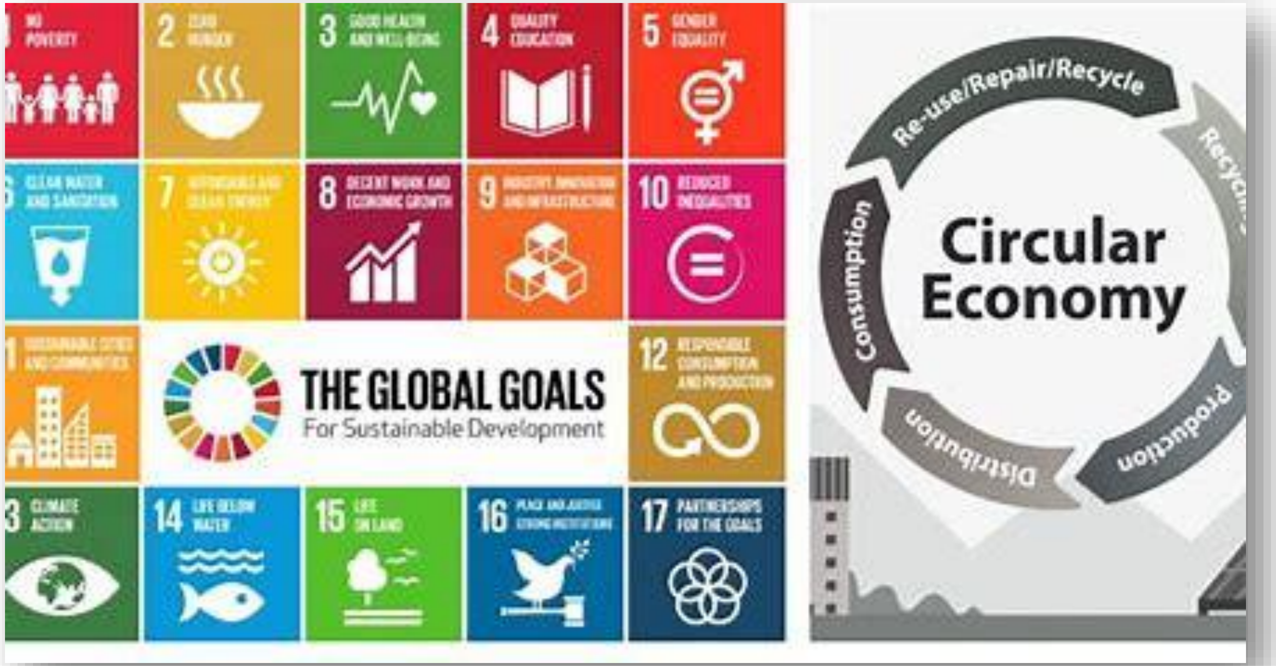
A: Financial institutions increasingly support circularity in value chains.

B: Scaling up of country activities in plastics, textiles, minerals and metals and electronics value chains

C : Digital knowledge hub on environmental aspects of minerals: Demonstration on 11 February and launch shortly (UNEA Res. 6/5).

D: UNEP support to the Panel recommendations on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

E: Global Policy dialogues on textiles



Thank you

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