



Roundtable

Title of the session: *Combining innovation, efficiency and equity in the use of territorial resources: an integrated local development approach through green and circular economy models.*

Thematic line: Territorial Economic models to tackle inequality in the wake of the current pandemic crisis

Sub-axis: The potential of alternative economic models in driving a just transition to more cohesive societies

Organizers: UNDP

Date: 31/05/2021

Time: 08:00 - 09:30 (UTC-3) / 13:00 - 14:30 (UTC+2)

Platform: Zoom

Capacity of the session: 150 people

Registration needed: yes

Language: ENG-SP-FR

Short summary of the session

In the current context, green and circular economies have a huge recognized potential to drive the transition to more just, resilient and sustainable development outcomes. This entails strong institutional and regulatory frameworks and integrated approaches that allow positioning and framing them as key transversal components of local development policies and strategies, at the intersection of social, economic and environmental dimensions, and addressing the needs and interests of different actors at different levels.

This session aims at exploring the nexus and the different drivers of the relation between green and circular economies and integrated local development policies and strategies.



1. Conceptualization of the session

One of the world's key challenges today is how to accelerate the transformation into a greener economy. There is ample evidence that the transition to an inclusive green economy can indeed act as a new engine for growth and a strong driver of decent work creation in developing, emerging and advanced economies.

This calls for a fundamental transformation of existing development practices meeting the complex bundling of policy goals: to serve as engine of sustainable growth a green transition must also be a 'just' transition, blending environmental with technological and social innovation into an economic model that is inclusive and equitable, and that places more emphasis on human well-being whilst preserving the planet's natural resources.

Green economy initiatives and strategies impact different social groups and patterns of inequality. It is therefore key that strong institutions enabling participation and collective action, inclusive social policies and conducive regulations concur to promote a combined greener and fairer economy. This requires that green and circular economies are fully integrated as part of local (economic) development policies and strategies that reconcile environmental, social and economic concerns and allow a convergence of alternative economic models and practices to integrate them.

Moreover, it is being widely shown that productive models based on an indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, like industrial food production and agribusiness models based on intensive agriculture and animal farming have harmful effects on the environment and our health, causing huge biodiversity losses and increasing our exposure and vulnerability to new pathogens.

New modalities are needed that enable a transition to more sustainable and inclusive food and agricultural systems, inspired by the principles of agroecology, fair trade practices, new urban-rural partnerships, the integration and localization of production and consumption patterns (urban food systems, consumers' cooperatives, social markets, local commerce) and the resort to alternative energy sources and (local/community-based) provision and management modalities to achieve the (at once social and environmental) sustainability of territorial ecosystems.

2. Objective and key issues for discussion

The proposed format of this session is a round table in which actors from different sectors and contexts – supranational bodies, local governments, private organizations - discuss approaches and concrete experiences in promoting the introduction of green and circular economy models and connecting them with local development policies and strategies.

Further specific issues for discussion would include enabling policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks; social, technological and institutional innovation processes; and



the role of regional and international networks and alliances in advancing integrated frameworks for green and circular economic development models.

3. Relevant documentation *(if applicable)*