

COP29 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY on “Empowering Interregional Partnerships for Circular Economy Transition: Towards a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Future via Resource-Efficiency”

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The recent Ministerial Meeting on Circular Economy in Baku for the for the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP) convened under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the COP29 Presidency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). It brought together global leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to accelerate the transition toward a sustainable and circular economy. This high-level event provided a platform to discuss strategies for reducing resource dependency, fostering innovation, and promoting international cooperation to achieve global sustainability goals.

The objectives were to:

- Promote globally the adoption of resource-efficient, sustainable, and circular policies, emphasizing the importance of strengthening regional ownership, connecting interregional networks, and building a cohesive framework of regional platforms to champion the circular transition.
- Introduce the **RESCUE** Initiative, a Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy within the ECO Region. This initiative will advocate for a fair transition to a resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, while supporting the development of consistent policies for circularity and sustainable natural resource management.
- Announce the Joint Declaration on the Baku Resource Efficiency and Circularity Agenda. This non-binding, declarative document will be open to diverse stakeholders, including countries, international organizations (governmental and non-governmental), businesses, academia, and various forums and initiatives.

As per agenda attached, the speakers represented various stakeholders from the UN, Civil Society, EU, and Ministers from the ECO Regions. These speakers illustrated the urgent need to implement circular economy strategies, however, there was a focus on energy and agriculture with a concern expressed by the EU representative invited who mentioned that this topic is not touched in COP negotiations.