



GACERE

Global Alliance on
Circular Economy and
Resource Efficiency

Circular design of plastic products: a basic vocabulary for the implementation of policy and business tools

12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific
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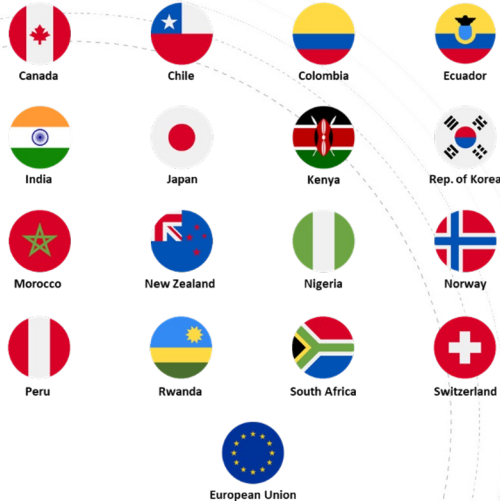


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What is GACERE?

- An **alliance of governments** at the global level willing to work together on and advocate for a **global just circular economy transition** and more sustainable management of natural resources at the political level and in multilateral fora.

16 Member States + the EU



Strategic Partners



Regional Networks

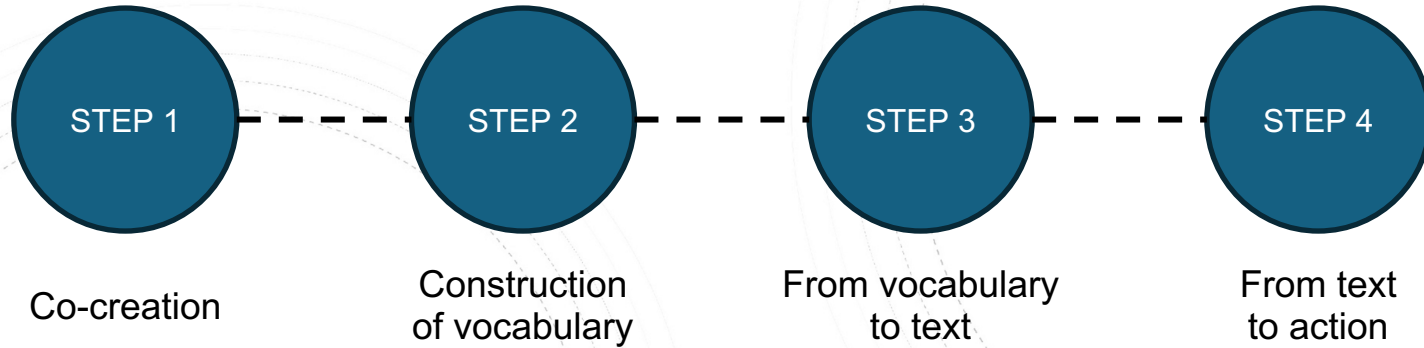


Why a workstream on plastics?

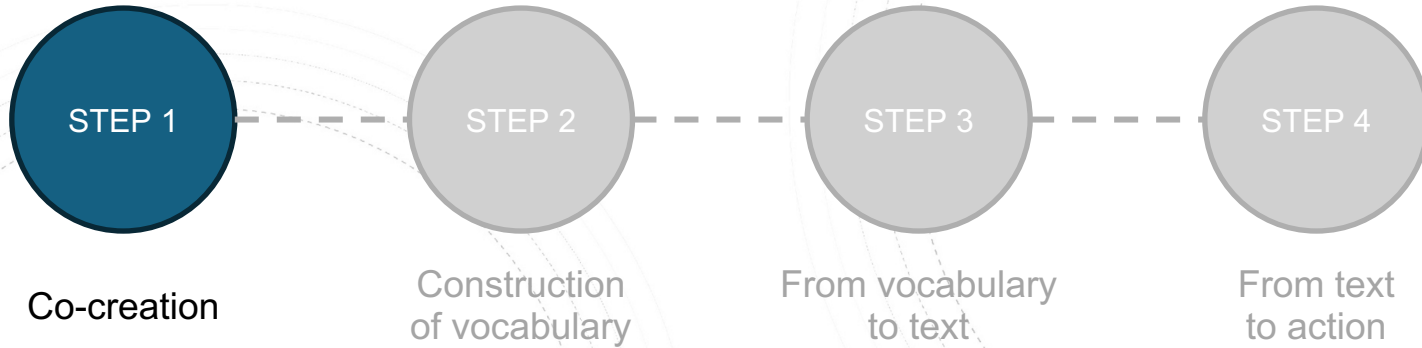
Japan and the EU proposed to work on product design principles and provisions based on circular economy

- ❖ The INC process was born with the mandate of “addressing the full lifecycle of plastics”
- ❖ After INC-2, the zero draft of the instrument was published by the Secretariat and Chair
- ❖ There was a new space to occupy: making sure circular economy would have a prominent role in the treaty

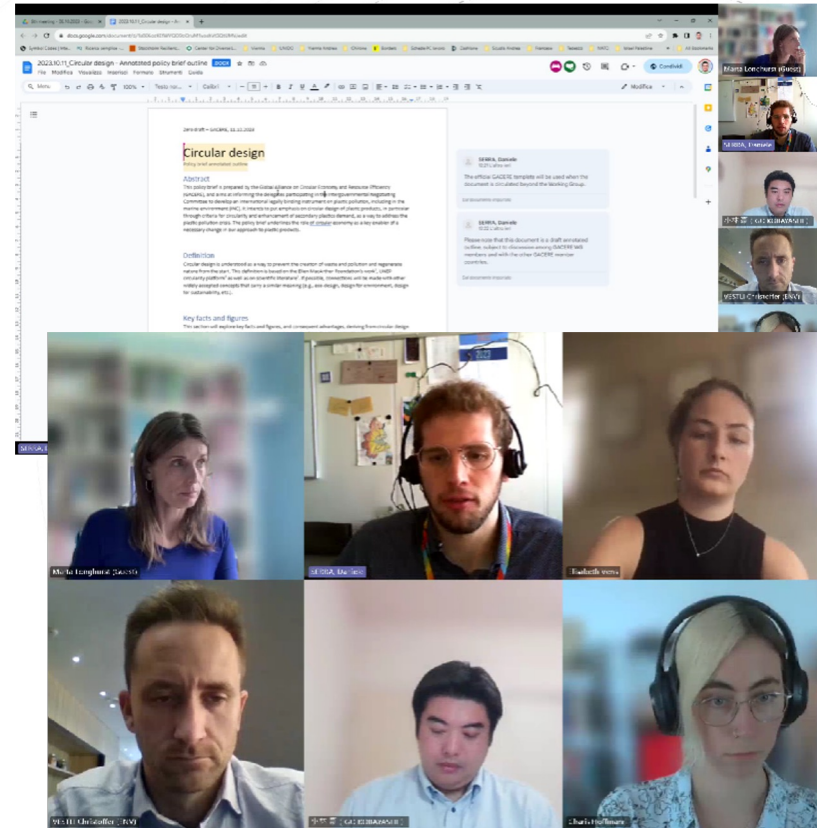
A stepwise process



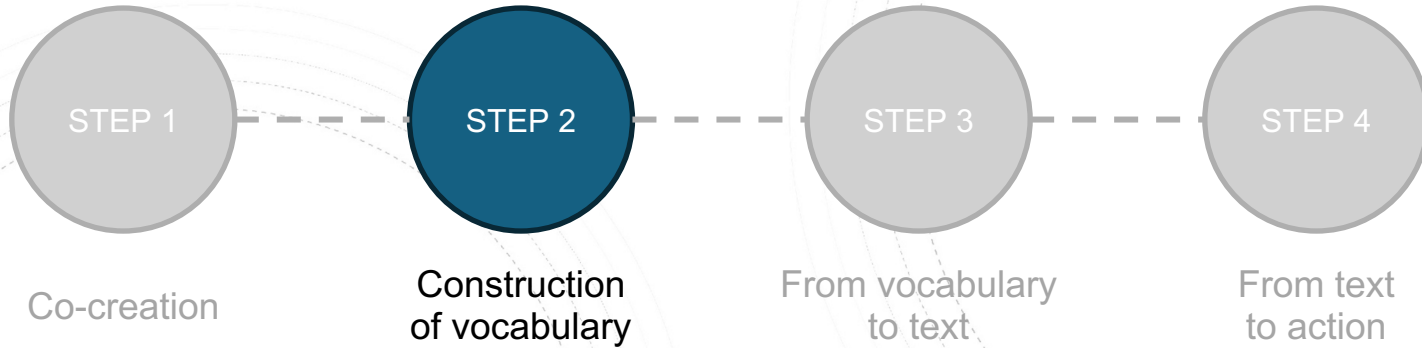
STEP 1: Co-creation



- Organization of weekly or biweekly **meetings** in the run-up to INC-3
- Discussions of potential **intersessional work** and GACERE's contribution
- Several GACERE countries were **active** in the discussions
- UNIDO-led **side event** on circular design at INC-3



STEP 2: Construction of vocabulary



- To create a common vocabulary, the drafting of a **policy brief** was considered instrumental
- The involvement of a GACERE **strategic partner**, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, was requested
- A **knowledge partner from the Global South** was involved (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – South Africa)
- Continuous **feedback** on the text would allow ownership by GACERE members



Circular Design of Plastic Products
Policy Brief Summary

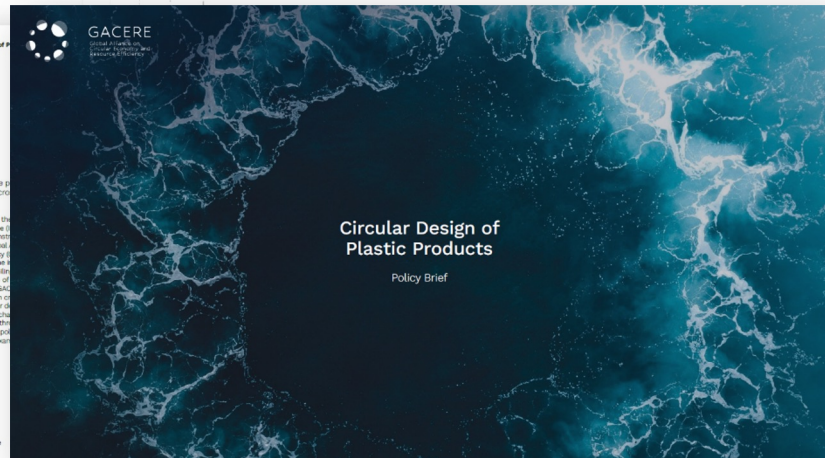
Circular design can help us keep plastic products in the economy for longer and has the potential to retain the highest economic value of a plastic product.

Who is the Policy Brief for?

- INC delegates and negotiators, so they may gain new insights into – and ideas for – the upcoming discussions at INC-4 and beyond
- Observers and stakeholders, so they can benefit from the concepts included in the brief and understand GACERE's contribution to the INC
- Anyone who would like to explore the role of circular design of plastic products

About the Policy Brief
Circular product design has immense potential to address the plastic pollution crisis across sectors. Negotiations are currently ongoing under the inter-governmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding treaty to address plastic pollution. In this context, the Global Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) in its member countries have recognized the importance of supporting these negotiations by compiling and best practices on the circular design of products. The policy brief developed by GACERE suggests for integrating circular design of products into the upcoming instrument. It presents circular design opportunities to shift from wasteful value chains to models that retain the product's value through reuse, repair, and recycling, and highlights achievements in policy commitments. In this area, showcasing excellent GACERE countries and partners.

Scan the QR code or click here to read the full policy brief





Approaches to circular design

- ❖ Distinguish between **different phases** of the plastic value chain
- ❖ Combine **horizontal and specific criteria**
- ❖ Ensure ongoing and sufficient **funding**, functioning **infrastructure**
- ❖ Create recyclability assessment method to assess that **recyclability** can be achieved **technically** and **at scale**
- ❖ Start from **clear baselines**
- ❖ **Prioritize** sectors

reduction and optimization



prolonged use and reuse



repairability and refurbishability



recyclability



DESIGN FOR...

Designing out non-circular elements

Criteria for circular design

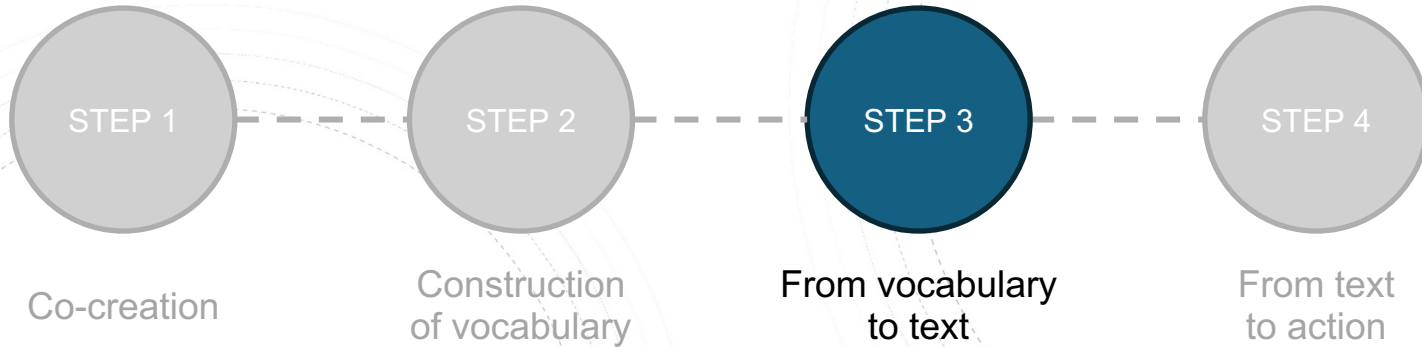
Additional considerations for circular design and performance:

- Recycled material choices
- Safe, sustainable and renewable material choices
- Information requirements

Scaling up and mainstreaming circular design of plastic products

- ❖ **Policies and voluntary commitments are vital**
 - Examples include EU legislation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Product Regulation (ESPR), Global Commitment, Plastic Pacts and Japan's approach combining regulatory and voluntary approaches
- ❖ **Harmonization of criteria: global adoption of circular design requires harmonized criteria and policies at national and international levels**
- ❖ **Clear provisions can prompt coordinated action via a stepwise approach:**
 - **Step 1:** Establish common definitions and design criteria on the approaches for circular design
 - **Step 2:** Develop specific criteria tailored to sectors and products
- ❖ **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
 - EPR can incentivize producers for circular product design via eco-modulation

STEP 3: From vocabulary to text



Online and in-person events in 2024:



Workshop *Scaling up circular design of plastic products*, Brussels @ World Circular Economy Forum

■
■ 15 April

Dinner on Product Design, Bangkok @ Intersessional Meeting of INC

■
■ 24 August

Dinner on Product Design and Article 5 + side event *Approaches to Circular Design under the Plastics Treaty*, Busan @ INC-5

■ ■
24 November ■ ■ 26 November

■
■ 27 April

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■ 26 September

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■ 14 October

■
■ 11 November

Side event *Circular design of plastic products in the treaty and beyond*, Ottawa @ INC-4

Online event series on Product Design and Article 5 of Chair's non-paper

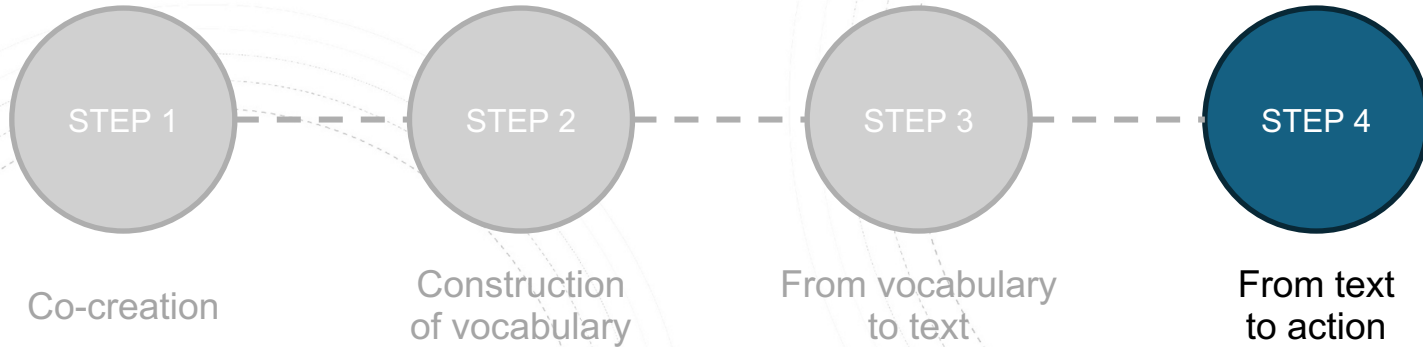
- **Main achievements:**

1. GACERE and non-GACERE countries came together to discuss circular design as a part of **Article 5**
2. Countries could refer to a basic **vocabulary** that was part of the policy brief
3. After INC-5, Article 5 contains important **advancements** towards a more circular economy-oriented provision
4. Different views were part of the discussions, yet a very **fruitful dialogue** ensued and further collaboration can be expected



More to come in 2025 in the run-up to INC-5.2!

STEP 4: From text to action



What will come after INC-5.2 (Geneva)?

- New work will need to be done to translate **design criteria into practice**
- GACERE can contribute to the discussions on **how to apply Article 5**
- Further work can be explored after an agreement is reached in the run-up to the **Diplomatic Conference**
- Continuous monitoring of areas of collaboration at the **COPs**





Thank you!

For more info, please write
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