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**LLDCs (Landlocked Developing Countries) Consultation Meeting on  
the Pre-Zero Draft of New Declaration on 3R and Circular Economy**  
*~ Sustainable 3R and Circular Economy Goals for Achieving Resource  
Efficient, Clean, Resilient, Sound Material Cycle and Low-Carbon Society in  
Asia and the Pacific (2024-2034)*

**6-7 August 2024, United Nations Lao PDR, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

Co-organized by:



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## 1. Background

The Asia-Pacific is the world's most populous and dynamic region in the world. It accounts for approximately two-thirds to global growth<sup>1</sup>, and 63 per cent of the global material use<sup>2</sup>. Over decades of rapid urbanization, the region has seen the creation of new urban infrastructure, a rise in people's purchasing power due to economic growth, the development of new industries, and the establishment of major manufacturing hubs. While rapid economic growth has led to higher living standards, it is also diminishing the region's resource efficiency and natural capital – shrinking forests, declining biodiversity, disappearing wetlands and water resources, among others, while resulting in growing volume and diversification waste streams such as but not limited to the municipal solid waste, industrial waste, agricultural waste, plastic waste, e-waste, and hazardous and chemical waste, among others. Given the weight of Asia Pacific's economic growth and resource consumption globally, any improvement in Asia Pacific's resource efficiency will have significant global impacts.

The high level Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia was launched in 2009 with the financial support of the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan. The primary objective of the Forum was to offer strategic policy advice to national government authorities on integrating 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and the circular economy into overall policy, planning, and development. The Forum brings high-level governmental decision-makers from countries across Asia and the Pacific to discuss strategies for achieving resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, integrated solid waste management, sound material cycles, low-carbon initiatives, and green growth development towards creating a zero-waste society. Additionally, the Forum serves as a platform for knowledge sharing, facilitating the dissemination of best practices in 3R and circular economy areas, and addressing new and emerging issues in waste management sector. Moreover, the forum strengthens the science-policy

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<sup>1</sup> Regional economic outlook. Asia and Pacific: challenges to sustaining growth and disinflation, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/regional-initiatives/supporting-resource-efficiency#:~:text=Asia%20Pacific&text=Asia%20Pacific%20dominates%20global%20use,manufacturing%20centres%20in%20the%20region.>

interface, focusing on 3R and resource efficiency as fundamental drivers of economic growth, environmental protection, for improving resilience of cities and communities. Ultimately, the forum aims to advance international agendas and agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Climate Agreement, among others.

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) face unique issues and challenges in achieving sustainable development in view of their unique location and vulnerabilities, including the exposure to global environmental challenges, frequent and intense climate induced natural disasters and a wide range of socio-economic impacts from global warming and climate change. LLDCs are locked out with no direct territorial access to the sea, they struggle with international trade, connectivity, and economic development. Cut off from the global marketplace and without the means to develop adequate transport and logistics infrastructure, LLDCs face unique and significant challenges in achieving the SDGs. Sustainability and resilience cannot be achieved in LLDCs unless they are equipped with sustainable and resilient infrastructures in areas of energy, transport, digital communications, safe drinking water supply and sanitation, health and education, agriculture and irrigation, and waste management (reduce, resource recovery, reuse, recycle) and wastewater treatment in support of achieving zero waste societies and circular economy, among others.

Acknowledging the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Compounds (2004), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), the Nairobi Consensus (Maafikiano, 2016), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 (VPOA), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022), the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Habitat III New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/SDGs, remain the essential blueprints for addressing the sustainable development for LLDCs, there is at present no mechanism to implement the global agreements on sustainable development and climate change at the regional level and particularly in the sectoral level in the Asia and the Pacific. Without transformational changes in sustainable consumption and production, and 3R/ waste management sectors, it is not possible for Asia and the Pacific countries including the LLDCs to achieve these overarching ambitious goals and targets of the global agreements and agendas.

The 3Rs principles - reduce, reuse, and recycle - are closely intertwined with waste management practices and the circular economy. They can make significant contributions, both directly and indirectly, to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Implementing 3R and Circular Economy strategies not only plays a crucial role in attaining SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) but also fosters synergies in achieving the other SDGs. For instance, SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) serves as a catalyst for synergies in achieving SDG 6 (ensuring clean water and sanitation), SDG 11 (building safe, resilient, sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (combatting climate change), SDG 14 (preserving life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) and other related goals.

At Asia-Pacific level, the Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023) and its 33 sustainable 3R goals (agreed at 4th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in 2013) was the first unprecedented voluntary commitment of Asia-Pacific countries in moving towards a more

resource efficient and circular society and provided an umbrella policy framework for developing and implementing 3R policies and programs at all levels to help Asia-Pacific countries shift from linear to more resource efficient to circular economy ultimately.

The Regional 3R and Circular Forum in Asia-Pacific also aims to support through the new Declaration, among others, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14 that launched the negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic. To implement the 3R approach to address plastic pollution in its entirety, it is important to eliminate unnecessary single use and short-lived plastic, rolling out refill and reuse models and producing less problematic plastic. It means addressing harmful chemicals and designing for circularity. It means investing in solid waste management and recycling – so that we can use, reuse and recycle resources more efficiently.

The new 3R and circular economy Declaration further aims to integrate sustainable consumption and production practices as well as circular economy principles into their overarching policy, planning, and development strategies for achieving co-benefits, including but not limited to the protection of natural ecosystem and resources, reduction of disposal costs through waste minimization, the lowering of carbon footprints, enhancing energy security, improving economic competitiveness of industries, promoting green technologies and innovations, creating new eco-friendly business models and generating green jobs and thereby improving economic growth for advancing towards sustainable cities and human settlements.

## **2. Objective**

The main objective of the LLDCs consultation meeting is to enrich the draft new Declaration from LLDCs countries' perspectives given that LLDCs face unique issues and challenges in achieving sustainable development in view of their unique location and vulnerabilities, including the exposure to global environmental challenges, frequent and intense climate induced natural disasters and a wide range of socio-economic impacts from global warming and climate change.

The country consultations expected to receive valuable inputs, feedback and suggestions from the participating countries of the Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum on the Pre-Zero Draft of New Declaration on 3R and Circular Economy (2024-2034). Based on the country inputs, the pre-Zero Draft would be further revised and the Zero Draft would be circulated among countries at least 4 months prior to the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific in late 2024 or early 2025.

## **3. Participants**

It is expected that the consultation meeting will be attended approximately 25 participants, including national government representatives from LLDCs (Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal), representatives of UN and international organizations, experts, and local participants from host country.

#### 4. Date and Venue

The consultation meeting will be held in the official premises (Lane Xang Meeting Room) of the UN Lao PDR in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 6-7 August 2024.

#### 5. Language

The language of the consultation meeting is English.

#### 6. Organizers and Supporting organizations

The consultation meeting will be co-organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Lao PDR (tbc), the UN Lao PDR and UNCRD.

#### 7. Programme (Provisional)

<b>Day 1: Tuesday, 6 August 2024</b>	
9:00-09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30-10:30 (60 min.)	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Ms. Bounkham Vorachit, Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR (5 min) (tbc)</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Lanh Sengaphone, Vice Minister, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Address:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote Address (online):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Addressing Climate Change, Nature Loss, and Pollution Crisis through Prevention of Plastics Pollution</i> – by Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (20 mins)</li> </ul> <p><b>Group Photograph</b></p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee/Tea Break

<p>11:00-11:30 (30 min)</p>	<p><b>Session 1: Scope and Objective of the Draft New Declaration on 3R and Circular Economy &amp; Purpose of the Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1:</b> Scope and Objective of the Successor to the Ha Noi 3R Declaration - Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA</p> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Are there any important elements from the viewpoint of LLDCs (Landlocked Developing Countries) missed out or needs to be strengthened in the pre-zero draft new Declaration? (please refer the whole draft Declaration)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Are the proposed “strategies” to achieve the underlined goals of the new Declaration sufficient or appropriate? Is any important strategy missed out? (please refer Annex 1 of the draft Declaration)</i></li> <li>3. <i>Are the proposed “indicators” of monitoring the progress of implementation of the underlined goals of the new Declaration sufficient or appropriate? Is any important indicator missed out? (please refer Annex 2 of the draft Declaration)</i></li> </ol>
<p>11:30-12:30 (60 min.)</p>	<p><b>Session 2: Presentation of 3R/waste management activities by LLDCs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bhutan</li> <li>- Lao PDR</li> <li>- Mongolia</li> <li>- Nepal</li> </ul> <p>Co-facilitators: Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A (10 min)</b></p>
<p>12:30-14:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
<p>14:00-15:00 (60 min.)</p>	<p><b>Session 3: Consultation/Open Discussion on Draft New Declaration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preamble</b></li> <li>• <b>Declaration</b></li> <li>• <b>Common Vision</b></li> <li>• <b>Sustainable 3R and Circular Economy Goals for Achieving Resource Efficient, Clean, Resilient, Sound Material Cycle and Low-Carbon Society</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Cluster I:</b> Promote Sustainable Resource Management, Resource Efficiency and Low-Carbon Society</li> <li>- <b>Cluster II:</b> Achieving Clean Environment (Land, Water, Air, Ocean) through 3R and Circular Economy</li> </ul> <p>Co-facilitators: Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p>
15:00-16:00 (60 min.)	<p><b>Session 4: Consultation/Open Discussion on Draft New Declaration (Cont...)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sustainable 3R and Circular Economy Goals for Achieving Resource Efficient, Clean, Resilient, Sound Material Cycle and Low-Carbon Society Cont.....</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster III:</b> Strengthen Resilience against Natural Disasters, Climate Change and Health Emergencies and Pandemics</p> <p><b>Cluster IV:</b> Sound Material Cycle Society and Resource Recirculation towards Zero Waste and Circular Society</p> <p>Co-facilitators: Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p>
16:00-16:30	Coffee/Tea Break
16:30-17:00 (30 min.)	<b>Wrap-up and open discussion</b>
<b>Day 2: Wednesday, 7 August 2024</b>	
9:30–10:30 (60 min.)	<p><b>Session 5: Consultation/Open Discussion on Draft New Declaration (Cont...)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sustainable 3R and Circular Economy Goals for Achieving Resource Efficient, Clean, Resilient, Sound Material Cycle and Low-Carbon Society Cont.....</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cluster V:</b> Cross-cutting Goals in Economic and Social Aspects</p> <p><b>Cluster VI:</b> Means of Implementation - Partnerships, Technology Transfer, Research and Development, National and International Financing and Investments, Institutional Capacity Building and Information Sharing</p> <p>Co-facilitators: Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p>

10:30-11:00	Coffee/Tea Break
11:00-12:00 (60 min.)	<p><b>Session 6: Consultation/Open Discussion on Draft New Declaration (Cont.....)</b></p> <p><b>Annex 1: Strategies to Support the Implementation of the Draft New Declaration (2024-2034)</b></p> <p><i>Are the proposed “strategies” to achieve the underlined goals of the new Declaration sufficient or appropriate? Is any important strategy missed out? (please refer Annex 1 of the draft Declaration)</i></p>
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-14:30 (60 min.)	<p><b>Session 6: Consultation/Open Discussion on Draft New Declaration (Cont.....)</b></p> <p><b>Annex 2: Indicators for Tracking the Progress on Implementation of New Declaration on 3R and Circular Economy (2024-2034)</b></p> <p><i>Are the proposed “indicators” of monitoring the progress of implementation of the underlined goals of the new Declaration sufficient or appropriate? Is any important indicator missed out? (please refer Annex 2 of the draft Declaration)</i></p> <p>Co-facilitators: Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, UNCRD- DSDG/UN DESA Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p>
14:30-15:00	Coffee/Tea Break
15:00-16:00 (60 min.)	<p><b>Session 7: Initiatives, Activities and Projects Undertaken by Development Partners and their Synergies with Draft New Declaration on 3R and Circular Economy (2024-2034)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>“Capacity building activities in the areas of sustainable waste and natural resource management towards circular economy”</i> by Lai Dao Xuan, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lao PDR</li> <li>- <i>“Bio-circular economy – prospects and opportunities in Lao PDR/Mekong Region” (tentative)</i> by Phommachanh Phothichanh, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Lao PDR</li> <li>- <i>“Plastics wastes and pollution in LLDCs of Asia-Pacific – challenges and circular economy opportunities”</i> by Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (online)</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Open Discussion &amp; Q&amp;A (30 mins)</b></p> <p>Co-facilitators: Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, UNCRD- DSDG/UN DESA Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility</p>
<p>16:00-17:00 (60 min.)</p>	<p><b>Session 8: Capacity Building Needs in LLDCs and Regional /International Cooperation in 3R and Circular Economy</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How can we strengthen the capacity of LLDCs in advancing 3R and circular economy approached in LLDCs? To this regard, what are the key policy recommendations for LLDCs?</i></li> <li>2. <i>How can the overarching principles of 3R and Circular Economy create meaningful synergies in accelerating the SDGs and the climate goal under the Paris Agreement?</i></li> <li>4. <i>What role the proposed new 3R and Circular Economy Declaration (2024-2034) could play towards accelerating sound material cycle, low carbon, resilient, zero waste and nature positive societies in LLDCs?</i></li> </ol> <p>- <b>Interventions by development partners / donors</b></p> <p><b>Open Discussion &amp; Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p>17:00-17:30</p>	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UN Lao PDR</li> <li>- UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA</li> </ul>

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