

LAUNCH EVENT

## Global Alliance on Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency (GACERE)

Monday, 22 February 2021

14:00-15:15 UTC+3



Side-event at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5)

As convincingly demonstrated by the International Resource Panel<sup>1</sup>, finding ways to make global resource extraction and processing more sustainable is essential for keeping humanity's footprint within planetary boundaries.

Bringing together governments and relevant networks and organisations, the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) aims to provide a global impetus for initiatives related to the circular economy transition, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, building on efforts being deployed internationally. GACERE is being established by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union (EU), and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in coordination with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Building on existing initiatives<sup>2</sup> and cooperating with regional alliances (such as the African Circular Economy Alliance<sup>3</sup>, and the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>4</sup>), the objective of GACERE is to support the transition to a global circular economy for more efficient and equitable use of resources so as to achieve sustainable consumption and production and inclusive and sustainable industrialization. GACERE members will do so by working together and advocating at the political level and in multilateral fora.

<sup>1</sup> IRP (2019), Global Resources Outlook 2019.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF), the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE), the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns / One Planet Network (10YFP/OPN), and UNIDO global consultations on Circular Economy.

<sup>3</sup> <https://pacecircular.org/african-circular-economy-alliance>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/high-level-launch-circular-economy-coalition-latin-america-and-caribbean>.



GACERE is launched on the occasion of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly ([UNEA 5](#)) with a brief inaugural in the margins of the first segment of UNEA 5 on Monday 22 February from 14:00-15:00 UTC+3.

The side event is hosted by Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Ms Inger ANDERSEN, United Nations Under Secretary General and UNEP's Executive Director, and Mr LI Yong, UNIDO's Director-General.

Ministers of countries having joined GACERE and stakeholders are invited to provide their perspectives as to the Alliance's intended role in supporting a global just transition to circular and resource efficient economies and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More information is available [here](#).



## Agenda

- 13:45 Log-on
- 14:00-14:05 **Welcome and housekeeping**  
*Ms Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission*
- 14:05-14:10 **Circularity to advance sustainable consumption and production**  
*Ms Inger Andersen, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*
- 14:10-14:15 **Circular economy as a path to inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, innovation and green jobs**  
*Mr LI Yong, Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*
- 14:15-14:40 **First Session:**  
**The circular economy contribution in achieving climate neutrality**  
*Speakers are invited to present their views on how GACERE would support a global just transition to a resource efficient and circular economy that meets the Paris Agreement goals.*
- 14:16-14:17 – *Mr Carlos Eduardo Correa Escaf, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia*
- 14:18-14:20 – *Mr Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of Environment, Japan*
- 14:22-14:23 – *Mr Gabriel Quijandria Acosta, Minister of Environment, Peru*
- 14:24-14:25 – *Ms Patricia Fuller, Ambassador for Climate Change, Canada*
- 14:27-14:28 – *Mr Ayub Macharia, Director, Environmental Education and Awareness, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya*
- 14:29-14:30 – *Ms Teresa Oberhauser, Focal Point and Global Coordinator, UN Environment Programme Major Group for Children and Youth*
- 14:40-15:00 **Second Session:**  
**Achieving sustainable consumption and production and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation through circular approaches**  
*Speakers are invited to present their views on how GACERE and circular economy approaches can contribute to sustainable consumption and production and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation globally*
- 14:41-14:43 – *Mr Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Norway (recorded video-message)*
- 14:44-14:45 – *Mr Javier Naranjo, acting Minister of Environment, Chile*
- 14:47-14:48 – *Mr Muhammad Abubakar, Federal Minister for Environment, Nigeria*
- 14:49-14:50 – *Ms Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment, Rwanda*
- 14:52-14:53 – *Mr Nathan Glassey, Head of Delegation to UNEA-5, New Zealand*
- 14:54-14:55 – *Mr Joss Blériot, Executive Lead, International Institutions & Governments, Ellen MacArthur Foundation*
- 15:00-15:05 **Endorsement of the Concept Note for GACERE**  
*The Concept Note to be put on screen to mark the endorsement by GACERE members.*
- 15:05-15:10 **Group photo**  
*All speakers to turn on their cameras for the group photo.*
- 15:10-15:15 **Conclusions and Next Steps: The role of GACERE in supporting a global just transition to circular and resource efficient economies**  
*Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries*



## Introduction and Opening

**Florika Fink-Hooijer**,  
Director-General, Directorate-  
General for Environment,  
European Commission



Dr. Florika Fink-Hooijer is the Director-General of the Environment Department of the European Commission (DG ENV). Having occupied various senior management positions in the European Commission, she is recognised for her strong management and leadership skills and her in-depth experience in EU policy making & shaping. A lawyer by training, Florika brings a proven record of accomplishment in foreign external policy and security matters as well as in disaster risk reduction and justice and home affairs. Florika also has extensive experience in leading complex inter-institutional and intergovernmental negotiations. In each of her assignments at senior level, she helped to instil a culture of transparency and accountability and steered transformational processes.

**Inger Andersen**, Executive  
Director of the United Nations  
Environment Programme  
(UNEP)



Inger Andersen is Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Between 2015 and 2019, Ms. Andersen was the Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Ms. Andersen has more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability, strategy and operations. She has led work on a range of issues including agriculture, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, infrastructure, energy, transport, and water resources management and hydro-diplomacy. Between 1999 and 2014, Ms. Andersen held several leadership positions at the World Bank including Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa; Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council. Prior to her 15 years at the World Bank, Ms. Andersen worked 12 years at the United Nations, first on drought and desertification, beginning with the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office. In 1992, she was appointed UNDP's Water and Environment Coordinator for the Arab Region. Ms. Andersen holds a Bachelors from the London Metropolitan University North and a Master's in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

**LI Yong**, Director-General,  
United Nations Industrial  
Development Organization  
(UNIDO)



LI Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has had an extensive career as a senior economic and financial policymaker. As Vice-Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China and member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank for a decade, Mr. LI was involved in setting and harmonizing fiscal, monetary and industrial policies, and in supporting sound economic growth in China. He pushed forward financial sector reform, and prompted major financial institutions to establish corporate governance, deal with toxic assets and strengthen risk management. Mr. LI gave great importance to fiscal and financial measures in favor of agricultural development and SMEs, the cornerstones for creating economic opportunities, reducing poverty and promoting gender equality. He played a key role in China's cooperation with multilateral development organizations, such as the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank.



## First Session

**Carlos Eduardo Correa Escaf**,  
Minister of Environment and  
Sustainable Development,  
Colombia



As Mayor of Montería, during the 2012-2015 term he ranked the capital of Córdoba as a sustainable city. He returned the Sinú river to the city and transformed it into the social, cultural, and economic development axis of Montería. He also pushed forward solar energy projects and fomented sustainable culture.

He holds a Business degree from the EAFIT University in Medellín and has become a reference to many regional, national and international leaders as his public administration showed sustainable territories can be built.

He's been a special presidential consultant for the country's regions and professor at many different colleges (EAFIT, Technological Institute of Bolívar, UIS at Bucaramanga, and the Sinú University in Montería). He's also been an external consultant on territorial development at the Xaverian University (Cali).

Due to his work in matters of sustainability he was nominated Best Mayor of the Country during the 2012-2015 term. Mayors' Fund for London, on their behalf, acknowledged him as one of The Top 10 Mayors of the World.

He's also been Director of the Territorial Project in CIDER (Andes University) and held the Vice Presidency of Asocapital's Board of Directors.

He also was an advisor on Multipurpose Cadastre and Territorial Development at ESAP-ASOCAPITAL and the UN Development Programme—Presidency of Colombia.

**Shinjiro Koizumi**, Minister of  
Environment, Japan



Mr. Koizumi Shinjiro has been the member of the House of Representatives in Japan since 2009, having represented Yokosuka and Miura City in Kanagawa Prefecture. Being born and raised in Yokosuka, surrounded by the seas of beautiful Tokyo Bay and Sagami Bay, he has increased concerns about marine pollution. Since September 2019, he has served as the Minister of the Environment. He belongs to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and holds various senior positions at LDP such as the Director of the Youth Division, the Director of the Agriculture and Forestry Division, Chief Deputy Secretary-General and the Director of the Health, Labor and Welfare Division. He also served as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Reconstruction. He earned a bachelor's degree in Economics at Kanto Gakuin University, in Japan in 2004, and a master's degree in Political Science at Columbia University, in the United States in 2006.



**Gabriel Quijandría Acosta,**  
Minister of Environment, Peru



Gabriel Quijandría Acosta is a recognized expert in environmental issues and natural resource management. He has a broad experience in environmental policy and management, sustainable development financing, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. In the field of research, he has conducted studies oriented to policy design and has undertaken teaching activities, at the university level and for decision makers in the public and private sectors.

He is a Master in Administration of Natural Resources from INCAE Business School in Costa Rica, and a graduate in Sociology from the University of the Republic in Uruguay. He has held positions as Co-president of the Green Climate Fund, as a Representative in Peru of The Nature Conservancy and as the Head of the Technical Department of PROFONANPE.

Furthermore, he has held the position of Vice Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources at the Peruvian Ministry of Environment twice, from December 2011 to December 2016 and from March 2019 to November 2020.

**Patricia Fuller,** Ambassador  
for Climate Change, Canada



Patricia Fuller was named Canada's Ambassador for Climate Change on June 5, 2018 for a term of three years.

The mandate for Canada's Ambassador for Climate Change includes:

- providing advice on climate change considerations in Canada's international priorities;
- leading bilateral engagements with partner countries on clean growth and climate change;
- representing Canada in international cooperative initiatives related to climate change; and
- promoting Canada's clean growth and climate change priorities.

Ms. Fuller holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics and Political Studies from Queen's University, and a Master of Science with distinction from the London School of Economics.

She served abroad as Ambassador of Canada to Uruguay from 2004 to 2007 and as Ambassador to Chile from 2012 to 2015. Previous international assignments also include Mexico and Guatemala.

In Ottawa, Ms. Fuller has specialized in trade and economic policy, as well as climate change and energy. At Canada's foreign ministry, she served as Deputy Director for Trade Remedies (1997-1999), Director of the Softwood Lumber Division (2003-2004), Chief Economist (2007-2010), Director General of Planning and Reporting (2010-2012) and Director General of Economic Development (2017-2018).

She was seconded to Natural Resources Canada from 2015 to 2017, to head up the Office of Energy Efficiency. She also managed environment and climate change files earlier in her career while working at the Privy Council Office where she supported the Cabinet Committee on Economic and Regional Development Policy from 2000 to 2003.



**Teresa Oberhauser**, Focal Point and Global Coordinator, UN Environment Programme Major Group for Children and Youth



Teresa Oberhauser is one of the two Global Coordinators of the Major Group for Children and Youth of UN Environment (MGCY of UNEP), a mandate she holds as Liaison Officer of Europe's biggest student organisation AEGEE European Student Forum. Together with her colleague, Teresa has grown the global Major Group for Children and Youth from an ad-hoc group of youth organisations meeting around UNEA to the universal platform of more than 350 youth environment organisations that it is today. The Major Group has since participated in most negotiations of UNEP processes. It has conducted a variety of projects in cooperation with more than 10 UNEP divisions, all through volunteer effort. Teresa holds a postgraduate degree in Politics and Public Management from Potsdam University. In her professional life she works at a start-up on supply chain communication for circular economy, engaging in Dutch, German and European research consortia on circular economy.

## Second Session

**Sveinung Rotevatn**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Norway



Sveinung Rotevatn (born 1987) is a Norwegian lawyer and politician. Rotevatn is the deputy leader of the Norwegian Liberal Party and was appointed Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment on 24 January 2020. Prior to his position as Minister of Climate and Environment, Rotevatn held the position as State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Climate and Environment. Sveinung Rotevatn leads the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly as current president of UNEA-5.

Rotevatn was elected member of the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) for the period of 2013 to 2017 representing the Norwegian Liberal Party. Before his period as member of parliament he was the leader of the liberal youth party of Norway, The Young Liberals of Norway.

**Javier Naranjo**, acting Minister of Environment, Chile



Lawyer from Andrés Bello University and LL.M UC in Regulatory Law from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Mr. Naranjo holds extensive experience in administrative and environmental law. Before taking his current position, he was the Head of Legal Division at Environmental Assessment Service (2018-2019) and Head of Litigation and Administrative Resources in the same institution (2014-2017). During the first government of President Sebastian Piñera, he was Head of Legal Division at Interior Ministry in Aysen Region (2011-2014).

He also has experience in the private sector, as an associate lawyer at Jara del Favero law firm, specializing in the practice of administrative, environmental, and natural resources law.

**Muhammad Abubakar**, Federal Minister for Environment, Nigeria



Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar was born on 30th December, 1958 in Tudun-Wada, Kaduna South of Kaduna State. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in Microbiology and Natural Resources Management respectively from Central Washington University, Ellensburg and Ph.D. in Watersheds Management from the University of Arizona, USA. He worked in various organizations as an Environmental Health Inspector, Industrial Hygienist and Waste Investigator in the USA.

Apart from belonging to various professional bodies, he has been a Member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Deputy Director Field



operations - APC Presidential Campaign Council, National Chairman Buhari Support Organizations, and Chairman of the Universal Basic Education Board. He is happily married with children.

**Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya**  
Minister of Environment,  
Rwanda



Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya is the Minister of Environment, of the Republic of Rwanda.

Prior to her appointment in November 2019, she served as Ambassador of Rwanda in Russia from 2013 and Rector of Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) from 2011 to 2013. Minister Mujawamariya served also as Rwanda's Minister of Gender and Family Promotion (2008-2011), Minister of Education (2006-2008), Minister of State in Charge of Higher Education (2005-2006) and Minister of State in Charge of Primary and Secondary Education in the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Scientific Research (2003-2005).

Minister Mujawamariya holds a Ph.D. in Physical-Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, India.

She is passionate about environment conservation and efficient natural resources development to achieve sustainable development and green growth for Rwanda's socio-economic transformation.

**Nathan Glassey**, Counsellor,  
Deputy Permanent  
Representative,  
New Zealand Permanent  
Mission to the United Nations in  
Geneva



Nathan Glassey is New Zealand's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. In this role, he also leads New Zealand's delegation to the UN Environment Programme.

A career diplomat, Nathan has also served in New Zealand missions to Papua New Guinea, Australia and the UN in New York. Immediately prior to his current role, he was part of the leadership team in the Global Environment section of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Nathan has undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in science, with a focus in zoology and ecology.

**Joss Blériot**, Executive Lead,  
International Institutions &  
Governments, Ellen MacArthur  
Foundation



Jocelyn Blériot joined Ellen MacArthur in 2007, after 12 years spent in the media and publishing industry.

Initially in charge of editorial matters at the Foundation (overseeing content development and messaging), he now fully focuses on leading the organisation's institutional engagement.

He notably represents the Foundation at the European Commission and manages the relationship with governments and supra-national bodies such as the United Nations, the G7 Resource Alliance, the OECD and the World Economic Forum.





## Closing

**Virginijus Sinkevičius**, EU  
Commissioner for Environment,  
Oceans and Fisheries



Virginijus Sinkevičius is the present Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, at the European Commission. Mr. Sinkevičius was Minister of Economy from 2017 to 2019 and previously led the Committee of Economy at the Parliament of Lithuania. Mr. Sinkevičius was elected to the Parliament in October 2016. Prior, he was a Team Lead for Regulatory Affairs at Invest Lithuania. Mr. Sinkevičius holds a BA in International Relations and Affairs from Aberystwyth University and a master's degree in European International Affairs from Maastricht University.

