

## **VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

### **COPANT MEMBERS REVIEWED THE ACTIVITIES OF ISO/TC 323**

On April 8, 2020, the COPANT Virtual Workshop on the new ISO technical committee, ISO/TC 323 on Circular Economy was held. 38 delegates representing 16 national standards bodies from the following countries participated in this session: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States.

The Workshop was facilitated by Luis Trama of IRAM, Argentina and Derek Luk Pat of TTBS, Trinidad & Tobago.



Image: Sustainable Global Resources Ltd.  
Recycling Council of Ontario

The topics discussed during the workshop were the following:

- Current situation of the Circular Economy in the world and in the countries of the Americas
- Problems, shortcomings and opportunities.
- The Circular Economy and its link with Social Responsibility and the Sustainable Development Objectives.
- Relationship of the Circular Economy with Eco-efficiency and Sustainable Development.
- France's experience on Standardization in the Circular Economy.
- Background for ISO.
- Active members as Stakeholders, their identification and contributions.



- Creation of ISO/TC 323 "Circular Economy".
- Division into 4 ad hoc Groups.
- Issues to be addressed by each of them. Expected normative products.
- Internal and external liaison organizations.
- The work in Twinning. Summary of the work during the First Plenary of ISO/TC 323 in May 2019 in Paris, conclusions and planning of future work
- Current status as of February 2020 and preparation of the Second Plenary in June 2020 in Japan
- ISO DEVCO support to ISO/TC 323.
- Experiences of the different countries that are participating in the standardization process and in the 4 Groups formed.
- The generation of the NWIP (New Work Item Proposal) for the groups formed.
- Way of working and deadlines.
- Future perspectives in the light of the progress made in the year since the beginning of this process.

The highlights of the presentations are:

**Transition from Linear to Circular Economy:** About 65 billion tons of raw materials entered the economic system in 2010, and this figure is expected to grow by 82 billion tons in 2020. The global outlook is likely to worsen, as the global middle class will more than double by 2030, to almost 5 billion people who will join the consumption habits<sup>1</sup>.

The circular economy is based on **three key principles**:

- Principle 1: Preserve and enhance natural capital by controlling finite reserves and balancing flows of renewable resources.
- Principle 2: Optimize resource yields by distributing products, components and materials with their maximum utility at all times, both in technical and biological cycles. This means designing to remanufacture, recondition and recycle - the three Rs - to keep technical components and materials circulating and contributing to the economy.
- Principle 3: Promote system efficiency by detecting and eliminating negative externalities from design

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<sup>1</sup> Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2014, p. 2-3



The Circular Economy is particularly promising for achieving multiple **Sustainable Development Goals**, including SDG 6 on energy, 8 on economic growth, 11 on sustainable cities, 12 on sustainable consumption and production, 13 on climate change, 14 on oceans and 15 on life on earth.





The **ISO committee on the Circular Economy** is composed of 57 P Members and 12 O Members, with strong representation from developing countries.



June 2019, Paris, France, First meeting of ISO/TC 323

**The scope of ISO/TC 323:** Standardization in the field of circular economy to develop requirements, frameworks, guidance and support tools related to the implementation of circular economy projects. The proposed results will be applied to any organization or group of organizations wishing to implement circular economy projects, such as commercial organizations, public services and non-profit organizations.

At the first meeting of ISO/TC 323 in June 2019, in Paris, France, **4 Ad Hoc groups** were established for the following topics:

- **Ad Hoc Group 1: Principles, framework, terminology, management system standards**  
Scope: To first develop the principles, framework and terminology.  
To develop, in a second instance, a Management System Standard.  
5 contributions of interest: Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Japan  
It takes the main ideas to make each of the items in the scope deliverable.  
Deliverables: Proposals on principles, framework, terminology (to be defined)
- **Ad Hoc2 Group: Application and Sector Application Guidance Scope: Application Guidance**  
Deliverable:
  - NWIP in the business model - value chain
  - NWIP on Methods (BSI 8001 used as a starting point)
  - The proposal is underway: Education, Public Procurement, Behavior
- **Group Ad Hoc3: Measurement of circularity**  
Scope: To develop a generic method for measuring circularity, including sustainability impact of circular solutions  
Deliverable: NWIP on circularity measurement/evaluation
- **Ad Hoc Group 4: Specific issues...**  
Scope: analysis of case studies from which lessons and recommendations have been drawn  
the following products are deduced: 2 technical reports based on case studies



**Nota de Prensa**  
**2020-04-13**

(remote resolution)

- Performance-based approach to Circular Economy, such as functionality, Product Service System, etc.
- Local territorial approach

The first **four drafts of ISO/TC 323** standards are now in the process of balloting:

1. ISO/PWI 99004 (59004) Circular economy – Framework and principles for implementation
2. ISO/PWI 99010 (59010) Circular economy – Guidelines on business models and value chains
3. ISO/PWI 99020 (59020) Circular economy – Measuring Circularity framework
4. Performance-based approach for circular economy (such as functionality, Product Service System, etc.)

**Next ISO/TC 323 meeting:** In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting scheduled in Tokyo, Japan, has been cancelled and the Chairman and Secretary of TC 323 have decided:

- Maintain the days from June 15 to 19 to organize remote sessions for working groups and Technical Committee meetings;
- The agendas will be adapted to be compatible with remote participation (short sessions, discussions on key points, integrating jet lag, etc.);
- Physical meetings will be organized between Sept. and Dec. 2020 (to be decided).

As the main conclusion of the session, COPANT members showed great interest in the possibility of creating a Focal Group to follow up the work of ISO/TC 323, generate exchange and discussion on the progress of the national mirror committees. This possibility will be analyzed and disseminated in the near future.

**Note:** The session was recorded and is available at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EELH8FJAKyw-9ug2XzrG-BhVzTZNBXcu/view>