

Frequently Asked Questions

(As of 13th September 2023)

Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) Towards Just Transitions

How to become a member of GACERE? Is it necessary to sign a document or to pay a fee?

As outlined in its Concept Note, GACERE is the expression of a political endeavour to work together, share knowledge and advocate at the political level and in multilateral fora for a global just transition to a resource efficient and circular economy to achieve sustainable consumption and production and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

To become a member, it is not necessary to sign a document or to pay a fee. It is enough that a duly authorised representative of a country, international organisation or other global non-governmental entity, as the case might be, endorses the Concept Note and accepts to contribute to GACERE's work. Endorsement can be communicated through the contacts indicated below.

GACERE members would bear their own expenses. UNEP and UNIDO have agreed to provide technical support to GACERE's operations, with funding that are made available by the EU and Norway.

What is expected of GACERE's member countries and international organisations?

The objective of GACERE is to support a global just transition to a resource efficient and circular economy for a more equitable use of resources, so as to achieve sustainable consumption and production and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

GACERE members are expected to do so by working together and advocating at the political level and in multilateral fora, in particular at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), other UN platforms and in international groupings such as the G7/G20, the African Union, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This is a specific role for GACERE members that participate to these fora and can thus collectively and individually contribute to GACERE's aims.

Moreover, GACERE would take forward, support and/or cooperate with sectoral, bilateral and/or regional partnerships, for example the African Circular Economy Alliance and the Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition. Cooperation would also be sought with ongoing initiatives, for example the World Circular Economy Forum, the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production / One Planet network. GACERE seeks to raise ambition towards the transition to a circular economy; members who

are also active in these regional alliances and initiatives would be expected to ensure that GACERE activities are synergic and do not duplicate existing actions, but rather that the global transition benefits from such synergy.

GACERE members would also contribute to mapping domestic policies, fiscal and regulatory frameworks; identify barriers, knowledge and governance gaps, research needs and possible global governance improvements; and facilitate global conversations on the governance of natural resources and options to improve the current situation, including through the wider adoption of more resource efficient and circular approaches.

Initial meetings of GACERE will discuss the above expectations and arrangements to make them operational and will clarify how to voluntarily contribute to the activities spelled out in the Concept Note. Furthermore, high-level representatives of the Alliance's members intend to meet once a year to decide on priorities and monitor progress. Expert representatives of the members could meet when necessary, preferably remotely, to advance the GACERE's work and implement the agreed priorities.

Representatives of countries and international organisations considering a possible GACERE membership or interested in contributing to the objectives of the Alliance will be invited as observers.

Are there other types of GACERE members?

While advocacy in multilateral contexts is a role that especially GACERE member countries and international organisations would perform, global non-governmental entities can contribute to other working areas of GACERE by becoming strategic partners.

Strategic partners can e.g. contribute to the mapping of domestic policies, fiscal and regulatory frameworks on resource efficiency / circular economy; identify the contribution to and synergies with business and civil society in ensuring a just transition to circular economy; help identify and address barriers and knowledge gaps that hinder circular and just transitions; help review possible guidance or information material, developed in the context of GACERE, from a diversity of sectoral and national perspectives; disseminate key messages within their respective networks; create partnership opportunities for making global value chains greener, more resource efficient and circular.

In light of the above, membership of individuals, single businesses, organisations of a local nature and similar non-governmental entities is not envisaged for GACERE.

How will GACERE avoid duplication and build synergies with relevant initiatives and processes?

GACERE is the expression of a political endeavour to work together, share knowledge and advocate for the global circular economy transition. It can be considered as a group of "friends of the circular economy" who would work together at the political level and in multilateral fora (see examples of such fora above), such as in the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Environment Assembly, in Conferences of the Parties to relevant multilateral environmental agreements, UN conferences and high-level events, meetings of relevant

international agencies and organisations, and groupings like G7/G20. GACERE members that are also G7 or G20 members would do likewise in these groups.

A number of GACERE members (including, UNEP, UNIDO and the EU) are also actively involved in other relevant initiatives, such as the World Circular Economy Forum¹ (WCEF), the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy² (PACE), the Partnership for Action on Green Economy³ (PAGE), the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns / One Planet network (10YFP/OPN)⁴, and the Global Member State Consultations on Circular Economy⁵. They will ensure information sharing and complementarity with such initiatives.

Finally, GACERE is not meant to substitute or duplicate existing international processes related e.g., to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production / One Planet network (10YFP/OPN) or to the development of a global plastic agreement.

Who is performing GACERE’ secretarial role?

As indicated above, GACERE is the expression of a political endeavour and as such it does not have a formal structure or identity. UNEP and UNIDO have agreed to provide technical support to GACERE’s operations (see contacts below).

Whom to contact for further information?

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<https://www.unep.org/gacere>

¹ <https://www.sitra.fi/en/projects/wcef/>
² <https://pacecircular.org/>.
³ <https://www.un-page.org/>.
⁴ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/>
⁵ Launched by UNIDO in November 2020.