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**KING MOHAMMED VI**

جهة طنجة-التطوان - الحسيمة  
Région Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïma



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Jointly present the  
2023's edition  
of the



**MEDCOPCLIMATE**  
TANGER 2023

# 3<sup>rd</sup> EDITION MEDCOP CLIMATE

## Tangier 2023

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### CONCEPT NOTES

#### HUB 1: RESILIENT CITIES & TERRITORIES

# HUB 1: RESILIENT CITIES & TERRITORIES

Resilient Cities and Territories is a joint initiative of the UN-HABITAT Morocco and the MEDCOPCLIMATE. This thematic hub aims to discuss the innovative approaches, and best practices contributing to building the resilience of cities, promoting sustainable urban development, and combating climate change.

The Resilient Cities and Territories hub will feature 4 different sessions for

- Discussing solutions for a territorial balance for resilience
- Effective Urban Crisis Prevention and Response (DRR)
- Transport and mobility
- Circular economy and Waste Management, Concrete solutions for consumption practices & waste management

The second edition of the MEDCOP will be deployed over two days, the 23 & 22 of June 2023, in the city of Tangier with the first day, the 22nd of June dedicated to the first, second, and third hubs discussing respectively Resilient Cities & Territories, Sustainable Food Systems and Sustainable Management of Water Resource.

# Session 7 – CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT, CONCRETE SOLUTIONS FOR CONSUMPTION PRACTICES & WASTE MANAGEMENT

## CONTEXT

Urbanization is one of the most important trends of the 21st century. It refers to the process by which the human population moves to live around urban centres, describing the increasing concentration of the population in cities and their peripheries at the expense of rural areas.

Today, the share of the population living in cities is 55%, and it is estimated that it will grow by 70% by 2050.

Rapid urbanization has created unprecedented demographic, environmental, economic, social, and spatial challenges for cities and their people, especially when poorly or not managed.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid waste management is a crucial global issue, making public health and environmental issues more common. Waste generated increases with socio-economic development and as cities densify. According to the World Bank, global solid waste generation is expected to increase by 70% by 2050, from 2.01 billion tonnes in 2016 to 3.40 billion tonnes in 2050.

In the Mediterranean region, waste generation has increased significantly over the past decade due to population growth and a rise in tourism. A study conducted by the European Environment Agency shows that municipal waste generation in Mediterranean countries has increased by 68% since 1995, with an average of 460 kg per capita in 2017.

Poor waste management has numerous negative impacts, including floods, air and water pollution, diseases, and respiratory and other health problems. It can also lead to uncollected waste accumulation, increased rodent and insect populations, and open waste incineration, which have concomitant impacts on public health and air pollution, soil, and water.

In addition, poorly managed waste is the main source of marine litter, with 80% of marine litter originating from land-based sources.

Solid waste management is also critical to addressing climate change, as the sector accounts for 5% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly related to waste management.

Implementing sustainable waste management strategies can be challenging due to limited resources and capacity at the local level, as well as competing priorities such as drinking water and other public services, education, and health care.

Waste management operations represent a significant part of the city's budget, but funding for waste management remains insufficient.

However, cities can effectively tackle the problem of waste management by considering waste as a resource.

Good waste management turns waste into a real asset, providing new commercial opportunities, and creating jobs and revenue while reducing waste, odours, and other nuisances. To be successful, cities need to address waste management issues in their context while learning from the experience of other cities.

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The circular economy is a new economic model that aims to reduce waste and promote sustainability by rethinking the production and consumption of goods and services. It is part of a global strategy that emphasizes the principles of green economy, industrial ecology, eco-design, and functionality, among others.

The Mediterranean region faces significant environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion. The region's population is expected to reach 625 million by 2050, putting further pressure on already limited resources.

The circular economy offers a potential solution to these challenges by promoting the sustainable use of resources and reducing waste.

Several Mediterranean countries, including France, Italy, and Spain, have already adopted circular economy policies and initiatives. The European Union has also made the circular economy a priority, intending to transition to a circular economy by 2050.

The Mediterranean region is expected to play a key role in achieving this goal due to its strategic location between Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

One example of circular economy practices in the Mediterranean is the development of eco-industrial parks, which bring together various industries to optimize resource use and reduce waste. The region also has a rich history of

artisanal crafts, which could be revitalized through circular economy principles such as local sourcing, durability, and repair.

However, implementing the circular economy in the Mediterranean region will require significant investment in sustainable infrastructure, research, and education. It will also require collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society.

The promotion of the new Circular Economy model requires the strengthening of public services and the capacity of local governments to provide adequate integrated waste management services at the local and territorial level, as well as to lead the articulation with other actors of civil society, the private sector and academia.

Facing the challenge of adequate waste management and the change of model towards a circular economy requires the strengthening of public companies and other public instruments for the management of basic services from local governments through technical exchange, the strengthening of public management capacities, and adequate funding.

Despite the challenges, the circular economy offers a promising pathway to a more sustainable future for the Mediterranean region and beyond.

## OBJECTIVES

- Raising awareness over the importance and benefits of circular economy and waste management practices, and how they can contribute to sustainable consumption and production.
- Highlighting the economic and environmental benefits of circular economy and waste management, such as reducing waste and pollution, creating new business opportunities and jobs, and improving resource efficiency.
- Sharing concrete solutions and best practices towards more sustainable consumption. Identify practical steps to reduce waste and increase the RRR of materials. Examining new approaches to waste management, innovative technologies, and practices that can transform waste management into a circular and regenerative system.
- Discussing policy and regulatory frameworks that can support and incentivize circular economy and waste management practices, and how stakeholders can collaborate to create a more circular economy.

- Pointing out the necessary role of local governments in tackling the challenges of waste management and the circular economy in the urban and territorial sphere and the need to strengthen public management instruments with the capacity to lead the response to these challenges.
- Focus on the most marginalized groups. Special consideration to the significant migrant population in the region and the unique challenges they face.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of circular economy and waste management practices. More sustainable consumption and production behaviours among attendees and the broader community.
- Opportunities for partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders, including businesses, policymakers, and civil society, to engage and advance the circular economy and waste management initiatives and projects in the region.
- Identification of policy and regulatory frameworks that can support and incentivize circular economy and waste management practices. Inform future advocacy efforts and help drive systemic change. Provide participants with actionable steps to implement.
- Exploration of new approaches to waste management and innovative technologies. Identify concrete solutions and tools. Inspire to invest in or develop new solutions for waste reduction and resource recovery.
- Recognition of role of local governments in tackling the challenges of waste management and the importance of the alliance between them, together with multi-stakeholders' approach, to face the challenges in the development of public management instruments with the capacity to lead the change of model towards a circular economy.
- Address the challenges faced by the most marginalized groups and migrants. Promote these group's opportunities for more inclusive, equitable development.

## STAKEHOLDERS

The discussion on *Circular economy and Waste Management – Concrete solutions for consumption practices and waste management* aims to bring together a diverse group of experts and stakeholders to share their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, and to develop innovative strategies and approaches to addressing these challenges.

**Local government** - Regional, and national governments, municipal staff, citizens, think tanks, and all other groups.

**Private sector** - Private sector representatives can provide insights on the potential impacts on businesses and the economy, as well as share resources and expertise on the topic.

**Academic and researchers** - Researchers and academics can provide insights into the latest research and best practices.

**Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** - NGOs can offer expertise in areas such as circular economy tools, waste management practices, and advocacy for vulnerable populations.

**Community leaders** - Community leaders can provide valuable insights into the needs and concerns of residents, as well as information on community resources that can be leveraged.

**Financial partners** - Provide financial solutions and share their expertise on how to mobilize and allocate financial resources effectively and efficiently.

## SUGGESTED KEY THEMES

Three strong principles outline the circular economy: preserve resources, environmental and human, enable the development of territories, economic and industrial, and manage waste.

A circular economy requires progress in several areas to address these challenges.

Below are some suggested themes and subjects for the conference, categorized by transversal dimensions:

### *Economic*

- Economic benefits of waste reduction and resource efficiency. Circular business models and created opportunities for economic growth and innovation.

- Public-private partnerships and financing mechanisms to support circular economy initiatives.
- Markets and consumer behaviour's role in driving circular economy practices.
- Circular economy solutions for managing agricultural waste and promoting sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean.

### *Societal*

- Social benefits of circular economy and waste reduction, such as job creation and improved public health.
- Importance of stakeholder engagement and community involvement in circular economy initiatives.
- Addressing equity and social justice issues in the implementation of circular economy practices.
- Cultural and social dimensions of waste and circular economy practices in the Mediterranean region.

### *Environmental*

- Impact of waste and pollution on the Mediterranean Sea and coastal ecosystems. Best practices for sustainable waste management, including waste prevention, reduction, and recycling.
- The role of the circular economy in achieving climate goals and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Innovative technologies for waste-to-energy conversion and reducing pollution.
- The potential for circular economy practices to address water scarcity and promote water conservation in the region. Nature-based solutions for circular economy and waste management