

Concept Note

G7- B7 Joint Workshop on the Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles

November 2, 2023

1. Dates: November 6 and 7 (approx. 2.5 hours each)
Starting at 8pm JST/12pm CET/6am ET
2. Meeting Modality: Virtual (under the Chatham House Rules)
3. Co-organizers:
G7 Presidency (Ministry of the Environment, Japan), B7 Presidency (Keidanren), Italian Ministry of Energy Security (next G7 Presidency)
4. Participants: G7 members, B7 members and others
5. Invited international organizations: WBCSD, OECD and IRP
6. Observers: European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and Japan Partnership for Circular Economy

7. Background

The significance of resource efficiency and circular economy approaches to achieve sustainable consumption and production, as well as the resource-climate-biodiversity-pollution nexus have been recognized and mainstreamed multilaterally including through UNEA/UNGA resolutions, G7, G20 and other fora. Businesses and private sector play an essential role in addressing value chain sustainability thereby improving resource efficiency and making our economies more circular.

In this context, building on the preceding G7 processes¹, the G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy and the Environment met on 15-16 April 2023 in Sapporo, and, as an annex to the resulting communique, adopted the Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Principles (CEREP)², aiming to encourage companies to establish initiatives and step up actions on a circular economy, to promote engagement with the public and the financial sector and to promote their voluntary circular economy and resource efficiency actions³. G7 Leaders at Hiroshima Summit further endorsed CEREP⁴.

CEREP contains 6 core principles covering dimensions including leadership commitment/governance, integration of circular economy and resource efficiency approaches with climate and nature and pollution strategies, transition to more circular and resource efficient business models, enhanced monitoring and reporting and multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement.

¹ The G7 members agreed to develop CEREP under the UK G7 Presidency and in the Berlin Roadmap in 2022.

² <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000128282.pdf>

³ <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000128270.pdf>

⁴ https://www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/documents/pdf/Leaders_Communique_01_en.pdf

Prior to the G7 Leaders' Summit, B7 submitted the G7 the "B7 Tokyo Summit Joint Recommendations⁵" including a request for a dialogue with the G7, sharing of best practices, implementation of policies addressing product design and the use of circular materials while investing in the enabling infrastructures. Engagement and collaboration with the B7 for the utilization of the CEREP and fostering public-private partnership were also included in the G7 Ministerial communique at Sapporo.

In light of the above, this workshop is co-organized under the initiative of Japanese G7 and B7 Presidencies with the aim of encouraging business community to fully utilize the principles in integrating circular economy and resource efficiency approaches to their corporate governance and business models. To this end, the event will provide opportunity for the G7 to communicate CEREP as well as their policies for promoting circular economy, while encouraging the B7 to share best practices, put forward policy needs (establishing enabling business environment) from the business community and engage in dialogue with the G7.

8. Draft Agenda

(1) Day 1 Nov 6 (total: 2h 45min)

Time (JST)	Program	Presenters
20:00-20:12 (12min)	Announcements Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. MATSUZAWA Yutaka, Vice Minister for Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan Ms. NODA Yumiko, Vice Chair and Chair of Environment Committee of Keidanren, Japan Ms. Vannia GAVA, Vice Minister, Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security 	G7 and B7 Presidencies Incoming G7 Presidency
20:12-20:20 (8min)	Introduction of CEREP	G7 Presidency
20:20-21:30 (70min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations of national CE strategies and policies to enhance CE/RE businesses by G7 members (EU, Germany, Italy and the US) Q&A 	G7 members
Short break		
21:35-22:35 (60min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations of best practices related to CEREP by B7 members (Asahi Kasei, DOWA, Bridgestone, Sims Lifecycle Services, European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, and Circular Economy Leadership Canada) Q&A 	B7 members companies/ organizations
22:35-22:40	Wrap up and announcements for the following day	G7 Presidency

⁵ <https://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2023/028.html#p3>

(2) DAY 2 Nov 7 (total: 2h 30min)

Time (JST)	Program	Presenters
20:00-20:05	Announcements	G7 Presidency
20:05-20:45 (40min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited organizations to elaborate on policy interventions necessary to implement CEREP: identifying roadblocks and solutions. (Possible topics) ✓ Trade ✓ Secondary materials/products markets ✓ Circular metrics ✓ Cross-sectoral collaboration • Q&A 	WBCSD, OECD, and IRP
20:45-22:15 (90min)	<p>1. B7 members to share challenges and policy needs in scaling resource efficient and circular businesses to achieve environmental goals and sustainable economic growth:</p> <p>(Possible guiding questions*)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Responses to suggestions by previous presentations ✓ Required policy interventions (e.g. product design, the use of circular materials, etc.) and investments in enabling infrastructure ✓ Cross-sectoral collaboration to scale circular businesses ✓ G7-B7 collaboration on CERE <p><i>*these are examples and B7 members can choose any relevant topics in their interventions</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Short break if necessary -</p> <p>2. Interventions by G7 members 3. Discussions (Please see the attached supplementary note)</p>	B7 members G7 members Participants
22:15-22:30	A few words from G7/B7 members Closing remarks Next steps	G7 Presidency and Participants

A brief summary (2 pages) of the joint workshop will be posted on the websites of G7ARE and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.