



**circular
economy
platform**

Declaration of Santiago for Inter- American Cooperation in Circular Economy

**Completed on November 28, 2018 at the Circular Economy Forum of
the Americas 2018 in Santiago, Chile**

What is the Circular Economy Forum of the Americas?

The Circular Economy Forum of the Americas (CEFA), an initiative organized by the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas (CEP-Americas) and promoted by the Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF), is the meeting point of people, companies and institutions that work and collaborate to make possible the transition to a circular economy (CE) in the American continent.

CEFA brings together industry leaders, entrepreneurs, NGOs, universities and governments from throughout the Western Hemisphere and beyond who are involved in CE initiatives to discuss the state of the needs, challenges and opportunities of this emerging and rapidly expanding field of work.

The second edition of CEFA took place in Santiago, Chile on November 27 and 28, 2018, addressing important topics to answer the question: **How to make Circular Economy and Sustainability in the Americas a reality?** and presented success stories related to the energy sector, mining, material handling, agriculture and fishing, among other topics of interest.

Why organize a Circular Economy Forum for the American Continent?

The world has begun the transition to a circular economy: great powers such as Europe, China, India, Japan and others have opted for this transition to reduce dependence on natural resources, their environmental impact and create prosperous economies for the benefit of all.

The Circular Economy, unlike the linear economic model in which we operate, has positioned itself as an effective strategy to decouple economic growth from environmental damage by rethinking how we design, produce, sell and use products. Distinguishing between biological and technical cycles to safely and infinitely circulate all the nutrients and materials found on the planet, and aims to eliminate all negative externalities, such as the emission of toxic substances that harm the environment and have impact on the human health; climate change; and pollution of water, air and soil. Innovation is one of the fundamental components of a circular economy to generate profound changes and create an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design and intention.

For its part, the American continent, subject to current economic and environmental challenges, also requires effective and long-term solutions. This need is the main reason for organizing the annual Circular Economy Forum of the Americas (CEFA), a space where all the key actors of the Western Hemisphere and beyond will meet each year to explore and evaluate the opportunities for transition to a circular economy as an adequate solution to the different challenges of sustainable development in the region.

As organizers and promoters of CEFA we believe that this transition will only be possible through an objective evaluation of these opportunities and through cooperation and alliances between different actors, nations and regions that have already done so or are taking concrete actions towards a circular economy. Although the contexts in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean are different, there are common trends throughout the territory that will unify efforts to achieve a Circular Continent that operates under a Circular economic framework.

Reasons to facilitate Circular Economy in the Americas through CEFA

Response to the current trend of population growth and urbanization

Conscious and collaborative efforts towards a circular economy will lead to effective solutions to current trends in population growth and urbanization. As is well known, the more than 35 nations and territories in the Americas represent 14% of the world's population, with an estimated growth of 23% by the year 2050 (1.2 billion people), with 80% of the population living in urban areas and 70% of the economically active population. Within a Circular Economy framework, this population trend represents great opportunities to generate high-quality inclusive jobs and to develop more sustainable cities. In addition, to find effective answers for the management of "waste" within urban metabolism programs.

New economic opportunities

A transition to Circular Economies will benefit the region by changing economies highly dependent on the extraction of natural resources to promote productive and economic activities with higher added value. A circular economy in the Americas will boost innovation and regional competitiveness by diversifying the economy and reducing dependence on non-renewable resources. Likewise, the region will have greater opportunities to access global value chains by meeting the circularity requirements that have begun to emerge in international markets.

Positive impacts on the environment

Environmentally, a Circular Economy eliminates the concept of waste by promoting the recovery of materials at the end of use and reincorporating them into value chains in a cost-effective way. In addition, proposes to eliminate the emission of toxic chemical substances and greenhouse gases harmful to the environment and human beings, avoiding the contamination of water, soil and air. The restorative nature of a circular economy will allow a better administration of resources and stop the constant loss of biodiversity in the Americas.

As founders and organizers of this international forum, the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas believes that now is the time to unite all efforts to advance the development of the Circular Economy in the Americas by integrating the key players in one place and create spaces for constructive dialogue to identify opportunities for collaboration, future alliances and initiatives around the Circular Economy for this transition in the Continent.

What is the Santiago Declaration and why join this call for action?

The **Santiago Declaration for Inter-American Cooperation on Circular Economy** is a call made by civil society, businesses, governments and universities as a sign that there is a growing community of experts and stakeholders in the Americas committed to facilitating the transition towards a Circular Continent.

By joining this call, you and/or your organization recognize the need to take concrete and collaborative actions to facilitate the Circular Economy in the different sectors of the countries of the Americas, as a means to achieve the sustainability of the region and develop prosperous economies that respect the environment.

The Declaration of Santiago is presented below, which emerged as a result of the Circular Economy Forum of the Americas on November 28, 2018 in Chile.

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Completed on November 28, 2018 at the Circular Economy Forum of the Americas 2018 (CEFA2018) in Santiago, Chile

Considering the challenges set out in the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda - approved by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic United Nations summit that stems from the Rio +20 Conference, held in the city of Rio de Janeiro-Brazil in 2012 - we declare:

We, directors, representatives, and collaborators of private and public companies, elected representatives of the government, members of the Academy and entities of the science, technology and innovation ecosystem, and representatives of NGOs and civil society of the nations of the American Continent, gathered at the Circular Economy Forum of the Americas 2018 (CEFA2018), promoted and organized by the Americas Sustainable Development Foundation and the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas in Santiago-Chile, on November 27 and 28, 2018, we agree :

1. To call on the national and local governments of the region and representatives of the private sector, academia and civil society to adopt the principles of the Circular Economy as an urgent measure to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as a strategy for implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
2. Commit to work together from our respective fields of discipline, economic sector and interest, in promoting, raising awareness and developing and adopting solutions compatible with the principles of the circular economy in the Americas;
3. Recognize and support the Circular Economy Forum of the Americas - CEFA as the main annual forum that allows the exchange of knowledge, best practices and progress in the development of the circular economy and applications throughout the American continent; and
4. Recognize and help promote the conclusions and recommendations drawn from CEFA, documented in CEFA's annual report as a key source and input

for the formulation of policies and new institutional development strategies throughout the region.

*The signers of this declaration are citizens from all corners of the western hemisphere (denominated as "the Americas"), of any creed, ethnic group, culture and nationality and we recognize the value, relevance and need to launch and support this initiative proposed by the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas and the Americas Sustainable Development Foundation to launch the "**Inter-American Cooperation on Circular Economy**" with a key role for the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas.*

To sign this Call for Action:

Please click [here!](#)



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The Circular Economy Forum of the Americas (CEFA) is founded and organized annually by the Americas Sustainable Development Foundation and the Circular Economy Platform of the Americas (CEP-Americas). The launch of CEP-Americas in 2016 is an initiative created and developed by the Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF) as part of its broader ambition to facilitate the transition to Circular Economies in the Americas. @2016-2018 Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF). All rights reserved.